

**Summary Minutes of the Medical Council meeting
Meeting No. 9 of 2016**

MEDICAL COUNCIL

The 342nd meeting of the Medical Council was held at 25th & 26th October, 2016 in Kingram House, Kingram Place, Dublin 2.

MEMBERS PRESENT – 25th October, 2016

Professor Freddie Wood (President)	Mr Sean Hurley
Dr Audrey Dillon (Vice-President)	Professor Alan Johnson
Dr John Barragry	Professor Mary Leader
Dr Anthony Breslin	Ms Margaret Murphy
Ms Katharine Bulbulia	Mr John Nisbet
Mr Fergus Clancy	Dr Michael Ryan
Dr Sean Curran	Mr Tom O’Higgins
Ms Mary Duff	Ms Cornelia Stuart
Dr Rita Doyle	Dr Consilia Walsh
Professor Fidelma Dunne	
Dr Bairbre Golden	

Apologies

Ms Anne Carrigy
Mr Declan Carey
Professor Colm O’Herlihy

MEMBERS PRESENT – 26th October, 2016

Professor Freddie Wood (President)	Dr Ruairi Hanley
Dr Audrey Dillon (Vice-President)	Professor Alan Johnson
Dr John Barragry	Ms Marie Kehoe O’Sullivan
Ms Katharine Bulbulia	Professor Mary Leader
Mr Declan Carey	Ms Margaret Murphy
Mr Fergus Clancy	Mr John Nisbet
Dr Sean Curran	Dr Michael Ryan
Dr Rita Doyle	Mr Tom O’Higgins
Ms Mary Duff	Ms Cornelia Stuart
Professor Fidelma Dunne	Dr Consilia Walsh
Dr Bairbre Golden	

Apologies

Dr Anthony Breslin
Ms Anne Carrigy
Mr Sean Hurley

Professor Colm O’Herlihy

In attendance – full meeting

Mr Bill Prasifka (CEO)

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

Ms Aoife Fitzsimons (Corporate Governance & Council Manager)

Mr William Kennedy (Director of Regulation)

Ms Carine Pressers (Head of Investigations & Complaints; Solicitor)

Ms Ruth Rock (Head of Investigations & Complaints; Solicitor)

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)

Ms Úna O’Rourke (Head of Education, Training and Professionalism)

Ms Deirdre Foley (Acting Head of Finance)

Ms Ciara McMorrow (Head of Procurement & Facilities)

Ms Barbara O’Neill (Acting Head of Communications)

Note of Private Session:

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

CEO Report.

Council noted that the Business planning for 2017 is currently taking place across the organisation and should be finalised by mid-November.

The CEO advised Council of the upcoming Patient Safety & Leadership Conference, ‘Enhancing the Culture of Patient Safety’ taking place on Thursday the 27th October, 2016.

The CEO advised that following discussions with the various stakeholders involved in the CPD process the report launch has been postponed to allow further engagement with both the profession and training bodies. Council was also advised that new data had been received and was currently being analysed by the Research Manager.

Council noted that following a request from the Chief Medical Officer in the Department of Health in relation to the flu vaccine, a decision to issue a communication to all doctors had been made which was consistent with the Council’s message on patient safety.

Council was updated in relation to the workforce plan.

The CEO updated Council on the staff development programme and the work of the Internal Communications Working Group who are managing teambuilding activities in Q4 for staff members.

The CEO advised Council that work is continuing in relation to the implementation of any changes in the new Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies with an internal checklist and action plan in development.

Council noted that the Research Manager had met with a delegation from the College of Anaesthetists to explore the two years of Your Training Counts data.

The CEO advised Council that data on bullying, trainee wellbeing and their impact on learning experiences had been shared with the HSE and National Lead NCHD.

Council noted that the overall completion for registration rates remain on an upward trend. Council was advised that there has been a significant impact on completing the initial assessments for General Division Registration which is a great achievement for the section.

The CEO updated Council in relation to the meeting of National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) meeting to review the Council's accreditation processes for undergraduate medical education which had been an overall success.

Council was also updated on the project in relation to the process for recognising new specialties that the plan is to develop the Council's own robust training programme.

The CEO completed his Report with an update on a number of stakeholder meetings of note, in particular the recent IAMRA Conference which provided a good opportunity for the Council to interact with delegates from over 50 countries and enable Council to benefit from the international network. The CEO also highlighted that he had attended the Irish Hospital Consultants Association Annual Conference in Kilkenny where he had the opportunity to enforce the provisions of the Medical Practitioners Act and had received positive feedback.

