

# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



**CAI**  
SALUS DUM VIGILAMUS

College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland



# Table of Contents

President's Report .....	4
Chief Executive Report .....	10
Honorary Treasurer's Report .....	16
Independent Auditor's Report .....	24
Training Committee and Directors of Training .....	28
Examinations Committee .....	34
Education Committee .....	41
Professional Competence Scheme (PCS) Committee .....	43
Quality and Safety Advisory Committee .....	45
Credentials Committee .....	46
Global Health Committee .....	48
Committee of Anaesthesiology Trainees (CAT) .....	51
HSE Liaison Committee .....	56
Wellbeing, Health and Resilience Committee.....	58
Sustainability Committee.....	60
Outcomes Research Committee .....	62
Faculty of Pain Medicine Ireland .....	64
Joint Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine Ireland.....	67
Emerging Leaders Conference .....	76
Event Gallery .....	78

# President's Report

A Chairde,

Dear Friends and Esteemed Colleagues, Fellows in Ireland and internationally, trainees, whether College SATs or NCHD colleagues, and all of you who volunteer to make our College mission a reality, whether as council members, tutors, hospital safety leads or wellness leads, examiners, simulation faculty, College course faculty, contributors to working groups and committees and our College Staff team.

Thank you all for sharing your selfless commitment and acumen in the worthy cause of our mission namely, to optimise patient care through provision of excellent training and lifelong learning. The following is a concise summary of some of the more important activities and initiatives which we have undertaken and overseen in the past 12 months.

White Papers on the Relationship between Anaesthesiology & ICM and on Role Profiling of the Consultant in Anaesthesiology in Ireland.

You will recall that these Working Groups, to develop a White Paper, were established by me at our September 2024 EGM to address the implications of the Medical Council of Ireland (MCI) decision to change our CSCST designation to state "Anaesthesiology" only from 2030. The Role Profiling Group concluded its business last summer, outlining the broad range of knowledge, skills and behaviours necessary to be a consultant in Anaesthesiology in Ireland, which routinely includes elements of Intensive Care Medicine practice. We are indebted to Dr Deirdre McCoy, Chair of that Working Group and all its volunteer members for this important contribution.

The White Paper on Future Relationships Working Group continues its important work. Under the excellent chairmanship of Dr John Bates, it considered in detail the future relationship of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine to training, HSE service provision and each other. The group identified a number of recommendations which the College council and the Joint Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine are striving to implement. These include a formal re-naming of our specialty to "Anaesthesiology & Critical Care Medicine", which would indicate clearly that all Anaesthesiologists, even those not formally registered as Intensive Care practitioners, are effectively intensive care doctors also, and look after patients in our intensive care units all over our country. Among the other recommendations is the formal certification of the approximately 8-months ICM training obtained by SAT graduates within their 6-year training programme.

My sincere thanks to John, to Dr Michelle Duggan, who has now assumed the role of Chairing the White paper Implementation group, and all 15 of its dedicated members, who have served our specialties well in contributing to this crucial initiative.

### Gilmartin Lecture

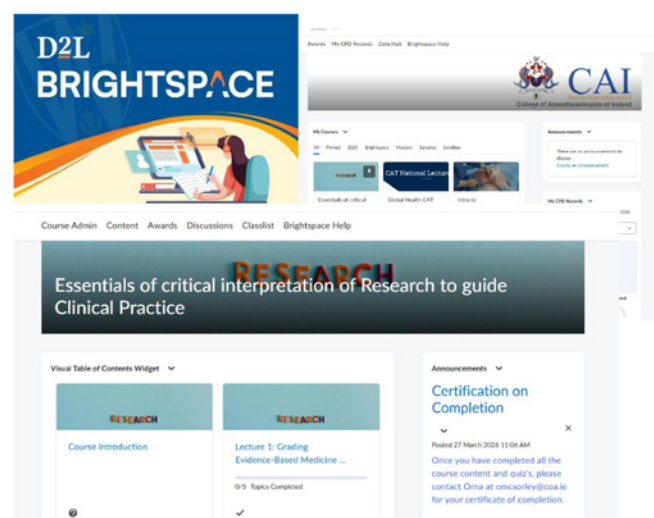
The 2025 Gilmartin Lecture was delivered by Mr Ciarán O'Connor, former State Architect, who enthralled an audience of 60 with his presentation and images of the refurbishment and modernisation of multiple famous Irish heritage sites including the Blasket Islands interpretive centre, the National Concert Hall and the National Botanical Gardens. Ciarán and his wife Ditte joined us for dinner in the boardroom, resplendent with Christmas decorations, while our guest singers, a cohort from the male a capella group, The Ramparts, entertained us with seasonal favourites. A night to remember fondly indeed.

### The e-Learning Management System (e-LMS)

An important advance for our College in technology enhanced learning is the introduction last autumn of the new e-Learning Management System (e-LMS). This will be an online resource, accessed through our College website, by which trainees and fellows will access multi-media course material at their own pace and take assessments to receive certification of course/module completion. This should enable consistent delivery of specific College course content in a sustainable way, even as trainee numbers advance. Fellows will be able to access this material, and the National Lecture Series for CEPD purposes. It is envisaged that more material will be added gradually as digital versions of our e-curriculum evolve. Our sincere thanks are due to our many colleagues who have generated and developed this online course content. It would not have progressed as rapidly as it has, without the stellar efforts of Ms Orna McSorley and Ms Margaret Jenkinson, alongside many other members of the College staff team. My sincere thanks to all for delivering this training innovation.



Prof Donal Buggy  
President, CAI



### Improving our Communication Channels:

Colleagues may have noticed the twice-yearly e-newsletters presented at year end and early July, summarising the main topical issues for our community. In addition, prompted by younger colleagues who indicated that their generation prefers social media, our College has re-engaged with Instagram. I have presented several 1-2 minute video clips, complete with embarrassing “clickbait”, about topical initiatives which have generally been very well received. Again, my thanks to Orna McSorley, senior administrator to the executive, for her encouragement, editing and expertise.

### Judicial Review

You are aware that a judicial review case was taken by a non-training programme doctor (applicant) who had already obtained their specialist registration as an independent anaesthesiologist with the Medical Council of Ireland (MCI). They asked the Court to direct that they are entitled to receive the same CSCST as trainees who have completed our CAI SAT programme.

At the insistence of the applicant, the case was scheduled for 8 days oral hearing and it was heard by Mr. Justice Barry O’Donnell in the High Court. It is highly unusual to have oral evidence in a judicial review.

Our College position was and remains that, the issues of training and registration were being conflated in the proceedings. While there are multiple avenues available to doctors in Ireland to apply to the MCI to have their training recognised which may then entitle them to specialist registration, and a certificate of that registration, that is distinct from the certification by the College of completion of specialist training of its Tier 1 programme, which is a prospective, competitively appointed, competence-based, tutor-mentored, quality assured training programme with annual progression interviews, and this should not be conflated with any other route to registration. .

Due to the strength of the evidence put forward by the respondents, and in particular, the College, counsel for the applicant capitulated after Day 5 at hearing. It was agreed that we would not pursue the

applicant for costs, in a gesture of magnanimous collegiality, consistent with our cultural values.

We will continue to engage with our non-training programme colleagues and our strategic partners in the HSE-NDTP, Dept. Health, MCI, and other postgraduate training bodies to optimize the number of new Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) training posts (which CAI was the first to implement).

We believe with this outcome, our College’s reputation has been further enhanced throughout the HSE, Dept. Health, the Forum of Postgraduate Medical Training bodies, the Medical Council and the entire regulatory and governance system of our democracy.

I thank you for your steadfast support throughout the past 4 years of arduous engagement in this matter.

### The inaugural EELC:

Our sister Australian New Zealand College (ANZCA) instigated their Emerging Leaders Course (ELC) in 2018 and invited us to send a senior SAT after a competitive selection process. This course had an immediate, positive impact on participants, evidenced by our own alumni’s enthusiastic reports and by myself and others who contributed as honorary faculty. On my return from the Cairns ELC meeting last year, I decided that we would no longer send a trainee to ANZCA’s course, but instead that we would create our own Emerging and Established Leaders conference (EELC).

After much careful reflection and preparation, former ANZCA ELC Irish alumni Dr Aislinn Sherwin (currently elected Council member and Chair of the Quality and Patient Safety Advisory Committee) kindly agreed to head up our inaugural EELC. She was ably assisted by two other former ANZCA SAT alumni, Dr Carrie Murphy and Dr Noelle Healy, and also by immediate past-President Prof George Shorten. A truly outstanding programme of speakers was assembled from business, sport, industry and medicine, with scope for delegate interaction. Some 31 delegates participated, including 2 SATs and one Northern Ireland trainee, who won their respective trainees competition for their all-expenses paid

participation. There was with exceptional feedback from all present. Our congratulations and thanks once again to Aislinn, Carrie and Noelle and George, in addition to College team member Ms Lauren McKenna.



### College Expansion Options Investigation and our inaugural RPL

Our Strategy Review 2025-30 identified a challenge of the success of our specialty: We have effectively outgrown our premises here in Merrion Square. Anaesthesiology has come a long way since Tommy Gilmartin established the Faculty within RCSI in 1959. Through the vision, acumen and courage of many former presidents and others, The College of Anaesthesiology was formed in 1998 at our current premises in Merrion Square, with the Mews building being completed 10 years later. Since then, our specialty has progressed exponentially, which brings its own challenges of space and capacity requirements.

We are obliged to rent expensive hotel space outside the city to host our exams, particularly the OSCEs and Vivas. We have had to hire external venues to cope with an increasing attendance of >200 at our Winter College-Patient Safety meeting. Moreover, we need to hire UCD O'Reilly Hall for our graduation ceremonies in June. While I envisage that our College will always need to seek an external venue for our annual Congress, attracting as it does, 600-700 delegates, it is unfortunate that we can no longer host these core events within our own premises.

The need for expansion of our physical space is further emphasised by national HSE policy. The National Medical Manpower Workforce Planning Document 2024-38 directs us to double the number of trainees over the next few years. In addition, it invites us to introduce a new, more experienced entry point programme to our SAT programme,

via a process called Recognition of Prior Learning. This is a process whereby quality NCHD colleagues, who are on the general register of the MCI and not on our SAT programme, would undergo a competitive process to evaluate their prior learning and experience (RPL), and if successful, they would be entered onto the SAT programme at SAT3 level. Our Working Group for RPL, chaired by Co-Director of Training Dr Amy Donnelly identified criteria of eligibility for RPL SAT 3 admission. A moment of history for our College was made during the new 2026 SAT intake, with 4 RPL SAT3 trainees successfully navigating the highly competitive selection process, and have been appointed, in addition to the usual SAT 1 trainees (n=56). It is noteworthy that an unprecedented 290 applications were received for this year's intake. It is an exciting time of expansion and popularity for our specialty, which will demand greater training resources and administrative support, and additional demand on our present limited facilities.

While every effort is being made to optimise regionalisation of training resources, such as simulation facilities, there seems to be a compelling need for us to expand our physical spaces. The executive has actively pursued options to do this.

A number of city architects were engaged to consider expanding our Merrion Square site, mindful of its Georgian heritage. Any development would have to be underground, expanding in front of the lecture theatre and under our backyard / car park, linking the old building to the Mews.

After an open competition-interview among four architects, Mr Martin Henchion was chosen to conduct a feasibility study. He reverted within weeks to advise that this proposal was unfeasible: The costs would be more than our mortgage budget and even still, we would not achieve the increased space requirement of >250m<sup>2</sup> to be in a position to host our own exams. This option was therefore deleted with regret from our list of possibilities.

We directly approached our neighbours at No.23 Merrion Square, St. Joseph's Young Priests Society, enquiring about their willingness to sell. Far from it: in fact, they indicated they would try to purchase our premises if we moved! Council has previously

ruled out the idea of purchasing a second property as an exam hall, on the basis that it would create financial and management strain for our College.

This progressive process of considering options for College expansion seems therefore to be landing on a binary decision: Sell and go from Merrion Square to a larger more functional building in an up-and-coming prestigious city centre area, or simply “stay put” as we are, hiring hotels and other venues for all exams and larger meetings.

We remain open to the property market for a building with usable internal floor area of >1,200m<sup>2</sup>, within which would be a flexible open space of >350m<sup>2</sup>.

### New Blood on Council

Council elections in the spring of 2025 resulted in no less than 5 newly elected members of Council. Dr Ahmed Shehata, based in Waterford, is Chair of our HSE Liaison committee, and brings much teaching and clinical experience to the College. In this role, he is committed to asking that HSE HR link the increased numbers of training posts being activated to proportionately increased consultant posts in our specialty. To that end, he has undertaken an important survey of departmental chairpersons, to establish the true number of consultant posts coming through or planned.

Dr Róisín Nee, representing University Hospital Limerick, has kindly taken on the role of Wellbeing, Health & Resilience Lead and has already surveyed trainees about their priorities in this area, in collaboration with our Committee of Anaesthesiologists in Training (CAT). She is planning to bring all College training hospital wellness leads together this autumn to discuss how best to support both trainees and colleagues.

Dr Aoibhinn Hutchinson, working in Belfast, is our first elected council member from Northern Ireland in almost 2 decades. She is Co-Chair of exams alongside Dr Michelle Duggan and has contributed not only that, but also to international exams in Malaysia and to our emerging and established leadership course. Prof Pat Neligan (Galway) brings a clinician’s perspective from both Anaesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine

and an interest in providing highest quality CEPD opportunities for us all. He is Co-Convenor of our Annual Congress 2026 alongside Dr Gabriella Iohom and both have produced an excellent programme, which provides update and learning opportunities for everyone. Finally, our 2025 intake of elected members includes Prof. John Laffey (University of Galway), who is building on our drive to establish an Irish Perioperative Clinical Studies network under the auspices of our College. To that end, he is Chair of the newly established Outcomes Research committee of council and John is also working with me to re-establish the “Interpretation and evaluation of research for the busy clinician” course, first delivered in 2022, and being reimaged now as an online course, delivered through our new e-LMS.

All continue to contribute actively to the range of issues which come before Council and their diverse insights and opinions are invaluable in guiding our College.

This infusion of new council members, in addition to the five new council members who were elected in 2024, renders our present council the most diverse in the history of our specialty. I am grateful to every council member, each of whom is contributing important work to enable our mission, which many will outline in the following pages of this report.

### College Clinical Leaders

Increased trainee numbers beget increased needs for more part-time clinician leaders within College. Prof Maya Contreras, our Director of Simulation, continues to enrich this crucial aspect of our training programme with new ideas and competence priorities, while also growing our volunteer simulation faculty panel.

Prof Camillus Power, our long-serving Director of Training, has been focusing on the MCI-mandated CAI e-curriculum review, whereby every aspect of our programme and learning outcomes is re-evaluated with new content added and redundant areas discarded. This document also outlines the College rules of the training programme and the progression milestones which must be achieved. Accuracy is important to strengthen College

resilience in the event of an increasing number of spurious legal challenges to operational training department decisions. I wish to thank Camillus for engaging his career-long expertise in this foundational task, and also the many colleagues and specialist experts who have reviewed and continued to our updated e-curriculum content. Our thanks also to our external curriculum reviewer, Dr. Sarah Nicolson, a council member of the Australian New Zealand College of Anaesthetists, who is overseeing the process. We look forward to thanking her in person when she visits us to contribute to our annual Congress.

Dr Jenny Porter, Co-Director of Training has continued her stellar work, in particular during the SAT intake process last winter, when she oversaw the arduous selection processes after an unprecedented 290 people applied for the 60 places on our programmes. Not to mention her outstanding preparation and star turn in court, defending our College during the judicial review.

In all this commitment, she was ably assisted by Co-Director of Training Dr Amy Donnelly, who, as mentioned previously, delivered our inaugural Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) SAT3 intake, consistent with department of health policy, with 4 candidates appointed in that category, the first postgraduate medical training body to do so.

Dr Brian McCloskey, Director of Patient Safety and Quality Improvement, whose clinical commitments are in Belfast, delivered a revised Professionalism in Practice course for SAT6, which extended over 2 days, in addition to online teaching on quality improvement methodology. Brian also contributed to Aislinn Sherwin's leadership of our Winter College day in November, held at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Golden Lane, which set a new record of booming success: No less than 250 delegates were present, with enthusiastic feedback received.

### **The CAI's Global Health Charity Outreach**

I am inspired to highlight the excellent charitable work of our College in East Africa, which will be outlined in more detail by our Chair of Global Health, Dr Patrick Seigne. College contributes in 2 ways: Firstly, through being a founder supporter of

the College of Anaesthesia of Eastern, Central and Southern Africa (CANESCA), whereby we donate modest annual stipends to trainees who commit to their 4 year training programme in the region. This simple strategy, coupled with assisting African colleagues develop their curriculum and quality assuring their exam, has helped retain >90% of trainees to complete their programme and remain working in the 14-nation region afterwards.

The other African charitable area where our College contributes is in Malawi, perhaps the poorest of the 14 countries of CANESCA, where we deliver a HDU-Obstetrics and Trauma (HOT) training course over 2 days to local clinical officers. These are the 2 years' trained service providers who deliver most Anaesthesia services across sub-Saharan Africa. I was privileged to join Patrick's team last November, alongside a number of past Presidents and Dr Claire Keaveney, a senior trainee, who won a competition to join the entourage.

### **Conclusion / Focal Scoir**

In summary, I am excited and greatly encouraged by the obvious booming success and progress our College continues to make in delivering our refreshed Strategy objectives from Strategy Review 2025-30, despite the constantly evolving, ever-challenging political, regulatory and legal environment.

We will continue to prioritise excellence in training and continuing education, including practical simulation training both in College and at regional and local centres, and we will continue to quality assure trainee competence through the growing Work-Place Based Assessments (WBA) and e-Learning management system. Our College's governance, culture and operational practices are founded on integrity and excellence.

I believe the year ahead will present exciting opportunities for us as a specialty and as a community to meet these and the new challenges of expansion, and to continue to deliver the mission and vision of our College, for the benefit of all our patients.

**Prof Donal Buggy**  
President, College of Anaesthesiologists  
of Ireland

# Chief Executive Officer's Report

Mr Martin McCormack  
Chief Executive Officer





## A YEAR OF DELIVERY, TRANSITION AND STRATEGIC RENEWAL

2025 has been a year of significant progress for the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland, marked by delivery on our strategic commitments, continued growth in education and accredited specialist training activity, and deepened engagement across the Irish health system and internationally.

Healthcare continues to operate in an environment of sustained demand, workforce constraint, technological disruption and rising expectations of safety, transparency and accountability. This has a greater impact on Anaesthesiologists, Intensive care and Pain medicine specialists given that they represent a critical proportion of the entire consultant workforce and underpin the delivery of modern acute care in this state.

In this context, the role of an accredited post-graduate training body must extend beyond education alone. The College must act as a steward of standards, a convener of expertise, and a trusted partner to the health service in shaping the future clinical workforce. Our work this year reflects that broader responsibility

## DELIVERING ON OUR STRATEGIC PLAN 2025–2030

During 2025 we advanced the implementation of the College's Strategic Plan 2025–2030, focusing on Training and Education Excellence, Organisational Sustainability and Growth, Workforce, Wellbeing and Diversity; Safety, Quality and Advocacy & Innovation in Education and Assessment.

