**Clinical academic careers meeting hosted by RCSI Department of General Practice**

**DATE:** The Department of General Practice of RCSI (Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland) and the HRB Centre for Primary Care Research hosted a meeting entitled ‘Clinical academic careers in Family Medicine and General Practice: sharing experience and best practice’ on Wednesday, 6th July in Dublin Castle.

This session ran parallel to the 45th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society for Academic Primary Care (SAPC) which was attended by more than 400 researchers and clinicians who discussed key topics in primary care research including diagnosis and safety, multimorbidity, mental health, dementia and prescribing.

The clinical academic careers meeting featured international speakers from the UK, Sweden and Canada as well as Irish representatives who discussed international and national models, opportunities and challenges in developing clinical structured PhD programmes. In addition, two funding bodies the Health Research Board (HRB) of Ireland and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) will present on clinical academic career development from funders’ perspective.

Speaking on the clinical academic careers meeting, Professor Tom Fahey, Professor of General Practice, RCSI and HRB Centre for Primary Care Research said, “This meeting was an excellent opportunity to share national and international experience and best practice regarding clinical academic careers and training. It was a pleasure to welcome all of our international speakers to Dublin to share their experiences and to discussing opportunities and challenges in general practice.”

The collaborative meeting resulted from Professor Tom Fahey’s James M.Flaherty visiting Professorship to the Universities of Toronto and British Columbia in March 2016, funded by the Ireland Canada University Foundation (ICUF). The presentations were followed by a moderated discussion session on a variety of relevant topics including national and international funding opportunities, methodological research training and sharing of resources and supervisory capacity expertise and exchange.

This meeting featured as part of the Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ) Blogs channel and included blogs from guest speakers regarding their experiences of clinical academic careers.

The SAPC annual scientific meeting, had attendees from Ireland, the UK, Sweden, Italy, Denmark, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and the United States, is being held from Wednesday 6th July until Friday 8th July at Dublin Castle and is being hosted by the Department of General Practice of RCSI (Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland) and the HRB Centre for Primary Care.

RCSI is ranked 46th in the world for ‘International Outlook' and 251 - 300 in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (2015-2016). It is an international not-for-profit health sciences institution, with its headquarters in Dublin, focused on education and research to drive improvements in human health worldwide.

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