President's Business

Council noted the current inquiry dates fixed for hearing and advised that members provide their availability to the Professional Standards Department

Council noted the Sunday Business Post newspaper articles.

The President provided a verbal update on the recent IAMRA Conference.

Council considered correspondence received from the Head of Public Affairs and Advocacy, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland in relation to the Public Health (Alcohol) Bill.

Council noted correspondence from the CEO of the Irish Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association Ltd in relation to their Annual Conference scheduled to take place on 17th November, 2016.

Education, Training & Professional Development Committee (ETPDC)

The report of the Education, Training and Professional Development Committee meeting held on 5th October, 2016 was presented to Council.

Council noted the regional approach to accreditation/monitoring visits to clinical training sites.

Council considered the proposed academic track for Irish internship training which will be a comprehensive national programme based between the six Irish University medical schools and their partner University teaching hospitals.

Council noted the reports of the Anatomy Departments of University College Dublin and NUI Galway.

Council noted that the report of the accreditation of the RCSI's postgraduate training programme in Vascular Surgery and the RCSI as the body which may grant evidence of satisfactory completion of specialist training in Vascular Surgery had been deferred to allow the Committee to consider additional information received since its last meeting.

Council noted that the Terms of Reference for the ETPDC and SPSC had been reviewed.

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

Registration and Continuing Practice Committee (RCPC)

The report of the Registration and Continuing Practice Committee meeting held on 29th September, 2016 was presented to Council

Council was advised that a number of medical practitioners have chosen not to seek a review of the RCPC's decision to refuse registration and the review window has now expired. Council confirmed the decision of the RCPC to refuse registration to the practitioners concerned.

Council was updated in relation to the Safe Start research project in which a number of key findings had been identified. Council noted that the recommendations will form the basis of the development and implementation of a "Safe Start" educational intervention.

Council noted that analysis of the data in relation to the Patient Feedback Pilot would be carried out.

Council approved the report of the Registration & Continuing Practice Committee (RCPC).

Ethics & Professionalism Committee (EPC)

The Report of the Ethics and Professionalism Committee meeting held on 11th October 2016, was presented to Council.

Council noted the Committee's ongoing work to develop and refine a series of vignettes to support the Ethical Guide that are reflective of potential real-life scenarios and that the Committee is consulting with a number of key stakeholders to ensure the clinical and medico-legal details described in them are viable.

Council was advised that, due to a recent amendment to the Misuse of Drugs Act, the consultation on the draft joint guidance on the Safe Prescribing and Dispensing of Controlled Drugs has been

temporarily paused.

Council noted that the Committee plans to develop an online e-learning platform based around the Ethical Guide.

Council approved the report of the Ethics & Professionalism Committee.

Nominations and Development Committee (NDC)

The report of the Nominations and Development Committee meeting held on 12th September, 2016 was presented to Council.

Council approved the recommendation to appoint Mr Tom O'Higgins to the Audit, Strategy and Risk Committee.

Council approved the recommendation to appoint Mr Tom O'Higgins to the Equality and Diversity Working Group.

Council approved the recommendation to appoint Dr Mark Murphy to the Health Committee.

Council approved the recommendation to appoint Dr Peter McKenna to the Preliminary Proceedings Committee.

Council noted minor changes to the Committee's terms of reference.

Council approved the report of the Nominations and Development Committee.

Health Committee (HC)

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

Council noted the breakdown of the number of medical practitioners who are supported by the Health Committee.

Council noted the number of review sessions and the Committee's recommendation that ongoing support be continued as appropriate.

Council further noted that arising from review session and medical reports received in respect of two practitioners the Committee had decided not to release the practitioners from their undertaking not to engage in the practice of medicine.

Council noted the number of practitioners who had been invited for further review sessions in May 2017 and those practitioners whose review sessions had been scheduled for October.

Council noted that a talk with medical interns was being organized to raise awareness of the Health Committee.

The report of the Health Committee was approved by Council.

Monitoring Committee (MC)

The report of the Monitoring Committee meeting held on 13th October, 2016 was presented.

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

Council noted that correspondence and documentary evidence of compliance was received, where appropriate, from each of those other practitioners currently practising within the jurisdiction with conditions attached to the retention of their name in the Register and that such further evidence would be taken up as when required in order to confirm compliance.

Council approved the report of the Monitoring Committee.

Media Coverage Log covering period: September to November 2016

This Item was noted by Council.

Date and Time of next meeting

Council noted the will be held on Wednesday 14th December, 2016 at 12:30 hrs and Thursday 15th December, 2016 at 08:30 hrs.