

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011

## IAEM welcomes new appointments to the HSE National Ambulance Service

The Irish Association for Emergency Medicine warmly welcomes the appointment of Dr. Cathal O'Donnell to the post of Medical Director of the HSE National Ambulance Service. As a result of changes in the provision of Ireland's hospital services, driven both by reconfiguration and the efforts of the HSE Clinical Programmes, the National Ambulance Service will have an increasingly important part to play in delivering emergency medical care and facilitating the development of new structures in the acute hospital system. Strong clinical leadership is essential for this task and the creation of this new post is particularly welcome. Indeed Consultants in Emergency Medicine have been seeking such a development for many years.

Dr. O'Donnell is a Consultant in Emergency Medicine at the Mid-Western Regional Hospital in Limerick. He worked with Toronto Emergency Medical Services and the Ontario Air Ambulance Programme while completing a Clinical Fellowship in Emergency Medical Services at the University of Toronto. On returning to Ireland to take up his Consultant post, he also was appointed Medical Advisor to the HSE Mid-West Ambulance Service. He is also Director of the Centre for Pre-hospital Research at the University of Limerick.

Dr O'Donnell will be ably assisted in his work by Mr Mark Doyle, Consultant in Emergency Medicine at Waterford Regional Hospital. Mr Doyle has had a long involvement with both the Ambulance Service and the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) and has carried out the role of Medical Advisor to the HSE South-East Ambulance Service for many years. IAEM welcomes Mr Doyle's appointment as it further welcomes the appointment of Mr. Robert Morton as Director of the HSE National Ambulance Service. Mr. Morton was up until recently Chief Ambulance Officer of the Midlands Ambulance Service and has now taken on the lead role for the national service. He has worked in the National Ambulance Service for over 20 years and brings a wealth of experience to the new role, as well as a proven track record of running a high quality ambulance service with a commitment to excellent patient care.

The Association looks forward to the continued development of the National Ambulance Service and anticipates that these three appointments will greatly facilitate the ongoing evolution of the service.

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