

# **Anatomy Department Inspection Report: NUI Galway, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2016**

License holder: Professor Peter Dockery

In attendance:

Mr D. C. Davies – Inspector of Anatomy

Mr Michael Ryan – Council Member

Ms Aoise O'Reilly – Medical Council

## **SECTION 1 – ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY**

### **1. LICENSING, AUTHORITY, RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

The lead individual holding the license for Anatomical Examination at NUI Galway (Professor Peter Dockery) has not changed since the 2014 inspection and the required annual returns have been made to the Medical Council. Dr Fabio Quondamatteo has left the Department, after having been appointed to the Chair of Anatomy in the University of Glasgow.

N.B. Subsequent to the inspection, Dr Garry Duffy was appointed to a Personal Chair in the Department of Anatomy and the staff change will be included in the 2016 Annual Return to the Medical Council.

### **2. GOVERNANCE AND QUALITY SYSTEMS**

We met with Professor Dockery, Mr Alex Black (Lecturer in Anatomy), Mr Ian O'Brien (Prosecutor) and Ms Fidelma Gallen (Departmental Administrator). The Department is a cohesive unit and its members understand their responsibilities in relation to their role in Anatomical Examination. All staff are appropriately qualified and trained for their work and NUI Galway has appropriate performance management and development appraisals.

A suitable systematic record management system that ensures data protection, confidentiality and has suitable provision for data back-up (see below), is largely in place.

Appropriate risk assessments of the practices and processes related to Anatomical Examinations are largely in place.

Standard Operating Procedures are held in electronic form, provision of hard copies would be advantageous at the point of use.

The service level agreements between NUI Galway and their undertakers, Conneely Funeral Directors, are expected to be in place in the near future.

There is a small Pathology Museum comprising less than 450 pots in the Clinical Science Centre at NUI Galway. Each item in the collection is documented and the

collection is currently not being added to. It is not clear whether this falls under the jurisdiction of the Inspector of Anatomy, or indeed anyone else. However, we met with the academic in charge of the museum, Professor Grace Callagy and was given a tour of the facility, which comprises of a preparation room / store, a technician's office and a small teaching room. Pots are signed out of the store for use in the teaching room and back into the store, by the Pathology Museum technician. The storage of the pots is secure.

## **SECTION 2 – RECOMMENDED PRACTICES**

### **1. CONSENT**

NUI Galway uses the model consent form published as an appendix to the Code of Practice for Anatomical Examination. This consent form meets all of the recommendations within the Code of Practice. The information booklet for potential donors and their families gives appropriate information for the consent to be fully informed.

### **2. PREMISES, FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT**

The premises, facilities and equipment were inspected from the entrance point of a donor's remains, through the embalming and storage facility, to the dissecting room. The security of the undertaker's entrance is good and an improved security lock has been installed in the door of the embalming / body storage facility. The door to the embalming / body storage facility is not alarmed, but is checked by security patrols. The entrances to the Anatomy Building are subject to NUI Galway Security CCTV surveillance.

The embalming facility is fit for purpose and there is one freezer unit as well as cooled storage for 21 cadavers. Cadaveric material is transferred from the embalming / storage facility manually via an external walkway that can be sealed off and is not overlooked.

All academic and technical staff have access to keys to the Dissecting Room, which is locked when not in use. Students entering the dissecting room are monitored by scanning their ID cards. The signage in and around the dissecting room is appropriate as are the facilities in the dissecting room.

The air handling in the Dissecting Room appeared to be appropriate.

A new Human Biology Building is nearing completion on the NUI Galway Campus. This building will house a purpose designed Human Anatomy teaching facility, comprising a screened hearse entrance, a dedicated body lift direct to the facility, an embalming suite / body store, dissection and prosection teaching areas, a histology teaching laboratory and appropriate offices. Although the Anatomy facility had not been fitted out, we were given a tour of the floor area and the layout has clearly been well designed with health and safety, security and privacy in mind. It is

anticipated that the Anatomy facility will be handed over in early 2017 and come into full use at the beginning of the 2017-18 academic year.

### 3. RECORD KEEPING / TRACEABILITY

Record keeping and traceability have improved in line with recommendations made following the 2014 inspection. Hard copy donation records are now stored in a fire-proof cabinet. I recommend that current and future donor's consent forms should also be scanned into a database for electronic storage. An audit of traceability was successfully conducted by selecting a prosection and tracing it back to the cadaver it was derived from, the consent form and other records. Anatomy pots are currently traceable back to images and are not yet entered into a numerical database. Historical specimens of unknown provenance, including those in the Montgomery museum collection are documented.

### 4. SENSITIVE DISPOSAL

The donation information booklet provides full information about the options available for disposal of the donors' remains. Remains are either buried in the University Plot, Bohemore, Galway, or the University will pay for transportation to another burial plot or to a crematorium.

### 5. LOAN / TRANSFER OF CADAVERIC MATERIAL

NUI Galway does not currently loan or transfer any cadaveric material.



D. C Davies  
Inspector of Anatomy

30/9/16