



7 February 2017

Mr Tony McNamara
CEO
Cork University Hospital
Wilton Place
Co Cork

Report Letter relating to the inspection of the Haematology Department, Cork University Hospital on 27 January 2017

Dear Mr McNamara,

The Faculty of Pathology last inspected the Haematology Department, Cork University Hospital on 27 January 2017 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 Haematology 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 Pathology 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 Haematology for:

- Number of Posts: 2 SpR Posts
- **Site and trainers approved for training, with next inspection due in: 2 years**
- **Trainers:** Dr Susan O'Shea, Professor Mary Cahill
- **Next Inspection Due:** 2019
- **Interim Progress Report: 26 January 2018- to address:**
 1. **Formalised Laboratory Training plan**
 2. **Non-SPR staffing levels**
 3. **Progress on infrastructure**
 4. **Approval of funding for proposed 3rd SpR post (conversion of existing non-SpR registrar)**
 5. **Evidence of equivalence of Haemostasis training with training opportunities in the National Centre for Hereditary Coagulation disorders in St James's Hospital, Dublin**

Inspection Panel:

- Dr Jeremy Sargent – NSD
- Prof William Fennell- Inspection Chair

Educational Opportunities:

- Dedicated Specialty-Specific Training and Journal Clubs
- Multiple departmental MDTs (Lymphoma, Haematopathology, Microbiology, Haemostasis/Thrombosis)
- Laboratory Training opportunities including Laboratory sign-out and Bench-based teaching
- Radiology meetings
- Hospital Grand Rounds
- Opportunities for Audit
- Participation in Virtual Clinic

Strengths of Department:

- Comprehensive training in Malignant and Benign Haematology suitable for SpRs at all stages of training
- Excellent Consultant Supervision and commitment to training
- Sub-specialty training opportunities in Obstetric Haematology, Haemostasis and thrombosis
- Excellent Laboratory training opportunities

Major & Minor Issues:

WEAKNESSES:	RECOMMENDATIONS:
1. Inadequate inpatient infrastructure making service delivery inefficient	A dedicated, modern, inpatient haematology unit with appropriate infrastructure and capacity is needed
2. Clinical Non-SpR registrar posts (2) need to be filled to support 2 SpRs (currently <2 WTE). This impacts on SpRs ability to avail of training. Currently an International trainee is also supporting the service but her contract will expire in July 2017	Two full –time non-SpR registrars are required to support the current complement of SpRs (2). Consideration of changing one of these non-SpR posts to SpR grade may be considered following review of training places on a National level and with evidence that Coagulation/Transfusion sub specialty rotations could be completed at the CUH site
3. Laboratory training opportunities are excellent but are not always being availed of as there is no structured plan for training	Laboratory training including General Haematology and Transfusion medicine needs to be formalised and scheduled regularly
4. Library opening hours appear inadequate for a major academic teaching hospital	Library opening hours should be reviewed
5. All consultant staff providing training should seek registration as trainers with the RCPI	Non-RCPI approved Consultant Trainers should apply to RCPI

Conclusions:

1. Cork University Hospital provides an excellent training environment for SpRs at all stages of training and the feedback from trainees was very positive indicating clear commitment by Consultant trainers
2. There are unique sub-specialty training opportunities available. Consideration of approving a 3rd SpR post may be made following review of posts nationally. Sub-

specialty opportunities particularly for training in Haemostasis and Thrombosis (and potentially Transfusion training in the future with the proposed co-location of the Blood Transfusion service) will enhance the case for a third SpR.

3. In the interim, 2 full-time non-SpR clinical registrars are required to support the training opportunities of the SpRs

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 Jeremy Sargent – NSD
- Prof William Fennell- Inspection Chair
- Dr Susan O'Shea, Consultant Haematologist Trainer
- Professor Mary Cahill, Consultant Haematologist Trainer
- Dr Oonagh Gilligan, Consultant Haematologist Trainer (currently on sabbatical)
- Dr Cleona Duggan, Consultant Haematologist
- Dr Derville O'Shea, Consultant Haematologist
- Ms Lorna Sheehan, Medical Administration
- Mr Michael Murphy, Medical Manpower
- Dr Mike O'Connor, Clinical Director