

The Irish Institute of Clinical Measurement Science



Edition 2 Spring 2006

Scientific/ AGM

The second Scientific/AGM took place on Saturday 3rd September 2005 in Gleeson Hall, DIT, Kevin Street. The theme of the year's meeting was "Making the Measurement". Ann Coughlan during her opening address stated that as the IICMS was now in its second year all the signs are that it will survive as many institutes fail within the first year.

There were eight scientific presentations at this year's AGM. Cathy McInerney was awarded the prize of a €100 book voucher for her presentation on West of Ireland Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm screening programme, preliminary results July 2003-2005.

A special presentation was given to Ann Coughlan, the Chair at the time for all her hard work and dedication in the establishment of the IICMS and the first two years .

The guest speaker for the AGM was Richard Billings. Dr. Billings is the Head of Medical Technology at the City of Westminster College, London. He spoke of the importance performing accurate measurements in clinical measurement. He outlined the current syllabus for a number of modules within Westminster's honours degree programme for Clinical Neurophysiology. He informed the floor that the BSc is now in its 4th year and running smoothly. The MSc is underdevelopment with a planned start in September 2006.

Overall the AGM was considered a great success. We look forward to seeing you all at the next AGM later this year.

Part Time BSc In Clinical Measurement- Granny clause

DIT Kevin are once again starting to recruit students for the part time BSc in Clinical Measurement Science. This course has been established for those working in the industry who, wish to upgrade their Technician Certificate in Medical Physics and Physiological Measurement or other equivalent qualification to degree level.

This course was due to start Feb/March 2006 but was delayed due to a review in the delivery in course material. The new start date is September 2006. The course will span over 2 years incorporating 10 modules. Students will be required to attend DIT 12 out of 23 Saturdays but actual time spend within DIT over the 2 academic years has been kept to a minimum. Modules will include Instrumentation, modules covering the student's chosen speciality, pharmacology, a case study and an interactive module on intercultural communications which will be delivered in a series of workshops within DIT. Of course students will have to complete a project/dissertation which will be expected by the end of the second academic year (May 2008). Support lectures for the project will be given covering research methodology, project structure, referencing etc. An oral presentation will be performed both during and at completion of the project.

Anyone who has already applied to the course should receive correspondence from DIT in the very near future.

If you are interested or have been offered a place in this course and would like more information please contact the Course Co-ordinator Dr. Pat Goodman at 01 402 4782 or email pat.Goodman@DIT.ie

Don't forget those of you would be interested in pursuing a MPhil or PhD by the research route can do so with DIT. If you are interested contact Pat Goodman as above.



Education:

An education sub committee has been established with Ann Coughlan as the chairperson. The aim of this education committee is to develop practices for continued professional development for those students currently undergoing or who are recent graduates of the Bsc in Clinical Measurement in DIT, Kevin Street.

As with many of the disciplines students who underwent the Technician Certificate in Medical Physics and Clinical Measurement Science would also have undergone professional examinations examined by a professional body e.g ECNE in Neuro; ASCT in Cardiac; ARTP in Respiratory etc.

Many of these professional examination are now unavailable to us. They have been merged into the UK BSc in Clinical Physiology. They were in general run through professional bodies within in the UK; for example in terms of the Neurophysiology, the ECNE examinations was undertaken by the students after completing two full working years within a student post. The syllabus was followed by the student in their own time and under the supervision of a Chief Technologist. The student would then be required to sit both a written MCQ paper and practical examination either within their own department or in the UK. The successful applicant would be award a ECNE board qualification This qualification was an internationally recognised qualification in Neurophysiology. The fact that these sort of awards were no longer open to us raised some serious concerns. Both those working in Cardiac and Respiratory are experiencing a similar problem to Neuro.

Those working in Neuro had already started working on this problem. Hence the IICMS are using Neuro as a “pilot” group with the aim of instituting an outline a of “post graduate diploma” which the graduate can complete over the first 12-18 months after graduation in an approved training centre.

This is no small task by any Means and is taking place in collaboration with the IICMS Education committee. Firstly official accredited training labs will have to be established.

Labs with an interest in offering training towards the post graduate diploma will be required to apply to the IICMS for approval/accreditation as a training centre for the different modules, subject to their being able to fulfil training criteria outlined in the standards documents and an accreditation visit. They will only be able to offer training in the procedures for they are approved; e.g. if a lab does not perform Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS) they will not be able to train students in that area. Those within the labs themselves will also possibly need some training in how to deliver course material.

So who will carry out this accreditation? Trained assessors will be required to travel to labs for accreditation. Assessors will be both Clinical Measurement Scientists and or a medical consultant. These assessors would be involved in approval for training centre and also in the examination of students at the end of the post graduate.

For the IICMS Post Graduate diploma to be successful affiliation with a recognised 3rd level qualification academic institution will be essential. The IICMS is also looking at the possibility of registration of the IICMS with the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (NQAI) as a professional body with awarding status.

Welcome

The IICMS would like to welcome all those who graduated from the BSc in Clinical Measurement in October 2005. All graduates are now working in Clinical Measurement around the country.