These priorities recognise that the future of anaesthesiology, perioperative medicine, pain medicine and intensive care is inseparable from the wider transformation of healthcare delivery in Ireland.

The College has continued to align its activities closely with national reform agendas, including Sláintecare implementation, workforce expansion, digital health transformation and the strengthening of clinical governance structures.

## STRENGTHENING SPECIALIST TRAINING AND EDUCATION

The central mission of the College remains the delivery of high-quality, structured specialist training that prepares doctors for increasingly complex clinical environments.

In 2025 we:

- Supported a growing cohort of trainees in anaesthesiology, intensive care and pain medicine.
- Continued modernisation of curricula to reflect evolving models of perioperative and critical care.
- Expanded simulation-based education as a core component of competency development.
- Enhanced assessment methodologies to ensure alignment with international best practice and regulatory expectations.

Accredited Specialist Training today must prepare clinicians not only for technical excellence, but also for leadership, multidisciplinary collaboration and system awareness. Our educational developments at the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland increasingly reflect these broader professional capabilities.

## CONTRIBUTING TO NATIONAL WORKFORCE AND PATIENT SAFETY PRIORITIES

A defining feature of the College's work in 2025 has been its active contribution to national health system priorities. We have worked closely with the HSE, Department of Health and partner training bodies to address:

- Workforce planning and training capacity expansion during the HSE governance restructure.
- Patient safety improvement through education, standards and data-informed practice.

- Development of learning analytics capability to better understand training outcomes and clinical performance trends.
- Support for national initiatives in simulation, digital health and quality improvement.

These collaborations demonstrate the College's evolution from a traditional educational institution to a strategic partner in health system reform

### ADVANCING RESEARCH, INSIGHT AND THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

The College continued to support research, professional dialogue and policy engagement across our specialties. Through our faculties, committees and special interest groups, we facilitated national discussion on:

- Safer perioperative pathways
- Workforce wellbeing and sustainability
- The integration of data and digital tools into clinical practice
- Evolving models of multidisciplinary care
- Close collaboration on patient safety with HSE , Dept of Health and SANI network .

As healthcare becomes more complex, professional training bodies must help interpret change for clinicians and ensure that reform remains grounded in patient safety and professional standards

### EXPANDING INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS AND EDUCATIONAL REACH

2025 also saw continued strengthening of the College's international engagement.

Our examinations, educational collaborations and institutional partnerships remain highly regarded globally and play an important role in:

- Supporting capacity building in partner countries
- Sharing Irish expertise in anaesthesiology intensive care and pain medicine
- Enhancing the College's reputation as an international leader in postgraduate medical education

These relationships are increasingly collaborative, focused on mutual learning rather than one-directional delivery.

### BUILDING ORGANISATIONAL RESILIENCE

Internally, the College has continued to strengthen its governance, operational capability and financial sustainability. Key organisational developments during the year included:

- Investment in digital infrastructure to support training, assessment and member engagement
- Ongoing enhancement of governance systems aligned with best practice in regulated professional bodies
- Careful financial stewardship in a challenging external environment
- Continued development of our staff team and organisational culture

Our goal is to ensure that the College is not only academically strong, but institutionally resilient and future-ready.

### A COMMUNITY EFFORT

The achievements of 2025 reflect the commitment of many:

- Our trainees, whose professionalism and dedication remain inspiring
- Our tutors, simulation faculty and examiners, who give generously of their time and expertise
- Our Council, committees and faculty leaders, who guide the College's direction
- Our staff, who deliver an increasingly complex programme of work with professionalism and care
- Our partners across the health service and internationally

The College's strength lies in this collective endeavour.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The coming years will bring continued change: new technologies, new workforce models, and new expectations of healthcare delivery. As the new HSE governance structure begins to embed itself there will be many challenges to face postgraduate training and consultant workforce sustainability. The College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland must remain both an anchor and catalyst preserving professional standards while enabling innovation.

Our focus for the next phase will be:

- Expanding training capacity in our accredited national specialist training programmes while maintaining excellence
- Deepening our contribution to patient safety and system improvement
- Leveraging data and digital capability to enhance education and outcomes
- Supporting the next generation of clinical leaders
- Ensuring the College remains a trusted, independent voice in Irish healthcare

We approach this future with confidence, grounded in our values and sustained by our community.

I am very grateful to Professor Donal Buggy and the Council of CAI for their collective leadership in driving this agenda forward.

Martin McCormack

Chief Executive Officer

College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland



# CAI Council Members 2026



**Back row L-R:**

Prof Camillus Power, Ms Mary Buckley, Ms Fiona Taaffe, Dr Karen Tan, Dr Aislinn Sherwin, Dr Roisin Nee, Mr Martin McCormack, Prof John Laffey, Dr Ahmed Shehata, Dr Aoibhin Hutchinson, Ms Margaret Jenkinson, Prof Pat Neligan.



**Front row L-R:**

Dr Enda O'Connor, Dr Suzanne Cronly, Dr Fauzia Bano, Dr Gabrielle Iohom, Prof Donal Buggy, Dr Michelle Duggan, Dr Patrick Seigne, Prof Terry Tan, Dr Conor Hearty.



# Honorary Treasurer's Report 2025

Prof Terry Tan

Honorary Treasurer and Chair  
of the Finance & General-  
Purpose Committee



I am pleased to present my first report as Honorary Treasurer of the College, a role which I commenced in June 2025, in conjunction with the role of Chair of the Finance and General-Purpose Committee. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of my predecessor, Dr Brian O'Brien, and thank him for his hard work and commitment during his term as Honorary Treasurer.

In terms of overall financial performance, the College recorded a deficit of €244,603 for 2025. This compared to a deficit of €48,591 in 2024. While several factors contributed to the increase in the deficit, the most significant of these were:

- a reduction in income, in particular income from annual subscriptions
- legal costs in connection with judicial review proceedings
- higher license fees associated with the systems used to run online examinations and professional development activities
- Appointment of a new co-director of training.

With regard to the potential to address these factors for future years, we are in the process of replacing legacy systems used to manage events and membership, which will bring efficiencies in areas such as invoicing and issuing statements to members. In terms of legal expenditure, this was related to the judicial review proceedings which has reached its conclusion in 2026, and we are no longer accruing this cost. Of note, significant legal fees incurred in connection with this in the early months of 2026 will be reflected in the 2026 accounts.

From the perspective of corporate compliance, the College met all statutory filing obligations of the Companies Registration Office, Revenue and the Charities Regulator throughout 2025. Given

the College's charitable status and the financial advantages of this by way of charitable tax exemption, maintaining a complete and timely compliance record is essential. We again received a clean audit report from our auditors, Mazars, for 2025. The key elements of CAI's Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2025 are provided on pages 19 to 23 of this annual report.

Prudent risk management remains a core facet of the College's operational management and strategic outlook. The risk register is our key tool to assist with this. Regular review of the evolving risk environment, including feedback from the department managers, helps to ensure that all current risks are managed and the emerging ones are identified at an early stage. At the time of writing this report, we do not envisage any conditions that would impact on the College's ability to continue as a going concern. The funding sources of the College remain relatively stable. An increase in the core rate of funding was agreed under the 2025/26 Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the HSE, our single largest funding body. Towards the end of 2025, Council has agreed a range of moderate fee increases for subscriptions, examinations, events and courses, to take effect from January 2026.

## INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Total operating income for the financial year ended 31st December 2025 was €4,269,463 which represents a 3.4% reduction on the prior year level. However, it should be noted that income from the Clinical English Language Training (CELT) project has a distorting effect on total income as this project ceased in December 2024. When income from this project is excluded, the year-on-year reduction in operating income is 2.2%.

HSE funding continues to be our single largest income source, accounting for 55.4% of total income in 2025. This represents a small increase on the 54.1% recorded in the prior year, which also included income from the CLET project. Income from Annual Subscriptions and PCS fees was our second largest source, accounting for 17.9% of the total. This was followed by income from Examinations and then

Educational Meetings & Courses, which accounted for 14.7% and 9.8% of total income respectively.

On the expenditure, total operating expenditure for the year was €4,666,417 which represents an increase of only 0.2% on the prior year level. However, as noted under income above, the CELT project had a distorting effect on expenditure. When this was excluded, ordinary operating expenditure increased by 5.6% on the prior year level. As discussed above, this increase was mainly attributable to legal fees and higher costs associated with IT software licenses.

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

The Statement of Financial Position or Balance Sheet shows the assets, liabilities and resulting accumulated funds of the College at year end. Total accumulated funds at 31st December 2025 were €10,734,783 which represents a decrease of €244,603 on the level recorded at the previous year-end.

Debtors increased by over 55% year-on-year. This increase was primarily due to a delay in receipt of HSE funding under our Service Level Agreement, as well as a substantial invoice issued in December 2025 in relation to a new HSE-funded project due to commence in 2026. There was a year-on-year reduction of 13.3% in cash/bank balances. This is directly related to the aforementioned increase in the debtors balance, and also to the deficit recorded for the year.

The valuation of investments held by the college increased by over €152K or 6.8% in the year. There

was no additional commitment of funds to the investment during 2025 and no withdrawal of funds invested.

On our liabilities, the overall creditors balance at 31st December 2025 increased by 38.8% from the prior year. The majority of this increase is attributed to deferred income. Specifically, in December 2025 a substantial invoice was issued to the HSE in relation to a new project due to commence in 2026. On the basis that this invoice did not relate to 2025, the associated income was deferred at year end. In addition to the deferred income element, there was also a marginal increase in trade creditors on the prior year level, due to timing differences in payments to suppliers between the two year-ends.

To conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to thank CAI members for their continued support through the payment of the Annual Subscription, an essential source of funding to all aspects of our operations. I would like to acknowledge the commitment and support of members of the Finance committee for their hard work and committed financial stewardship, ensuring the continued success of the College. Finally, I would like to thank the staff in the Finance Office, Ms. Margaret Jenkinson our Chief Operations Officer and her team — Mr. Ben Courtney and Ms. Susan Murray. We look forward to another successful and innovative year for 2026.

### Prof Terry Tan

Honorary Treasurer and Chair of the Finance & General-Purpose Committee.

# Balance Sheet

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

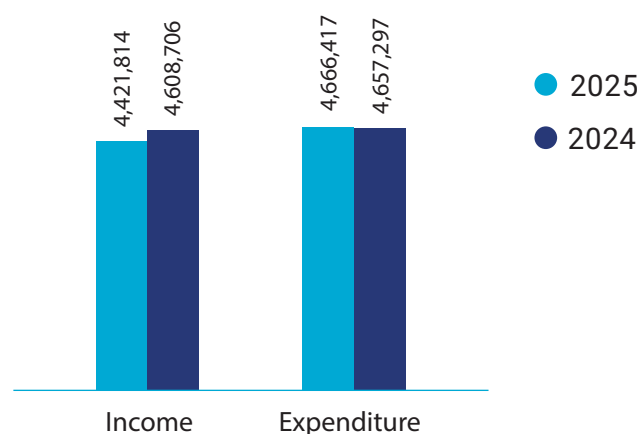
	2025	2024
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Tangible Assets	6,327,313	6,503,265
Intangibles	34,356	–
Investments	2,394,098	2,241,747
	<b>8,755,767</b>	<b>8,745,012</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors	1,738,898	1,120,550
Cash at bank and in hand	2,170,626	2,504,218
	<b>3,909,524</b>	<b>3,624,768</b>
<b>Creditors</b>		
Amounts falling due within one year	(1,930,508)	(1,390,394)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	1,979,016	2,234,374
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>10,734,783</b>	<b>10,979,386</b>
<b>Capital and Reserves</b>		
Unrestricted Funds	10,530,684	10,836,373
Restricted Funds	204,099	143,013
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>10,734,783</b>	<b>10,979,386</b>

On behalf of the Board of Directors

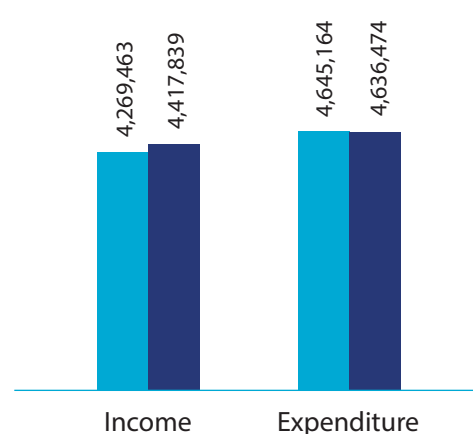
Prof Donal Buggy

Prof Terry Tan

## Total Income and Expenditure



## Operating Income and Expenditure



# Income and Expenditure Account

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	2025	2024
<b>Income</b>		
Annual subscriptions	689,510	766,130
International education and training	53,500	117,957
College fees	97,303	76,935
Educational meetings and courses	353,056	407,397
Examinations	620,158	628,535
HSE Structural Funding	2,307,094	2,018,052
HSE Income Reimbursement	58,234	52,247
Donations and Sponsorship	8,908	51,010
Venue-Hire and event income	13,315	9,562
Sundry income	68,385	49,747
Clinical English Language Training Project	–	240,267
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>4,269,463</b>	<b>4,417,839</b>

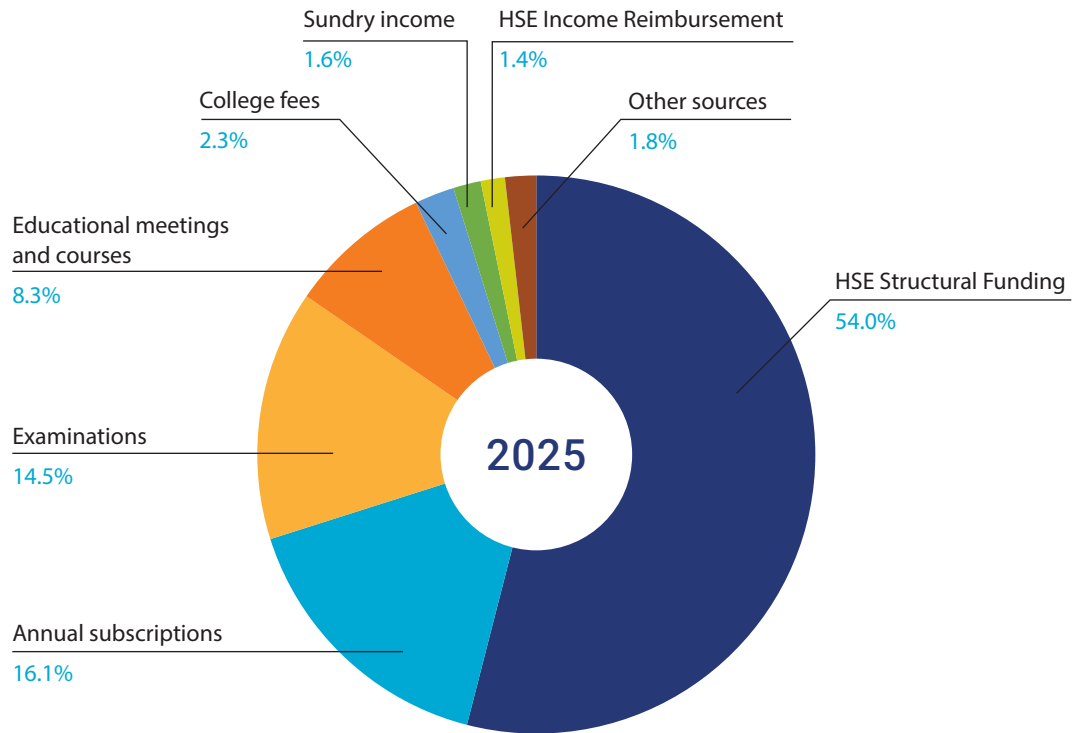
	2025	2024
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Wages, salaries, related charges, staff training and recruitment	(2,153,809)	(2,225,531)
Educational material, meetings and courses	(359,932)	(365,446)
Examinations	(540,517)	(407,594)
Office and IT	(599,096)	(631,199)
Governance	(625,731)	(386,347)
Research sponsorships and tutors	(22,545)	(37,868)
International charitable activities	(10,442)	(17,764)
Depreciation	(265,770)	(253,222)
Financial	(21,253)	(20,823)
Venue catering and advertising costs	(9,088)	(18,517)
General costs	–	(472)
HSE discretionary expenditure	(58,234)	(52,247)
Clinical English Language Training Project	–	(240,267)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>(4,666,417)</b>	<b>(4,657,297)</b>
<b>Operating Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(396,954)</b>	<b>(239,458)</b>
Fair value gain on investments	152,351	190,867
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the Financial Year</b>	<b>(244,603)</b>	<b>(48,591)</b>

