

Thank You



RCSI

1810-2010

Celebrating 200 years on
St. Stephen's Green

Report on the RCSI 2009 Alumni Annual Giving Programme





I want to thank you most sincerely for your generous support of RCSI. Your investment provides vital resources for our students and your gifts to our Annual Appeal play a significant role in creating the atmosphere of innovation and excellence, that is the hallmark of RCSI.

In our report to donors, we highlight the tangible benefits of gifts from our alumni and friends and the crucial role in education which you have played in making things happen at RCSI.

Of course, the greatest impact of your generosity will be felt in years to come when the students who have benefited from your gifts today, begin to make scientific discoveries and become leaders in medicine throughout the globe in ways that we cannot yet imagine!

Even in this challenging economy, we have received tremendous support from our alumni and friends and I am delighted to report that last year, you, our graduates helped to raise €248,000, the highest annual amount in the Fund's history. Your generosity is a resounding vote of confidence in RCSI and we are extremely grateful. Thank you.

We hope you will choose to get involved this year and help us in our mission to continue providing excellence in education, research and public service.

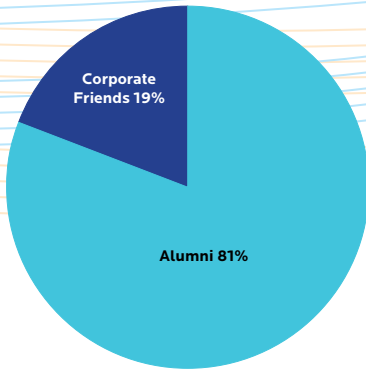
On behalf of the students, faculty and staff, thank you again for your continued generosity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CJ Kelly'.

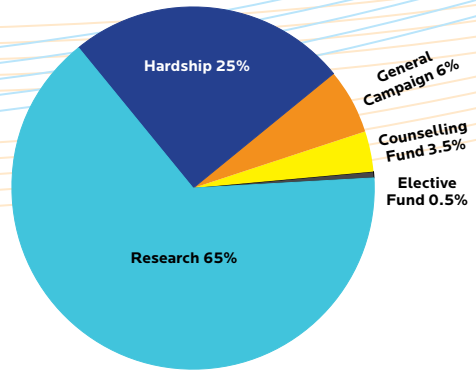
Cathal J Kelly,
CEO/Registrar, RCSI



Who has given



Where you have given



Kieran Reynolds, Winner of Harry O'Flanagan Prize with Stephanie O'Connor, Research Projects Officer



Bernard Kennedy, Marketing Director, Mundipharma Pharmaceuticals with Dorothy Ryan, prize winner of Mundipharma Prize and Brian Harvey, Director of Research RCSI

The Impact of Your Gifts

In 2009, the Alumni Annual Giving Programme awarded €38,876 in grants (based on funds raised in 2008). These projects which you support make a real difference to student life and the student experience at RCSI. Through your support, we can ensure that RCSI continues to attract the very best students and that they receive a world-class education whilst attending RCSI.

The following is a summary of the grants.

Student Research Fund:	€23,026
Student Hardship Fund:	€ 6,000
Student Elective Fund:	€ 3,000
Student Counselling Fund:	€ 3,850
Student Life Fund:	€ 3,000
Total:	€38,876





Student Research Fund

Grant of €23,026

Research is the cornerstone of a leading institution such as RCSI. The objective of the Student Research Fund is to provide undergraduate students with the opportunity of gaining valuable experience and contribute significant insights in a research environment. Student-initiated research projects are conducted in the Basic Sciences, Clinical Medicine and Healthcare Medicine and undertaken with guidance from RCSI clinicians and scientists.

In 2009, the grant funded eight students who completed research projects in RCSI, and the Royal Free Hospital. Here's how your support has translated into helping RCSI students in practical ways.

◆ Hermitage Medical Clinic Student Research Fund

- Awarded to: Tyson Chan, 2nd Year Medicine
- Supervisor: Professor Arnold Hill, RCSI
- Project: Evaluation of the value of fine-needle aspiration (FNA) in thyroid malignancy

◆ Association of Graduates/Abbott Ireland Student Research Fund

- Awarded to: Maryanne Siu, 2nd Year Medicine
- Supervisor: Dr Garry Duff, RCSI
- Project: Using gene therapy to deliver BMP-6 from novel bi-phasic collagen-gag scaffolds and enhance osteochondral repair

◆ Alumni Student Research Fund in Gastroenterology supported by Mahomed Suliman ('75)

- Awarded to: Tanya Byrne Smith, 3rd Year Pharmacy
- Supervisor: Dr Zeibun Ramtoola, RCSI
- Project: Investigation of the formation of new simvastatin polymorph formed by spray drying

◆ Alumni Student Research Fund

- Awarded to: Hatem Hisham Ghorab, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain
- Supervisor: Dr Stephen Keely, RCSI
- Project: The role of bile acids in regulation of intestinal epithelial secretion

◆ Alumni Student Research Fund in General Practice supported by Yacoub Kadwa ('65)

- Awarded to: Paula Grealley, 3rd Year Medicine
- Supervisor: Dr Mary Cannon, RCSI
- Project: Cognition and neuropsychological functioning in adolescents at risk for psychosis

◆ Alumni Student Research Fund in Physiology supported by John Ryan ('76)

