**The four Scholarships awarded in 2015 were made to:**

[**Dr Daniel Cagney**](http://websitepreview.healthirl.net/eng/staff/Leadership_Education_Development/MET/ed/scholarships/Dr-Cagney-2015.docx), SpR in Radiation Oncology, will undertake a CNS Fellowship focusing on Intracranial and Extra Cranial Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy.

Dr Cagney will be going to Brigham & Women’s Hospital in Boston which is an international centre in Stereotactic Radiosurgery (SRS). This is a highly specialised type of radiotherapy which delivers high dose radiation to tumour sites in the Brain or Spine over a very short period of time, without the need to make an incision. SBRT (Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy) refers to stereotactic radiation therapy performed on parts of the body other than the brain. These are relatively non-toxic and short treatments and are of particular benefit to patients who would otherwise be considered inoperable.

Dr Cagney will be gaining experience in all aspects SRS/SBRT which has now emerged as an important part of future cancer care. This fellowship will be of particular benefit to short to medium-term service needs in Ireland.

**Dr Anne Collins,**SpR in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery will be going to St Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney to undertake a fellowship in Plastic, Reconstructive and Microsurgery.  She will be concentrating particularly on Perforator Flap Reconstruction (PFR) following cancer surgery. PFR is a significant development in post cancer surgery (particularly mastectomies). Her new expertise in this area will offer Irish patients a comprehensive range of safe and appropriate reconstructive options following cancer resection.

**Dr Sean Hynes,**SpR in Histopathology will undertake a Fellowship in Molecular Pathology in Queens University and City Hospital, Belfast.

In Belfast they are leading the way in the development and delivery of relevant diagnostic tests within Histopathology. Upon completion of his fellowship Dr Hynes will be able to tailor therapies for particular patient's cancer. One of the benefits of this molecular testing of tumours prevents inappropriate use of harsh therapies in some instances. New skills in this area of testing can make sure that these cancer patients do not suffer unnecessary toxic side effects.

**Dr Sean O’Dowd,** SpR will be going to Newcastle-upon-Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Academic Neuroscience Directorate to undertake a fellowship in Parkinson’s disease and Related Neurodegenerative Disorders.

In Newcastle he will gain experience in, among other things, the diagnosis and management of the neuropsychiatric complications of Parkinson’s disease and related diseases in a well co-ordinated unified way.  He will be accumulating subspecialist expertise on the accurate diagnosis and management of the atypical parkinsonian syndromes and non-motor symptoms of Parkinson’s disease e.g. sleep disorders and neuropsychiatric complications.

**In addition to the prestigious and much sought after Dr Richard Steevens’s Scholarships the NDTP HSE have also awarded three Bursaries in 2015.  Out of the rich pool of talent the following three HSE doctors (in alphabetical order) were awarded a bursary:**

[**Dr Aisling Barry**](http://websitepreview.healthirl.net/eng/staff/Leadership_Education_Development/MET/ed/scholarships/2015-Dr-Barry.docx), SpR, Radiation Oncology, will be based for twelve months in Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto for a fellowship in Extra-Cranial Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy.

Princess Margaret Hospital is renowned as being one of the Top 5 Research Institutions in the world. They are one of the foremost leaders in the management of spinal and liver cancers. Dr Barry will have the opportunity to develop SRBT skills (especially in the sites of Spine and Liver) and Image Guided Radiotherapy (IGRT) which have been identified as lacking within the HSE. This is a very complex skill that requires rigorous quality assurance but will be of great benefit to Irish patients as it is very effective in curing some cancers with minimal acute or late side-effects.

**Dr Elaine Neary,**SpR Paediatrics, will be located in the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto for six months. Her Clinical fellowship will be on the integrated training programme in neonatal-prenatal medicine. The specific training that will be achieved on this fellowship will include neonatal transport, antenatal care, neonatal follow up care, paediatric critical care. Of particular benefit to the HSE, Dr Neary will gain highly specialised skills in Neotal Haematology (currently in Ireland there are no neonatal consultants with a special interest with Haematology).

**Dr Ciara O’Raffery**, SpR, Paediatric Haematology, will be in Birmingham Children’s Hospital for six months undertaking a fellowship in Malignant Paediatric Haematology and Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation.

Her experience gained in Birmingham (which is the largest paediatric cancer centre in the UK) will be of great benefit in Ireland as acute lymphoblastic leukaemia is the most common childhood cancer and there are only two Haemato-Oncologists treating all child and adolescent haematological malignancies in the country. There is an immediate need for a further third haemato-oncologist with appropriate expertise in child and adolescent cancer care; new insights into haematopoietic stem cell transplantation will be of particular value.

A broad range of specialities is represented in this year’s intake to the Dr Richard Steevens’s Scholarship and Bursary programme. At the announcement, Prof McGovern wished all the participants every success in the coming year and said she looked forward to their valuable contribution to the care of HSE patients in coming years.