*On behalf of the Board of Directors*

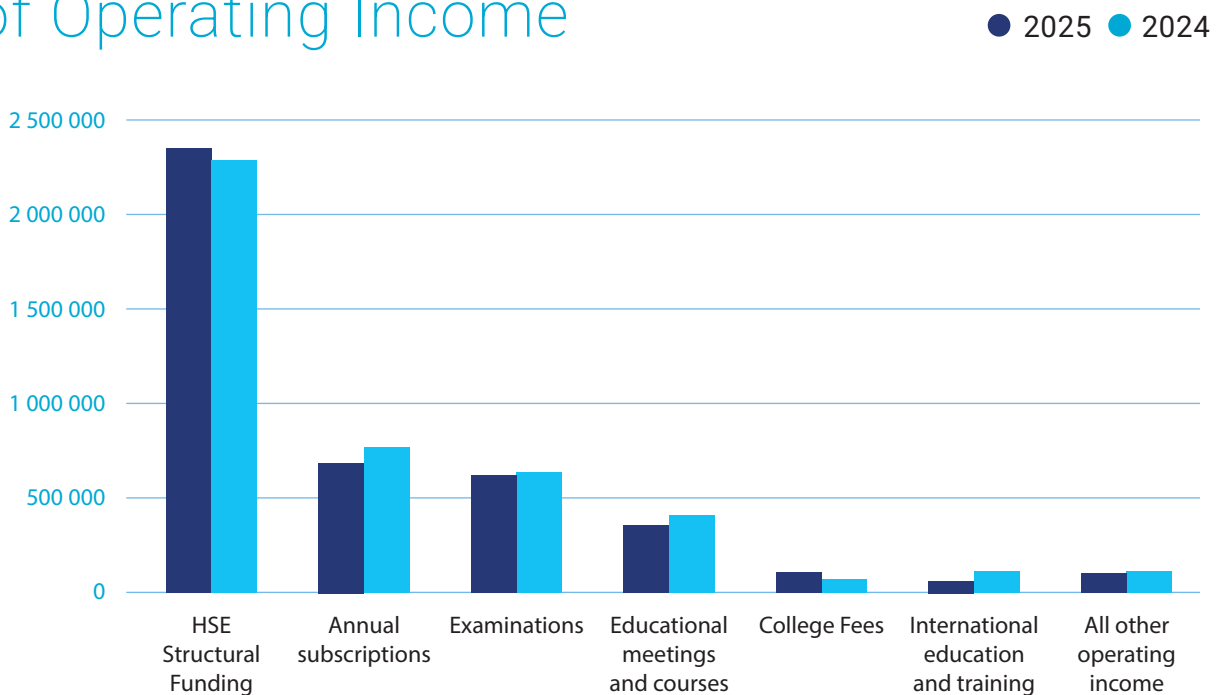
Prof Donal Buggy

Prof Terry Tan

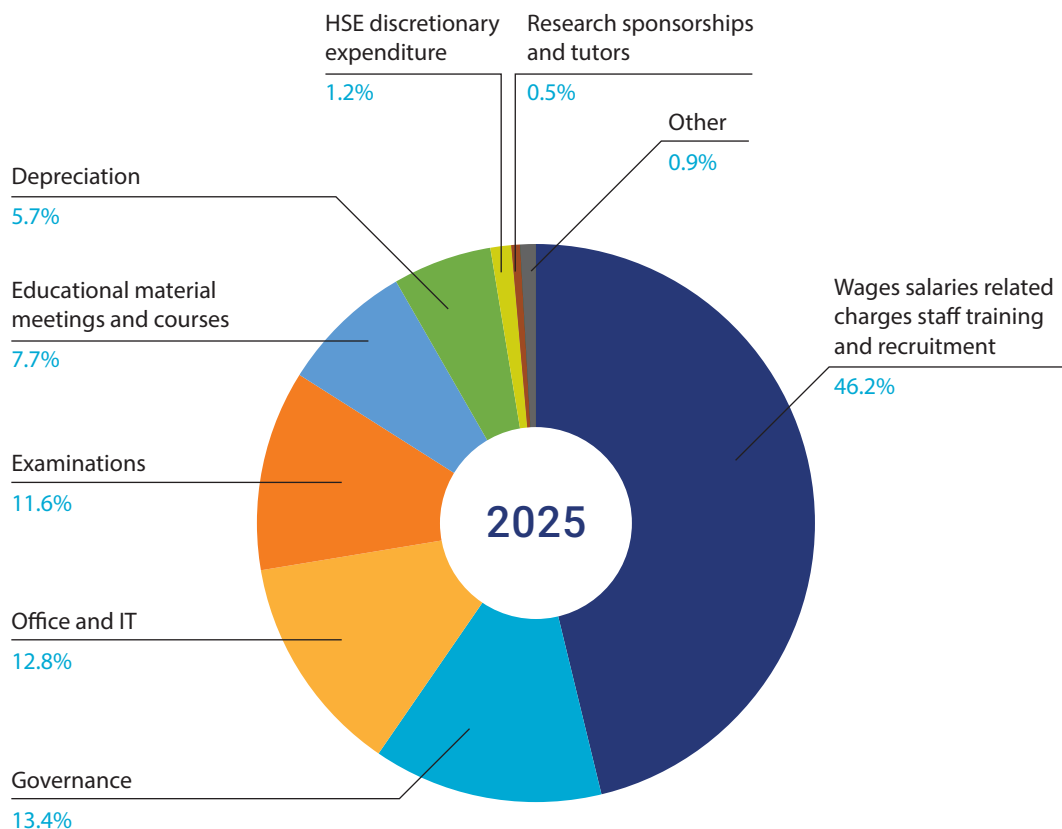
# Operating Income



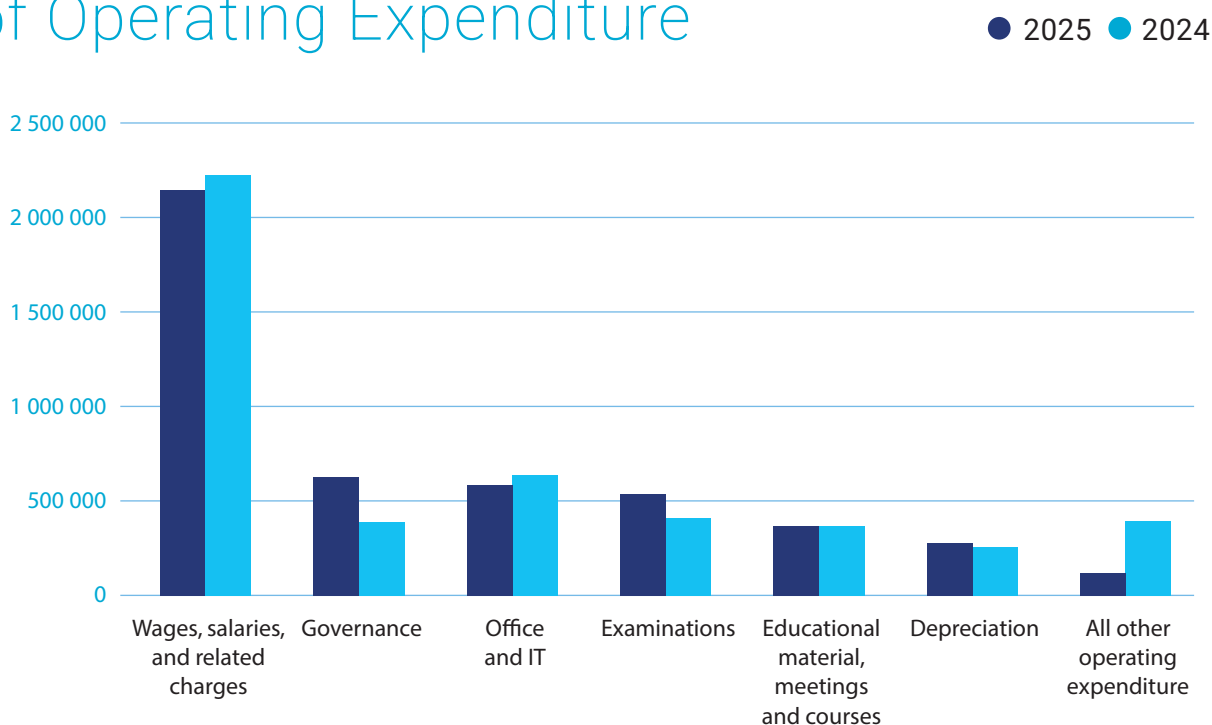
## Movement in Main Categories of Operating Income



# Operating Expenditure



## Movement in Main Categories of Operating Expenditure



A hand with white nail polish is holding a document that features several data visualizations. The document includes a bar chart with blue bars, a pie chart, and two line graphs with red and blue lines. The background is a light grey surface, and a large, dark blue geometric shape is overlaid on the right side of the image. The text is white and positioned on the blue shape.

# Independent auditor's report to the members of The College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland CLG

# Report on the audit of the financial statements

## OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of The College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland CLG ('the College'), which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows, and notes to the Company financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in Note 3. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish law and FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council (FRS 102).

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Company as at December 31, 2025, and of its deficit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

## BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report.

We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors (Ireland) issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion

## CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going-concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

## OTHER INFORMATION

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether

there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### OPINIONS ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2014

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- the information given in the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements;
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements;
- the accounting records of the Company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited; and
- the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the directors' report.

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the requirements of any of Sections 305 to 312 of the Act, which relate to disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions are not complied with by the Company. We have nothing to report in this regard.

## RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

### Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement out on page 22, the directors responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework that give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority's website at: [iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8f-a98202dc9c3a/Description\\_of\\_auditors\\_responsibilities\\_for\\_audit.pdf](https://iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8f-a98202dc9c3a/Description_of_auditors_responsibilities_for_audit.pdf)

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the Company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Ciara Finnegan**

for and on behalf of Forvis Mazars  
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Audit Firm  
Harcourt Centre, Block 3  
Harcourt Road  
Dublin 2  
31 March 2026





# Training Committee and Directors of Training

Prof Crina Burlacu / **Chair**



Chair	Prof Crina Burlacu
Director of Training	Prof Camillus Power
Co-Directors of Training	Prof Jenny Porter & Dr Amy Donnelly

The Committee met four times over 2025, with all meetings conducted online in February, April, September, and November. Dr Kay O’Brien stepped down in her role as Lead Tutor near the end of year and was replaced by Dr Rachel Jooste, who took up the role in January 2026. The Committee wishes to thank Dr O’Brien for all her hard work and support during her term as Lead Tutor and will continue on the Training Committee as the CHI representative.

### SAT & RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL) RECRUITMENT JULY 2026:

**263** applied for the SAT Programme July 2026. This included applications for the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Pilot programme.

**72** were shortlisted for (SAT) interview of which **56** candidates were appointed.

**10** were shortlisted for (RPL) interview of which **4** candidates were appointed.

The candidates were all interviewed using the online interview platform Risr Access. The online interview process continues to be the preferred method of carrying out the interviews and we thank the Chairs and Tutors for their time and input on the interview day.

### SAT ANNUAL TRAINEE PROGRESSION & EXIT REVIEWS:

The 2025 SAT progression review meetings were carried out by zoom and in person between May and September. This included 31 SAT year 6 Exit interviews that took place in June for the trainees receiving a July 2025 CSCST.

In addition, there were **28** CPSP/SMSB international trainee Exits & Progression reviews complete and

10 SAT 7 Post CSCST Exits. Any trainees that were on leave during the period of annual progressions did not receive a review. The reviews were carried out by Prof Camillus Power (Director), Dr Amy Donnelly & Dr Jennifer Porter (Co- Directors), Dr Kay O’Brien (Lead CAI Tutor) as well as a few of the CAI Tutors, Dr Rose Kearsley, Dr Kevin Bailey, Dr Noelle Healy, Dr Pdraig Calpin. They were supported by Ms Jennie Shiels (Training Manager) and Ms Sarah Abraham (Senior Administrator).

We wish to congratulate everyone who successfully completed their CSCST in 2025.

First Name	Second Name	Completion Date CSCST
Kieran	Brosnan	Jan 2025
Jane	O’Sullivan	Jan 2025
Claire	Mac Sweeney	Jan 2025
Aoife	Driscoll	July 2025
John	Ryan	July 2025
Madhumitha	Gnanamoorthy	July 2025
Sean	Farrelly	July 2025
Margarita	Blajeva	July 2025
Gillian	Crowe	July 2025
Susan	Hannon	July 2025
Seamus	Daly	July 2025
Andrew	Maxwell	July 2025
Mairead Marion	Hennessy	July 2025
Patrick Noel	Wiseman	July 2025
Andrew	Smith	July 2025
Brain	Doyle	July 2025
Michael Daniel	O’Sullivan	July 2025
Alison	Fahy	July 2025
Sally-Ann	Sheehy	July 2025
Emma	Garry	July 2025
Paul	Ryan	July 2025
Daire	Kelly	July 2025

Robbie	Hollingsworth	July 2025
Anna Louise	Horgan	July 2025
Conor	Haugh	July 2025
Conor	McGarrigle	July 2025
Eimear	Keane	July 2025
Darragh	Enright	July 2025
Darragh	O'Reilly	July 2025
David	Hannon	July 2025
Robert	Owens	July 2025
Sean	Hartigan	July 2025
Yoann	O'Donoghue	July 2025
Sarah Louise	Walsh	July 2025
David Denis	Lehane	July 2025
Craig	Joyce	July 2025
Kiran	Reddy	July 2025

Hospital	Tutor Name
Connolly	Brian Murphy
CUH	John Chandler
Sligo	Anne Dolan
Waterford	Sheeba Hakak
Rotunda	Craig Delavari
Rotunda	Rosemarie Kearsley

## CAI TUTORS

The major contribution made by Tutors across our 26 accredited training hospitals must be acknowledged and sits at the heart of the trainees' experience within the SAT programme. The names of all Tutors and Regional Tutor Reps are listed at the end of this report. A special thank you to those that stepped down from the CAI Tutor role in 2025 who are listed below.

## CAI ANNUAL TUTOR DAY

The CAI Annual Tutor Day took place in person in the College, on the 7th October 2025, with over 20 Tutors in attendance on the day. Presentations were given from the Training and Exams department, as well as from the Directors of Training and the CAI Tutor Lead, Dr Kay O'Brien. There were also important talks given by Dr Jennifer Wilson O'Raghallaigh, Principal Clinical Psychologist at Beaumont Hospital, on delivering difficult feedback and improving performance and from Ms Breda O'Malley, Hayes Solicitors, on the legal issues of relevance to Tutors role.

The feedback was very positive, and a very enjoyable day was had by all attendees.



Photo:  
CAI Annual Tutor Day 2025

## CAI POST CSCST FELLOWSHIP JULY 2026

Following recruitment between July and November 2025, there were 13 applications received (7 of which were for ICM), out of a possible 22 available posts. All applicants were interviewed for the *CAI SAT 7 Post CSCST Fellowship programme for July 2026*. All the SAT 7 ICM applications also applied to the JFICMI subspecialty programme and decided to take up a post on that programme instead. Therefore, for July 2026 there were only 6 trainees who took up a place on the SAT 7 Fellowship programme compared to 12 back in 2024.

Dr Andrew Maxwell is the current incumbent of the *CAI & HSE NDTP Aspire Fellowship* in Advanced Airway Management, in South Infirmarary Victory University Hospital, Cork.

*Below is a list of the trainees for the SAT 7 posts and Aspire Fellowship for the July 2026 training year.*

Trainee Name	Speciality	July 2026–Jan 2027	Jan–July 2027
Dr Ronan Bluett	Regional Anaesthesia	Galway	Galway
Dr Diarmuid Joyce	Paediatric Anaesthesia	CHI, Crumlin Post 1	CHI, Crumlin Post 1
Dr Lauren Walsh	Paediatric Anaesthesia	CHI, Crumlin Post 2	CHI, Crumlin Post 2
Dr Laura Walsh	Paediatric Anaesthesia	CHI, Temple Post 1	CHI, Temple Post 1
Dr Eoin Murray	Cardiothoracic Anaesthesia	Mater Post 1	Mater Post 1
Dr Robert Mark Griffin	Cardiothoracic Anaesthesia	Mater Post 2	Mater Post 2

## HOSPITAL ACCREDITATION

The Chair of Hospital Accreditation was Dr Patrick Seigne until December 2025. We thank Dr Seigne for all his hard work and support with the inspection process. The inspections were also supported by the Chair of Training Committee, Directors of Training, the Training Department and in some cases, the President and or the CEO attended the inspections. All sites were recommended to remain accredited for Anaesthesiology training at all levels. In 2025, we continued to pay particular attention to compliance with the medical council accreditation recommendations and ensuring Wellbeing and Patient Safety supports are put in place. delivery of the college SIM courses.

## THE HOSPITAL SITES THAT WERE VISITED DURING 2025

- St James’s Hospital
- Letterkenny University Hospital
- Connolly Hospital
- Rotunda Hospital
- Sligo University Hospital

- Mater Misericordiae University Hospital
- Tallaght University Hospital

## INTERNATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMMES

International recruitment of our CPSP (Pakistan) and SMSB (Sudan) scholarship programme, took place at the end of 2025 with interviews being conducted virtually in November 2025. The standard of the applicants from the relevant colleges remains high, however the interest has decreased. These doctors are part of a 2-year training programme from Pakistan and Sudan and play a key role in our departments nationally. There were only 12 doctors from Pakistan (CPSP) appointed as the one Sudanese doctor was not deemed appointable after interview. Of the 12 new CPSP doctors, two withdrew following the appointment process. The 10 new CPSP doctors will join the current 21 year 1 doctors, who will be entering their second year on the programme in July 2026.

## LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (LMS)

The new learning management system (LMS), Brightspace, was launched in April 2025. Although it is still under development, it has been instrumental in running some of the mandatory training courses including Vascular Access, the Fundamentals and Advance Practice of Mechanical Ventilation and the Return to Programme course. The CAT (Committee of Anaesthesiology Trainees) also now use it as part of their National Lecture Series.

## CAT SUPPORT AND AUDIT:

The Committee of Anaesthesiology Trainees (CAT) has continued to be proactive in monitoring compliance nationally through both their LATs and rota organiser networks of the one in six on call measure. The metrics used to gather the data collection and analysis changed due to shifts from 24 hours to 12 hours on call periods. This continues to provide a great service to the College and in particular to the Training Department to keep the training situation in the hospital sites monitored and to see where additional resources and organisational supports may need to be deployed.

CAT in conjunction with the Training Department continued to deliver the National Lecture Series by webinar for trainees from the summer of 2025. The series was reduced from 3 individual SAT year lectures per month to 1 lecture per month for all trainees. We will continue to support CAT with any future developments and training supports as required.

## HSE NDTP / SLA MEETINGS:

Prof Anthony O'Regan is the Medical Director of the HSE NDTP. The Director of Training, CEO and Training Manager meet with the HSE NDTP twice a year to review the Service Level Agreement (SLA), ensure our funding structures are in place, agree the intake numbers and ensure our training milestones are met for the SAT programme. They also support the HSE NDTP annual workforce conference and any initiatives that support and enhance the SAT programme e.g. Aspire Fellowship and Spark Innovation Programme.

## TRAINING DEPARTMENT

Prof Crina Burlacu	Chair of Training
Dr Suzanne Cronly	Chair of Hospital Accreditation
Prof Camillus Power	Director of Training
Prof Jenny Porter	Co-Director of Training
Dr Amy Donnelly	Co-Director of Training
Ms Jennie Shiels	Manager, Training & Professional Competence
Ms Rebeca Williams	Team Lead, Training Department
Ms Sarah Abraham	Faculty Lead, Training Department
Ms Lauren McKenna	Senior Training Administrator
Ms Bernadette Ryan	Senior Training Administrator
Ms Heather Rowan	Training Administrator

## LIST OF 2025 TUTORS:

Hospital	CAI Tutor Name
Beaumont	John Fitzgerald
Beaumont	Sinead Galvin
Beaumont	James Freeman
Cappagh	Conor Skerrit
Cappagh	Sheila Duggan
Connolly	Mohammad Junnuraine Jaigirdar
Connolly	Anil Ranganath
Coombe	Stephen Smith
Coombe	Noelle Healy
CUH	Raymund O'Connor
CUH	Miriam Harnett
CUH	Janette Brohan
CUH	Fahd Aamir
CUH	Barry Kelly
CUH	John O'Connell
Drogheda	Anwar Malik
Drogheda	Jane Bruton
Drogheda	Junaid Hashmi
Holles St	Siaghal Mac Colgáin
Letterkenny	Kevin Bailey
Letterkenny	Jack Collins
Limerick	Margaret McLoughlin
Limerick	Naomi Quigley
Limerick	Cathal Mac Donncha
Mater	Margaret Doherty
Mater	Katie Padfield
Mater	Catherine Deegan
Mater	Thomas Wall
Mater	Aneurin Moorthy
Mater	Kathryn Byrne
Mayo	Ciara Canavan
Mayo	Orla Kerr
Mayo	Aidan O'Shea

Mercy	Jeremiah John Dowling
CHI, Crumlin	Suzanne Cronly
CHI, Crumlin	Martina Prchalova
CHI, Crumlin	Francesca Holt
Rotunda	Thomas Drew
Rotunda	Niamh Hayes
RVEEH	Denise Rohan
SIVUH	Vincent Wall
SIVUH	Anthony Hennessy
SJH	Alan Broderick
SJH	Aine O'Gara
SJH	Aoife Lavelle
SJH	Osmond Morris (Eastern Regional Rep)
SJH	Carrie Murphy
Sligo	Padraig Calpin
Sligo	Joey Coyne
Tallaght	Karen Tan
Tallaght	Victoria McMullan
Tallaght	Karen Sheehan
Tallaght	Laura Flood
Tallaght	Parvan Parvanov
Temple St	Kay O'Brien
Temple St	Christopher Holmes
Tullamore	Noel Hemmings
UCHG	Leo Kevin
UCHG	Rachel Jooste
UCHG	David Cosgrave
Vincents	Dara Breslin
Vincents	Niamh Conlon
Vincents	Donal Ryan
Waterford	Muhammad Zohaib Aslam
Waterford	Sarah Ryan

# Examinations Committee

Dr Michelle Duggan &  
Dr Aoibhín Hutchinson /  
Co-chairs Examination  
Committee Chair





**Dr Michelle Duggan**

**Dr Aoibhín Hutchinson**

We are pleased to present the Examinations Committee annual report for 2025. The examinations department had another busy year co-ordinating different examinations during the year which include the Membership and Fellowship Anaesthesia exams, the JFICMI exam, the Pain Fellowship exam as well as the EDIC exam. The department is led by Ms Ruth Flaherty, with the assistance of Ms Orla Doran, Mr Eoin Lumsden, Ms Ellen Murray and Ms Danielle Smith.

