

12th/03/2013

Ms. Annemarie Byrne,
Medical Manpower Manager,
Cork University Hospital,
Wilton,
Cork

Report Letter relating to Cork University Hospital Inspection in Rheumatology on 29th November 2012

Dear Ms Byrne,

The Irish Committee on Higher Medical Training (ICHMT) last inspected Cork University Hospital on 29th November 2012 regarding its suitability for the Rheumatology 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 Rheumatology 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 Rheumatology for:

- Number of Posts – 1 SpR post
- Length of Approval: 3 years
- Trainers: Dr Sinead Harney, Dr John Ryan
- Next Inspection Due: 2015
- Interim Progress Report: N/A

Inspection Panel:

- Dr Donough Howard – National Specialty Director
- Prof John Horgan – 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.

Educational Opportunities:

- Combined Rheumatology/Respiratory clinic
- Combined Paediatric/ Adult Rheumatology clinic
- Sports Medicine Clinic
- Muscular skeletal ultrasound exposure. Dedicated ultrasound scanner in department.

Strengths of the Department:

- 2.5 consultant WTEs each with varied subspecialty interests
- Good exposure to working in a multidisciplinary team with nurse practitioners, CNS, Physiotherapy practitioners etc
- Multiple subspecialty clinics
- Rheumatology Clinics trials exposure
- Member of the Vasculitis consortium for clinical trials
- Good infrastructure with dedicated rheumatology clinic rooms and office space located in one department.

Recommendations

- Increased social work support
- ~~There is only 0.25 WTE of Occupational Therapy. Increased Occupational Therapy is recommended.~~

Conclusions:

This is an excellent training centre for Rheumatology SpRs.

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

Yours sincerely

Dubhfeasa Slattery

Dr Dubhfeasa Slattery
MB DCH, MRCPI (Paeds) FRCPI M Med Sci Ed (distinction) PhD
Associate Dean of Hospital Inspections
Royal College of Physicians of Ireland

Cc: Dr Donough Howard, NSD
Dr Sinead Harney, Consultant of Rheumatology
Ms Annemarie Byrne, Medical Manpower Manager
Dr John Horgan, Chair