



The Association for Clinical Biochemistry & Laboratory Medicine

Better Science, Better Testing, Better Care

Republic of Ireland region

Annual General Meeting 24th January 2020

Attendance: *Micheál Ryan (MR), Ruth O'Kelly (ROK), Olwyn Lanigan (OL), *Seán Costelloe (SC), *Alison Bransfield (AB), Graham Lee (GL), *Janice Reeve (JR), Peadar McGing (PMG), *Jennifer Brady (JB), Ophelia Blake (OB), *Brendan Byrne (BB), Karen Heverin (KH)

*Committee members

1. **Apologies:** None received
2. **Approval of minutes and matters arising:** Minutes for 2019 AGM (attached – Appendix A) were approved with no matters arising
3. **Declaration of conflict of interests:** No conflicts of interest were declared by those present
4. **Chairperson/council representative's report:** SC read the chairperson/council representative's report (attached – Appendix B). Once again the issue of declining membership was discussed along with the difference in benefits received by members in ROI compared with UK
5. **Treasurer's report:** AB presented the current state of the accounts. (Attached – Appendix C). The meeting discussed that there are two Bank of Ireland accounts and it has proven difficult to change the signatories on same. This will be followed up by AB and SC.
6. **Regional tutor's report:** JB presented the regional tutor's report (Attached - Appendix D). The FRCPATH tutorial group continues to meet approximately once per month. JB has stepped down from her role as ACB tutor in which capacity she has been replaced by Janice Reeve
7. **Trainee representative's report:** MR presented the trainee representative's report - see attached (Appendix E).
8. **Election of officers:** The following positions were elected:
 - Chair:** SC replaced by JB
 - Treasurer/Secretary:** AB replaced by KH
 - Tutor:** JB replaced by JR
9. **AOB:** OL had difficulty logging into the website. On the day the website was checked and there were no issues with same

Appendix A – 2019 AGM minutes

Annual General Meeting 18th January 2019

Attendance: *Micheál Ryan (MR), Ruth O’Kelly (ROK), Olwyn Lanigan (OL), *Seán Costelloe (SC), *Alison Bransfield (AJB), Graham Lee (GL) [attended by phone], *Janice Reeve (JR), Peadar McGing (PMG), *Jennifer Brady (JB)

1. ***Committee membersApologies:** Caroline Joyce, Pat Twomey
2. **Approval of minutes and matters arising:** Minutes for 2018 AGM were approved with no matters arising
3. **Declaration of conflict of interests:** This is a new AGM item which is required by the ACB at all meetings. No conflicts of interest were declared by those present
4. **Chairperson/council representative’s report:** SC read the chairperson/council representative’s report (attached – Appendix B). It was agreed that it would be of great benefit to have a representative on the ACB clinical audit group and that expressions of interest for same will be sought.

The ACB has also asked all regions to generate more interest in membership of the Association and to narrow the gap between potential and actual membership.

The meeting discussed options for engagement and agreed that including members’ publications/posters in the next meeting would be of benefit. Holding an evening meeting was also discussed

5. **Treasurer’s report:** AJB presented the current state of the accounts . The annual report was not yet available owing to staff shortages in the ACB office(Attached – Appendix C).
6. **Regional tutor’s report:** JB presented the regional tutor’s report (Attached - Appendix D). The FRCPath tutorial group continues to meet approximately once per month and a number of trainees will sit exams in the Spring session. The format of the Part 1 exam was changed to MCQ in September 2018. Feedback from trainees was that it was a very difficult exam, however the College is satisfied that the standard has not changed. The College does not plan to put any more MCQ examples online. JB continues as the ACB Regional Tutor but has stepped down from her role as ACBI tutor in which capacity she has been replaced by Rachel Cullen and Janice Reeve
7. **Clinical practice section representative’s report:** The clinical practice section has been disbanded and this item will no longer appear on the agenda. The meeting thanked Dr Pat Twomey for his work in this role
8. **Trainee representative’s report:** MR presented the trainee representative’s report - see attached (Appendix F). MR also referred to how difficult trainees had found the MCQ and the lack of sample questions
9. **Election of officers:** There were no vacancies

