



University College Cork

Anatomy Department

Inspection Report

2018



Comhairle na nDochtúirí Leighis
Medical Council

About the Medical Council

The Medical Council is the regulatory body for doctors. It has a statutory role in protecting the public by promoting the highest professional standards amongst doctors practising in the Republic of Ireland.

The Council has a majority of non-medical members. The 25-member Council consists of 13 non-medical members and 12 medical members. The Council receives no State funding and is funded primarily by doctors' registration fees.

The Medical Council maintains the Register of Medical Practitioners - the Register of all doctors who are legally permitted to carry out medical work in Ireland. The Council also sets the standards for medical education and training in Ireland. It oversees lifelong learning and skills development throughout doctors' professional careers through its professional competence requirements. It is charged with promoting good medical practice. The Medical Council is also where the public may make a complaint against a doctor.



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Statement with regard to the Freedom of Information Act, 2014, the General Data Protection Regulation ('GDPR') and the Data Protection Acts 1988 - 2018

The Medical Council routinely makes information available to the public in relation to its functions and activities and, in line with that practice, this report will be available on the Council's website, www.medicalcouncil.ie in due course.

The Freedom of Information Act is designed to allow public access to information held by public bodies which is not routinely available through other sources and access to this document may be sought in accordance with that Act. The Medical Council complies fully with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. It should be noted that access to information under the Freedom of Information Act is subject to certain exemptions and one or more of those exemptions may apply in relation to some or all of this report.

As a Data Controller, the Medical Council is also subject to the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation ('GDPR') and the Data Protection Acts 1988 – 2018. The Medical Council complies with its obligations as a Data Controller under the relevant legislation. Any person on whom the Medical Council holds personal information has certain rights, known as 'Subject Access Rights'. Further information on both Freedom of Information and Data Protection legislation is available on our website at: <https://www.medicalcouncil.ie/FOI-Data-Protection/>

Anatomy responsibilities

Licensing Authority

The Medical Council is the licensing authority for the practise of Anatomy in the State in accordance with the Anatomy Act 1832 as outlined in Section 106 of the Medical Practitioners Act (MPA) 2007:

-The Council—

(a) is, by virtue of this section, authorised to—

- (i) grant a licence to practise Anatomy in the State,
- (ii) appoint inspectors of places in the State where Anatomy is carried on, and
- (iii) be the person to whom such inspectors shall make returns, under and in accordance with the Anatomy Act 1832, and

(b) shall, at the request of the Minister and as soon as is practicable after it receives the request, provide the Minister with such information concerning its functions under the Anatomy Act 1832 as the Minister specifies in the request.

The Inspector of Anatomy

Following the introduction of the 2007 Act the Council appointed Professor Ceri Davies as the Inspector of Anatomy.

The Inspector of Anatomy was appointed by Council to perform the following functions:

- Advise the Council on the granting of licences to practice Anatomy in the State
- Inspect places in the State where Anatomy is practised
- Make returns to Council under and in accordance with the Anatomy Act 1832
- Advise the Council on the information sought by or to be provided to the Minister regarding the Council's functions under the Anatomy Act 1832
- Advise the Council on the teaching of Anatomy by any bodies approved under Section 88 (2) (a) (i) (ii) and/or Section 89 (3) (a) (ii) of the Act.

Inspection Team

At each inspection visit, the Inspector of Anatomy is supported by a non-medical member of the Medical Council (with no background in Anatomy or Pathology to ensure appropriate lay representation), as well as a member of the Medical Council Executive. The Medical Council's Code of Practice for Anatomical Examination provides the framework for the inspections of Anatomy Departments.

Code of Practice for Anatomical Examination

In the absence of up-to-date legislation, the Medical Council published the [Code of Practice for Anatomical Examination](#), in 2015. This Code was designed to help safeguard public confidence in the practice of Anatomy in Ireland and support continuous improvement within the Anatomy Departments whilst awaiting updated legislation in the form of the Human Tissue Act. Specifically, the Code of Practice aims to:

- Support institutions and individuals in the State to engage in best practice that reflects current society, science, medicine, education and ethics norms.
- Enable members of the public to better understand current best practice employed by institutions and individuals in the State that undertake Anatomical Examination, to ensure that trust in these practices is maintained.
- Provide a framework for inspections conducted by the Medical Council, through the Inspector of Anatomy, pursuant to its role under Section 106 of the Medical Practitioners Act 2007, as the licensing authority under the Anatomy Act 1832.

Anatomy Department Inspection Report

University College Cork

License holder: Professor John Cryan

Inspection team:

Professor Ceri Davies, Inspector of Anatomy for the Medical Council

Mr Jim O'Sullivan, Medical Council member

Mr John Murray, Medical Council member

Ms Chloe Ryder, Inspection Manager, Medical Council

Ms Naomi Kalonzo, Inspection Executive, Medical Council

Date of inspection: 20 December 2018

SECTION 1 – ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

1. LICENSING, AUTHORITY, RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The lead individual holding the license for Anatomical Examination at University College Cork (UCC) (Professor John Cryan), has not changed since the 2016 inspection. Staff changes since the last inspection and the required annual returns have been made to the Medical Council.

