



NATIONAL LEAD NCHD NEWSLETTER

March 2023



IN THIS ISSUE

- National Lead NCHD
- Leadership and Management Scholarship
- Navigate Event
- Dr Richard Steeven's Scholarship
- Enhanced TSS policy
- Site Visits
- Development Funding
- Finance Webinar



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Note from National Lead NCHD

Dr Jennifer Finnegan

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter.

As always, it's busy in NDTP. We continue to progress initiatives to support doctors working and training in Ireland. I've established an editorial committee and will be reviewing the functionality of the e-portfolio in conjunction with NCHD users, harnessing their feedback to make improvements to the e-portfolio.

I continue my work on the Taskforce for NCHD workforce and have been chairing a subgroup on NCHD work life balance since the New Year. Progress is being made on the Model 3 hospital project and the clinical director of education and training pilot.

I'm continuing site visits, visiting with Lead NCHDs to ensure the Lead NCHD programme is successfully embedded on sites and that NCHDs involved have a positive and rewarding experience. We also continue to highlight NDTPs work at grand rounds in hospitals around the county.

In addition to the Lead NCHD webinars and workshop, I'm excited to announce the Navigate Event that I'm hosting on 30th March, more information on this on page X of the newsletter.

Look out for a small token from NDTP on National Doctor's Day on 30th March, this will be circulated through the Lead NCHD on your site.

If you have any queries or content you'd like included in the next newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact me on nl.nchd@hse.ie. Follow the Lead programme on twitter [@NLNCHD](https://twitter.com/NLNCHD) and [@NDTP_HSE](https://twitter.com/NDTP_HSE).

Leadership & Management Scholarship – 2023 Edition

The Leadership and Management Scholarship offers NCHDs the opportunity to pursue a Master's Degree in management or leadership. Each year, NDTP funds up to 60% of the fees for 24 NCHDs to undertake a masters - 12 places will be part-funded in the first year and a further 12 in the second year.

This scholarship is an investment both in the professional development of non-consultant hospital doctors and in the future of the Irish public health service and aims to:

- Provide an additional option to NCHDs regarding their area of interest
- Encourage doctors with an interest in management and leadership roles to undertake a formal qualification
- Prepare doctors for management and leadership roles e.g. Clinical Directors
- Enhance the key role clinicians play in management and equip NCHDs with the necessary skills to undertake these roles in the future

It is expected that the Masters programme will be 2 years part time, however consideration will be given to applicants who are availing of out of clinical programme experience recognised by their training body and wish to complete a 1 year full time programme.

Applications for 2023 opened on Monday, 13th February with a closing date on Monday, 20th March 2023.

The applicants guide can be found here: [L&M Scholarship Guidance-Document](#)

More information on the Scholarship can be found [here](#)

Save the Date! Navigate Event will be held virtually on Thursday, 30th March 2023

Navigate is open to all but will be of particular interest to registrars and SpRs in their final years of training.

Navigate – Your guide to Consultant Recruitment is an information evening designed to provide guidance to those who will be applying for consultants' posts in the Irish health service over the next few years.

Speakers on the evening include, Medical Director of NDTP, Prof Brian Kinirons; a new entrant consultant will speak on their experience of the application/interview/clearance process and their first year in the role of consultant. Representatives from the HSE Coaching service, and HSE national recruitment service will also present. There will be time for Q&A.

Here's our information poster with registration link to follow.

A information Evening



Navigate –Your Guide to Consultant Recruitment

This event is being hosted to provide guidance to NCHDs who will be applying for Consultant posts in the Irish health service over the next few years.

Topics include: The consultant recruitment process-Starting as a new consultant-The supported consultant

Speakers will include representatives from:



Health
Business
Services



The Public
Appointment
service



newly appointed
Consultants and
Consultant Applications
Advisory Committee

 30 March, 2023

 5:30pm - 7:30 pm

 Online

 Registration opening soon



Dr. Richard Steevens **Scholarship**

The Dr Richard Steevens' Scholarship is awarded annually to Specialist/Senior Registrars with strong records of accomplishment and excellence.

The Scholarship supports doctors to train in centres of excellence overseas in novel areas of medicine and patient care, which are limited or unavailable in Ireland, and to bring the skills gained back to the Irish health service.

Since the Scholarship was developed and established in 2007, 61 doctors have been awarded Scholarships and a further 24 have been awarded bursaries under the programme. A number of past recipients have since been appointed to consultant posts in Ireland.

After due consideration four Scholarships were awarded to the following outstanding candidates:

After due consideration four Scholarships were awarded to the following outstanding candidates (in alphabetical order):

- Dr Jessie Elliot, SpR in Surgery, will undertake a fellowship in Robotic Oesophagogastric Cancer Surgery based in University Medical Centre, Utrecht, the Netherlands.
- Dr Caitriona Gallagher, SpR in Dermatology, will undertake a fellowship in Paediatric Dermatology based in St John's Institute of Dermatology, London, England.
- Dr Oisín Hannigan, SpR in Geriatric Medicine will undertake a fellowship in Geriatric Medicine based in St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne, Australia.
- Dr Naoimh O'Farrell, SpR in Histopathology will undertake a fellowship in Gastrointestinal Pathology based in Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, Canada.