AOB: OL requested more frequent communication to the members. The meeting all agreed that this should be introduced

Appendix B



**The Association for
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Council Report - [24.01.2020]

[Dr Seán Costelloe] [Chair ACB ROI]

... Region Report from ACB Council for 2019

Comments from chair

This report is based on minutes from the 219th, 220th, and 221st meetings of the ACB council held, respectively, on 1st November 2018, 20th March 2019, and July 25th 2019. I was in attendance at the July 2019 meeting and provided reports for same and also the March 2019 meeting.

This year saw a change in President from Dr Ian Young to Dr Neil Anderson. My feeling is that there will be a refocussing on the key objectives of the ACB in the next few years and it is an important time for the region to remain engaged with ACB activities.

Key for the ROI region will be the issue of fees and this must be addressed by ACB council if the membership in Ireland is ever to increase. Dr Anderson seems open to future discussion on same.

ACB and ACBI councils have agreed to joint branding for the audit group under Dr Brendan Byrne's chair, which is an exciting prospect. An issue I raised at ACBI council recently was whether we should explore this ACB scientific committee meeting being co-hosted by ACBI. Council members suggest this happened in the past. Perhaps this can be discussed at next ACB council.

Finally, the issue of bank accounts has taken a lot of time this year, as detailed in the treasurer's report. It is vital that treasurer and chair get both ACB accounts for this region transferred into their names and that statements are forwarded to the ACB treasurer in the very near future, with clear advice from Dr Bosomworth on how regional funds should be used for future events.

ACB five-year strategy

Suggestions to ACB executive included:

- Pan-laboratory medicine vision
- Become more outcome focussed
- Greater corporate partnership
- Annals should become more lab. medicine focussed
- Increase scope to other disciplines such as haematology

Reports from Presidents – highlights

- Chief scientific officer for England helping develop Healthcare strategy for England 2024 – ACB will have an opportunity to contribute.
- ACB office – how to support office and vice versa to be part of strategy
- Pathology implementation board – state of nation document released – not ACB endorsed – need for greater involvement with such projects
- Deacon's challenge finishing up – 200th
- EFLM allow EuSpLM to UK based scientists post-Brexit
- It is NA's view that Executive become more discursive around papers and proposals that meet the strategic aims and objectives of the ACB.
- NA restated aims of ACB
 - To strive to be the pre-eminent clinical organisation for laboratory medicine in the UK
 - To ensure we meet the educational and professional needs of our membership
 - To promote patient-focused best practice in laboratory medicine through encouraging research and innovation as well as the implementation of existing evidence-based practice
 - To further develop local, national and international relationships with other professional, healthcare, science and government organisations in order to facilitate improvements to the service we provide for patients
 - To promote the importance of laboratory medicine to the wider community
 - To sustain a financially healthy organisation, ensuring efficient use of resources

Report from interim chief executive

- Recruitment underway for permanent CEO
- Membership – 10% decrease in 5 years
- Draft a paper on Federation membership, to consider whether there is scope to expand its numbers and determine appropriate fees to help ensure its independent sustainability
- Determine whether there are pdf versions of ACB Venture Publications books and if so whether these can be made available to members
- Compile more information on the feasibility of the ACB acquiring charitable status and if so, what the next steps might be
- Investigate options for selling ACB premises and what tax implications there might be, for the incoming CEO to consider proposals to Council in due course
- Discuss the future of FiLM with Robert Michel of The Dark Report

NHS Improvement / GIRFT

ACB are keen to align GIRFT aspirations with ACB strategy. Suggestions where significant unacceptable variability in practice identified which included Vitamin D use. GIRFT was also on agendas at FiLM and Focus 2019.

