Dear Delegates,

In line with our mission to promote excellence in medical education and to support the advancement of the medical profession, we are pleased to welcome you to today’s meeting, *Hot Topics: Gastroenterology & Hepatology*.

The Hot Topics Series, which runs over three sessions from December 2011 through to April 2012 addresses burning issues around the prevalence of disease and includes current and new developments.

The objective of the series is to help those who are at the front line of our health service continuously improve their skills base, effectively facilitating excellence in patient care. The series brings together medical experts from a variety of specialties under a central theme, provides a senior forum for peer discussion and has in the past attracted unprecedented numbers for Irish training. Session two of this meeting will be webcast live to regional hospitals. Today’s event will also be available as a recorded webcast via the RCPI’s Online Education and Resource Centre, to Fellows and Trainees of the College.

I would like to thank the co-chairs of this event, Dr Orla Crosbie, Prof Aiden McCormick and Dr Glen Doherty and all of the speakers for their contribution to the programme and the series.

This meeting has been approved for 6 Continuous Professional Development (CPD) credits from RCPI.

If you have suggestions for future topics in the series include them on the feedback form in your meeting pack. Alternatively, email your suggestions to us at courses@rcpi.ie.

We hope you enjoy the meeting.

Dr Diarmuid O’Shea
Vice President for Education and Professional Development
Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
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This meeting is approved for 6 CPD credits by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
**Dr Orla Crosbie**

**Session 1 Chair**

Orla Crosbie, MD FRCPI is Consultant Gastroenterologist with a special interest in Hepatology at Cork University Hospital. Dr Crosbie graduated from UCC and worked in CUH, The National Liver Unit, St Vincent’s Hospital, Addenbrookes’ Hospital, Cambridge and the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals. She completed her MD thesis on Lymphohaematopoiesis in the Adult Human Liver in the ERC St Vincent’s Hospital and spent a short spell at the National Cancer Centre in Amsterdam towards this research.

Dr Crosbie returned to CUH in 2003, where she leads the Hepatology service at CUH and has active research interests in Hepatitis C epidemiology and molecular virology. She runs two dedicated Hepatology clinics weekly and has a busy endoscopy including ERCP service.

Dr Crosbie is the National Specialty Director for SpR training in Gastroenterology at the Royal College of Physicians, and is a Medical Advisor for the National Committee to develop endoscopy reporting systems in Ireland. She is also a Lead Clinician for the Hepatology subgroup of the Irish Society of Gastroenterology.

**Prof Aiden McCormick**

**Session 2 Chair**

Aiden McCormick graduated from UCD in 1979, and then trained in Hepatology in the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine with Prof Dame Sheila Sherlock, Prof Neil McIntyre and Prof Andy Burroughs. Currently Hepatologist and Newman Clinical Research Professor in the National Liver Transplant Unit, St Vincent’s University Hospital and University College Dublin. His research interests are: portal hypertension, complications of chronic liver disease and liver transplantation.

**Dr Glen Doherty**

**Session 3 Chair & Session 3 Topic: IBD, drugs from other fields and over the horizon**

Glen Doherty is a Consultant Gastroenterologist at St Vincent’s University Hospital/University College Dublin. He is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin and was awarded his PhD from University College Dublin in 2006. He completed specialist training in Gastroenterology in Ireland and subsequently at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts. He has research interests in inflammatory bowel diseases and colorectal neoplasia.
Prof Suzanne Norris  
*Consultant Gastroenterologist, St James’s Hospital, Dublin*

**Hepatitis B**

Suzanne Norris is a graduate of University College Dublin. She trained in Hepatology at the National Liver Transplant Centre at St Vincent’s University Hospital, Dublin, and during her time there undertook research in lymphocyte populations in the normal liver and hepatic tumours, which resulted in a PhD in immunology. She was appointed as a Consultant in viral hepatitis and liver transplantation in 2000 at the Institute of Liver Studies at King’s College Hospital in London. Prof Norris currently works as a Consultant in Hepatology and Gastroenterology at St James’s Hospital and is a Professor at Trinity College Dublin, and has a major research interest in viral hepatitis.

Recent work has focused on immune responses in chronic HBV infection, and the impact of host genes in determining responses to HBV. Prof Norris serves as a member of the National Consultative Council for Hepatitis C, and is a committee member of the British Society of the Study of the Liver (BASL). She is a member of the Governing Board of the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL), and is a serving member of the education committee of the American Association for the Study of the Liver (AASLD).

Dr Raphael B. Merriman,  
*Consultant Hepatologist, St Vincent’s University Hospital, Dublin*

**Update on Hepatitis C**

Raphael Merriman is a Consultant Hepatologist at the National Liver Transplantation Unit, St Vincent’s University Hospital and University College Dublin having returned from the US in December, 2011.

Dr Merriman is a graduate of University College Dublin. After General Medicine and Gastroenterology training in Dublin, he moved to the US in 1995 and completed Internal Medicine Residency and NIH Gastroenterology Fellowship training at Washington University where he also served as Chief Resident. After a Transplant Hepatology Fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco 2000-2001, Dr Merriman was appointed Assistant Professor of Medicine (2003), there and served as Medical Director of Liver Transplantation at the affiliated California Pacific Medical Center (2009-11).