- Awarded to: Yasin Parpia, Erasmus Year 1
- Supervisor: Dr Marian Brennan, RCSI
- Project: Development of therapy for sepsis

◆ Alumni Student Research Fund in Facial Transplantation

- Awarded to: Robert Niznik, 3rd Year Medicine
- Supervisor: Professor Peter Butler, Royal Free Hospital, London
- Project: Disfigurement. Staring or processing error

◆ Alumni Student Research Fund in Ophthalmology supported by George Beiko ('85)

- Awarded to: Hamed Al Arrayed, RCSI Medical University of Bahrain
- Supervisor: Professor Conor Murphy, RCSI
- Project: An audit of primary care referrals to the ophthalmic accident & emergency department of Royal Victoria Eye & Ear Hospital, Dublin



- ◆ **Harry O'Flanagan Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Research supported by Yacoob Kadwa ('65)**
 - Awarded to: Kieran Reynolds, 3rd Year Pharmacy
 - Supervisor: Dr Steven Kerrigan, RCSI
 - Project: Contribution of human platelet activation by the colonizing bacterium, *Streptococcus gordonii*, to the thrombotic complications of infection endocarditis.
- ◆ **Mundipharma Pharmaceuticals Prize for the Best Oral Presentation by a Post-graduate Student**
 - Awarded to: Dorothy Ryan, Dept of Medicine, Beaumont Hospital RCSI
 - Project: Secretary leukoprotease inhibitor regulates calpain-mediated neutrophil migration
- ◆ **Travel Bursaries were awarded to the following students which allowed them to present their papers at international conferences.**
 - Awarded to: Atish Chopra, 3rd Year Medicine
 - Supervisor: FW Lo Gerfo, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Centre, Boston, USA
 - Project: Contribution of human platelet activation by the colonizing bacterium, *Streptococcus gordonii*, to the thrombotic complications of infection endocarditis.
 - Attended: Academic Surgical Congress, San Antonio, Texas, USA. Feb. 2010 (oral presentation)
- ◆ **In addition Atish Chopra was awarded "Best Poster Presentation by an Undergraduate" at RCSI's Research Day**
 - Awarded to: Desmond Murphy, 1ST Year PhD Student, RCSI
 - Supervisor: Dr Sarah O'Neill, MCT, RCSI
 - Project: Alterations in the external redox potential of the platelet environment impacts on platelet reactivity.
 - Attended: International Symposium on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH), Boston, July 2009

A special thank you to key supporters of this Fund



*Brian Harvey, Director of Research RCSI, Erwan Gilhou, Abbot Laboratories,
Sarah Rogers, President Association of Graduates RCSI, Karen Walshe,
Hewlett Parkard Ireland and Bernard Kennedy, Mundipharma Pharmaceuticals*

Student Hardship Fund

Grant of €6,000

The aim of the Hardship Fund is to provide emergency financial assistance to those students facing extraordinary financial crises. This year we provided financial assistance to students who found themselves in unexpected financial difficulties.

Student Life

Grant of €3,000

RCSI believes in providing students with the best educational experience available and that continues beyond the classroom in order to ultimately develop a well rounded individual. There are so many important facets of the wider College experience that could benefit from additional support such as: cultural societies, drama, music, sport, worship and the Students' Union. Grants awarded included:

- ◆ RCSI Students Medical Journal - €2,500
- ◆ Avril Copeland, 3rd Year, Physiotherapy - €500

This grant assisted Avril Copeland and her two team mates (Eoin Keith and Mark Lattanzi) to compete in the Eco Primal Quest - a 600 mile adventure racing competition in the Badlands, South Dakota, USA. The event took place in August 2009 and the team raced in aid of Pieta House, Lucan, Dublin which is a centre for the prevention of self-harm or suicide and it offers a specialised treatment programme for people who have attempted suicide.



From left to right: Mark Lattanzi, Avril Copeland, Eoin Keith and Peter Spagnoli

Student Counselling & Support Service

Grant of €3,850

The aim of this service is to support students suffering from mental health difficulties. Although the incidence of such problems is very rare, it is imperative to be in a position to support these students if and when the need arises.

We now have access to two consultant psychiatrists to help manage any student in such difficulty. Professor Jim Lucey and Professor Patricia Casey are not part of the RCSI teaching programme and hence there is no concern with regards to student / patient confidentiality.

In the very rare instance where a student needs to be admitted to a psychiatric hospital for acute care, RCSI has organised that beds are available in a hospital not involved with our teaching programme. In such cases where the student does not have appropriate private health cover the RCSI Annual Giving Fund has covered the costs. Over the last 12 months this fund has supported two students who required emergency care. These students have both made very good recoveries and are back in the programme. Such an essential service is invaluable to RCSI and I am very appreciative of the funds made available through the Alumni Office.

*Alice McGarvey,
Vice-Dean, Students Services*

Student Elective Fund

Grant of €3,000

The Elective Fund provides opportunities for students to enrich their medical training by gaining valuable experience in relevant teaching hospitals worldwide.

This year a grant supported a North American student, Zanita Kassan, Final Med, to undertake an elective in paediatrics at Cornell University, New York, USA.

*Thank you to all
our donors including those
who have chosen to
remain anonymous.
You helped make 2009-2010
a special year for RCSI*

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from 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010

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