The examinations committee met formally 4 times in 2025. The examinations Executive Committee comprising the examinations chair, the MCAI and FCAI chair, the examinations manager and the chair of quality assurance met separately on 8 occasions.

Most of the College exams are in a hybrid format with the written exams- MCQ's/SBA's/SAQ's online and the MCAI OSCE/SOE and FCAI SOE, JFICIM clinical and the Pain Fellowship clinical exams in person. This format appears to be working well. The MCAI and FCAI in-person exams are run twice a year while the MCAI MCQ's online exams are run on three occasions.

The changes in the MCAI and FCAI in 2023 are now well established in both exams. The digital marking of the OSCE exam for the MCAI is working very well and has improved the examination process on the day. We hope to roll out the digital marking process to all SOE's by the end of 2026.

Our software platform, Risr Assess has revolutionised the preparation, administration and analysis of our examinations. Exam questions are written by examiners and uploaded on to Risr where they can be approved for an exam. Standard setting then occurs by a group of experienced examiners. Risr allows more efficient marking of exams and analysis of the performance of individual questions is possible to improve our question banks.

We are guided by Dr Gareth Morrison and Dr Helena McKeague to ensure the quality and reliability of our exams. Mapping of the content of our examinations to the CAI curriculum is monitored and ensures that a wide range of topics are examined and there is minimal overlap between the different parts of an exam.

Further changes to the CAI exams are planned in 2026 in keeping with best practice. The multiple true false questions for the MCAI have been replaced by single best answer questions. More detailed marking of the OSCE and SOE exams has been introduced to ensure a fairer marking process.

Further changes are planned for 2027, these include reducing the number of stations but increasing the time per station in the MCAI OSCE as well as replacing the short answer questions with single best answers for the FCAI.

We would like to thank all our examiners for writing questions, standard setting, correcting exams and examining in person on exam days. The demand for our exams has continued to increase.

The MCAI SOE and OSCE runs over three days to accommodate all the applicants and this requires a huge number of examiners. We would like to acknowledge the support from every hospital department to facilitate examiner leave to ensure delivery of the exams.

During 2025, we appointed a total of 30 new examiners, and we hope that we will have many more in 2026 to facilitate the increasing numbers of candidates applying to sit our exams.

We ran an Examiner Training day in January 2025 with a focus on helping trainees prepare for the exams. Examiners are expected to attend the training day at least once every 3 years.

We improved our support for trainees preparing for the MCAI and FCAI exams in a number of ways.

A Consultant exam lead has been appointed in almost all training hospital to co-ordinate teaching for trainees preparing for the exams. The exam lead is a College examiner. The College website was updated to recommend reading materials and online resources for each exam. A guidance meeting

is offered to all candidates who fail any part of an exam on more than 2 occasions.

Finally, the College runs preparation courses for MCAI and FCAI exams each year.

There were two examination preparation courses in 2025- one for the MCAI and one for the FCAI. Thank you to our exam fellow- Dr Nick Di Mascio for helping organise the preparation courses. Dr Di Mascio is a SAT 6 trainee completing an academic module in the examinations department.

We also returned to Kuala Lumpur in February 2025 and ran a MCAI preparation course, FCAI preparation course and the MCAI OSCE/SOE and the FCAI clinical exam. The exams ran smoothly and the standard of candidates sitting the exam was extremely high. Thank you to our colleagues in the Malaysian College of Anaesthesiologists who examined with us for the exams. This was the first time the Fellowship exam had been run in Malaysia.

There were some changes to the leads of the exams, Dr Sohel Ahmed replaced Dr Fauzio Bano as pharmacology lead, Dr Larry Crowley replaced Dr Jubil Thomas as FCAI SOE 2 lead and Dr Bryan Reidy replaced Dr Ruth Aoibheann O'Leary as SOE 3 lead. Thank you to all our lead examiners who have left and a warm welcome to our new leads.

The conferring of our graduates in June 2025 was the highlight of the year and it was lovely to see our graduates celebrate with family and friends. We welcome all our new members and fellows to the College of Anaesthesiology. A special mention to our medal winners.

### Medal winners of 2025

The following exam candidates were the deserving medal winners in 2025.

### Membership medals

- Spring 2025 - Dr Minahil Rahman
- Autumn 2025 - Dr Nabihah Ali

### William and Jane Brophy Medal Final Fellowship

- Spring 2025 - Dr Darren McMahon
- Autumn 2025 - Dr Marc Lincoln

### Fellowship of the Joint Faculty of ICM medal 2025

Dr Alison Fahey

## SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES MEMBERSHIP CAI 2025

Abdullah	AbuHaliga
Ramisha	Afzal
Faizan	Ahmad
Zulfikhar	Ahmed
Isra Hashim Mohamed Syed	Ahmed
Furqan	Akram
Bilal	Al Mohamad
Sammy	Al mukhaizeem
Omar	Alalaiwi
Tanveer	Alam
Shoukat	Ali
Nabiha	Ali
ZAKARIA	ALRIFAI
Salem	Alrowaijeh
Ali	Alshafeay
MAHIRA	ANNAM
Shumaila	Ashiq
Hannah	Barr
Seema	Bhayla
Christopher	Brits
Matthew	Brohan
PEI YING	CH'NG
Nabiha	Chaudhary
Asad Shabbir	Cheema
Andrei Ionut	Ciuhan
Roslyn Sara	Colgan
Annie	Condren
Jane	Creech
Ciara	Crotty
Andrew	Duncan
Anna-katharina	Dürr
Nathalie	Edmunds
Myles	Flitcroft
Dylan	Foley
Graham	Gallagher
Dylan	Gouveia
Muhammad Waqas	Hussain

Azher	Hussain
Ebubechi	Ibegbula
Muhammad Umer	Iqbal
Nermeen	Jamshaid
Elzanne	Jansen Van Rensburg
Tomas	Janulevicius
Marium	Javed
Maeve	Jennings
Muhammad Mashkat	Junaid
Rooshaan	Kaleem
Laura Mary	Kennedy
Isma	Khaldoun Abd Aziz
SAAD BIN HABIB	KHAN
Muhammad	Khan
Mahnoor	Khurshid
Priya	Kissoon
Alvin	Koay Jinq Ren
Ella Charlotte	Lacey
Olivia	Lamont
Lauren	Leddy
Natalie	Lenggenhager-Krakoski
Chris Yen-Chen	Lo
Tan Sue	Lyn
Conor	Mac Dermott Casement
Sarah	Madden
Daud Manna	MANNA
Suan	Mannion
Jack	Mc Grath
Barry	Mc Hale
Grace	Meagher
Tawassol	Mohammed
Andrei	Moldovanu
Alaa	Muhammed
Aoife	Mulvagh
Karl	Murray
Rachel	O' Flynn
Abubakar	Obaid
Rawan	Obaid

Orlagh Mary	O'Brien
Shane	O'Brien
Emily Rose	O'Connor
Sean	O'Dea
Sorcha	O'Rourke
Peter	O'Sullivan
Teodora	Pătru
Minahil	Rahman
Iyngaran	Ravindran
Malika	Raza
Sana	Rehman
Susan Marion Jane	Reid
Brendan	Rowan
David	Rowe
Tayyaba	Saleem
Adil Hakeem	Shaikh
REHAN	SHAMIM
Emma	Sheridan Wiggins
Tracy-lee	Splinter
Gareth	Stott
Divya Elizebeth	Sunny
Sally	Taher
Anas Bin	Tahir
Xin Yuan	Tan
REN CONG	TONG
Jun	Tong Lim
Bryan	Traynor
Rumbidzai Gwyneth	Tsomondo
Mary	Twomey
Nadine Patricia	van Staden
Farhan	Walayat
Devan	Winterton
Fionn	Woulfe
Kainat	Zainab

## SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES FELLOWSHIP CAI 2

Muhammad Ali	Aasil
Alaa	Abdelhafeez
Sanaa	Afzal Khan
Mohammed Omar Ba	Agagah
Ehssan	Ahmed
Hira	Ali
Maab Ismail	Ali
Abdelrahma	
Ramisha	Ali
Aula	Alkhalis
Qurrat Ul Ain	Amjad
Mehr Ali	Awan
Gordian	Barry
Abdul	Basit
Phillip	Beames
Nur Haryanti Izumi	Binti
Aaron	Blake
Stephane	Blouin
Maria	Boylan
Sinead	Brady
Caroline	Brogan
Eoin	Cashman
Tan	Chan Ming
Bal	Chand
Rajeve Kumar	Chawla
Munikumar	Chembeti
Lee Alan Stephen	Connolly
Kevin	Dodd
Jonathan	Doran
Nicola	Duffy
Selmy	Elnaggar
Yvonne	Fahy
Eoghan	Farrell
Daniel	Ferry
Joanne	Fish
Ciarán	Fitzgerald
Jenny	Fitzgibbon
Adrian	Fox
Ross	Free
Shalini	Ganeson
Sean	Griffin
Faruq	Hameed

Hanin	Hamza
Muhammad Mobashir	Haque
ul	
Carolyn	Hayes
Cian	Hurley
Mutahar	Irfan
Hassan	Jamil
Caroline	Jennings
Chun Kang	Jong
Annu	Jose
Khushbu	Karoo
Lamiia	Khalil
Chiang Wei	Khor
Mahnoor	Khurshid
Ciara	Killalea
Gotam	Kumar
Marc	Lincoln
Ciara	Luke
Aoife	Mabelson
Eilidh	MacDonald
Seikh	Maniruzzaman
Michael	McCrohan
Niall	McGreevy
Darragh James	McKeon
Darren	McMahon
Paul	McNulty
Mahmoud	Mohamed
Alaelddin	Mubark
Ben	Mulholland
Liam James	Murphy
Namra	Nadeem
Wajahat	Nazir Ahmed
Niamh	Ni Leathlobhair
Rachel	Nolan
Callum	Oakley
Paul-George	Oarga
Abubakar	Obaid
Maeve	O'Brien
Eoin	O'Connor
Liam	O'Gorman
Yean Wen	Ooi
Ajayan Nair G	Prabhakaran

Ganegama Pathiranage	Pradeep
James	Purcell
Rabia	Rabia
Donal	Rafferty
Marwa	Rashed
Sana	Rehman
Sorcha	Ring
Huma	Rukhsar
Azra	Sadaruddin
Mohammed	Salih
Ayman	Salmona
Muhammad	Sanallah
Qurratulain	Saqib
Greta	Scanlon
Emer	Scanlon
Evelyn	Scott
Nusrat	Shaheen
Haris	Sheikh
Ronan	Sheridan
Ahmed	Soliman
Mohammad	Soliman
Alaa	Taha
Yung Yen	Tan
Hui Mei	Tan
Brandon	Tan Zhiming
Dwarakesh	Thalamati
Tom	Wall
Gerard	Ward
Siah Lee	Wee
Darren Tan Zhen	Yi
Basman	Younis Saed
Syed Mohammad	Zafar
Rameez	
Asad	Zafar
Muhammad Hamza	Zulfiqar Ali

### SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES FELLOWSHIP OF THE JOINT FACULTY OF INTENSIVE CARE MEDICINE OF IRELAND 2025

Rizwan	Barkat
Fionn	Clarke
Brian	Doyle
Alison	Fahey
Robert Mark	Griffin
Claire	Healy
Mairéad Marion	Hennessy
Craig	Joyce
Dáire Nicholas	Kelly
Jennifer	McGrath
Fiachra	Morris
Eoin	Murray
Jun Hui	Ng
Sinead Josephine	O'Brien
Mark	O'Rahelly
Mohammad A	Rasheed
Rishi	Watson

### SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES OF THE DIPLOMA OF THE FACULTY OF PAIN MEDICINE 2025

Sean	Carolán
Conor	Gormley
Mohammad	Hassan
Zaeem	Siddique

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to acknowledge the huge contribution all our examiners have made in 2025. Without this team of consultants, it would not be possible to run the exams.

### Our newly appointed examiners in 2025:

Dr Fahd Aamir  
Dr Muhammad Zohaib Aslam  
Dr Maeve Barry  
Dr David Burke  
Dr Ihsan Butt  
Dr Aine Cafferkey  
Dr Pádraig Calpin  
Dr Murray Connolly  
Dr Joey Coyne  
Dr Monine Creaney  
Dr Anne Dolan  
Dr Nessa Dooley  
Dr Sheila Duggan  
Dr Hayat Elfil  
Dr Janna Finlay  
Dr Mohammed Hassan  
Dr Noelle Healy  
Dr Wouter Jonker  
Dr Barry Kelly  
Dr Damien Kerrigan  
Dr Shankar Lal  
Dr Laura MacDarby  
Dr Aneurin Moorthy  
Dr Kate O'Hare  
Dr Anil Patel  
Dr Martina Prchalova  
Dr Andrew Purcell  
Dr John Shaker  
Dr Aislinn Sherwin  
Dr Don Walsh

We would like to thank the 2025 chairpersons and leads for each examination for their hard work, professionalism and dedication.

Dr Niamh Feely – MCAI Chair  
Dr Peter Hooker – MTF lead  
Dr Pierce Geoghegan – SBA lead  
Dr Sinead Egan – OSCE lead  
Dr David Devlin – Physiology SOE lead  
Dr Sohel Ahmed – Pharmacology SOE lead  
Dr Fidelma Kirby – FCAI Chair  
Dr Martina Melvin – SBA lead  
Dr Amy Donnelly – SOE 1 lead  
Dr Larry Crowley – SOE 2 lead  
Dr Bryan Reidy – SOE 3 lead

Our medical educationalists, Dr Gareth Morrison and Dr Helena McKeague are a vital part of the examination process and are crucial in the ongoing process of quality improvement.

Finally a huge thank you to the examinations department – Ms Ruth Flaherty, Ms Orla Doran, Mr Eoin Lumsden, Ms Danielle Smith and Ms Ellen Murray. The amount of planning, organisation and hard work that is required for each exam is immense. We want to thank them personally for their support.

**Dr Michelle Duggan & Dr Aoibhín Hutchinson**  
Co-chairs Examination Committee

# Education Committee

Dr Suzanne Cronly / Chair



Educational courses and events remain at the core of any specialist medical college and our College is no different and so it's great to have a look back over some of the key events in last year's educational calendar.

In 2025, the Education committee met regularly and had online meetings in February, April August and November facilitated by Ms Lauren McKenna from the College's training department. Dr Roisin Nee joined the group as the newly appointed Wellbeing, health and resilience committee chairperson and Dr Aoibhin Hutchinson as the co-chairperson of the Examinations committee.

As always, the biggest annual educational event was the CAI annual congress meeting held in The O'Reilly Hall, UCD club on 15th and 16th May. This year there were loads of workshop opportunities with 11 different workshops held covering Reginal Anaesthesia, TIVA, the Essentials of QI, Point of Care Ultrasound and Reflective Practice. This year also included some new and topical workshops; a Professional Competence Scheme update session with Dr Fauzia Bano as well as Resilience Training with Dr Shane O'Sullivan and a Gaining Entry to the Specialist register one with Dr Aislinn Sherwin. As always, there were sessions focusing on Intensive Care Medicine as well as Paediatric and Obstetric Anaesthesia with other sessions focusing on such diverse topics as new insights into Physiology,

medicinal cannabis use and how advancements in artificial intelligence are affecting healthcare.

2025 was the year in which our new learning management system (LMS), Brightspace came into being. It went live in April and although still under development, has been instrumental in running some of the new courses including the Vascular Access course, the Fundamentals and Advance Practice of Mechanical ventilation courses and the Return to Program course. The CAT (Committee of Anaesthesia Trainees) have also been making use of it as part of their developing lecture series and currently on the second Wednesday mornings of the month, an hour long lecture is shared among trainees in many hospitals around the country. Plans are underway for a new research course to be gradually uploaded to the LMS; 'Essentials of Critical Interpretation of research to guide clinical practice.'

Having a learning management system opens the door to taking advantage of the flipped classroom learning model where trainees can undertake online modules and MCQ evaluations before in person attendance allowing for more efficient on-site learning and reaching more trainees. It is also a great opportunity to have all the college academic materials including valuable course content and lectures in one location.

With regards to college run courses, some mandatory for trainees and others educational for all interested fellows of the college, it was certainly a busy year.

In recent times, there have been challenges with running some of the mandatory courses and progress has been swift in 2025. The Vascular Access course leads Dr's Iohom and Srinivasan have ensured that it is up and running in its new format this year. This model is now based on the proficiency based training model and started with a pilot course moving to being run in multiple sites with online and in person training components. A number of train the trainer (TTT) days have been run with the goal of rolling this out to all SAT 1/2 trainees. Likewise Dr Brian McCloskey has been instrumental in reigniting the Professionalism course now called 'Professionalism, Ethics and leadership' held on the 4th and 5th of June, helping to provide guidance in the pathway from trainee to consultant. Other notable courses held during the year include the Fundamen-

tals of Patient Safety in March, the Fundamentals of Ventilation on 11th June, Introduction to Anaesthesiology on 27th June catering to the largest group of SAT 1 trainees to date and the Return to programme course on 3rd of July.

Airway management is core to the practice of Anaesthesiology and there was plenty of activity from the National Airway masterclass and leads network, with an Airways workshop at Congress, an airway leads network meeting on 5th April and a live-streamed to 11 sites, Airway masterclass on 3rd October with 133 registered participants.

Other educational events include the 9th annual National Patient Safety in Anaesthesia conference NAPSAC on 14th November with the winter lecture delivered by Dr Debra Leung on shared decision making and the keynote speaker, Dr Theresa Morris, addressing peer-peer support.

Mandatory course feedback given by trainees was examined by the committee in August and recurring themes included a strong desire for practical hand-on learning and interactive sessions. One suggestion was having slightly later starting times if possible to allow trainees across the country get buses and trains the morning of and there was a desire to keep the social dinner component to the Senior Professionalism course which allowed for group bonding and discussions amongst the SAT 6 trainees.

Surveys this year included the Wellbeing II project, a national study of the wellbeing of hospital doctors in Ireland carried out 10 years after the wellbeing I project, and rolled out across all training bodies, looking at working practices, stress levels, work-life balance and mental health amongst doctors in different specialties. A survey from University College London examining demand signaling for Artificial Intelligence in Anaesthesiology was also distributed. Both have results pending and hopefully will be finalised in 2026.

