



22 February 2016

Mr Tony McNamara
General Manager
Cork University Hospital
Wilton
Co Cork

Report Letter relating to the inspection of the Department of Geriatric Medicine Cork University Hospital on 8th December 2015

Dear Mr McNamara,

The Irish Committee on Higher Medical Training (ICHMT) last inspected Cork University Hospital on the 8th December 2015 regarding its suitability for the Geriatric Medicine Higher Specialist Training (HST) programme.

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 Geriatric Medicine 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 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.

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

- Number of Posts: **3 SpR posts**
- Trainers in attendance: Dr Paul Gallagher, Dr Norma Harnedy (application in progress)
- Apologies: Dr Michael O'Connor, Dr Denis O'Mahony
- Next Inspection Due: **2020**
- Interim Progress Report: **June 2016 - To address:**
 - Hospital Management: Source an adequate space/office for SpRs
 - Address deficiencies with regards IT support and access
 - Trainers: Registration of all potential trainers as such with the RCPI
 - Office space facilities

Inspection Panel:

- Dr Tara Coughlan, NSD
- Dr Pat Sullivan - Inspection Chair

Educational Opportunities

- The department of geriatric medicine at Cork University Hospital together with St Finbar's unit offers tremendous educational and training opportunities in acute, rehabilitative and extended care of the older adult. It is a very well established department with a strong academic focus. St Finbar's hospital was not inspected on this occasion but was extensively reviewed as part of the recent Mercy Hospital inspection
- The department is comprised of three 'Firms' (3.5 WTE Consultants) with each firm working in acute, rehabilitative and long stay rather than in distinct modules. This allows for SpR trainees to gain experience in all areas of the geriatric curriculum including outreach access to community hospitals.
- This is a busy clinical department with a commitment to acute unselected medical on-call in addition to take over of appropriate frail older adults, a busy consult service and 3.5 outpatient clinics per week.
- A Stroke Unit has been developed with exposure to acute stroke thrombolysis and thrombectomy and MDT Stroke rehabilitation (on and off-site) Stroke patients over the age of 65 are under the governance of the Geriatric teams. The SpRs carry the stroke bleep in rotation
- There is access to a Memory clinic in collaboration with Psychiatry colleagues to which the SpRs have access.
- There are very useful resources available to trainees in the area of incontinence management via St Finbars, a Clinical Nurse Specialist at the off-site facility and Urogynaecology expertise and availability on site (Mr B O'Reilly)
- A Movement Disorders clinic is established through the Day Hospital
- Orthogeriatric liaison experience is also facilitated on site.
- Palliative care experience can be accessed by secondment to the hospice services at Marymount.
- Extended care: There are 3 long stay wards reviewed weekly on a rotating basis with exposure of trainees to ongoing care of such patients and to complex ethical issues, end of life care issues and specific needs assessment.
- 2 of the consultants visit community hospitals and SpRs accompany them on these visits.
- There has been interim development of an Acute Medical Assessment Unit in which a number of Geriatricians are involved.

Strengths of the Department:

- The consultant staff are enthusiastic and committed to higher medical training and education and conscious of providing mentorship and support to their higher specialty trainees
- There are very well developed sub-specialty services which provide excellent training opportunities
- Very cohesive research opportunities exist with strong academic links in the department
- All aspects of geriatric medicine are represented and available to trainees.

Major & Minor Weaknesses

Weaknesses	Recommendations
This is an excellent department with only few challenges	Ensure all SpRs are encouraged and supported to be involved in hospital management committees. Formalise the half

<p>This is a very busy department with a large clinical commitment. The EWTD has impacted on SpRs and their ability to avail of study days/half day release. These days should be formalised in the work plan to maximise benefit include such areas as secondment to Palliative care, attendance at urogynaecology clinics etc. Increased exposure of SpRs to management systems within the institution.</p>	<p>day arrangement to cover areas of the curriculum provided by other services</p>
<p>IT systems appear limited with little or no WiFi coverage or availability. Limited workstation access on many wards. No designated office space/area for SpRs</p>	<p>A designated area for SpRs to work/study must be sourced. This is one of the outstanding issues from the prior review and was highlighted by all as a serious deficiency. Liaison with IT department within the institution is urgently required by management to improve the present limited service.</p>
<p>Not all those who could be registered as trainers have done so.</p>	<p>All Geriatricians in the broader department encouraged to register as potential trainers</p>
<p>Office Space facilities for SpRs not sufficient</p>	<p>Appropriate office space with computer and internet access, and filing facilities for eg audit or research to be acquired</p>

Conclusions:

- Cork University Hospital provides an excellent training environment for Specialist Registrars with highly developed subspecialty areas while maintaining training in core geriatric medicine and acute care of older adults.

Thank you for your continued commitment to training.

Yours sincerely



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

Cc

- Dr Tara Coughlan, NSD
- Dr Pat Sullivan - Inspection Chair
- Dr Paul Gallagher, Consultant Trainer
- Ms Lorna Bannon, Medical Administration
- Prof Des Carney, Chair, ICHMT