



21 February 2012

Mr Tony McNamara
General Manager
Cork University Hospital
Wilton
Cork

**Report Letter relating to Cork University Hospital Inspection in Medical
Oncology on Friday 7 October 2011**

Dear Mr McNamara

The Irish Committee on Higher Medical Training (ICHMT) last inspected Cork University Hospital on Friday 7 October 2011, regarding its suitability for the Medical Oncology 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 Medical Oncology 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 inspection committee commended Cork University Hospital on the commitment of the trainers to the Higher Specialist Training programme, the education and training infrastructure, quality of the library and support staff and the support of the management team.

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

- Number of Posts – 1 SpR post
- Length of Approval: 5 years
- Trainer: Dr Seamus O'Reilly
- Next Inspection Due: 2016
- Interim Progress Report: October 2013 –
 - NCHD staffing still too low for work activity in medical oncology
 - The centralisation of medical oncology services to one hospital (Cork University Hospital) would enhance training, be cost effective and improve NCHD number

Inspection Panel:

- Prof Desmond Carney – National Specialty Director
- Prof Brian Keogh – 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.



Strengths of Department:

- Wide range of clinical exposure
- Both Neuro Oncology and Radiation Oncology within the department
- Excellent involvement in clinical trails
- Consultant numbers due to expand to four
- Good interaction with other departments

Major Issues:

- There is a shortage of NCHDS to cover the city hospitals and peripheral clinic
- Currently Medical Oncology is spread among 3 hospitals
- There is a need to develop a formal lecture teaching programme

Minor Issues: None

Recommendations:

- The centralisation of Medical Oncology services in one Hospital (Cork University Hospital) would greatly enhance the oncology programme and NCHD and SpR training
- The oncology service should combine with haematology and radiation therapy service to develop a formal weekly lecture series in oncology. By combining, there would be adequate numbers of NCHDs to present once every 6-8 weeks; with all consultants present

Conclusions:

- Cork University Hospital continues to develop and improve
- The increased consultant numbers enhances teaching/research for SpRs
- Trainee gives a very positive report in relation to teaching and training in the oncology department.

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

Yours sincerely

Dr Dubhfeasa Slattery
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Associate Dean of Hospital Inspections
Royal College of Physicians of Ireland

Cc: *Prof Desmond Carney, National Specialty Director*
Dr Seamus O'Reilly, Consultant Trainer