The simulation department was very active this year with Waterford University hospital joining as a new simulation site and the number of courses growing to 74 annually. Proposals from the simulation lead, Dr Maya Contreras are underway to change some courses to become more specialty-based and multi-disciplinary in nature. A delegation of

interested specialists visited from Croatia and links to the European Society of Anaesthesia remain strong. Discussions regarding joining a simulation mentorship programme for simulation-based training in low resource countries continue and a feasibility study is planned.

Dr Peter Moran, representing the Joint Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine updated us on the educational components of the joint faculty, including 3 day- courses on Critical Care Medicine topics and audit evenings where trainees can discuss their projects, receiving guidance and feedback.

The final educational event of the college year was the Gilmartin lecture on the night of the Christmas dinner, delivered by Mr. Ciaran O'Connor, former state architect and entitled "Enrich the present, honour the past" and we look forward to another fruitful year in 2026.

**Dr Suzanne Cronly**  
**Chair, Education Committee**

# Professional Competence Scheme (PCS) Committee

Dr Fauzia Bano / Chair



## OVERVIEW

The Professional Competence Scheme (PCS) of the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland supports Fellows and Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors in maintaining professional competence in accordance with the requirements of the Irish Medical Council (IMC). The scheme facilitates engagement in continuing professional development (CPD), quality improvement activities, and reflective practice, supporting the maintenance of high standards of clinical care and patient safety.

A significant development in 2025 was the implementation of the revised Maintenance of Professional Competence (MPC) framework, introduced nationally by the Irish Medical Council from 1 May 2025. The College undertook extensive preparatory work to ensure that its PCS systems, communication strategies, and educational activities were aligned with the requirements of the updated framework.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW PCS FRAMEWORK

The revised MPC framework introduced updated requirements for CPD activity and compliance monitoring. Doctors participating in PCS are required to complete a minimum of 50 CPD credits annually across defined learning categories including Professional Development Planning, Practice Review, Work-Based Learning and Accredited Continuing Education.

The revised framework also introduced a new classification distinguishing doctors who are engaged in clinical practice from those who are not engaged in clinical practice, allowing CPD requirements to be more appropriately aligned with a doctor's current scope of professional activity.

In preparation for the introduction of the framework, the College reviewed its PCS processes and internal systems to ensure alignment with the updated Medical Council standards and to support a smooth transition for Fellows participating in the scheme.

## COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

Recognising the importance of supporting Fellows during the transition to the new framework, the College implemented several communication and educational initiatives.

A PCS workshop was delivered during the College Congress on 16 May 2025, providing an overview of the revised framework and outlining the updated requirements for maintaining professional competence.

This was followed by a national PCS webinar on 23 June 2025, which attracted over 300 participants. The webinar provided further clarification on the framework and offered an opportunity for Fellows to raise questions regarding compliance requirements and documentation.

A recording of the webinar was subsequently made available on the College website to ensure that members who were unable to attend the live session could access the information.

## CPD ACCREDITATION AND MEDICAL COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT

During 2025 the College continued to work closely with the Irish Medical Council in relation to CPD accreditation and compliance with national standards.

The College successfully completed the required submission to the Medical Council demonstrating compliance with CPD accreditation criteria, including documentation relating to governance structures and examples of accredited learning activities.

Following this process, the College was approved by the Irish Medical Council as an accredited CPD provider, ensuring that College educational activities continue to be recognised within the national Maintenance of Professional Competence framework.

The College also contributed to the national CPD accreditation process as a volunteer reviewer, with representatives of the College participating in the Medical Council CPD accreditation interview for the Irish College of Ophthalmologists.

## ANNUAL VERIFICATION PROCESS (AVP)

The Annual Verification Process (AVP) continues to be undertaken in accordance with Irish Medical Council requirements as part of the quality assurance processes of the Professional Competence Scheme.

For the 2023–2024 PCS cycle, the AVP sampling rate remained at 3% of PCS participants, with 47 doctors selected for audit.

AVP review meetings were conducted on 9 April 2025 and 16 May 2025, during which submitted documentation was reviewed.

Following review, 29 doctors were found to be fully compliant, 11 doctors were deemed semi-compliant, 5 doctors were identified as non-compliant, and 2 doctors were granted exemptions (one due to illness and one because the doctor had previously been audited in 2022).

Doctors identified as semi-compliant or non-compliant were contacted and provided with guidance regarding the actions required to achieve compliance with PCS requirements.

## CPD ACCREDITATION ACTIVITY

The College continued to review and accredit continuing professional development activities submitted by both internal and external educational providers.

During 2025, a total of 84 educational activities were approved for CPD accreditation by the College. These activities covered a broad range of educational topics relevant to Anaesthesia and Peri-Operative medicine, including clinical practice, patient safety, research, leadership and multidisciplinary collaboration.

## ONGOING PRIORITIES

Key priorities for the PCS programme moving forward include supporting Fellows in adapting to the revised Maintenance of Professional Competence framework and continuing to provide educational resources and guidance to assist members in meeting CPD requirements.

In line with best practice in CPD governance, the College is strengthening transparency and conflict-of-interest management within accredited educational activities. Presenters participating in CPD-accredited events are required to provide clear disclosure to learners, including a declaration on Slide 2 of their presentation outlining any relevant company name(s), the nature of any financial relationships, or a statement confirming that no relevant financial relationships exist.

To support the integrity and quality assurance of CPD-accredited activities, the College will also consider the introduction of a proportionate light-touch audit or assurance process to confirm that accredited educational activities continue to meet the standards required by the Irish Medical Council.

Additional priorities include maintaining robust CPD accreditation processes, continuing collaboration with the Irish Medical Council and other post-graduate training bodies, and strengthening communication with Fellows to ensure clarity regarding PCS requirements and compliance processes.

**Dr Fauzia Bano**

**Chair, Professional Competence Scheme Committee**

# Quality and Safety Advisory Committee (QSAC)

Dr Aislinn Sherwin / Chair



The Quality and Patient Safety Committee of the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland continues to advance the objectives set out in the College's current Strategic Plan, particularly in the domains of patient safety leadership, education excellence, professional standards, and public engagement.

The 2025 National Patient Safety in Anaesthesia meeting (NAPSAC) was held in Dublin on 14th November. This year saw a record attendance of delegates, reflecting growing engagement across the specialty and a strong commitment of our community to patient safety. Highlights included two pre-conference workshops on Shared Decision Making and Peer Support. Our Winter College Lecture was delivered by Dr. Debra Leung from Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre on Shared Decision Making, towards a higher quality of care. NAPSAC 2026 will be held on November 6th in the Radisson Blu, Golden Lane.

Education remains a core priority of the QPS committee. The first SAT 6 Professionalism, Ethics and Leadership course in its new format was held in June in the College and was very well received by our final year trainees. The SAT 1 Patient Safety and Professionalism course held in March was also a success for our junior trainees. These courses emphasise ethical practice, communication, human factors awareness, and practical advice for embarking in life as either a SAT 1 trainee or transitioning to a Consultant role. Embedding professionalism early in training and revisiting it at senior level reinforces the College's commitment to developing clinicians who combine technical excellence with strong professional judgement and leadership.

Quality Improvement (QI) training also continues to expand within the College curriculum. Trainees are supported in undertaking structured QI projects aligned with recognised methodologies, promoting

skills in measurement, change implementation, and sustainability. This aligns closely with the Strategic Plan's focus on innovation, leadership, and continuous improvement. By strengthening QI capability across all stages of training, the College ensures that safety improvement becomes an embedded and enduring professional responsibility.

A key strategic priority this year has been the development of enhanced patient education resources for the College website. Supporting informed consent and shared decision-making aligns directly with the Strategic Plan's commitment to public engagement and patient-centred care. The Committee is overseeing the creation of clear, accessible, evidence-based information materials to improve public understanding of Anaesthesia, Peri-Operative risk, and Recovery in conjunction with representatives from Patients for Patient Safety, Ireland, ensuring collaboration with our patient partners.

A HSE safety notice was published in November 2025 in collaboration with CAI, alerting all sites to the requirement for transition to NRFit equipment. This will be a two year transition period and is a project being championed by the College of Anaesthesiologists. A meeting highlighting best learning on transitioning to NRFit was hosted by CAI in March 2026. CAI will continue to collaborate and lead on the transition to NRFit across the Country.

Our QPS 2026 plan will aim to reinvigorate our SANI network, hosting a SANI leads day in CAI in May 2026 with a number of webinars planned for the remainder of the year. We will continue to deliver on the projects commenced over the past two years and welcome engagement from those around the country on all things safety and quality.

Dr. Brian McCloskey and I have been very grateful to Ms Louise Dent in the College for administrative support over the past year.

# Credentials Committee

Dr Gabriella Iohom / Chair



## CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Dr Gabriella Iohom (Chair), Dr Aislinn Sherwin (Ex Chair), Prof Donal Buggy (President), Mr Martin McCormack (CEO), Ms Margaret Jenkinson (COO), Dr Amy Donnelly (Co-Director of Training), Dr Catherine Nix (JFICMI Credentials Chair), Dr Jennifer Hastings (ex-JFICMI Credentials Chair), Dr Enda O'Connor (Dean JFICMI), Dr Conor Hearty (Dean FPM), Dr Hugh Gallagher (ex-Dean FPM), Dr Harry Frizelle, Dr John Loughrey, Dr Stephen Mannion, Dr Anne Hennessy, Dr Prasad Penugonda, Dr Kevin McKeating, Dr Fauzia Bano, Dr Anwar Malik, Dr Muhammad Shahid, Dr Mohan Mugawar, Dr Saud Bawja, Dr Ghulum Raza, Dr Kevin Bailey, Dr Kim Caulfield, Dr Rory Naughton, Dr Catherine O'Malley, Dr Ben Atterton, Dr Jana Finlay, Dr Brian Marsh, Dr John Bates, Dr Andrew Westbrook, Dr Donal Ryan, Dr Margaret Doherty, Dr Amr Mohammed, Dr Kevin Clarkson, Dr David Moore, Dr Aine O'Gara.

The Committee is guided by the Medical Practitioners Act 2007 and European Directive 2005/36/EC, particularly the 'General system for recognition of evidence of training'. The former is aimed at 'better protecting and informing the public in its dealings with the medical practitioners and, for that purpose, to introduce measures, in addition to measures providing for the registration and control of medical practitioners, to better ensure the education, training and competence of medical practitioners'. The latter 'establishes rules for regulated professions, according to which, host EU Member States shall recognise professional qualifications obtained in one or more home Member State .....for access to and pursuit of that profession'.

A Specialist is a doctor who has completed their training and requires no further training or supervision to practice independently in the speciality of their choice. There are various routes to achieving inclusion on the SDR detailed on the IMC website [www.medicalcouncil.ie](http://www.medicalcouncil.ie)

For further information on how to apply and relevant fees, please refer to <http://www.medicalcouncil.ie/Registration-Applications/>

A Service Level Agreement between the Irish Medical Council (IMC) and the Postgraduate Training Body sets out the roadmap of the credentialling process for inclusion on the Specialist Division of the Register (SDR) via the Category E route, designed for doctors whose training does not benefit from 'automatic recognition'. It is important to note that the role of CAI in this process is purely advisory and the final decision on individual eligibility for inclusion on the SDR rests with the IMC. Timelines within which applications must be reviewed and determined are also clearly stated. The IMC has an appeals process for doctors whose applications are unsuccessful.

The Medical Council retains discretion on the final decision. There is no direct contact between the candidate and the College of Anaesthesiology or the Credentials Committee; all correspondence is between the candidate and the Medical Council for the entirety of the process. The IMC Credentials pathway allows those who have participated in self-structured training to demonstrate clinical ability, experience and knowledge of the speciality of a standing that is similar to those who complete the College of Anaesthesiology Specialist Anaesthesia Training Programme.

A group of independent assessors assess the applications on behalf of the CAI Credentials Committee. The application pack, triaged by IMC for completion, includes substantial and verified evidence of training, including rosters, logbooks, a breakdown of caseload, and structured references from Heads of Department or College Tutors. A recommendation report is issued by CAI Credentials Committee once the assessment is complete. The report will show explicitly where key requirements are not met and will conclude by giving a positive or negative recommendation with suggestions as to how deficits may be redressed. Once the applicant is in a position to provide additional evidence to address key deficits, a 'written review' may be requested. The original independent reviewers will reassess the submission against the deficits previously identified and a 'supplementary report' is issued upon Committee approval.

The Credentials Committee met four times in 2025 and I assumed the Chairperson position in June 2025 following Dr Aislinn Sherwin's departure. I wish to thank Aislinn as the outgoing Chair for her stellar contribution to the committee over the previous year.

During 2025, seven new Anaesthesiology applications were received for review, with one immediately recommended. Five applicants have since re-applied via the written review route detailed above, of which four have been recommended for inclusion on the Anaesthesiology SDR.

Intensive Care Medicine is now in the ninth year of recognition as a separate speciality. During 2025, the College received six applications for entry to the specialist register. All six applications were recommended for inclusion to Intensive Care Medicine SDR.

In May 2025 the Pain Medicine SDR opened in recognition that Pain Medicine has reached formal speciality status in Ireland and two applicants secured entry. In July 2025 a two-year National Specialist Training Programme in Pain Medicine was launched which will culminate in SDR entry.

The Committee also assists the College Council with applications for the Ad Eundem Fellowship of the College. Ad eundem gradum, Latin for 'to the same degree/rank', is recognition of academic or professional standing by one institution for work completed at another. To be eligible for consideration, candidates must be established Consultants practising in an Irish training hospital, hold a Fellowship from another Faculty or College and be listed on the Anaesthesiology, Intensive Care, or Pain Medicine SDR of the IMC. Three nominations for the Ad Eundem Fellowship of CAI were approved and recipients will be conferred in June 2026. Benefits and perceived advantages are voting rights, ability to participate in College educational and social activities, and eligibility for roles like examiners or tutors.

The annual Credentials Assessors Training Day was held on the 6th May 2025. Nine guests were in attendance, including two Medical Council Registration Managers, two new Anaesthesiology assessors and three new Pain Medicine assessors. By the end of 2025, we had 18 active assessors for Anaesthesiology, eight for ICM and three for Pain Medicine.

The Credentials Committee organised an annual symposium on May 23rd during Congress 2025 held at UCD. Two Medical Council Registration Managers were present. The session was attended by 22 doctors and provided an opportunity for an in-depth discussion on issues facing those seeking registration with guidance on the overall process.

On behalf of the Credentials Committee at CAI, I wish to thank Ms Jennie Shiels and Ms Sarah Abraham for their unwavering support and immense help, for which the committee members and chair are extremely grateful.

**Dr Gabriella Iohom**  
Chairperson, CAI Credentials Committee.



# Global Health Committee

Dr Patrick Seigne / **Chair**

## MEMBERS:

Dr Patrick Seigne (Chair), Dr Michelle Duggan, Mr Martin McCormack, Ms Margaret Jenkinson, Prof Ellen O'Sullivan, Dr Myles Monaghan, Prof Brian Kinirons, Ms Fiona Taaffe, Dr Gareth Morrison, Dr Mark O'Rahelly (CAT), Dr Aoife Fitzgerald, Prof Maya Contreras, Ms Louise Dent (CAI).



This is the second annual report of the CAI Global Health Committee that I am very honoured to Chair. The current President established the committee in 2024 as recognition of the growing importance of Global Health in our College and the large contribution that our College is making in this area. It has been another busy and successful year for our committee.

In November (2025), a delegation from the College including the current President - Prof Donal Buggy, Ex-Presidents – Prof Ellen O'Sullivan, Prof Brian Kinirons and Prof Anthony Cunningham plus Council members Dr Patrick Seigne, Dr Deirdre McCoy and CAT trainee Dr Clare Keaveny-Jimenez attended and participated in the CANECSA Exams and 3rd Annual Scientific Conference in Mombasa, Kenya. CANECSA is the College of Anaesthesiology of East Central and Southern Africa and currently comprises 13 countries, which our College has been fundamental to establishing and providing the oversight to running. To date, CANECSA has trained approximately 75 Medical Anaesthesiologists in these African countries. Building Anaesthesiology Training in the ECSA (East, Central and Southern Africa) region is a collaborative approach towards building the local Anaesthesia workforce. The collaboration includes CANECSA, CAI, RCSI (the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland) and COSECSA (the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa).

Currently for the entire CANECSA region, there are mere 0.25% physician Anaesthesiologists per

100,000. We are hopeful that CANECSA will prove as successful as it's sister college COSECSA which has overseen the rapid expansion of surgical training in Africa which now has over 1000 graduates from it's college, with an impressive 96 percent retention of graduates locally. The constituent countries of CANECSA are the Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Eswatani, Rwanda, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Nambia and more recently Ethiopia and Somalia.

The standard of the exams and the quality of the candidates was impressive. The outcome was 20 successfully graduating from a variety of these different African countries in a very joyous and colourful ceremony. Six of these graduates were from Malawi, all of whom have received sponsorship from our College towards their education. Their graduation this year has doubled the number of medically trained Anaesthesiologists in Malawi, one of Africa's poorest countries, which is a huge achievement for CAI, for which we should be very proud.



Four CAI Presidents with the CANECSA President, Dr Stephen Okelo from Kenya at the CANECSA Annual Scientific Conference in Mombasa, Kenya. All 20 new CANECSA graduates with the Kenyan Minister for Health. Dr Patrick Seigne with an Ethiopian delegate.

The CAI team then flew down to Lilongwe, Malawi where Dr Tom Schnitger, his wife Ann, Holles Street Obstetrician and ex-Master - Professor Rhona Mahony and our own CEO Mr Martin McCormack, joined us. With our very friendly and able local Malawian Faculty, we ran two HOT (High Dependency, Obstetrics and Trauma) courses over 2 days each. We trained 72 persons (Anaesthetic officers and nurses) over these 4 intense days such that now CAI have trained a total of 875 persons over the past 20 years.



*Prof Donal Buggy and Prof Anthony Cunningham teaching on the HOT course. Prof Rhona Mahony demonstrating the delivery of a shoulder dystocia. Dr Tom Schnitger showing chest tube insertion in a goat! Dr Clare Jimenez Keavney and Prof Ellen O'Sullivan teaching Airway skills.*

Between the two courses, CAI hosted an impressive celebration of its 20 years of running the HOT course in Malawi. We were extremely honored to have the attendance of the Irish Ambassador to Malawi, Ms Kate Brady, and some of her staff. The event was attended by well over 70 people including many CAI sponsored Malawian medical Anaesthesiologists, many local Anaesthetic officers plus multiple other dignitaries. It was a most successful and enjoyable evening of celebration.