ACB finance

- ACB office staffing – pay review and annual leave
- ACB charitable status – ongoing
- Overspend for next 4 years predicted 20-45K
- Estimated costs for Focus 2019 are 150K
- Obtain member usage statistics for ACB Extras and (if possible) place on hold the contract renewal until we can determine if this is of value to members

National Meetings Secretary

- FiLM – It has been proved challenging to attract sponsorship this year and the meeting is likely to have made a significant loss.
- Focus - finding sponsorship proved hard due mainly to the below factors:
 - IBMS conference occurring this year
 - EuroMedLab held a couple of weeks after Focus
 - Brexit
 - New MedTech rules
 - Difficulties for the potential participants in reaching Glasgow
 - The number of abstracts submitted lowered with respect to last year; this may be due to the fact that university exams are set for the week following Focus.
- Objectives for the future are:
 - Put together a SOP for organising Focus
 - Improve communications with the ACB News about when articles are required for these meetings
 - Improve links with the University and the National School of Healthcare Science regarding when exams and OSFAs will be in order to avoid clashes.
 - Plan to try to avoid having more than one regional meeting in the same week in future so as to avoid clashes.
- NRA noted that Executive is considering seeking Council's approval for the ACB to bid to host EuroMedLab 2025. This should see significant delegate numbers (EuroMedLab 2019 achieving around 6.5k) with Birmingham, Glasgow and London as possible city venues.

The Scientific Committee

- On 7th December 2018 the Committee discussed how to improve the impact and value of scholarships to the Association. The below suggestions were made:
 - Invite applications for the CP Stewart Memorial fund for travel bursaries. The committee would award the travel bursaries at the same time as Scientific Scholarships.

- A proposal for a 3-year ACB / Industry Scientific Fellowship leading to a PhD was considered by executive. However, it was thought that it may be out with the resources of the association at the present time.

Publications and Communications – highlights

- Copyright permission given to China to publish some cases from the Clinical Cases book.
- Alan Deacon has agreed to do the new edition of the Calculations book.
- The ACB app needs further optimising.
- Deacon's challenge webpage should to be put on website.
- Articles on statistical analysis to be included in the Annals.
- More people need recruiting to the Annals editorial team.
- A presentation was made to Council re. a proposed project plan for the implementation of a new ACB website.
- Full implementation planned for August 2020. NRA suggested we should target Focus 2020 to demonstrate a test example of the new website to members and other stakeholders.

Education, Training and Workforce – Highlights

- Trainees provided good feedback about Focus and workshops

Clinical Practice

The Clinical Practice Section committee has been stood down, due to its overlap with work of the Scientific Committee. The Director of Clinical Practice is now a member of the Scientific Committee with the authority to establish working groups for matters relating to Clinical Practice. The Scientific Committee may be renamed the 'Scientific Affairs and Clinical Practice Committee'.

Regulatory affairs

- No pay deal has been agreed for the Northern Ireland yet.
- Pathology improvement in England – lack of staff engagement with NHSi
- Meeting has been sought out with Sue Hill in relations to application of Genomics restructuring and impact on the workforce.
- HCPC are consulting about raising the fees significantly. FCS working on response.
- Pay agreements for all 4 countries of the Union have been agreed.
- NHSi pathology improvement - FCS continues to meet with David Wells from NHS improvement and consistently notes the lack of staff engagement with NHSi.
- Genetics - The announcement of the 7 genomic medicine hubs has led to a number of TUPE transfers being started between genetics laboratories. This had led to down bandings and potential redundancies. Currently FCS is providing support for members in several of these departments.

Scientific affairs

- The committee have been focussing efforts on contributing towards NICE Guidelines with targets set.
- It is increasingly difficult to acquire volunteers from the membership to assist with specific guidelines which often have short timescales. When recommending members to organisations such as NICE, the member need not be the most pre-eminent expert per se but be published and peer reviewed in the topic.
- The Scientific Committee are looking at drafting some information for the public regarding results direct to patients.



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Annual Report – [24/01/2020]

[Dr Seán Costelloe] [ACB ROI region]

Republic of Ireland Regional Report for 2019

ACB ROI Regional Scientific Meeting 2019. The region's committee held their annual scientific meeting on 18th January 2019. Topics included biotin interference, conflict in the workplace, and new IVD regulation.