His research interests focus on nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, serving on the NIH NASH Clinical Research Network Committee since 2001 with continuous research funding and numerous awards in that field. He also serves on the AASLD Practice Guidelines Committee.
Dr Steve Stewart

*Consultant Gastroenterologist, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin*

**What’s new in NASH and ASH**

Stephen Stewart is Consultant Hepatologist and Director of the Centre for Liver Disease in the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital. He graduated in medicine with an intercalated BSc in Immunology in 1994 from Edinburgh University. He did his junior doctor training in Edinburgh and Newcastle upon Tyne and specialist training between Newcastle and the Mater. He was awarded an MRC Clinical Training Fellowship in 2000 and his PhD thesis was on the immunology of alcoholic liver disease. In the four years prior to moving back to Dublin he was a Consultant Transplant Hepatologist in the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne and an Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer with Newcastle University. During this period he was involved in clinical research in alcoholic liver disease and non-alcoholic steatohepatitis. From 2008-2010 he was the Clinical Advisor to NICE for the Alcohol Use Disorders Guideline.

Dr Deirdre McNamara

*Consultant Gastroenterologist, AMNCH, Tallaght*

**Capsule Endoscopy: small bowel and colon**

Deirdre McNamara is Associate Professor and Interim Head of Department for Clinical Medicine AMNCH with Trinity College Dublin and is Consultant Gastroenterologist at AMNCH.

She completed her higher Specialist training in Ireland. She has a diploma in cancer prevention from the National Cancer Institute, USA and a MD in GI Cancer Prevention from TCD. Subsequently she spent time at the Otto Von Gueirke University in Germany as an Endoscopy Fellow, before becoming a Project Manager for the Cancer Prevention Institute at TCD/AMNCH. She was a Consultant at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary from 2004-2010, with a specific interest in Colorectal Cancer Screening and GI Physiology.

Since her appointment in 2010 she has built up a local research portfolio in GI Cancer Prevention, Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Wireless Technology.
Mr Ronan Cahill
Consultant General & Colorectal Surgeon,
Beaumont Hospital, Dublin

Minimally invasive surgery

Information unavailable at time of print

Dr Maeve Skelly
Consultant Gastroenterologist,
Midwestern Regional Hospital, Limerick

Training in Endoscopy: Where we are and where are we going?

Maeve Skelly graduated from UCD Medical School with honours in 1989. She trained in Medicine and Gastroenterology in St Vincent’s Hospital and at the same time completed a PhD in UCD. Following completion of her training in Queen’s Medical Centre in Nottingham she was a lecturer in the University of Nottingham and subsequently was a Consultant in Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. She was appointed a Consultant Gastroenterologist and Physician in Mid Western Regional Hospital Limerick in 2005. Dr Skelly is interim Programme Director for BST in the Mid West and Junior Fellow on Council of RCPI. She has contributed to drawing up the new curriculum in Endoscopy for RCPI and RCSI, is Clinical Lead for Endoscopy in the Mid West and a member of the Clinical Programme for Quality in Endoscopy. Dr Skelly is a Board member and Treasurer of the Irish Society of Gastroenterology.
Dr Glen Doherty
Consultant Gastroenterologist,
St Vincent’s University Hospital, Dublin

IBD, drugs from other fields and over the horizon

Glen Doherty is a Consultant Gastroenterologist at St Vincent’s University Hospital/University College Dublin. He is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin and was awarded his PhD from University College Dublin in 2006. He completed specialist training in Gastroenterology in Ireland and subsequently at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts. He has research interests in inflammatory bowel diseases and colorectal neoplasia.

Dr Lucina Mary Jackson
Consultant Gastroenterologist,
Bons Secours Hospital, Cork

IBD and pregnancy

A Cork city native Dr Jackson qualified from UCC in 1992 and undertook earlier part of training in Cork and St Vincents Hospital Dublin. She subsequently moved to Nottingham, UK where she completed her specialist training in both General Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology. She was awarded a PhD by University of Nottingham in 2002 for work as a MRC Research Fellow in Nottingham investigating the potential influences of diet and obesity on the genesis of colon cancer. She was appointed Consultant in GIM and Gastroenterology in Royal Cornwall Hospital, Truro in 2004 where she worked for 4 years before moving back as Consultant Gastroenterologist to University Hospital Galway in 2008. In 2009 she returned to Cork where she currently holds post in full time private practice as Consultant Gastroenterologist in Bons Secours Hospital Cork. She has a particular interest/expertise in inflammatory Bowel Disease, therapeutic endoscopy and the management of Barrett’s oesophagus.
Graham Turner qualified with distinction in Medicine and Surgery from QUB in 1996. He trained in gastroenterology in the Northern Ireland training scheme and did an MD in Neuroendocrine tumours of the small bowel at the Royal Victoria Hospital Belfast. He worked in Perth Australia for a year as Luminal Clinical Fellow at Royal Perth Hospital followed by six months as Senior Clinical Fellow with Alastair Forbes in University College Hospital in London. He was a Consultant Gastroenterologist at Altnagelvin from 2006 to 2009 and started in the Royal Victoria Hospital September 2009. His main clinical interests are intestinal failure and inflammatory bowel disease.