*Mr Martin McCormack, Dr Deirdre McCoy, Ms Ann Cunningham & Prof Anthony Cunningham, Ms Kate Brady (Irish Ambassador to Malawi), Prof Ellen O'Sullivan and Prof Donal Buggy at the 20th HOT Course celebrations in Lilongwe, Malawi. Some of the graduates from the 2nd 2025 HOT Course.*

Several other projects that are managed by the Committee include:

1. Exploring a potential SAT 7 training opportunity on one of the Mercy ships located off Africa. Dr Seigne and Dr Andrew Maxwell (Aspire Airway Fellow, SIVUH) are due to travel to one of the ships in 2026 to evaluate this opportunity and report to CAI Training Committee for consideration.
2. The opening of the CAT lecture series to CANECSA trainees. This is due to commence in spring 2026 once the new Brightspace IT platform in College is fully embedded.
3. Exploration of the transport of unused/out of date Anaesthetic equipment from Irish hospitals to select African countries (in collaboration with the RCPI EQUALS initiative) and exploration of funding/sponsorship of some of our Global Health projects by industry.
4. Involvement in Simulation opportunities in low resource countries. The College is hosting a VAST (Vital Anaesthesia Simulation Training) course in September 2026. We will provide some faculty and College resources for the event.

I would like to thank Ms Louise Dent, our College Global Health administrative support, who has been outstanding.

Dr Patrick Seigne  
Chairperson, CAI Global Health Committee.



# Committee of Anaesthesiology Trainees (CAT)

Dr Nicola Duffy / **Chair**

Role	Name
Chair	Dr. Nicola Duffy
Vice-Chair	Dr. Caroline Brogan
Treasurer	Dr. Donal Roche
Training Committee	Dr. Donal Roche / Dr. Dan Coffey
Examinations Committee	Dr. Orla Murray
Education Committee	Dr. Orla Murray
National Lecture Series	Dr. Mark O’Rahelly
Quality & Safety	Dr. Siobhan Clarke
LAT Co-Ordinator	Dr. Meghan Carton
NCPA trainee rep	Dr. Donal Roche
NDTP Subcommittee	Dr. Dan Coffey

AAGBI trainee rep	Dr. Brandon Tan Zhiming
Wellbeing reps	Dr. Meghan Carton / Dr. Mark O’Rahelly / Dr. Tara Bannon
CAT News / social media	Dr. Tara Bannon
Social Events	Dr. Tara Bannon / Dr. Caroline Brogan / Dr. Nicola Duffy
Sustainability	Dr. Dan Coffey
Global Health	Dr. Mark O’Rahelly
JFICMI / ICSI	Dr. Orla Murray
Pain Medicine Faculty	Dr. Sinead Brady
HSE Liaison	Dr. Siobhan Clarke

## INTRODUCTION

The Committee of Anaesthesiology Trainees (CAT) has had a busy and enjoyable year. We have been fortunate to have a fantastic group of trainees on the committee this year, representing trainees from across the country, at different stages of training. Our primary objective is to represent the trainee voice in college matters. There is trainee representation across all the major college committees ensuring trainees are represented at all levels.

## WELLBEING

Representatives Dr. Mark O’Rahelly, Dr. Meghan Carton and Dr. Tara Banon started this year by circulating a wellness survey to all SAT trainees. Feedback from this survey has enabled the committee to focus on specific issues that trainees have identified as having the greatest impact on their wellbeing. One of the primary issues highlighted was greater trainee input into their regional allocations. The college has now reintroduced the preferences for SHO years which gives trainees starting the scheme a meaningful say in their training pathway. We are also setting up a network for housing swaps based on trainee responses within the survey. Training for peer-to-peer support has also begun and will continue to run over the next number of months

## CALL AUDIT

The biannual CAT on-call audit demonstrated an overall improvement in on-call frequencies. First- and third on-call tier rotas remain generally well-staffed, and improvements have also been observed in on-call frequencies within obstetric hospitals.

The ICU on-call tier continues to present the greatest challenge in terms of call frequency, with approximately 25% of sites exceeding the recommended limits.

In light of the ongoing shift towards 12-hour call patterns, further discussions took place between CAT and the Training Department regarding the structure of the on-call audit. These discussions focused primarily on the need to revise the current audit models, which underrepresent trainee on-call frequency at sites that have transitioned to 12-hour calls. Plans are in place to update these models for future audits.

## EMPLOYMENT POST CSCST

There are increasing concerns among trainees regarding the future availability of consultant posts. While we had initially planned to survey recent SAT graduates to better quantify this, the training department had already conducted a survey of SAT graduates from 2022–2024 in May 2025, which provided valuable insight. We would like to thank

Dr. Ahmed Shehata for his support and engagement with this issue, and for developing a national survey of Anaesthesia Departments. This survey aims to better understand current consultant workforce capacity, recruitment experiences, and future departmental needs. The information gathered will help address trainees' concerns and inform workforce planning. We look forward to engaging further on this important issue.

### **NATIONAL LECTURE SERIES**

The CAT and CAI joint National Lecture Series has seen some significant changes in its third year. We have broadened the scope of these lectures to be beneficial for Anaesthesiologists of all levels. To this end the repository of lectures available on Brightspace can now be considered a significant resource for those looking to undertake examinations within the college. We have aimed to provide curriculum focused content provided by experts in their respective fields who can give valuable insights into the nuances of particular areas. To this end it is important to acknowledge and thank all those who have contributed thus far and to Ms Lauren McKenna within the college for her invaluable assistance.

A barrier to attendance was identified as the timing of these lectures which has previously taken place at lunchtime, and which was then moved to an evening slot. On a trial basis the lectures were moved to morning slot at 0730am with the goal that they could be an addition to individual departments teaching schedules. In the unfortunate event they clashed with these schedules they would still be available to trainees via Brightspace. This has resulted in a large increase in attendance to well over 100 attendees consistently varying from consultants to beginners all of whom have no doubt taken away something from these lectures. A future goal of these sessions will be to hopefully encourage some level of interactive element that we may be able increase a sense of community and participation among trainees and consultants alike. Furthermore, we are exploring the possibility of making the repository of lectures available on Brightspace to our colleagues in CANESCA and

extending invites to the live lecture series. Both of which would serve to enhance ties with this region and help disseminate high standard teaching thus improving patient care. With any luck the lecture series will continue to go from strength to strength.

### **INTERVIEW WORKSHOP AND CAREERS EVENING**

The upcoming annual Interview workshop and Careers Evening is due to take place in the College on Thursday March 19th. This is run by an external organisation called Inspire Change who provide interview advice as well as individualised CV feedback to senior trainees. This workshop will be followed by the CAT Careers Evening where a panel of consultants from different Anaesthesiology subspecialties share their wisdom, experiences and career paths with trainees. I would like to thank Dr. Caroline Brogan her hard work in assembling a fantastic line-up of speakers for the evening hybrid event.

### **CONGRESS 2026**

We have updated the CAT session at Congress this year and decided to move away from talks and towards an event that gives trainees the opportunity to explore the holistic side of our jobs and open a forum for discussion about how experiences lead to our personal and professional growth. stories. The new pilot case series will be called 'The Case I'll never forget'. Applications close on March 20th and six cases will be selected to present at Congress. We hope this pilot series is a success.

### **SOCIAL EVENTS**

Social events form an important part of CAT's agenda. These events give an opportunity for trainees across the country to meet each other. We decided to change the annual CAT Autumn boat social to the canal instead of the Irish sea which was a great success. We were very fortunate to have a dry summers evening – a great start to our social calendar.

We will be hosting our third Annual Table Quiz on Thursday 12th March 2026. The quiz will be hosted at The Circular Bar in Dublin and will be live-streamed to venues in Cork, Limerick, Galway and Waterford so that trainees around the country can gather and take part.

The CAT Annual Charity Fun Run will take place at UCD Athletics Track on the morning of Thursday May 21st. Last year, we raised €4398 for Pieta House and this will be our charity of choice again for 2026. We would like to thank Critical Care Partners for sponsoring the event.

We will be hosting our Congress Social at Idlewild Bar on Thursday May 21st. After the busy day of academic events have concluded, all attendees at Congress are welcome to join for food and refreshments.

We will also be hosting our Conferring Social on the evening of Friday June 19th in Lennon's Yard. It is a good opportunity for trainees who have been conferred earlier that day to bring friends, family and loved ones together to celebrate their fantastic achievements.

## COMMUNICATION

This year we updated the CAT page of the college website, to put faces to names of our committee members. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the quarterly CAT newsletter. Our editor this year Dr. Tara Bannon has put a lot of work into each edition. Our newsletter is an exceptional means of disseminating information for trainees and is always hotly anticipated. It is a fantastic resource for celebrating good news stories among our trainee group, as well as providing interesting articles such as fellowship reviews and information about educational and social events in our busy calendar

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank all trainees for their continued support. We would also like to thank Professor Donal Buggy, and Mr Martin McCormack for their openness, time and willingness to engage with CAT regarding matters of importance to trainees. CAT would like to extend its thanks to Ms Jennie Shiels and Ms Margaret Jenkinson for their help and support throughout the year and Prof Camillus Power, Dr. Jenny Porter and Dr. Amy Donnelly for their guidance on trainee matters discussed at committee meetings. Additionally, we would like to thank Ms Lauren McKenna for all the support with the technical side of our CAT events, Ms Juliana Gonzalez with the organisation of the CAT events at congress and all the other college staff who ensure the smooth running of operations behind the scenes

Thanks also to the chairs of all CAI committees for the ongoing invitations extended to CAT to contribute and shape the practices and the future of our specialty.

Finally, we would like to thank the past CAT committee, including past Chair Dr. Paul Ryan, for all their hard work last year. Their advice and guidance have proven invaluable.

To this year's committee, I want to extend my sincere thanks for all your commitment and hard work. From the outset, it has felt like a group with shared perspectives and a common goal — to support trainees and promote trainee wellbeing. Thank you all for the time, energy and thought you have given throughout the year.

Dr Nicola Duffy  
Chairperson, CAT





# HSE Liaison Committee

Dr. Ahmed Shehata / Chair



## THE NATIONAL CLINICAL PROGRAMME FOR ANAESTHESIA (NCPA)

The HSE Liaison Committee continued its collaboration with the NCPA and its Clinical Lead Dr Michael Dockery through the NCPA Advisory Group meetings. Regular meetings were held in 2025 to review development in Anaesthesia services. A range of key topics were discussed including the following:

### Audit and National Data

The 2024 national anaesthesia audit recorded 243,000 anaesthetic cases, representing the highest level of activity recorded and exceeding pre COVID volumes. Public sector activity continues to manage the majority of complex cases.

A retrospective audit of patients who received anaesthesia and subsequently died was suggested during the year. Following consultation with NOCA the audit was not progressed due to concerns regarding governance and open disclosure requirements.

Ireland's participation in the National Audit Project 8 (NAP8) was noted with Dr. Brian O'Donnell as the Irish lead.

### Surgical Hubs and Elective Hospitals

Clinical guidance for surgical hubs was published in November 2025 with hubs expected to begin operating from autumn 2026 onwards.

Elective hospitals are expected to open in the early 2030. Workforce planning indicate 2.5 Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) anaesthesiologists per theatre in surgical hubs and 2.3 per theatre in elective hospitals.

### Model of Care for Anaesthesiology

Progress continued on the implementation of the model of care particularly the 2+2 rota model for out of hours emergency cover.

Eight Model 3 hospitals remain non compliant. Implementation will require additional consultant appointments beyond those associated with surgical hubs and elective hospitals.

### Workforce Planning and Recruitment

Although the attrition rate among anaesthesia trainees has improved, decreasing from 44% to 33%, it remains the highest among medical specialties.

There is no anticipated slowdown in consultant recruitment particularly as surgical hubs and elective hospitals come into operation.

### Model of Care for Acute and Chronic Pain

Work on the Model of Care for Acute and Chronic Pain continued throughout 2025 under the leadership of Dr David Moore. Progress was made on the draft document and it is expected to be finalised soon.

### Nursing Education

The Fundamentals in Anaesthesia and Post-Anaesthesia Care programme delivered through Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) Athlone was highly successful and significantly oversubscribed.

The Pre-assessment Nursing Education Programme received approval to recommence in 2026.

### NRFit Implementation

A national patient safety alert issued in November 2025. Hospitals are required to establish local

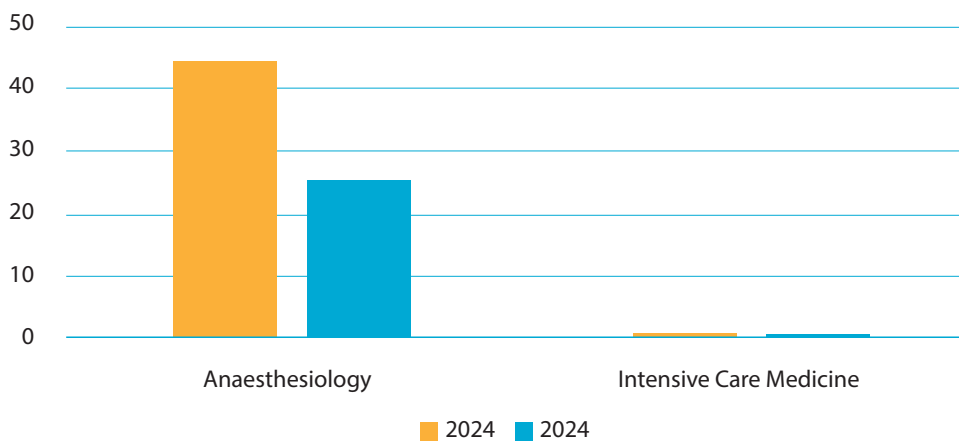
implementation committees and a two year phased national rollout is planned. Procurement arrangements have been established centrally and educational initiatives including a national webinar were scheduled for early 2026.

### National Perioperative Patient Pathway Programme Enhancement Programme (NPPPEP)

The NPPPEP has demonstrated measurable improvements in theatre efficiency and patient flow.

The programme has been implemented in 22 hospital sites with further expansion planned to additional hospitals including Letterkenny, Tallaght, St Joseph's Raheny and the Mater Hospital.

### Posts Approved 2024 vs 2025



I would like to thank Dr. Karen Tan for her effort and dedication during the period she spent as Chair of the HSE Liaison Committee and for her continued support. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Prof Donal Buggy, Mr. Martin McCormack and Ms Margaret Jenkinson for their valuable assistance and ongoing support. I appreciate the collaboration and support of all members of the various committees.

**Dr Ahmed Shehata**

Chairperson, HSE Liaison Committee.

# Wellbeing, Health and Resilience Committee

Dr Róisín Nee / Chair



I'm delighted to have the opportunity to serve as Chair of the CAI Wellbeing, Health & Resilience Committee having taken up the role in May 2025.

I'm pleased to share the Wellbeing, Health & Resilience Committee's (WHRC) Annual Report for 2025.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Dr Therese O'Connor for her leadership as the outgoing Chair, and to all Committee members for the significant work they accomplished throughout 2025, outlined below.

Role	Name
Chair	Dr Róisín Nee
Retired as Chair in May 2025	Dr Therese O'Connor
Co-Director of Training	Dr Jennifer Porter
Co-Director of Training	Dr Amy Donnelly
Chair, Training Committee	Prof Crina Burlacu
Director, Quality & Safety Committee	Dr Brian McCloskey
Chair, Education Committee	Dr Suzanne Cronly
Principal Clinical Psychologist, Beaumont Hospital	Dr Jennifer Wilson O'Raghallaigh
Co-Opted invited members of Chair	Dr Kate O'Hare & Dr Sinéad Farrell Dr David Mannion (retired from Committee in May 2025)
CAT Representatives	Dr Caroline Brogan & Dr Aisling Hickey (retired from Committee in May 2025) Dr Meghan Carton & Dr Mark O'Rahelly Dr Jai Parkash (retired from Committee in May 2025)
CEO	Mr Martin McCormack
COO	Ms Margaret Jenkinson
Administrative support	Ms Rebeca Williams

The purpose of the committee is to develop a strategy and implementation plan for the promotion and maintenance of health and wellness amongst the CAI community.

The Committee met 16 times in 2025. Four of these were full Committee meetings, with the remainder held by sub groups focusing on various tasks and initiatives. Five of the sub group meetings related to the *Trainees Struggling with their Examinations* subgroup.

- The Committee has had a productive year with the achievement and initiatives outlined below:
- Dr Brian McCloskey and Dr Aisling Hickey conducted an Audit of all anaesthetic departments of the Forum Wellbeing Standards, produced in 2024: “Standards and Criteria for quality assurance of Wellbeing in postgraduate medical education and training in Ireland”
- A wellbeing webinar providing an overview of the HSE Employee Assistance Programme and NCHD Hub took place on Friday, 28th of March 2025. Speakers included: Mr Morgan Lucey, Head of the Employee Assistance Services at the HSE; Dr Grainne McNally & Ms Maira Keatley, NCHD Hub; and Dr Sinead Farrell, Consultant Anaesthesiologist.
- The WHRC Subcommittee continued their work in developing a pathway for supporting trainees struggling with their Examinations, a defined pathway for supporting trainees is now in place.
- A working group was formed to develop a peer support network with the aim of supporting colleagues following critical events/incidents
  - Training on this topic was delivered by Dr Teresa Morris from the Mass General Hospital in June 2025
- Dr Sinéad Farrell continued the exploration of Group Reflective Practice through the attendance and coordination of regular MDT Balint groups in Sligo University Hospital.

Finally, I wish to thank all members of the committee for their enthusiastic engagement and commitment to bring forward the work on our various projects.

**Dr Róisín Nee**  
Chair - Wellbeing, Health and Resilience  
Committee

# Sustainability Committee (CAISC)

Dr Dónall Ó'Cróinín / Chair



The Sustainability Committee wishes to thank our President Prof Donal Buggy, members of Council, our CEO Mr McCormack and all the wonderful staff of the CAI for their support and assistance with our projects during the year. Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir. The main activities of the committee in the past year are as follows.

- 1. An audit carried out by the CAISC shows that the carbon footprint of human anaesthetic gas emissions in Ireland has been reduced by 27% in the five years since the first audit in 2019. These data have recently been published.**  
Nordrum *et al*; BJA (2026); Five years later: how Ireland's inhaled anaesthetic gas emissions have changed from 2019 to 2024.
- 2. The Sustainability Committee along with other anaesthesia organisations has participated in drawing up in new more environmentally friendly guidelines for single shot spinal anaesthesia. These new guidelines have recently been published.** (see next page)  
Phillips *et al*; Anaesthesia (2026); Use of sterile gowns for single-shot spinal anaesthesia: consensus guidelines from the Association of Anaesthetists, Royal College of Anaesthetists, Obstetric Anaesthetists' Association, Regional Anaesthesia UK, College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland and Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists.
- 3. The CAISC supported by the CAI continues to educate and advocate for more environmentally sustainable healthcare practice. One of the key actions in this area in the past year was the publication and the promotion of 'Guidelines for Responsible Anaesthesia'. Posters containing these guidelines are being distributed to anaesthesia departments in Ireland.**
- 4. The cornerstone of CAISC's program continues to be the National Nitrous Oxide Mitigation Project. We continue to work with partners in the HSE to reduce nitrous oxide emissions through improvements in engineered infrastructure.**
- 5. The CAI along with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCPI) have published a consensus statement on the ethical disposal of nitrous oxide. The purpose of the statement is to strongly recommend that stakeholders adopt in a timely manner the currently available technologies that enable the ethical disposal of returned nitrous oxide cylinders.**

Dr Dónall Ó'Cróinín  
Chair - Sustainability Committee

# Guidelines For Responsible Anaesthesia

## Delivering High-Value Care with Lower Environmental Impact



### 1. Anaesthetic Gases

Reducing the use of anaesthetic gases with high global warming potential, particularly desflurane and nitrous oxide, offers substantial environmental benefit.