Member activities. Members have continued to contribute to national and international organisations, committees and events including the Association of Clinical Biochemists in Ireland (ACBI), Irish Endocrine Society, Irish National Accreditation Board, Irish External Quality Assurance Scheme, Irish Molecular Diagnostics Network, Irish Society of Human Genetics and various clinical and scientific working groups within the ACB and EFLM. Members are heavily involved in committees and working groups of the National Cancer Control Programme including Tumour marker harmonisation groups and the National Gestational Trophoblastic Disease steering group.

New appointments and retirements. A Substantive Consultant Clinical Biochemist was appointed in Cork University Hospital during the Summer. A Consultant retirement at the Mater hospital and a locum position is currently in place. A new principal position was filled following a promotion at the Mater Hospital in Dublin and a second Principal position filled following vacation. Due to a recruitment freeze across the health Service Executive in Ireland, several positions were delayed, including a senior Biochemist Positions at CUH. A Senior position at Beaumont hospital was advertised and filled. Recruitment for a senior biochemist at CUH and also a Senior at Mater are currently underway. Recently a Biochemist position was advertised at CHI Temple Street.

Publications. This year, members in the region have presented EFLM meeting on the Preanalytical phase in Zagreb, IEQAS meetings, and presented posters at Focus 2019 and the annual meeting of the Irish Endocrine Society. Members have published peer review journals

in the Irish journal of medical science, the Annals of Clinical Biochemistry and Critical reviews in Clinical Laboratory Sciences amongst others.

Examinations. Several candidates sat the Spring 2019 examinations for part 1. In the Autumn sitting, 3 candidates from the region were successful, all of whom are participants in the ACBI tutorial programme, which is supported by ACB members in the ROI region.

42st Annual Conference of the Association of Clinical Biochemists in Ireland. This year's event was held in Athlone from 8th to 9th November 2019. Themes for the meeting included Prenatal error, fluid testing and an interactive session on POCT. Key speakers included Pierre Ronaldo on new approaches to Reference intervals and Prof. Stephen Kingsmore on rapid diagnosis in the NICU. The meeting was deemed a great success and many of the organising committee are ACB members in the region.

Membership in the region. ACB members have been active in trying to widen the membership. As council will be aware, the Association for Clinical Biochemists in Ireland (ACBI) overlaps significantly in membership with the ACB. In the past 2 years, it has been put to me that certain members of the profession in Ireland are reluctant to join the ACB given that they will be paying for an additional membership and that the ACB membership fee is significant. For ACB members in the ROI region, benefits are perhaps less than for those in UK regions (e.g. FCS membership, tax-deductibility, ACB extras). I raised this issue at council in July 2019. There was agreement from ACB council that this merited further consideration.

In 2019, Dr Brendan Byrne was appointed the audit lead for the region and has been in close communication with the ACB national audit committee. As a first step, it is anticipated that trainees in the region (8 of whom have volunteered, with an invite to go to Chemical Pathology trainees also) help conduct some audits which have already been run in other regions of the ACB. Longer term, the establishment so of a regional audit group is under discussion. There is agreement from both ACBI and ACB that the audit committee could be a joint ACBI/ACB venture which would feed into the ACB audit group committee and also to ACBI council. This perhaps present a model of how the region can feed into ACB activities to greater extent.

Other member activities. Members have continued to contribute to national and international organisations, committees and events including the Association of Clinical Biochemists in Ireland (ACBI), Irish Endocrine Society, Irish National Accreditation Board, Irish External Quality Assurance Scheme, Irish Molecular Diagnostics Network, Irish Society of Human Genetics and various clinical and scientific working groups within the ACB and EFLM. Members are heavily involved in committees and working groups of the National Cancer Control Programme including Tumour marker harmonisation groups and the National Gestational Trophoblastic Disease steering group, and draft gestational trophoblastic disease guideline in Ireland.

