



## Message from the Faculty of Radiologists

Welcome to the latest newsletter for the Faculty of Radiologists' Professional Competence Scheme which covers a number of areas for which we have received queries. The next Faculty organised meeting, the Irish MRI Meeting, will take place in Carton House in January 2014. Information on this, and other meetings with CPD credits, can be found on the last page.

Should you require clarification on anything in the newsletter, or have any queries on the Professional Competence Scheme, please don't hesitate to contact the office by phone (01-402 2139) or by email ([pcs@radiology.ie](mailto:pcs@radiology.ie)).



**Dr Anthony Ryan**  
Chairman

**Sarah Drumm**  
Faculty of Radiologists

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Comhairle na nDoctúirí Leighis  
Medical Council

Professional Competence  
Reaching for Improvement

## Retired Practitioners

The Faculty recently met with representatives from some of the other Postgraduate Training Bodies (PGTB) in relation to the question of retired practitioners. There are a large number of retired practitioners in Ireland who wish to remain on the medical register, which necessitates enrolling with a Professional Competence Scheme. However, it is acknowledged that the requirements of the PCS are difficult to meet for anyone who has retired from practice. On that basis, the Faculty, along with some of the other PGTBs sent a letter to Professor Freddie Wood, recently elected President of the Medical Council, to enquire about the possibility of alternative arrangements for retired practitioners. We hope that the Council will be able to accommodate our request.

## Medical Council Audit

The Medical Council has indicated that they are preparing to audit Doctors on the Medical Register. Each Doctor selected will be required to send their statement of participation in to the Council. The statement can be accessed on MedHub and printed out/downloaded. If there are any difficulties in accessing it, please contact the office.

## Payment of PCS Fees

If you have not yet paid your Annual Subscriptions or PCS fees for 2012-14, we would appreciate it if these could be paid as soon as possible by contacting the office: [pcs@radiology.ie](mailto:pcs@radiology.ie) The new fees year will start on 1 April 2014.

## External events

Aside from the events organised by the Faculty, there are a number of scientific meetings that take place in Ireland each year. To be eligible for credits, these meetings must be approved by a postgraduate training body. If a meeting is not approved, please contact the Faculty to ensure your credits are accepted.

The following is a list of Irish Postgraduate Training Bodies:

- College of Anaesthetists of Ireland
- College of Psychiatry of Ireland
- Faculty of Occupational Medicine, RCPI
- Faculty of Paediatrics, RCPI
- Faculty of Pathology, RCPI
- Faculty of Public Health Medicine, RCPI
- Faculty of Radiologists, RCSI
- Faculty of Sports and Exercise Medicine
- Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, RCPI
- Irish College of General Practitioners
- Irish College of Ophthalmologists
- Irish Committee on Higher Medical Training, RCPI
- Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

## Doctors on leave from practice — Medical Council guidelines

Many doctors do not practise medicine for an extended period of time during the course of their career. There can be many reasons for this, from maternity leave to illness or taking a career break. The length of any leave of absence from the practice of medicine will have an impact on participation in a professional competence scheme. The following broad guidelines apply:

- **One year or less:** You must tell your postgraduate training body that you intend to cease practising medicine for a period of one year or less. The postgraduate training body may require you to produce relevant supporting documentation, including a professional development plan. You will be advised to make up any deficit in the accrual of credits for maintenance of professional competence activities on return to practice. Where possible you should maintain some engagement in the maintenance of professional competence over the duration of the leave.
- **Between one and three years:** You must notify both your postgraduate training body and the Medical Council that you intend to cease practising medicine. The postgraduate training body may require you to produce relevant supporting documentation, including a professional development plan. You will be advised to make up any deficit in the accrual of credits for maintenance of professional competence activities on return to practice. Where possible you should maintain some engagement in the maintenance of professional competence over the duration of the leave.
- **Over three years:** If you are planning to cease the practice of medicine for more than three years, you are advised to withdraw from the register voluntarily. There is a straightforward process by which you can apply to restore your name to the register at any time in the future. If voluntary withdrawal is not an option, you should contact the Professional Competence Section of the Medical Council. Decisions on matters like this are considered on a case-by-case basis. You will, however, be asked to provide a professional development plan, which may include provisions for a planned re-entry to practice.
- **Leave of absence of any duration:** Doctors may consider voluntary withdrawal from the register. On withdrawal, Doctors do not retain the right to practise medicine and have no responsibility to maintain professional competence. Restoration to the register is straightforward, and information is available here: [restoring to the register](#).

## Upcoming Meetings

The Faculty provides accreditation for a number of meetings every year. If you are organising a meeting that you think would be eligible for external credits, please contact the faculty office: [pcs@radiology.ie](mailto:pcs@radiology.ie)  
Credits for Faculty organised meetings will be added to MedHub within 2 weeks of the meeting. Please make sure to sign in on each day as we cannot authorise credits otherwise. For all other meetings, make sure to get a certificate from the organisers for each day.

Below is a list of upcoming meetings that may be of interest to Diagnostic Radiologists/Radiation Oncologists:

Date	Meeting	Location	Credits	Information
15-19 October 2013	St Luke's Symposium, RCPI	RCPI, 6 Kildare Street	16 Credits	<a href="#">St Luke's Symposium</a>
17-19 October 2013	Gathering around Cancer meeting	Croke Park, Dublin	16 credits approved by RCPI	<a href="#">Information</a>
18 October 2013	IAVS Lower Limb Ischaemia Masterclass 2013	HSE/RCSI Education Facility, Waterford Regional Hospital	6 credits awarded by RCSI	Ms Jennie O'Leary Tel: 051-842684  <a href="#">Programme</a>
8 November 2013	Prostate Cancer: Annual NCCP Audit, Quality & Risk Forum	Dublin	TBC	<a href="#">Email</a>
25 January 2014	Faculty of Radiologists' Irish MRI meeting	Carton House, Co. Kildare	TBC	<a href="#">Email</a>
4-5 April 2014	Faculty of Radiologists' Spring Meeting	The G Hotel, Galway	TBC	<a href="#">Email</a>
5-6 June 2014	Faculty of Radiologists' Neuroradiology Seminar	RCSI	TBC	<a href="#">Email</a>