- Minimise all anaesthetic gases and do not use desflurane unless specifically clinically indicated (see the [CAI Green Anaesthesia Guidelines](#) for more information). Use air-o<sub>2</sub> circuits when using desflurane, nitrous oxide-free during ventilation, and ensure flowmeters are turned off at the end of the day.

#### Waste Gases

- Recycle where possible, prefer oxygen as carrier gases.
- Decommission nitrous oxide that consider using portable cylinder (see the [CAI Green Anaesthesia Guidelines](#) notes) for more info. If this is not performed, perform a leak test on manifolds and pipelines.
- Waste capture and destruction technologies exist. However, due to their current cost and limited use we do not recommend their routine implementation at this time.

#### Alternatives

- Encourage total intravenous anaesthesia (TIVA) using appropriate gas free fluids to minimise waste time costs.
- Use central neuronal or regional anaesthesia where appropriate.

#### Entonox

- Collaborate with industry teams to promote safe and sustainable use.
- Remove demand valves when Entonox is not used.
- Perform regular leak tests on manifolds and pipeline networks.
- Optimise stock management to avoid waste.
- Waste capture and destruction technologies exist. However, due to their current cost and limited availability, we do not recommend their routine implementation at this time.

### 2. Pharmaceutical Waste

- Dispose of short- and long-acting medications in the appropriate containers.
- Use pre-filled syringes where appropriate.
- Use oral medications when appropriate (eg. administer oral paracetamol prior to procedures in elective cases or when neuronal or regional anaesthesia is planned).

### 3. Equipment and Procedure Waste

- Open only equipment intended for immediate use.
- Avoid unnecessary gloves or equipment use (eg. gloves when drawing up drugs or gloves when not required for asepsis).
- Repair, reusable or reprocessed equipment (see disposable items) (work with theatre managers and procurement teams to source reusable alternatives to disposable items).
- Reprocess or recycle suitable single-use items where facilities allow.
- Adjust stock levels to minimise expiry-related waste.
- Rationalise anaesthesia supply carts and remove unnecessary items.
- Remove unnecessary items from pre-made procedure packs (eg. neuronal or central access kits) and from standard anaesthetic equipment setups.
- Donate unused or unopened equipment to appropriate organisations.

### 4. Solid Waste Segregation and Recycling

- Segregate waste according to type (pharmaceutical, toxic, biohazard).
- Do not dispose of general waste in biohazard or sharps bins.
- Recycle or reuse where possible.
- Implement a recycling policy for theatre waste, including clean plastic, paper and cardboard.

### 5. Energy and Resource Conservation

- Conserve electricity by switching off ventilation, A&S, anaesthetic machines, monitors and other systems when theatre are not in use.
- Use reusable scrubs, gowns, warming jackets, patient gowns, and theatre caps.

### 6. Monitoring, Auditing, and Research

- Conduct regular waste audits to identify opportunities for waste reduction.
- Audit sustainability metrics and support related research initiatives.

### 7. Leadership and Advocacy

- Educate staff on the health, safety, and cost benefits of pollution mitigation projects.
- Develop or participate in sustainability committees and advocate for dedicated sustainability roles.
- Collaborate with hospital leadership to embed sustainability into core operational strategies.
- Contribute to environmentally preferable purchasing and contracting standards.
- Evaluate new equipment, facilities, and workflows for sustainability benefits.
- Lead sustainability-focused quality improvement and research projects.

These guidelines have been developed by the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland's Sustainability Committee in collaboration with the HSE Climate and Sustainability Programme.

Published November 2020

# Outcomes and Research Committee

Prof John Laffey / Chair



## COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Role	Name
Chair	Prof John Laffey
President	Prof Donal Buggy
Members	Prof Michelle Duggan Prof Gabriella Ioholm Dr Pdraig O'Scanaill Dr Pierce Geoghan Dr David Cosgrave Dr Aislinn Sherwin Dr Marianne Fitzgerald Dr Aisling McMahon
IPOMS member	Dr Siobhan Clarke

The newly established Outcomes and Research Committee met twice (October, November) during 2025. The Committee has focused on establishing three major initiatives during 2025: A Research Primer Course, the establishment of the Irish Perioperative Medicine Clinical Trials Group (IPOM-CTG), and the development of an Irish Perioperative Outcomes Study (IPOS).

## RESEARCH PRIMER COURSE

The Research Primer Course was developed in response to Medical Council requests to training colleges to provide basic research training for their trainees. The aim of the course is to enable senior clinical trainees to critically interpret and apply research findings effectively in their clinical practice and academic work.

The course is currently in an advanced stage of development. When completed, it will be fully online and hosted on the CAI Virtual Learning Environment. Each of the 10 course topics will begin with a short reading list of 2-3 open access review articles. The core teaching component is a 50-minute recorded

lecture, with some lectures divided into smaller subtopics of approx. 10 minutes each. Each subject area is then examined by means of a short online MCQ examination. Trainees receive a certificate upon completion that will be included as part of their Portfolio for the award of a CSCST.

The set-up phase of this course progressed well throughout 2025, with the curriculum developed and formally approved by the CAI Education Committee. Ms Orna McSorley has developed the Virtual Learning Environment to host the course materials.

The course will be piloted in the coming months, and following incorporation of feedback, will be formally launched from July 2026.

## IRISH PERIOPERATIVE MEDICINE CLINICAL TRIALS GROUP (IPOM-CTG)

The IPOM-CTG is being established to enable investigator-led high quality perioperative outcomes research in Ireland with a view to translating this knowledge into improving clinical practice.

The IPOM-CTG reports to the CAI Outcomes and Research Committee.

The first IPOM-CTG led study will be the IPOS Study (see details in next section). The initial membership will consist of the IPOS study leads at each participating site.

### Progress in 2025:

- Site leads for IPOS study have been appointed for most sites
- The process for IPOM-CTG endorsement of studies has been established

### Future Developments:

- A Trainee Research Network will be set up in 2026, driven by the Committee for Anaesthesiologists in Training (CAT) with the support of the ORC. The network aims to improve access to research opportunities for trainees, create national coordination and mentorship structures, and overcome obstacles such as 6-month rotations and lack of protected research time.
- In the medium term, links will be developed with key external stakeholders, including the UK-POMS trials group, the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland, and the British Journal of Anaesthesia.

## IRISH PERIOPERATIVE OUTCOMES (IPOS) STUDY

The IPOS Study is a fourteen-day, prospective observational national cohort study of older ( $\geq 60$  years) patients undergoing major in-patient surgery. IPOS will examine how older patients with multiple health conditions fare after major urgent or planned surgeries. As medical advances allow more complex operations in older, sicker patients, they still face a higher risk of complications.

This study will enrol patients across multiple centres to measure their health risks, identify common complications, and find factors that can be changed to improve outcomes. It will also look at our health systems ability to provide timely and high-quality surgical and critical care.

Our target launch date is summer/autumn 2026, dependent on ethics and eCRF readiness of the sites, with an inclusion window of 4 months. The intent is for this iteration to be a 'pilot' study, with subsequent iterations covering the entire country.

The results should help guide healthcare planning and policies to improve safety in perioperative care for our high-risk patients across the country.

### Progress in 2025:

- The study protocol and data collection form have been finalised
- Ethical Committee approval obtained at Galway University Hospitals
- Consent declaration obtained from Health Research Consent Declarations Committee.
- Electronic CRF (REDCap) developed with assistance from ENTIRE EDIH Team at Tyndall Institute, UCC.
- Call for participation issued to sites in early December 2025 (still open!)

I wish to thank all committee members for their dedication and contribution throughout 2025, as we get this new committee up and running. The Committee's work represents a significant step forward in further enhancing the research infrastructure and culture within Irish anaesthesiology.

I wish to particularly thank Ms Orna McSorley for her dedicated support to the Outcomes research Committee, and her excellent work in developing the online research primer course. I would also like to thank the ENTIRE EDIH Team at the Tyndall Institute at UCC, for their excellent assistance with the electronic CRF development for the IPOS study.

**Prof John Laffey / Chair**  
**Outcomes and Research Committee**



# Faculty of Pain Medicine

Dr Conor Hearty / **Dean**



The Faculty held four meetings during the year. All meetings were held online via Zoom, to facilitate board members based outside Dublin.

In 2025 Dr Conor Hearty succeeded Dr Hugh Gallagher as Dean of the Faculty. Dr David Moore had been previously elected as incoming Vice Dean. He will succeed Dr Hearty in accordance with standing orders as Dean in late 2027. Dr Sean Rooney is the Pain fellows representative, while Dr Sinead Brady is the CAT representative. A full list of all members of the board is available at the end of this report.

The formal approval of the Training Programme and the establishment of a dedicated specialist register were identified last year as key priorities in supporting the career progression of trainees as they prepare for consultant practice. This work has now reached a significant milestone with the official opening of the Specialist Division of the Register for Pain Medicine in May 2025. This development represents an important step in strengthening the professional recognition of Pain Medicine and ensuring a clear pathway for Specialist Registration. The achievement reflects extensive collaboration across the programme. Appreciation is extended to all who contributed to the development of the curriculum, the preparation of submission materials, and engagement with the Medical Council throughout the approval process. Doctors seeking entry to the Specialist Division of the Register for Pain Medicine may apply directly to the Medical Council, who will issue an application pack and provide further guidance on the registration process.

Applications for the Specialist Training Programme in Pain Medicine (July 2026 intake) opened in September 2025. Six candidates were interviewed for the four available training positions.

Following the process, four candidates were deemed appointable and were offered the posts for commencement in July 2026, reflecting a high quality of successful applicants. It was noted that two initial applicants were deemed ineligible as they were not on the Specialist Division of the Register (SDR).

The written exam for the FPMCAI was held on the 23rd of April 2025, with all candidates progressing to the Clinical/SOE examination on Wednesday, May 28th. Four candidates were successful. During 2025 two new FPM examiners were recruited.

Meetings for the development of a Model of Care for Pain Medicine continued in 2025. The meetings were being held under the auspices of the National Clinical Programme in Anaesthesiology. Dr Amy Donnelly continued to represent the Pain Faculty on the HSE working group on codeine product prescribing, which began work in 2024. Drs John Browne and Hugh Gallagher were members of the Medical Council working group reviewing the overprescribing of benzodiazepines, z-drugs and pregabalin in Ireland.

The 2025 Annual Congress included two Pain Faculty sessions, a medal presentation and the Rynd lecture. That Rynd lecture was delivered by Professor Lars Arendt-Nielsen, who spoke on 'Mechanistic Pain Phenotyping for predicting outcome after management and surgery'; and he was also awarded an honorary fellowship by the Faculty. Invited lecturers included Prof Bobby Smith who presented on 'The strange world of 'medical' cannabis – an addiction psychiatrist's perspective'; Prof Kevin Vowles presented on 'Rehabilitative Approaches to the Treatment of Chronic Pain' and Dr. Alan Blake on 'Cannabis Chronic Pain Medicine Perspective'. The 2025 John Cooper Medal was awarded to Dr Moustafa Moustafa.

Two Pain Medicine Trainees were conferred in June 2025 with the CSCST in Pain Medicine. As of July 2025 there were 3 x Year 1 Pain Fellows who commenced the Specialist Training Programme in July 2025, with 2 x Year 2 Pain Fellows who will be due to complete the programme in July 2026.

## CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS:

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>
Dr Conor Hearty	Dean
Dr David Moore	Vice-Dean
Dr Hari Gopal	Elected Member
Dr Dominic Harmon	Elected Member
Dr Aine O’Gara	Elected Member
Dr Alan Blake	Elected Member
Dr John Browne	Elected Member
Dr Sinead Brady	CAT Representative
Dr Sean Rooney	Pain Medicine Trainee Representative
Prof Donal Buggy	CAI President (Ex-Officio Member)
Prof Michelle Duggan	CAI Chair of Examinations (Ex-Officio Member)
Prof Camillus Power	CAI Director of Training and Education (Ex-Officio Member)
Dr Hugh Gallagher	Immediate Past Dean (Ex-Officio Member)
Mr Martin McCormack	CAI CEO
Prof Karen Ryan	IOM/RCPI Representative (Co-opted)
Dr Amy Donnelly	Opioids Working Group Representative (Co-opted)
Dr Rory Maguire	Paediatric Pain Representative (Co-opted)
Ms Martina Phelan	Chronic Pain Ireland Representative (Co-opted)
Prof Fiona Fenton	Psychiatry Representative (Co-opted)
Dr Paul Ryan	ICGP Representative (Co-opted)

**Dr Conor Hearty**  
Dean - Faculty of Pain Medicine





# Joint Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine Committee

Dr Enda O'Connor/ **Dean**

### The JFICMI Board met on 4 occasions:

1. 19th February 2025
2. 1st May 2025
3. 10th July 2025 (AGM)
4. 14th October 2025

All meetings were hybrid, taking place in both the College of Anaesthesiologists and via Zoom.



## BOARD OF JFICMI

### Elected Board Members January to December 2025

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>
1	Dr Enda O'Connor	Dean, Immediate Past Chair of Training
2	Dr Jennifer Hastings	Vice Dean, Chair of Training
3	Dr Peter Moran	Chair of Education , past Hon Treasurer
4	Dr Margaret Doherty	Hon Secretary
5	Dr Orsolya Miskolci	Hon Treasurer (effective January 2025)
6	Dr Aisling McMahon	Effective January 2025
7	Dr Teresa Sweeney	Model 3 Hospital Representative (effective Oct 2025)

### Co-Opted Members 2025

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>
1	Dr Andrew Westbrook	Immediate Past Dean, Co-Opted Member
2	Dr Donal Ryan	Co-opted Chair of Examinations and EDIC committee member
3	Dr Catherine Nix	Co-opted Chair of Credentials
4	Prof Donal Buggy	President CAI
5	Dr Alan Gaffney	ICSI President
6	Dr Bairbre McNicholas	RCPI Representative
7	Dr Elizabeth Little	Emergency Medicine Representative
8	Prof David Healy	RCSI Representative
9	Mr Martin McCormack	CEO CAI
10	Dr Brian Marsh	Past Chair of Training, Co-Opted Member
11	Dr Andrew Neill	JFICMI Website Developments and Co-Chair simulation
12	Ken Barclay	Lay Representative
13	Dr Alain Fennessy	JFICMI Trainee Representative (to June 2025)
14	Dr Claudio Dalla Vecchia	JFICMI Trainee Representative (effective June 2025)
15	Dr Aoife Driscoll	CAT Representative (stepped down June 2025)

16	Dr Orla Murray	CAT Representative (effective June 2025)
17	Dr Dermot Doherty	NASCCRS
18	Dr Cathy McMahon	Paediatrics
19	Dr Martina Healy	NCCP
20	Dr Ciana McCarthy	JFICMI Echocardiography Committee Chair (to Sept 2025)
21	Dr Gabor Zilahi	JFICMI Echocardiography Committee Chair (effective Sept 2025)
22	Dr Brian McCloskey	CAI Director of Patient Safety
23	Prof Ger Curley	Ordinary Board Member , past Chair of Education
24	CAI Representative	Prof Camillus Power (Director of Training)
25	CAI Representative	Dr Jenny Porter (Co -Director of Training)
26	CAI Representative	Dr Amy Donnelly (Co -Director of Training)

## DEAN'S REPORT

The following areas were addressed during 2025.

- 1) Following a JFICMI election in late 2024, three new members joined the Board; Dr Orsolya Miskolci, Dr Aisling McMahon and Dr Aidan Magee. Dr Teresa Sweeney was co-opted from the ICSI as the first model 3 hospital representative on the Board. Two new trainee representatives joined the Board; Dr Claudio Della Vecchia is the JFICMI Trainee rep; Dr Orla Murray is the SAT rep.
- 2) There were some changes to the roles within the Joint Faculty Board. Dr Jennifer Hastings continued in her role as Chair of the Training, Dr Catherine Nix as Chair of the Credentials Committee, Dr Peter Moran as Chair of the Education Committee and Dr Margaret Doherty as Honorary Secretary. Dr Orsolya Miskolci assumed the role of Honorary Treasurer. Dr Gabor Zilahi joined the Board as POCUS Committee Chair. Dr Fionn Clarke was appointed to the position of Chair of the new Sustainability Committee.
- 3) Key JFICMI documents were updated and posted on the Joint Faculty website. These were:
  - a. National Standards for Adult Critical Care Services which were adapted to include standards for Model 3 hospital intensive care units
  - b. JFICMI Honours award, following approval of changes to this document in 2024
- 4) Numerous meetings and discussions occurred during 2025 related to the title and designation change to the anaesthesiology CSCST. These meetings followed the outcome recommendations of the White Paper Working Group. The Dean attended regular meetings of the White Paper Progression Working group. Throughout 2025, the following were progressed by the Joint Faculty at Board level:
  - a. Approval to confer SAT trainees with an award in ICM on completion of the SAT programme, success in the FCAI examination and satisfactory completion of all ICM requirements.
  - b. Approval that the director of an ICU in Ireland can be either a Fellow of the JFICMI or on the Specialist Division of the Register of the MCI in intensive care medicine
  - c. Approval to change the criteria whereby pre-2019 consultants can apply for inclusion on the Specialist Division of the Register of the MCI in intensive care medicine
  - d. Approval to seek a temporary fee waiver on applications for inclusion on the Specialist Division of the Register in intensive care medicine

- e. Approval for CAI and JFICMI to seek a change to the title of anaesthesiology CSCST to “Anaesthesiology and Critical Care”
- 5) The Dean attended the 2025 annual graduation of the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland on June 20th and presented the medal winners, Fellows of JFICMI and Recipients of CSCST in ICM with their scrolls.



## TRAINING

Dr Jennifer Hastings continued in the role of Chair of Training in 2025.

A total of 12 and 17 JFICMI training posts were filled in January and July 2025 respectively. One international graduate was appointed for a second year on the International Clinical Fellowship Programme. Trainees were allocated to seven JFICMI-accredited intensive care units: Mater Misericordiae University Hospital (MMUH), St James’s Hospital (SJH), St Vincent’s University Hospital, Tallaght University Hospital (TUH), University Hospital Galway, Cork University Hospital, and Beaumont Hospital (BH). The July 2025 allocation required two rounds of applications and interviews due to candidate withdrawals.

An information evening for prospective trainees was held on 7th October 2025 to provide an overview of the training programme and ensure applicants have a good understanding of the mandatory training requirements.

The NDTP confirmed an expansion of the annual JFICMI trainee intake numbers, from 10 to 12-13, in line with the HSE Intensive Care Medicine Workforce Plan.

A Flexible Training Policy was approved in June 2025, outlining options available for flexible training for JFICMI trainees.

Accreditation visits were conducted at Tallaght University Hospital, St James’s Hospital, and Mater Misericordiae University Hospital. Tallaght University Hospital received provisional accreditation for Year 2 Advanced Clinical Fellow training while the reports for the other sites are pending.