Workforce. No new progress to report. Plans are continuing on national workforce planning and the ACBI have regularly written to the National Director in recent months and are seeking support for trainee positions. Qualifications for Clinical Biochemist positions are also under review. Finally, establishing a Clinical Biochemistry registration board continues as a project and efforts are being made to expedite this process.

Education

ACB members were heavily involved with provision of ACBI educational meetings in 2019 covering the following areas: Communication Skills; Systematic reviews; and Gestational

Trophoblastic Disease. The proposed new MSc in Clinical and Diagnostic Biochemistry at University College Dublin and did not proceed in 2019. It is hoped that the first intake to this MSc will be in 2020 and that this will equip graduates with the skills required for a career in Clinical Biochemistry.

DRAFT

Appendix C

Date: 20/08/2019
Time: 11:14:25

ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY Republic of Ireland Regional Nominal Analysis (Detailed)

Page: 1

N/C From 7000	Tran Date From 01/01/1980	Tran No From 1	Region From 9
N/C To 7999	Tran Date To 31/12/2019	Tran No To 99,999,999	Region To 9

Region Number 9	Region Name	Republic of Ireland ACB Region					
N/C	7000	Name	Regional Opening Balances and Adjustments				
Tran Number	Type	Date	Details	Debit	Credit	Balance	
218872	JC	01/01/2018	ROIOpeningBalances2018		1,484.73	1,484.73	
<u>Account Totals</u>					<u>1,484.73</u>	<u>1,484.73</u>	
N/C	7150	Name	Regional EXPENSES-Venue, etc				
Tran Number	Type	Date	Details	Debit	Credit	Balance	
211603	PI	29/01/2018	BransfieldA-ROI-Gifts	137.31		-137.31	
<u>Account Totals</u>				<u>137.31</u>		<u>-137.31</u>	
N/C	7160	Name	Regional EXPENSES-Speakers & organisers				
Tran Number	Type	Date	Details	Debit	Credit	Balance	
211602	PI	29/01/2018	WilkesE-Ireland-Travel-25Jan	64.84		-64.84	
219416	PI	19/01/2019	Hallworth-ROI-Travel	209.66		-209.66	
225978	PI	03/03/2019	BransfieldA-ROI-SpeakerGift#162.00	142.91		-142.91	
227260	PI	28/01/2019	RingM-ROI-Travel	165.21		-165.21	
<u>Account Totals</u>				<u>582.62</u>		<u>-582.62</u>	
<u>Region Totals</u>				<u>719.93</u>	<u>1,484.73</u>	<u>764.80</u>	

Date: 20/08/2019
Time: 11:14:42

ASSOCIATION FOR CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY Republic of Ireland Region Statement

Page: 1

N/C From 7000	Tran Date From 01/01/1980	Tran No From 1	Region From 9
N/C To 7999	Tran Date To 31/12/2019	Tran No To 99,999,999	Region To 9

Region Number	Republic of Ireland ACB Region							
Tran Number	Type	Date	N/C	Nominal Code Name	Details	Debit	Credit	Balance
218872	JC	01/01/2018	7000	Regional Opening Balances and Adjustments	ROIOpeningBalances2018		1,484.73	1,484.73
211602	PI	29/01/2018	7160	Regional EXPENSES-Speakers & organisers	WilkesE-Ireland-Travel-25Jan	64.84		-64.84
211603	PI	29/01/2018	7150	Regional EXPENSES-Venue, etc	BransfieldA-ROI-Gifts	137.31		-137.31
219416	PI	19/01/2019	7160	Regional EXPENSES-Speakers & organisers	Hallworth-ROI-Travel	209.66		-209.66
227260	PI	28/01/2019	7160	Regional EXPENSES-Speakers & organisers	RingM-ROI-Travel	165.21		-165.21
225978	PI	03/03/2019	7160	Regional EXPENSES-Speakers & organisers	BransfieldA-ROI-SpeakerGift#162.00	142.91		-142.91
Totals						719.93	1,484.73	764.80



