

Faculty of Radiologists Newsletter April 2008

Dear Fellows and Members,

I am writing to you at the time of our most recent Board Meeting in order to appraise you of the issues which are exercising the minds of the Board of the Faculty of Radiologists at present. I apologise that due to illness it was not possible to produce a Newsletter after the January Board Meeting. However many of the issues currently important have matured in the interim and a more full discussion has been possible.

1. Breast Imaging

At Portlaoise Hospital the three reports commissioned by various bodies on the situation regarding Breast Imaging in this Hospital have now been published, and all three have been critical in general and specific ways in respect of governance issues, equipment, and infrastructure. Traditionally the Faculty of Radiologists has confined itself to issues of education and training of Radiologists. However in the modern environment, it appears likely that a broader role for the Faculty will need to be taken in future years. If one looks at our sister institution in the United Kingdom, the Royal College of Radiologists, of which many of us are Fellows and Members, that body has grappled with this issue in the recent past and has taken on more of an advocacy role for the discipline of Radiology and for Radiologists. This may well be a direction which the Faculty must take in future, and I would be interested to hear your views in this regard. However a number of issues arise in this respect, and the Faculty will be seeking an early meeting with the Health Services Executive in order to discuss matters which impact on training and education.

Faculty is being sought with increasing frequency by other agencies within the health service, to advise in situations such as arose in Portlaoise. The Faculty is generally supportive of such an expanded role, but it should be noted that the RCR, having initially embraced this role, have now moved away from this, and such investigations are conducted by a small group convened under the NHS umbrella. Obviously issues of indemnity and legal protection arise in this respect.

2. Combined “Spring” Meeting of Faculty of Radiologists and BSSR/ESSR

As you are aware, the Faculty Spring meeting will now be held from **June 12th to 14th 2008** at NUI Galway. Intending registrants can only register through the ESSR website for this meeting. The website’s address is: www.conference.ie.

Recent discussion took place in relation to the Spring meeting, and it is decided that while a third meeting is clearly required during the annual Faculty calendar, that the meeting will have to undergo significant change, as it generally incurs a financial loss. It is likely therefore that such meetings will change to a format incorporating a Friday afternoon and Saturday morning meeting, will be more didactic in content, and the previous two-dinner format will be reduced to a less formal dinner on Friday night during that meeting. Faculty’s plans will evolve over the next several months in this regard. I trust as many of you as possible will attend the meeting in Galway, despite the unfortunate clash with ESGAR.

3. Regional Rotations

Faculty continues to seek an appropriate method of incorporating the four recognized non-core centres in Waterford, Sligo, Drogheda and Limerick into the training programme. Clearly to implement this programme, an increase in Specialist Registrar numbers will be required.

4. Radiation Oncology Assessment Visit

As you are aware, when the previous accreditation report assessed the Radiation Oncology facility at St. Luke's Hospital in 2006, it promised to revisit the National Programme in 2008. This visit was carried out in the first week of February, comprising senior Faculty Officers, and a panel of distinguished overseas External Examiners as well as the National Training Coordinator. The sites at St. Luke's Hospital, Cork University Hospital and University Hospital Galway were visited. It is expected that the report of the accreditation group will be available towards the end of this month.

5. Honorary Fellows

Drs. Paul Finn and Brian O'Sullivan have accepted nominations as Honorary Fellows and will be conferred at the annual Scientific Meeting at the end of September. Both Drs. Finn and O'Sullivan, are distinguished Irish graduates working in Diagnostic Radiology and Radiation Oncology respectively, and have achieved worldwide reputations as practitioners and researchers in these areas.

6. Medical Council Election

The Faculty is very pleased to note that our most recent past Dean, Dr. Éamann Breatnach who was nominated to the Medical Council for the section Radiology or Pathology has been elected unopposed. Dr. Breatnach will represent the interests of both Radiology and Pathology on the Medical Council over the five-year term of the newly constituted body.

If there are any issues in the Newsletter about which you wish to contact me, I am most readily available via e-mail on any of the addresses below:

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