

**Anatomy Department Inspection Report:  
Trinity College Dublin (TCD), 24<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**In attendance:**

Prof. D. Ceri Davies – Inspector of Anatomy

Dr. Michael Ryan – Lay Observer & Medical Council member

Ms. Chloe Ryder – Anatomy Liaison, Medical Council

**License holder:** Dr Nick Mahony

**SECTION 1 – ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY**

**1. LICENSING, AUTHORITY, RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

The lead individual holding the licence for Anatomical Examination at TCD (Dr Nick Mahony) has not changed since the 2016 inspection and the required annual returns have been made to the Medical Council.

**2. GOVERNANCE AND QUALITY SYSTEMS**

I met with Dr Mahony, the Chief Technical Officers and other technical and academic staff. The Department is an experienced unit and its members understand their responsibilities in relation to their role in Anatomical Examination. All staff are appropriately qualified and trained for their work and TCD has appropriate annual performance management and development appraisals.

A suitable systematic record management system that ensures data protection, confidentiality and has suitable provision for data back-up, is in place. Comprehensive risk assessments for the practices and processes related to Anatomical Examination are in place, as are Standard Operating Procedures for working in the discipline of Anatomy. A Service Level Agreement between the Dublin Medical Schools (including TCD) and their undertakers, Corrigan & Sons is now in place and discussions are ongoing about a similar agreement with the Glasnevin Trust.

There has been considerable improvement in the security of the Old Anatomy Building and its contents, since the 2016 inspection. A CCTV camera has been installed to monitor the rear entrance to the Lecture Theatre, Museum and storage areas. Captured images are being recorded to monitor entrants to the facility and it is planned to connect the system to the Trinity Biosciences Institute, allowing live monitoring from there. In addition, there is now a full-time staff presence in the building. A number of minor works have been completed to improve the environment and facilitate cataloguing and conservation of the historical collection within the Old Anatomy Building. As a result of the cataloguing, material of human origin has been discovered that is no longer valuable for teaching or research and this will be interred in Glasnevin in

due course. The intention is that the Medical Collection housed within the Old Anatomy Building, which illustrates 300 years of medical education and research at TCD, will be made available for teaching, research and academic engagement

## **SECTION 2 – RECOMMENDED PRACTICES**

### **1. CONSENT**

TCD uses the model consent form published as an appendix to the Code of Practice for Anatomical Examination. This consent form meets all of the recommendations within the Code of Practice. The comprehensive information booklet for potential donors and their families gives appropriate information for the donors' consent to be fully informed.

### **2. PREMISES, FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT**

The premises, facilities and equipment were inspected from the entrance point of a donor's remains, through the embalming and storage facility, to the dissecting room where teaching was in progress. The security of the undertaker's entrance is good and there is a dedicated secure lift to the embalming / storage area. The embalming / storage area opens directly onto the dissecting room and security is good because all students and visitors must pass by the window of the technician's office to enter the dissecting room. All entrances to the Anatomy facilities are alarmed and there is a new electronic access system. Access to the research laboratory that can only be accessed via the dissecting room is controlled appropriately. The signage in and around the dissecting room is appropriate, the facilities in the dissecting room are excellent and all equipment was reported to be working well. There is secure storage for the Anatomy Department in the basement of the building, but this does not contain cadaveric material.

### **3. RECORD KEEPING / TRACEABILITY**

Paper copy donation records are stored in a fire-proof cabinet. Donor details are also entered into an electronic database. Scanned copies of consent forms and other donation records are now entered into the database. Retained parts from cadavers donated under the Anatomy Act are not held at TCD.

### **4. SENSITIVE DISPOSAL**

The comprehensive donation information booklet provides full information about the options available for disposal of the donors' remains, which are either interred in Glasnevin Cemetery or returned to their relatives.

### **5. LOAN / TRANSFER OF CADAVERIC MATERIAL**

TCD does not currently loan or transfer any cadaveric material, or currently facilitate postgraduate courses utilizing imported fresh-frozen cadaveric material.

*D. C. Davies*

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Inspector of Anatomy

4/11/17