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Tutor's report – [18.01.2019]

[Dr Jennifer Brady] [Regional tutor]

ACB Republic of Ireland Regional Tutor's report AGM 2020

In 2019, 2 meetings of the Education, Training and Workforce Committee took place, I attended one on 28th November. Selected items specifically related to education and training and relevant to the Rol region are below:

- 23 people sat part 1 clinical biochemistry, 5 medics, 14 scientists, 1 BMS, 3 overseas.
- Pass rate 37%. 4 scientists and 3 medics. Pass mark was 55%
- Part 2 Module 1: 14 sat the exam, 2 overseas, 7 scientists, 5 medics. Only 2 scientists passed, 3 medics. Usually this is easier for scientists. There was concern expressed at poor knowledge of basics eg. Writing a DFT protocol, drawing a calibration curve etc. Also concern in the UK that people are trying to sit the exam too soon to get posts and don't have the experience needed for part 2.
- Module 2: 3/5 scientists and 1 medic passed.
- There are changes coming to part 2 (mostly to module 2 &3) possibly by 2021 if the GMC approve the new medical curriculum. The distinction between assessment of training and knowledge was highlighted and there will likely an element of work based assessment replacing the paper review, viva & project. The proposal is that the module 2 viva would be replaced with a written paper with medical candidates answering metabolic questions while scientists would have different questions. Concerns were raised by many tutors about the proposed changes in particular the removal of the project. I have communicated these proposals to ACBI council and tutors.
- Feedback from the training day that there was too much of a focus on Immunology was taken on board.
- There are still funds available to members who wish to apply for travel grants as these are currently undersubscribed.

In the region

There are currently 12 trainees attending the tutorial sessions organised by the ACBI tutors, Rachel Cullen and Dr Janice Reeve. Two studying for part 2 and the remainder for part 1. 3 people sat the part 1 exam, and one part 2 in Spring 2019. Five sat the part 1 exam in Autumn 2019, 3 of whom were successful in passing the exam. 2 trainees have recently been successful at interview for senior biochemist posts.

Trainees attended a number of educational meetings throughout the year including:

- Focus training Day
- FOCUS 2019
- ACBI Annual Conference. This event was preceded by a statistics workshop run by the EFLM which was well attended by the trainees
- Irish Endocrine Study Day and Annual conference
- Irish Society for Inherited Metabolic Disorders Spring meeting
- Biomedica
- Pre-analytic and post-analytics in Laboratory Medicine (P.A.L.M) study day
- IEQAS annual conference

Annual assessments of the trainees were held in September, with Dr Janice Reeve and Rachel Cullen (ACBI tutors) and Dr Grainne Connolly, Chemical Pathologist from Belfast acting (external) on the assessment panel. All trainees were successful and will continue into the next years training.

Finally, I am stepping down from my role as ACB tutor at this meeting and the role will be taken over by Dr Janice Reeve who is one of the ACBI tutors. This will enable a more seamless link between the ACB and ACBI for education and training issues.

Prepared by Dr Jennifer Brady, ACB Republic of Ireland Regional Tutor 20/01/20.

Appendix E



The Association for Clinical Biochemistry & Laboratory Medicine

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Trainee Report – 21/May/2019

[Micheál Ryan] [ACB ROI Region]

Regional Trainee Representatives Report

STP update

N/A

HSST/post-registration trainee update

N/A

Medical trainees update

No update

Job vacancies/movements/issues

No update

FRCPath examination status

	Scientists	Medics
Preparing/awaiting results of part 1	7 trainees preparing to sit exam/3 trainees awaiting Spring 2019 exam results	
Preparing/awaiting results of part 2 module 1 (practical skills)		
Preparing/awaiting results of part 2 module 2 (clinical, scientific and management)	1 trainee awaiting results of module 2	

Meetings/training courses/tutorials

- Monthly tutorials are organised by the ACBI Education and CPD Committee – Recent topics covered included Tumour Markers, Genomics, Clinical Nutrition and a Clinical Cases tutorial.