2. GOVERNANCE AND QUALITY SYSTEMS

The team met with Professor Cryan and senior members of the Departments technical and administrative staff. The Department is an experienced 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 UCC has appropriate annual performance management and development appraisals.

A systematic record management system is in place that ensures data protection and confidentiality. Comprehensive risk assessments of the practices and processes related to Anatomical Examination are in place and there is a service level agreement between UCC and their undertakers, Fordes. However, donors remains are frequently delivered and sometimes removed by undertakers employed by the family of the deceased, with whom UCC do not have a service level agreement. UCC does not yet have a service level agreement with the Island Crematorium.

In reviewing, the external courses run in the Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience at UCC, it became apparent that an external course had been advertised before the credentials of the organisers and delegates had been checked. This course did not subsequently take place. It is recommended that in future, a governance structure be introduced to vet applications to run external courses in UCC, to ensure that they comply with current legislation, the Code of Practice for Anatomical Examination and the expectations of donors and their families.

SECTION 2 – RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

1. CONSENT

UCC now 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 comprehensive information booklet for potential donors and their families gives appropriate information for the donors' consent to be fully informed.

2. PREMISES, FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

The premises, facilities and equipment of the Facility for Learning Anatomy, Morphology and Embryology (FLAME), were inspected from the entrance point of a donor's remains, through the embalming and storage facility, to the dissecting room. Donor's remains are brought through the main atrium of the building, before entering a lockable service lift to the embalming / storage area. Therefore, undertaker's deliveries only occur after normal working hours and the donors are brought into the building in a 'concealed coffin carrier'. The embalming / storage area contains two embalming stations, a ten body freezer and 55 body fridge units and a band saw. There is also a two bay prosection laboratory and a plastination suite that is operational, but not yet in use. Donor's bodies are typically kept for two years or less. Entrances to the FLAME laboratory are alarmed and monitored by CCTV and accessed using a swipe card. The signage in and around the dissecting room is appropriate, the facilities in the dissecting room are excellent and all equipment was reported to be working well. Students must swipe a card reader to enter the dissecting room for classes. Security of the dissecting room is enhanced, because the demonstrator's / technician's office overlooks it.

The Application of Science to Simulation based Education, Research and Training (ASSERT) Centre in the Watson Building, Brookfield Campus is a postgraduate surgical anatomy training centre, run in partnership with the Stryker Corporation. The Centre runs approximately 35 courses per year and comprises six workstations, a freezer / fridge unit and an adjacent preparation room. The freezer / fridge Unit is alarmed, and failure is notified to the Technical Officer in charge, by text message. The facility uses fresh-frozen material sourced from Science Care in the USA. These imports are reported to the Medical Council in the Annual Return, and after use, the remains are cremated. The imports are delivered by a courier contracted by Science Care and there is a non-disclosure agreement in place. The cadaveric material enters the Centre via a lockable delivery lift. Entry into the Centre is by card reader and the door is alarmed. Although there is CCTV in the lobby area, the entrance door is not monitored by CCTV, which would be recommended. The signage is appropriate. A member of UCC Anatomy staff is present at all times when courses are running and is responsible for compliance with the Code of Practice for Anatomical Examination and health and safety. The ambient temperature in the Centre is maintained at 17°C and there are 17 air changes per hour. After each course, the facility is treated with a hydrogen peroxide 'fogger'. The credentials of the delegates are known in advance and a record is kept of attendees. Records of imported fresh-frozen cadaveric material are held in the FLAME laboratory and records of all cadaveric material *in situ* in the ASSERT Centre are now also held there.

3. RECORD KEEPING / TRACEABILITY

Hard copy donation records are stored in a lockable fire-proof cabinet. Copies of consent forms and other donation records are being scanned for entry into a custom-made database on a secure server that is due for completion in 2019.

Records exist for entire cadavers, prosecutions, potted specimens, and historical specimens. A hard copy osteology database has now been completed. It is recommended that all these records will be entered into the new database on a secure server in due course. An audit of traceability was successfully conducted by selecting two items in the dissecting room and tracing them back to the consent form and other records.

4. SENSITIVE DISPOSAL

The comprehensive donation information booklet provides full information about the options available for disposal of the donors' remains. Remains are either interred in the University Burial Ground in St Mary's Cemetery, cremated at the Island Crematorium or returned to relatives. A Commemoration Service for donors is held every two years.

5. LOAN / TRANSFER OF CADAVERIC MATERIAL

UCC does not currently loan or transfer any cadaveric material.

Conclusion

Following the inspection of the University College Cork Anatomy Department, 20 December 2018, I recommend that:

1. University College Cork should continue to be licensed for the practice of Anatomical Examination. This recommendation is made on the grounds that the visiting Medical Council team found that the site is adhering to the standards set out in the Medical Council's Code of Practice for Anatomical Examination.

Continuation of the licence for University College Cork is subject to ongoing approval by the Medical Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. C. Davies". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

D. C Davies
Inspector of Anatomy

26/01/19



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