



13 January 2017

Mr Tony McNamara
CEO
Cork University Hospital
Wilton
Co Cork

Report Letter relating to the inspection of the Medical Oncology Department, Cork University Hospital on 28 November 2016

Dear Mr McNamara,

The ICMHT last inspected the Medical Oncology Department, Cork University Hospital on 28th November 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 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 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 Medical Oncology for:

- Number of Posts: 3 SpR Posts (in the event that the Higher Specialist Training Programme be expanded to allow an increase in SpRs)
- **Site and Trainers approved for a period of: 5 years**
- **Trainers:** Professor Seamus O'Reilly, Dr Deirdre O'Mahony, Dr Derek Power, Dr Richard Bambury
- **Next Inspection Due:** 2021
- **Interim Progress Report:** To Address:
 1. **MUH inspection in 12-18months**
 2. **Assess use of SpR office in CUH when doing MUH assessment**

Inspection Panel:

- Dr Miriam O'Connor – Speciality Representative
- Dr Pat Sullivan- Inspection Chair

Educational Opportunities:

- Weekly Oncology Lecture series
- Weekly educational meeting – Journal club, morbidity & mortality meeting (monthly), MDT with Palliative medicine (monthly)
- Clinical trials exposure
- Link to Weekly Oncology teaching lecture

Strengths of Department:

- Wide range of disease subtypes including rarer subtypes: neuro, sarcoma, gynae & head & neck cancers
- Wide range of clinical exposure from CUH, MUH as well as South Infirmary & Tralee Satellite clinic
- Multiple MDT forums with allied specialities: surgery, radiation oncology, pathology, radiology, palliative care
- Consultants who are all RCPI trainers and to expand to 5 in the coming 12-18mos
- Educational programme in place

Major & Minor Issues:

Weaknesses	Recommendations
Mercy University Hospital has not been assessed to date	Interim visit to MUH over the coming 12-18mos (named as unit where SpR's have more dedicated time for training and research due to lower clinical load)
Formal office for SpR recently finalised in CUH & in process of being refurbished, available off site away from main oncology unit (advantage of fewer interruptions when compared to current office available to SpR).	Ensure SpR office completed & available to trainees & to seek feedback from trainee's on same.
Reduced number of NCHD's which has an impact on SpR's taking dedicated time on a weekly basis.	Allied NCHD's to facilitate the training time for SpR's

Conclusions:

- Trainees were very positive in their feedback on training in CUH in terms of the teaching programme in place, support from trainers, opportunities to attend national and international meetings and pursuing research opportunities
- Expansion of consultant staff from 4 to 5 will have additional benefits for SpR teaching programme
- Expansion of non-SpR NCHD staffing levels may allow for SpR's to expand their training time to definitive protected time every week.

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 Miriam O'Connor – Speciality Representative
- Dr Pat Sullivan- Inspection Chair
- Professor Seamus O'Reilly, Consultant Trainer
- Dr Deirdre O'Mahony, Consultant Trainer
- Dr Derek Power, Consultant Trainer
- Dr Richard Bambury, Consultant Trainer
- Ms Lorna Bannon, Medical Administration
- Mr Michael Murphy, Medical Manpower Manager
- Dr Michael O'Connor, Clinical Director