Meetings attended by Trainees

- Pre-analytics in Laboratory Medicine (P.A.L.M) study day (Sept. 21st 2018)
- Challenging Cases Clinical Lipidology (Sept. 21st 2018)
- Irish External Quality Assessment Scheme (IEQAS) Annual Conference (Oct. 4th 2018)
- ACBI Annual Conference (Nov. 9th /10th 2018)
- ACB ROI Region Scientific Meeting (Jan. 18th 2019)
- FRCPath Part Mock 2 Examination (Feb. 19th /20th 2019)

Training Issues

FRCPath exam (Part 2 Module 2) held on the same day as Focus Training Day i.e. May 1st 2019.

Other information/issues

- Trainee members have contributed to a number of National Guidelines for inclusion in the National Laboratory Handbook.
- Trainee members also showcased their scientific/audit work through poster presentations at the ACBI Annual Conference on Nov. 9th /10th 2018.

The ACBI Education and CPD Committee has published criteria for commencing and continued attendance at FRCPath tutorials.

Trainees are assessed annually, to determine progress towards sitting the FRCPath examinations, by a panel comprising of consultants and members of the ACBI Education and CPD Committee.

Trainees must also complete a logbook which details their acquired knowledge, skills and competencies.



Regional Trainee Representatives Report

[Micheál Ryan]

Regional Trainee Representatives Report

STP update

N/A

HSST/post-registration trainee update

N/A

Medical trainees update

No update

Job vacancies/movements/issues

Senior Biochemist, Beaumont Hospital, Dublin (applications for post closed 18th August)

FRCPath examination status

	Scientists	Medics
Preparing/awaiting results of part 1	5 trainees awaiting Autumn 2019 exam results / 5 preparing to sit exam	
Preparing/awaiting results of part 2 module 1 (practical skills)		

Preparing/awaiting results of part 2 module 2 (clinical, scientific and management)	2 trainees preparing to sit exam	
Preparing/awaiting results of part 2 module 3 (written component)		

Meetings/training courses/tutorials

- Monthly tutorials are organised by the ACBI Education and CPD Committee – Recent topics included Porphyrias & NETs, Paediatric Hypoglycaemia/IMDs & Precocious/Delayed Puberty including clinical cases.

Meetings attended by Trainees

- Gestational Trophoblastic Disease Meeting – ACBI organised (June 28th 2019)
- British & Irish Porphyria Network Meeting (June 24th 2019)
- Challenging Lipid Cases (27th Sept. 2019)

Upcoming Meetings

- Irish External Quality Assessment Scheme Annual Conference (3rd Oct. 2019)
- Irish Molecular Diagnostics Network Meeting (4th Oct. 2019)
- Pre/Post Analytics in Laboratory Medicine (P.A.L.M.) study day (11th Oct. 2019)
- EFLM Basic Biostatistics for Postgraduates (Nov 7th 2019)
- ACBI Annual Conference (Nov 8th/9th 2019)

Training Issues

- Availability of Focus 2019 Training Day slides on ACB website.

Other information/issues

- MSc in Clinical and Diagnostic Biochemistry – University College Dublin

This new pre-entry career MSc is designed to equip students with excellent core scientific skills and facilitate them in developing a broad knowledge of clinical biochemistry and how it is integral to patient diagnoses, management and outcome.

This course is designed to provide training in clinical biochemical diagnostics and will equip a student for a career in clinical laboratory biochemistry or for a career in the diagnostics or related industries. Following completion of the successful MSc, a number of intern placements in hospital laboratories will be available, on a competitive basis, for those graduates wishing to pursue a career in laboratory diagnostics.

Academic Course Directors

Prof. Maria Fitzgibbon

Dr. Graham Lee

Contact email: clinicaldiagnostics@ucd.ie

- Audit – With the appointment of Dr. Brendan Byrne as Regional Audit Lead it is expected there will be an increase in trainee involvement in audit across the region going forward.