

10<sup>th</sup> January 2012

## Emergency Medicine; an exciting and satisfying career

Emergency Medicine (EM) is a rapidly evolving specialty and the complexity and breadth of care it provides to patients has continued to increase at an exponential rate in the past decade. EM offers an ever-challenging and stimulating spectrum of clinical work from the immediate resuscitation of the most critically ill and injured patients to managing complex psychosocial crises. Consultants can combine working in Emergency Departments (EDs) with work in Pre-hospital Care; a specialist interest in education or research; major emergency planning; simulation or emergency ultrasound to name but a few options. EM also plays a key role in training for other medical specialties including Primary Care.

The past 10 years have seen dramatic improvements with increased Consultant numbers, enhanced specialty training and unprecedented innovation in patient care. Training developments have included the establishment and expansion of the Irish Specialist Registrar training programme (Higher Specialist Training in Emergency Medicine, HSTEM), initiation of a HST research-training stream and commencement of a programme for Basic Specialist Training in Emergency Medicine (BSTEM). BSTEM is a three-year rotation with posts in Emergency Medicine; Paediatrics or Paediatric Emergency Medicine; Orthopaedics or Plastic Surgery; Medicine and Anaesthesia.

Other innovative training initiatives include introduction of training and assessment methods such as workplace based assessment, a web-based e-learning platform (*Enlighten me*) and e-portfolios.

The Irish Committee on Emergency Medicine Training (ICEMT), the body that oversees training in EM, estimates that sustained increases in the Consultant in EM workforce over the next 10 years or so would enable Ireland to achieve and sustain optimal, internationally comparable Consultant staffing levels. Both IAEM and ICEMT have highlighted this ongoing need for new Consultants in the specialty, and funding for fourteen new Consultant posts was secured in 2011 through the Emergency Medicine Programme (EMP). It is intended that further posts will be approved for 2012 and beyond.

Emergency Medicine is consistently among the most sought after training specialties internationally and the current cohort of Irish Consultants in EM is dedicated to providing the best possible training experience of EM in Ireland for future colleagues and aims to develop a strong national team of experienced EM clinicians to meet the future emergency care needs of our citizens.

**President:**

Mr. Mark Doyle FRCSI, FCEM  
Consultant in Emergency Medicine

Waterford Regional Hospital  
Dunmore Road  
Waterford  
Ireland

Tel No: +353 51 842647  
Fax No: +353 51 848550

**Secretary:**

Mr. John McInerney FRCSEd, DiplIMC, FCEM.  
Consultant in Emergency Medicine,

Mater Misericordiae University Hospital  
Eccles St.  
Dublin 7  
Ireland

Tel No: +353 1 803 4342  
Fax No: +353 1 803 2850

**Treasurer:**

Mr. Niall O'Connor DCH, DOB, MRCP, FRCSEd, FCEM  
Consultant in Emergency Medicine

Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital  
Drogheda  
Co. Louth  
Ireland

Tel No: +353 41 9874791  
Fax No: +353 41 9874799

Recruitment of trainees to the specialty over the next 3 years will be critical to the future delivery of the highest possible quality of Emergency Care to patients in our Emergency Departments (EDs). Irish EM is keen to attract “the brightest and the best” – people who are enthusiastic, altruistic, hard working, flexible and innovative but above all who are prepared to be advocates for patients in crisis.

IAEM has a vibrant and flourishing Irish trainee members’ section, the Irish Emergency Medicine Trainees Association (IEMTA) and further information and advice on membership advantages is available at [www.iemta.ie](http://www.iemta.ie)

International training is encouraged and ICEMT is developing formal arrangements to link international fellowships with the HSTEM programme as well as Out of Programme Experience (OOPE) in sub-speciality interests and research. Most of the current Consultants in EM worked or trained abroad and agree that international training and OOPE should be encouraged.

Consultants in EM acknowledge that EM recruits require robust personal characteristics such as flexibility, the ability to work under pressure, to be innovative and practice in a holistic manner putting their patients’ needs above their own. However the benefits to the individual EM specialist are plentiful and include working within a close multidisciplinary team and high job satisfaction throughout their career.

ICEMT is hosting an information evening for interns and junior doctors at the **Postgraduate Centre in St James’s Hospital, Dublin 8 on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at 6.30pm** to provide guidance on career planning in EM.

For medical students or doctors considering a career in EM, IAEM will be showcasing the leading edge of International EM in June this year as it proudly hosts the **2012 International Conference on Emergency Medicine** at the Dublin Convention Centre. Approximately 2,000 delegates are expected and some of the most influential international experts in EM are participating in the Conference Programme. See [www.icem2012.org](http://www.icem2012.org) where early registration is advised!

**The closing date for BSTEM applications for this year is 20<sup>th</sup> January 2012. Application forms and further information can be obtained from the RCSI Emergency Medicine webpage <http://www.rcsi.ie/index.jsp?p=319&n=891>**

*A CAREER IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE – AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP  
THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST*