**The four Scholarships awarded in 2016 were made to:**

**Dr Helen Heneghan,** SpR in General Surgery will*undertake a clinical fellowship in the specialty of Bariatric Surgery in Chester, UK, from July 2016.*

*This fellowship, under the supervision of Professor David Kerrigan, is an intensive high-volume bariatric surgery training programme administered by Phoenix Health, which delivers bariatric surgery in partnership with NHS Foundation Trusts in Chester and Liverpool. The Phoenix Fellowship programme is now in its 8th year and has a reputation for high quality training and clinical research. International trainees who have previously completed this fellowship are among the UK and Europe’s leading Bariatric surgeons. The case volume is such that she will be independent in performing laparoscopic gastric bypass and sleeve gastrectomy upon completing the fellowship. This centre also performs a high volume of revisional bariatric procedures. Furthermore, the clinical research programme, which is an integral part of the Phoenix Fellowship, will allow her to further develop her academic interest in metabolic surgery.*

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**Dr Karl Neff,** SpR in Endocrinology and Diabetes, will be undertaking a fellowship in Advanced Obesity and Bariatric Care at King’s College London.

The institution is internationally recognized as a centre of excellence in diabetes and obesity care and is a world leader in bariatric surgery. Dr Neff’s training will allow him the opportunity to manage the peri-operative care of surgical recipients and train in the development and management of integrated care networks. Training will also encompass the use of non-surgical treatments and the use of psychological and behavioural management of obesity. From this fellowship, Dr Neff will be armed with the skills to lead innovation in Ireland in obesity-focused healthcare in the community, as well as in proposed bariatric centers of excellence.

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**Dr. Sonia Manning**, SpR in Ophthalmology at the University Hospital Waterford, has accepted a Vitreoretinal Surgery Fellowship at the Rotterdam Eye Hospital, Rotterdam, Netherlands, under the supervision of Professor Jan C. van Meurs, incoming President of Euretina. The Rotterdam Eye Hospital is the largest dedicated Tertiary Referral Eye Hospital in all of the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg, with a high volume of referrals, half of which are from other vitreoretinal units. Dr. Manning we be trained in the surgical management of a number of challenging eye conditions, including complicated retinal detachment, complex eye trauma, proliferative diabetic retinopathy, congenital anomalies and rare diseases. Dr. Manning is the first Irish recipient of this prestigious Fellowship Programme and aims to establish strong educational and research links between the Rotterdam Eye Hospital and Irish Ophthalmology.

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**Dr Eric Kelleher**, SR in Psychiatry, will undertake a Fellowship in Neuropsychiatry including unexplained neurological symptoms at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Queen Square, London.

Clinical neuropsychiatry is a subspecialty of psychiatry dedicated to the assessment and treatment of mental and behavioural problems of the nervous system as well as unexplained neurological symptoms. Such patients lie at the interface between neurology and psychiatry. Typical clinical presentations requiring the skills of a neuropsychiatrist include brain injury sequelae, early onset dementia, psychological morbidity related to epilepsy, stroke, as well as unexplained neurological symptoms. The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery is an international referral centre for every form of neurological and neurosurgical disease and has an extensive, well developed neuropsychiatry service, delivered by leaders in the field. Dr Kelleher will train in the assessment and treatment of these often complex cases with a view to bringing this skill set back to the Irish healthcare system.

**Two Bursaries were awarded in 2016**

**Dr. James O’Byrne**, SpR in Clinical/Biochemical Genetics, will be undertaking a fellowship in the Diagnosis and Management of Treatable Genetic Disorders causing Intellectual Disability at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada.

The University is a world leader in developing the investigation and treatment of genetic disorders resulting in intellectual disability and neurological symptoms in children and adults. Throughout his fellowship, Dr O’Byrne will obtain expert training in the investigation, diagnosis, treatment and management of adults and children with diagnosis causing intellectual disabilities and also gain experience in integrating clinics with next generation sequencing technologies. This fellowship will put Dr O’Byrne in a position to establish a specialized service and care pathways for patients with genetic rare disorders here in Ireland.

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**Dr Patrick Stapleton**, SpR in Medical Microbiology will be undertaking a one year Fellowship in paediatric microbiology at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto.

The Fellowship will allow him to obtain subspecialty training in the laboratory diagnosis and clinical management of childhood infections. His aim is to acquire expertise in the use of advanced molecular diagnostic methodologies as well as traditional culture based diagnostics and learn how new techniques can improve the identification and treatment of common infections. Next-generation sequencing of microbes is rapidly moving out of research settings and into the diagnostic microbiology laboratory. Techniques like whole genome sequencing of bacterial pathogens have the potential to reveal the transmission networks and resistance mechanisms underlying significant childhood infections in clinically relevant timeframes.