



5 April 2016

Mr Tony McNamara  
General Manager  
Cork University Hospital  
Wilton  
Co Cork

**Report Letter relating to the inspection of the General Paediatrics Department, Cork University Hospital, on 9 February 2016**

Dear Mr McNamara,

The Faculty of Paediatrics last inspected the General Paediatric Department, Cork University Hospital on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016 regarding its suitability for the Higher Specialist Training (HST) programme.

The purpose of an 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 General Paediatric 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.

The education and training observations as confirmed by the Faculty of Paediatrics 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.

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

- **Number of Posts:** 4 SpR Posts
  - 4 SpR posts in General Paediatrics for 6 months – 1 year for a period of 5 years, with **Trainers** Drs. David Mullane, Susan O'Connell, Deirdre Murray, Jonathan Hourihane, Muireann Ní Chronín, Louise Gibson, Stephen O'Riordan, Olivia O'Mahony

**In addition:**

- 1 SpR post in Paediatric Endocrinology would be accredited for sub-speciality training for year 3 or year 4 or year 5 trainees for 6 months with trainers Drs Susan O'Connell & Stephen O'Riordan
- 1 SpR post in Paediatric Respiratory Medicine would be accredited for sub-speciality training for year 3 or year 4 or year 5 trainees for 6 months with trainers Drs David Mullane & Muireann Ní Chronín
- **Site and Trainers approved for a period of:** 5 years
- **Next Inspection Due:** 2021
- **Interim Progress Report:** N/A

**Inspection Panel:**

- Dr Colm O'Donnell – NSD
- Dr Pat Sullivan- Inspection Chair
- Dr William Fennell – Inspection Chair

**Educational Opportunities:**

- Grand rounds
- Journal clubs
- Paediatric teaching
- Radiology conference

**Strengths of Department:**

- Busy department with excellent acute general paediatric exposure and large case-mix
- Well-established teaching program
- Enthusiastic consultants with varied sub-specialty interests
- Experience available in several subspecialties

**Major & Minor Issues:**

<b>Weaknesses</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
Difficulty in providing experience in Community Paediatrics	Combined rotation with Mercy University Hospital
Much of the responsibility for managing difficulties with registrar staffing have fallen on SpRs	Difficulties to be more actively managed by consultant(s) and administrators
Not all consultants approved by RCPI as HST trainers	All consultants to apply for approval as HST trainers

**Conclusions:**

- CUH has performed very well as a training site with excellent experience available in Acute General and sub-specialty Paediatrics
- In collaboration with colleagues at MUH, the Consultant Paediatricians at CUH have been extremely helpful in facilitating SpRs at CUH obtain experience in Community Paediatrics at MUH at short notice; this is much appreciated
- In collaboration with colleagues at MUH, Year 1 – 2 SpRs could have an unrivalled exposure to Community, Acute General and sub-specialty Paediatrics in Cork
- There is scope at CUH to train Year 3 -5 General Paediatrics SpRs in Paediatric Endocrinology
- There is scope at CUH to train Year 3 -5 General Paediatrics SpRs in Paediatric Respiratory Medicine
- There may be scope at CUH to train Year 3 -5 General Paediatrics SpRs in other subspecialties (e.g. Allergy, Neurology). Approval for further posts may follow applications that describe the proposed posts in detail, in particular the subspecialty experience that will be provided and how the posts will differ from the Year 1 General Paediatric posts at CUH

**Please Note:**

- SpRs must have 3 months experience in Community Paediatrics during their year of General Paediatrics

- Under normal circumstances, 2 of the approved posts will rotate with Mercy University Hospital (MUH), i.e. 6 months CUH/6 months MUH; while 2 posts will be 12 months at CUH
- While there are difficulties in providing Community Paediatric experience at CUH, all SpRs will rotate between the 2 sites – 8 months CUH/4 months MUH – in order to provide Community Paediatric experience to all trainees.

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

Yours sincerely



Dr Kathleen McGarry, FRCPI. DCH. IMC No 006562  
Associate Dean of Training Site Accreditation  
The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland

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- Dr Colm O'Donnell – NSD
- Dr Pat Sullivan- Inspection Chair
- Dr William Fennell – Inspection Chair
- Dr David Mullane, Consultant Trainer
- Susan O'Connell, Consultant Trainer
- Deirdre Murray, Consultant Trainer
- Jonathan Hourihane, Consultant Trainer
- Muireann Ní Chronín, Consultant Trainer
- Louise Gibson, Consultant Trainer
- Stephen O'Riordan, Consultant Trainer
- Olivia O'Mahony, Consultant Trainer
- Mr Michael Murphy, Medical Manpower Manager
- Dr Ray Barry, Dean, Faculty of Paediatrics