Here in OLHSC we would like to welcome John Maguire who joined our Neurophysiology team in July 2005. He has already become a valuable member of our team.



Coming soon – IICMS Website

An additional sub committee has been established with the task of setting up a Website for the IICMS. A website is vital for development of the organisation. A website will mean that all those working within the industry or studying Clinical Measurement can access up to date information and any new developments simply at the click of a mouse.

All disciplines will be represented with a page dedicated to each one with information specific to that area. The aim is to develop a page for education containing details of the proposed post graduate training and information regarding DIT and student placements. We also hope to include job opportunities and a page dedicated to publications coming from those working within the industry. The possibilities for development are vast. The website could house a forum where topics of discussion can be raised.

Development will take time but getting the information out there to everyone will be a start in the right direction. Of course the site would house copies of the newsletter and new membership forms. If you have anything for inclusion in the website or suggestions please email jacinta.kearns@olhsc.ie.

Clinical Tutors within DIT:

Following lengthy discussions and debate, DIT and the Education Committee have finally got the go ahead to recruit 4 half time tutors to work with the students on the Clinical Measurement BSc. Candidates from Cardiac, Vascular, Respiratory and Neuro will be recruited.

They will have the responsibility of guiding students through years 3 and 4, and also with their hospital placements. Tasks will include setting up the student handbook/manual, guiding the labs on what is to be covered, setting and correcting exams and giving specialist lectures/tutorials when appropriate. The tutor will aid in creating a more standardised and uniform method of training and teaching. Interviews for the post have taken place. Candidates from Neurophysiology, Cardiology and Respiratory have been interviewed and are currently in negotiations with DIT.

With regard to Vascular Medicine no candidate applied. Recruitment of Vascular tutor is considered a work in progress. The unfortunate reality of not finding a candidate would mean that the Vascular option would no longer be available for students on the BSc. If anyone working in Vascular Medicine has an interest in the tutor post they can contact Dr. Ann O Shaughnessy, Chief Vascular Technologist in the Vascular Laboratory at St. James Connolly Memorial Hospital.

For all current member it's renewal time again. Please send your membership renewal form and fee to the IICMS Membership Secretary, Trish Lawlor at the GI Function Unit, Main Hospital, St James Hospital, James St, Dublin 8 before 28th March 2006.

Not a member of IICMS- NOT A PROBLEM

If you would like to become a member of the IICMS simply fill out the application form attached and send it to the Membership Secretary as above. Membership fee is €25 for full members.

Students don't forget you too can be a member of the IICMS. The IICMS is primarily an education body so being a member means you get to have direct input into how your undergraduate and post graduate training develops. Membership for student members is €15.

We need your news!

Do you have anything for inclusion in the IICMS newsletter. We want it all!!!

The point of newsletter is to spread news and information but to that we need you to send it to us. We want all the national news from job opportunities within your lab; an interesting research project; achievements by those working in the industry, newly gained qualifications, events or study days, fundraisers or just something you feel like sharing with your fellow colleagues, a welcome note to the new members of staff, a fond farewell to someone leaving - you name it we want !!.

I would also like to develop a regular case study feature. We all come across interesting and unusual patients on a regular basis which may cause us think outside the box. Use the newsletter as a forum for telling all those working within the industry about these cases. Submitting a case study would involve sending a brief history, the studies you performed and what the final outcome was. I would hope to have a case study from each of the disciplines over the course of the next four disciplines; starting with **Neurophysiology**. If you have a case study you think would be suitable please contact me with further details.

So if you have something for inclusion in the next newsletter please email the Newsletter co-ordinator at jacinta.kearns@olhsc.ie. The next edition of the newsletter is planned for Summer 2006. Articles for inclusion would be required at the latest by the 30th of May. I look forward to hearing your news.

Summer Locums

Do you have any summer vacancies?

Would you be interested in taking on a Clinical Measurement student?

Aidan Meade is looking for Clinical Measurement Laboratory's with Summer Vacancies which the current undergraduate students may be suitable for.

If you have a post and are interested please contact Aidan Meade at DIT on or a.meade@dit.ie

Congratulations

to the following people on their recent achievements!

Sindy Augustine – Mphil (Research); DIT 2005

Geraldine Nolan – MPhil (Research); DIT 2005

Gerry King – PhD; DIT 2006

Ann Coughlan – MSc Epilepsy; University of Birmingham 2005

The IICMS Committee

Some changes to the committee have been made since last year. There are some new faces on this committee.

The new committee consists of:

Chairperson: Michelle Agnew (Resp Lab, St James Hospital)

Vice Chair: Lynette O Sullivan (Cardiology, Mater Hospital)

Past Chair & Education Chair Ann Coughlan (Neuro, OLHSC)

Treasurer: Dermot Murphy (Vascular, Beaumont Hospital)

Newsletter: Jacinta Kearns (Neuro, OLHSC)

Membership Secretary: Trish Lawlor (GI, St James)

Conference Organiser: Odette O Flaherty (Neuro, TSH)
Maresa Mc Gee (Neuro, AMNCH)

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