



30<sup>th</sup> July, 2014

Mr Tony McNamara,  
CEO,  
Cork University Hospital,  
Wilton,  
Co. Cork

**Report Letter relating to the inspection of the Cardiology department of Cork University/Mercy Hospital on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2013**

Dear Mr McNamara,

The Irish Committee on Higher Medical Training (ICHMT) last inspected Cork University/Mercy Hospital on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2013 regarding its suitability for the Cardiology Higher Specialist Training (HST) programme. On behalf of the hospital inspections department I apologise for the delay in your receipt of this report, but unfortunately the NSD report was only sent to me by Dr. Mc Adam within the last week. Multiple reminders had been sent by the hospital inspections department to the NSD regarding same.

The purpose of a hospital inspection is to determine the ability of an institution to deliver Higher Specialist Training in a specialty, according to the requirements as defined by the Cardiology curriculum of training. The inspection panel advises on the suitability after a detailed interview with consultant trainers, trainees and management representatives, with an inspection of the facilities.

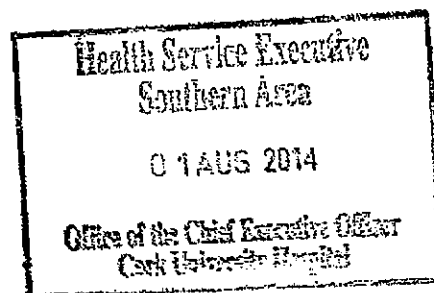
On the basis of the inspectors' recommendations, this unit is approved for Higher Specialist Training in Cardiology for:

- Number of Posts: **4 SpR Posts**
- Length of Approval: **5 Years from time of inspection 2013**
- Trainers: Dr Peter Kearney, Dr Curtin, Dr Vaughan
- Next Inspection Due: **2018**
- Interim Progress Report: N/A

Inspection Panel:

- Dr. Brendan Mc Adam - National Specialty Director
- Prof John Horgan - Inspection Chair

The education and training observations as confirmed by the ICHMT on advice from the Inspection Panel follow. Major issues are those that impact on the accreditation status or are critical for training approval. Minor issues are areas that could be improved but are not critical for training approval.



### **Educational Opportunities:**

- The SpR's receive significant exposure to all aspects of clinical cardiology – the new cardio-renal dedicated building is very impressive and currently has 3 cath labs open (2 angio/PCI and one EP/electro physiology room) with a hybrid room ready to be opened for structural heart procedures and a final room ready to accommodate cardiac CT/MRI
- There is excellent exposure to the management of patients with 8 bed CCU, (Coronary Care Unit), ICU (Intensive Care Unit), 6 bed CTICU (Cardio-thoracic ICU) the ED and the AMU (Acute Medical Unit) with busy consult ward service and ambulatory cardiology care in OPD, cardiac rehabilitation.
- Journal club
- Angiography conference
- Echocardiography teaching conference
- General cardiology and cardiorenal MDT teaching conference
- CTC for surgical referrals
- There is significant exposure to cardiac angiography with elective and 24/7 primary PCI and opportunity to train in implantation of devices both defibrillators and pacemakers. Excellent high volume echo lab and good exposure to, TOE ( trans-oesophageal echo), Significant exposure to CMRI (cardiac magnetic resonance imaging)with Prof Kerins (Mercy Hospital) and some exposure to cCTA radiology in CUH
- There are excellent opportunities for performing clinical research and basic research through the close contact with the academic Centre for Research in Vascular Biology Prof Caplice in UCC

### **Strengths of the Department:**

- This is a busy department catering for all of the sub-specialities in cardiology including advanced imaging, CT/MRI and CT surgery on site and access to cardiac obstetrics clinics. There are excellent facilities dedicated towards the treatment of patients with cardiological problems.
- Excellent exposure to invasive procedures and Emergency primary PCI is performed 7 days a week and there are close relations with ED and close interface to active and busy AMU with chest pain service and nurse led HF service
- The registrars are busy on each of consultant rotations and SpR's rotate monthly and the SPRs that go to the Mercy Hospital stay there for 4 months with Prof Kerins and Dr Vaughan
- The on call commitment in 1/6 on average. When on call but from home the SpR may stay until 12pm and is called in for emergencies and primary PCI; SpR's have access to on call sleep room if necessary for on-site overnight stay and SpR's have access to shared office in the cardio-renal unit
- Excellent non-invasive facilities with busy echo lab and regular echo teaching sessions and good access to TOE (Dr Curtin, Dr Vaughan and Prof Kerins)
- There is excellent training in electrophysiology and device implants with Dr Fahy

- The cardiology department participates in a large number of local and international multi centre studies which benefit SpR's training

**Major & Minor Issues:**

1. SPRs should have access to dedicated PC in dedicated office space
2. Cardiac library in Cardio-renal Unit
3. SPRs have no CUH/Mercy e mail address when working there
4. There are no formal arrangements for protected half days for the SpR's
5. SpR attendance at educational meetings and international conferences not always occurring
6. SpR's suggested change in rotations structure from Consultant to job/location specific

**Recommendations:**

1. Ensure dedicated PC for SpR in dedicated office space.
2. Ensure dedicated PC with electronic access to scientific journals/library
3. Provide CUH/Mercy e-mail address to SpR when working at these sites: this ensures they receive e mails from RCPI regarding teaching, training sessions, SpR study days , CPD etc: please can IT dept arrange this?
4. Formalise protected half days where possible
5. Ensure time allocated to SpR to attend educational meetings: this should be prioritised, particularly if their research is being presented.
6. Changes in rotation structure from Consultant to location/job specific, as suggested by SpRs, to be reviewed by Training Director in CUH

**Notes:**

- The panel was impressed with the breadth and quality of training received by the SpR's in the department of cardiology in CUH and Mercy Hospital
- At next inspection, the inspections panel should undertake an on-site visit to Mercy Hospital as some SpR's rotate through this hospital and enjoy the experience which compliments their training experience in CUH

**Conclusions:**

- **Approval given to this site for 4 SpR's for 5 years. Next inspection due in 2018.**

Thank you for the hospitality extended to the visiting inspection team and your continuing commitment to the Higher Specialist Training Programme.

Yours sincerely

*Dubhfeasa Slattery*

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Associate Dean of Hospital Inspections

Royal College of Physicians of Ireland

Cc Dr. P Kearney, Consultant Cardiologist  
Dr. Curtin, Consultant Cardiologist  
Dr. Vaughan, Consultant Cardiologist  
Dr. Brendan McAdam, NSD for Cardiology  
Prof John Horgan, Inspection Chair  
Prof Des Carney, Chair of ICHMT