Our Lady of Lourdes’ Hospital, Drogheda became the first Model 3 hospital to be accredited for

JFICMI modular training. This followed changes made after the 2023 accreditation visit. Connolly Hospital and Letterkenny University Hospital were inspected in September 2025 using the new Model 3 Criteria. Connolly Hospital does not currently meet criteria for JFICMI training while a final decision on Letterkenny University Hospital is pending.

The JFICMI approved four new Fellowships: two Echocardiography Fellowships (SJH/MMUH), one Clinical Academic Fellowship (MMUH/BH) and one Advanced Research Fellowship (GUH/BH). These two-year fellowships are available to trainees who have completed year-1 of training, thus creating a three-year total program. One trainee has been appointed to the Echocardiography Fellowship and two to the Clinical Academic Fellowship to commence in July 2026.

The JFICMI launched its Study Day initiative this year, with three study days held in 2025 at the Mater, St James’s and Galway University hospitals.

Collaboration between the JFICMI and RCPI Institute of Medicine (IOM) has led to JFICMI trainees having access to the IOM webinars and the first joint study day between JFICMI and IOM trainees took place on 5th September 2025.

Discussions between CAI and JFICMI Training Committees explored ways to increase ICM modular capacity for SAT trainees. SAT trainees may now complete six months of ICM training during the SAT programme (pre-CSCST), followed by 1.5 years post-CSCST, resulting in a total training duration of 7.5 years for dual specialty accreditation.

## CREDENTIALIALS

Dr Catherine Nix continues as Chair of the JFICMI Credentials Committee. The committee met on four occasions during 2025.

In February 2025, the American Board of Anaesthesiology's ICM exams were approved as a comparable test of knowledge for candidates applying for ICM Specialist Registration.

The work of the committee continues assessing applications that have been sent to the Irish Medical Council for consideration for ICM Specialist Registration. A total of 5 applications were received in 2025. A further 2 applications were received by the Joint Faculty for Fellowship Ad Eundem.

## EXAMINATIONS

Dr Donal Ryan continues as Chair of Examinations. **21** candidates sat the written examination (SBA/SAQ) in April 2025. This examination was online and is independently proctored and run under the auspices of the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland.

**19** candidates passed the written at this sitting.

**17** Candidates attempted the Clinical examination on the 29th May, of those 17, 14 passed the exam and will be admitted to Fellowship of the JFICMI in due course.

The Gold Medal was awarded to Dr Alison Fahey. Congratulations to Dr Fahey.

The exam revision course was conducted in the Mater, Beaumont, St Vincent's and St James's hospitals from the 10th to the 14th March.

We maintain an ongoing link with the EDIC examination of the European Society of Intensive Care and run a centre in Dublin each November. Examiners are encouraged to become involved with this examination.

## EDUCATION

Dr Peter Moran continues as Chair of Education. Several educational initiatives and courses were conducted throughout 2025

1. Intensive Care Medicine Grand Rounds Series which involved all the JFICMI accredited teaching hospitals and was streamed via video conference.

The course included a guest lecturer each month delivering a presentation on aspects of patient care in ICU. The video series are uploaded for viewing on the JFICMI website.

<https://jficmi.anaesthesia.ie/education/icm-grand-rounds/>

2. Advanced Simulation in Critical Care (ASICC). This simulation-based training day encompassed advanced critical care scenarios, including single- and multi-organ failure, airway management, and trauma cases. The course featured interactive case-based discussions and was tailored for senior NCHDs and Fellows with a special interest in Intensive Care Medicine.
3. Advanced Mechanical Ventilation Course. The University of Galway, in collaboration with the Joint Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine of Ireland (JFICMI) and the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland, hosted the Advanced Mechanical Ventilation Course on October 2025. This comprehensive program included pre-course online materials, followed by in-person lectures and hands-on workshops at the Clinical Sciences Institute, University of Galway.
4. The Mater Critical Care Echo Course took place on November 13-14, 2025 in the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital. This course focused on developing proficiency in critical care echocardiography, providing participants with practical skills in cardiac ultrasound pertinent to intensive care practice.
5. St. James's Hospital organized an Advanced Critical Care Echocardiography Course on 28th-29th March 2025. This two-day course was endorsed by FUSIC and the British Society of Echocardiography, offering 14 CPD points through the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland. It was tailored for clinicians pursuing advanced echocardiography accreditation or seeking to enhance their skills in critical care settings.

## JFICMI INTENSIVE CARE CORE TRAINING ECHO & US (ICCTECUS) COMMITTEE

During 2025, the committee continued to deliver both basic and advanced critical care echocardiography training nationally, supporting JFICMI training requirements. A number of ICS-, CAI-, BSE-, and EDEC-accredited courses were successfully delivered across Ireland, demonstrating continued year-on-year growth in educational activity.

A significant development during the year was the agreement with the British Society of Echocardiography to hold the first BSE Level 1, Level 2, and ACCE examinations in Dublin, scheduled to take place during the BSE Intensive Care Echo course on 7–8 March 2026.

The committee also saw a change in leadership. Ciana McCarthy stepped down as ICCTECUS Lead and took up the role of FUSIC Committee representative. Gabor Zilahi was appointed as the new ICCTECUS Lead. The committee would like to express its sincere thanks to Ciana for her hard work and leadership.

Another important milestone was the expansion of the JFICMI advanced fellowship pathway to a two-year programme, enabling centres to offer advanced echocardiography fellowship training. Both MMUH and SJH successfully established such programmes, with two candidates appointed to commence in July 2026.

Nationally, there are now 10 centres offering FUSIC echocardiography training and 3 centres offering lung ultrasound training, reflecting the continued expansion of point-of-care ultrasound education.

Looking ahead, the committee plans to further expand its educational portfolio and strengthen its database infrastructure to support training, quality assurance, and programme development.

The committee also continued to contribute to national education through delivery of the annual POCUS workshop at the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland Annual Congress.

## PCCM TRAINING

Dr Cathy McMahon continues as the PCCM Board representative and this year was joined by Dr Aidan Magee who was elected as the second Paediatric member to the Board. The Paediatric Critical Care Medicine Fellowship pathway has been endorsed and is governed by the JFICMI. There has been increasing interest in this Programme from both Anaesthesiology Fellows in their post-CSCST year and Paediatric or Emergency Medicine Fellows completing their out-of-programme Year. The next important step is to secure the status of a JFICMI PCCM Fellowship which is in its final stages of negotiation. The awarding of the Fellowship to candidates that successfully meet all the criteria is a great advancement and an acknowledgement of their training as they continue on their chosen career pathway.



## FINANCE

### JFICMI Honorary Treasurer's Report

Year ended 31st December 2025

I am pleased to present my report for the financial year ended 31st December 2025.

While the JFICMI does not produce a set of financial statements in its own name, the income and expenditure of the Joint Faculty is separately recorded and disclosed within the accounts of CAI. The financial statements have been audited by Mazars, a firm of Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors. They have expressed the opinion that the financial statements give a true and fair view of JFICMI financial affairs.

In 2025 overall revenue from operating activities was **€52,444**. Total expenditure was **€40,058**. This left an operating surplus for the year of **€12,386**.

#### Incomes

Income for the year was €52,444, which represents a decrease of 1.3% on 2024 income. The factors contributing to this decrease were a reduction of €1.7K (or 11.5%) in income from annual subscriptions & registration fees, and a reduction in of €1.5K (or 6.8%) in income from examinations. Historically, subscriptions income is quite variable from year to year. The absence of a direct debit option for payment increases the likelihood that members miss payments for a period and then pay a lump sum to cover arrears, leading to sporadic increases in subscriptions income. Examinations income is directly related to the number of candidates taking both the written and clinical exam in the year.

Income from courses increased by €2.7K (29.9%) year on year, largely on account of receipts from the Fundamentals of Mechanical Ventilation course. There was a small decrease of 2.6% in income from conferring fees.

#### The income sources for 2025 were as follows:

	€
Examination Fees	20,500
Annual Subscription/ Registration Fees	13,374
Course Fees	11,950
Conferring Fees	6,620
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>52,444</b>

#### Expenditure

Expenditure for the year was €40,058, which represents a marginal reduction of 0.2% on the level recorded in the prior year. As per prior years, the single biggest line item on the expenditure side was the administration fee paid to CAI. This was introduced in 2018 and represents a recharge of costs borne by CAI in respect of the administration services provided to JFICMI. Commencing in 2021, this charge was reduced from €39,530 per annum to €25,000 per annum. There was no change in the level of this fee for 2025. In terms of other categories of expenditure, while there were small variations in the level of expenditure incurred in the individual categories year-on-year, the net effect of these was an overall decrease of 0.2%.

#### The breakdown of costs for the individual categories of expenditure is provided below:

	€
CAI Administration Fee	25,000
Catering/Dinners	4,280
Exam/Conferring/Course Costs	7,655
Other Expenses (bank charges/elections etc)	3,123
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>40,058</b>

### Bank Balance

The closing bank balance on the JFICMI account as at 31st December 2025 was €202,126, which represents a 2.8% increase on the balance at the previous year's end. This bank account is held by CAI on behalf of JFICMI. The closing balance on the JFICMI bank account is listed as a creditor in CAI's annual financial statements. This separately identifies and safeguards the funds of JFICMI.

In closing, I would like to sincerely thank the members for their continued support of JFICMI through their payment of the annual subscription. We look forward to another successful year ahead for 2026.

### Dr Orsolya Miskolci

Honorary Treasurer JFICMI

April 2026

### JFICMI TRAINEES:

The JFICMI training programme continues to attract candidates from a diverse range of medical backgrounds. There has been a notable increase in the number of trainees from specialties outside of anaesthesia entering the fellowship scheme, reflecting a growing national interest in intensive care medicine.

Findings from a recent trainee survey demonstrate a high level of overall satisfaction with the programme. All respondents reported satisfactory access to both annual and study leave for the purpose of attending courses and workshops. However, concerns were raised regarding variability in the allocation of non-clinical time across certain rotations. Furthermore, some advanced critical care fellows highlighted limited opportunities to undertake consultant-level responsibilities, including leading ward rounds in the capacity as a senior clinical decision-maker.

In the context of increasing expectations for trainee involvement in departmental research and quality improvement initiatives, we feel that the provision of protected non-clinical time is regarded as essential.

Trainees have positively received the introduction of newly approved advanced fellowship oppor-

tunities in research and advanced echocardiography, which are scheduled to commence in July 2026. This development represents a significant milestone for the Irish training programme, facilitating access to subspecialty training within Ireland, which has historically required trainees to seek opportunities abroad.

Looking to the future of the training scheme, the establishment of a sustainability committee within the Joint Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine is to be commended. This initiative is expected to support the development and implementation of strategies aimed at reducing the environmental impact of intensive care services nationally. The trainee body looks forward to contributing to and supporting the promotion of sustainable practices within the specialty.

### BOARD COLLEAGUES

Thank you to all of the JFICMI Board member colleagues, past and present, for their continuing work and support during 2025. Thank you also to all the staff in the College of Anaesthesiologists for their collaborative work during the year.

### Dr Enda O'Connor

Dean, JFICMI

# Emerging Leaders Conference 2026



On the 22nd and 23rd January 2026, the College of Anaesthetists held their first ever Emerging Leaders Conference in Merrion Square.

The College's inaugural conference for newly appointed consultants and senior trainees, marked an important step in supporting colleagues in the early years of specialist practice.

Aimed at those within five years of completing training or taking up a consultant post, as well as fellows and SAT 7 trainees, it offered a welcoming space to reflect on the transition to independent practice.

Inspiring leadership sessions, opportunities to engage with mentors, and meaningful cross-disciplinary networking fostered a strong sense of community and professional growth at this pivotal career stage.

## **"EMERGING LEADERS CONFERENCE"**

*The Inaugural Emerging Leaders Conference was held in January 2026 and marked an important milestone for anaesthesiology leadership in Ireland. To see the programme come to life after months of planning, and resonate so strongly with our attendees was so rewarding.*

*Our thirty attendees had the opportunity to develop on their existing leadership skills, share learnings with each other and participate in open, honest discussion about the leadership challenges that we face in our roles in 2026.*

*While our programme was based on the original ANZCA Emerging Leaders concept, we recognised*

*that we needed an Irish and European slant to our own conference – with a curriculum shaped by those who understand our own health system, the realities for perioperative and critical care teams, and the challenges of stepping into leadership while maintaining demanding clinical roles. We had the pleasure of welcoming experts in leadership, both within and outside of healthcare. This allowed us to develop a programme that felt authentic, relevant, and tailored to the needs of our colleagues.*

*Across two days, our speakers delivered thoughtful, impactful sessions, and the feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive. Many reported gaining confidence, practical tools, and a renewed sense of purpose. Reflecting on the experience, I feel proud of what we achieved and excited for how this initiative can continue to support future leaders in our specialty.*

*I'd like to say thanks to my co-convenors, Dr Carrie Murphy and Dr Noelle Healy and Lauren McKenna in the CAI, without whom, the conference would not have been such a resounding success. With that in mind, I look forward to developing 2027's ELC and hope to see many more leaders benefit into the future!"*

Dr Aislinn Sherwin.

<https://vimeo.com/1168408976/0b7240d8f2?-fl=ip&fe=ec>





# Event Gallery

CAI Annual Congress 2025



**Back Row L-R:** Prof Camillus Power, Ms Mary Buckley, Ms Fiona Taafe, Dr Karen Tan, Dr Aislinn Sherwin, Dr Roisin Nee, Mr Martin McCormack, Prof John Laffey, Dr Ahmed Shehata, Dr Aoibhin Hutchinson, Ms Margaret Jenkinson, Prof Pat Neligan

**Front row L-R:** Dr Enda O'Connor, Dr Suzanne Cronly, Dr Fauzia Bano, Dr Gabrille Iohom, Prof Donal Buggy, Dr Michelle Duggan, Dr Patrick Seigne, Prof Terry Tan, Dr Conor Hearty

## Annual Congress 2025



Dr Gavin Harper, Dr Aoibhinn Hutchinson.



Dr Patrick Neligan, Prof Daniel Martin,  
Dr Deirdre McCoy - Vice President CAI.



Dr Ciaran Doherty, Dr Catherine Nix, Dr Patricija Ecimovic.



Dr Hassan Mohammad Tawfik Mohammad,  
Dr Kareem Hussein, Dr Amr Sallam.



Dr Ciara Crotty, Dr Ben Weatherhead



Ms Catherine Timon, Dr Aoife Lawlor,  
Dr Anna-Katharina Durr.

## Annual Congress 2025 (cond.)



Airways Workshop -  
Faculty and Attendees



Fun run participants.



Dr Andrew Black, Dr Deirdre McCoy, Dr Gareth Morrison,  
Dr Aoibhin Hutchinson.



Dr Bill Walsh, Prof Kevin Carson, Dr Nicholas Eustace.

## Annual Congress 2025 (cond.)



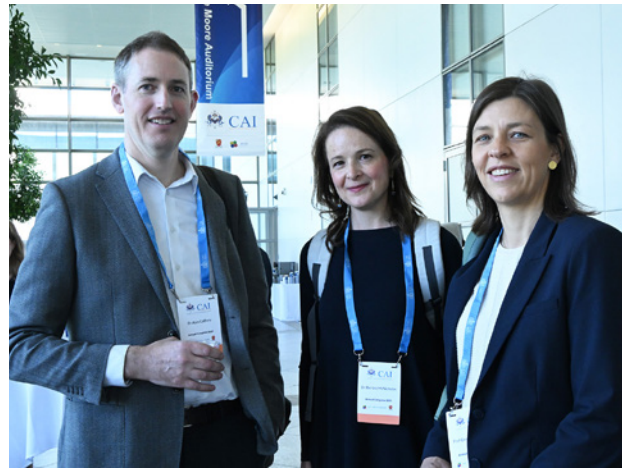
Dr Niamh Feely, Dr Ahmed Sherif, Dr Basman Saed.



Dr Margarita Blajeva, Dr Sheila Duggan.



Dr Sarah Walsh, Dr Susan Reid.



Dr Alan Gaffney, Dr Bairbre McNicholas,  
Prof Greet De Vieger.



Dr Deirdre McCoy, Prof Donal Buggy and Dr Aislinn Sherwin.



Delaney Medal Competition Prof George Shorten,  
Dr Suzanne Cronly, Dr David O'Driscoll, Dr Jamie Rice,  
Dr Éanna O'Sullivan, Prof Donal Buggy, President CAI,  
Dr Alison Bell, Dr Anas Bin Tahir, Dr Evelyn Scott.

## Gala Dinner 2025



Prof Ellen O'Sullivan, Dr George Roberts, Mr Ovidiu Burlacu, Prof Crina Burlacu.



Prof Donal Buggy and Mrs Nora Buggy.



Dr George Roberts, Prof Ellen O'Sullivan, Prof George Shorten.



Dr Jenny Porter, Mr Graham Brookes, Dr Deirdre McCoy.



Dr Emer Harte & Prof Camillus Power.



Mr Martin McCormack, Mrs Nora Buggy, Ms Margaret Jenkinson.

## Graduation 2025



Dr Mohammad Hassan and Dr Zaeem Siddique with Dr Conor Hearty.



Prof Donal Buggy presenting Dr Ann Hennessy with the CAI College Medal.



Prof Donal Buggy presenting Prof Jim Egan with the CAI Honorary Fellowship.



Prof Donal Buggy, Preident, Dr Claire Firth-Keyes, Tallaght University Hospital, Consultant Trainer of The Year Award.



Dr Enda O'Connor, Dr Paul Ryan, FJICMI Examination Medal Winner 2024.



Prof Donl Buggy, Dr Peter Hooker, Exceptional Services to Examinations Awardee.

## Gilmartin Lecture and Presidents Dinner 2025



Ms Nora Buggy, Prof Donal Buggy, President CAI, Mr Ciarán O'Connor, FRIAI, Gilmartin Lecturer 2025, Ms Ditte Kummer O'Conner.



Prof Crina Burlacu, Dr Michelle Duggan, Dr Deirdre McCoy, Dr Nicola Duffy.



Prof Donal Buggy, President CAI, Mr Ciarán O'Connor, FRIAI, Gilmartin Lecturer 2025.



Prof George Shorten, Dr Gabriell Iohom, Dr Emer Heart, Prof Camillus Power.



Prof John McAdoo, Mrs Anne McAdoo, Dr John Loughrey.



Prof Pat Neligan, Mr Ovidiu Burlacu, Prof Terry Tan.

# National Annual Patient Safety Conference 2025



Dr Aislinn Sherwin, Dr Brian McCloskey, Prof John Laffey, Prof Donal Buggy, President CAI, Dr Marike Rademan, Prof Terry Tan.



Dr Aoibhin Goss, Dr Camille Hannah Wei, Mr Martin McCormack, CEO, CAI.



Dr Camillus Power, Dr Amy Donnelly, Prof Jenny Porter.



Dr Holly Carpio, Dr Aileen Mae Ong, Dr Francis O'Grimen.



Dr Jan Steiner, Dr Wouter Jonker.



Ms Joy Hernandez, Ms Noeleen Jonker.







College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland

**CAI**  
SALUS DUM VIGILAMUS

[www.anaesthesia.ie](http://www.anaesthesia.ie)

College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland  
22 Merrion Square North  
Dublin D02 X236, Ireland  
Phone: +353 1 265 0600  
Email: [info@coa.ie](mailto:info@coa.ie)