In addition to the prestigious and highly competitive Dr Richard Steevens' Scholarships the NDTP HSE has also awarded one Bursary in 2023:

- Dr Lydia Healy, SpR in Paediatrics, will undertake a fellowship in Paediatric Critical Care Medicine based in SickKids Hospital, Toronto, Canada.

A broad range of specialities is represented in this year's intake to the Dr Richard Steevens' Scholarship and Bursary programme. The NTDP wishes all the participants every success in the coming year and looks forward to their valuable contribution to the care of HSE patients in the coming years.

Applications for the 2023 Scholarships are now closed. Applications for the 2024 scholarships will be opening in autumn 2024.

Advice from one of this year's awardees, Dr Naoimh O'Farrell is 'to anyone wanting to avail of this brilliant prize next year, start planning now'.

The applicants guide can be found here: [DRS Applicants Guide 2023](#)

Enhancements to the Training Supports Scheme (TSS)

Under the agreement reached between the IMO, HSE and Department of Health the following additional items are now encompassed within the Training Supports Scheme (TSS) funding with effect from 9th January 2023:

- Increase to the annual TSS allowance running July-July of €500.00 - to be applied pro rata for the remainder of the 2022/2023 Training Year
- Annual Registration fee for Professional Memberships
- Online Subscriptions to relevant medical publications as deemed appropriate, provided such publications are not available to NCHDs via other sources such as local, university or HSE Library
- Microsoft Office
- Computer Software that has a CME/CPD Component e.g. Statistical Software such as SPSS or alternative
- Laptop/Tablet - A contribution within your TSS allowance of up to €1000.00 towards the purchase of a laptop or tablet. This will be available once every 4 years from the date of purchase (as per receipt) from the earliest date of 9th January 2023.

Remember to download the NER app for the most efficient way to access this funding.



National Employment Record (NER) App

The app gives NCHDs easy access to:

- NER Account
- E-Portfolio
- Training Support Scheme (TSS)
- Clinical Course & Examination Refund Scheme (CCERS)



Download the App



www.hse.ie/doctors





Did you know that DIME Team maintains a Suggestions Register which is essentially feedback received from end service users on how to improve the DIME and NER systems. The Suggestions Register is reviewed on an ongoing basis in an aim to continue to enhance current system functionality for all DIME and NER users. The Suggestions Register Form can be located [here](#)

Site Visit - St Columille's Hospital, Loughlinstown

Earlier this month, I visited St Columilles with NDTP General Manager, Eddie Staddon. We met with Dr Ali Chatharoo the Lead NCHD, Dr Caoilfhionn O'Donoghue, Clinical Director and Liz Cullen, Medical Manpower Manager.

We're focussing on more site visits this 6 months, to meet with the local teams, ensure the Lead NCHD initiative is progressing, that there is regular communication with senior management and ensure that leads are supported in their roles. We visited the team in Mullingar in January and plan further visits in the coming months.



With the support of Dr Shane O'Hanlon, the IEHG training lead, Dr Chatharoo has used some available funds to improve the res, with paint, new blinds, furniture and a TV as well as spac computers and space for administrative tasks. The space is complimented by plants, lockers, coat hangers and even an exercise bike.

Simple enhancements like this can really improve the workplace experience. I'd encourage other Lead NCHDs to engage with your local training leads for access to funds to improve their rest spaces.

For more information on how trainer lead funding was spent last year, see my December newsletter [December Lead NCHD Newsletter](#)



Development Funding

The 2023 Development Funding cycle is now open. Applications close on the 11th April. In line with investing in the career development of doctors, Development Funding does this through supporting initiatives that seek to:

- 1) Develop doctors (e.g. increasing knowledge, skills, practice or professionalism).
- 2) Improve medical education (e.g. curriculum and pedagogical development, trainers' skills).
- 3) Prepare Doctors (e.g. for commencing each stage of training, preparing for consultant posts upon completion of training).

Included in all initiatives should be:

- **Collaboration** – for example, between Postgraduate Training Bodies or Intern Networks, or between faculties
- **Sustainability** – ability to continue with the outputs of this project after initial seed funding
- **Scalability** – ability for the project to be replicated on a regional or national scale

This year, NDTP are particularly interested in receiving applications under the following themes:

- 1) Improving training experience/work life balance
- 2) Mentoring
- 3) Support and develop multiple career opportunities and pathways for doctors
- 4) Return to work
- 5) Equality, diversity and inclusion
- 6) Sustainable medicine
- 7) Continuous professional development

If you have an idea for a project, liaise with your training lead or postgraduate training body.

Details of projects NDTP have funded in previous years are available on the NDTP website by following this link: [Development Funding](#)

Finance Webinar – Tuesday, 25th April



The Forum of Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies are hosting a Finance Webinar. This webinar will provide you with an overview on financial matters relevant to doctors of all specialties.

Speakers: Fran McGrath, Business Development Manager, IMO Financial Services

Fran McGrath is a Qualified Financial, Retirement Planning and Specialist Investment Adviser. He has 20 years' experience in the financial services sector and has been advising GPs, NCHDs & Consultants in the area of financial planning for pensions, retirement, investment opportunities and protection.

Topics to include:

- 1) Deciphering payslips
- 2) Savings (short term vs long term)
- 3) Paying down debt vs saving for a home deposit
- 4) Getting mortgage approved
- 5) Opportunity for Q&A

Zoom link and further details to follow.