



# RCSI

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## RCSI History Timeline

- 1765** Sylvester O'Halloran, a Limerick surgeon, advocates the foundation of a College of Surgeons for Ireland, with admission by examination and the publication of a register of qualified surgeons
- 1780** Dublin Society of Surgeons formed and met in the Elephant Tavern in Essex St, 29 March
- 1784** Foundation of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) by charter of George III, 11 February
  - First meeting of RCSI held in the boardroom of the Rotunda Hospital, 2 March
  - First examination for the Licence RCSI, 12 August
- 1785** First conferring of the licence on John Birch of Roscrea, 14 January
  - First Chair of Surgery in Ireland established in the College
- 1789** The College Schools of anatomy and surgery open at rear of Mercer's Hospital
- 1791** The College recommends the Government establish a hospital for venereal diseases: Westmoreland Lock Hospital in Townsend Street founded
- 1799** William Lawless, RCSI professor of anatomy and physiology expelled because he had 'been notoriously engaged in the late rebellion' (1798)
- 1800** Jennerian vaccination introduced to Ireland by John Creighton, surgeon, President RCSI 1812, 1824; professor of midwifery 1794-1819
- 1805** Quaker cemetery in York Street purchased as a site for College premises
- 1810** Surgeons' Hall opens on St Stephen's Green
- 1817** Conference held with sister colleges of London and Edinburgh to unify standards in surgical education
- 1825** Dublin first lit by gas
- 1827** Surgeons' Hall on St Stephen's Green extended
- 1828** Second charter granted to the College by George IV
- 1831** Surgical Society of Ireland founded



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- 1832** The Oil Gas Company provides gas lighting to the College
  - The Anatomy Act whereby bodies are legally provided for dissection, and the inspection of anatomy schools becomes law
- 1838** Representatives of the three surgical colleges meet in London and agree standards for preliminary and professional education of surgeons
- 1839** Medical Association of Ireland founded by Richard Carmichael, President RCSI 1813, 1826, 1845
  - Arthur Jacob, President RCSI 1837, and Henry Maunsell publish the *Dublin Medical Press*
- 1844** First supplement charter of Queen Victoria institutes the RCSI Fellowship by examination
- 1845** Francis Rynd, FRCSI, of the Meath Hospital introduces hypodermic medication
- 1847** John Macdonnell, RCSI professor of anatomy, performs the first operation under anesthesia in Ireland in the Richmond Hospital, 1 January
- 1849** Albert, Prince Consort, visits the College
  - Carmichael Essay prizes established from the bequest of Richard Carmichael
  - Robert William Smith, licentiate and fellow of the College, elected first professor of surgery in Trinity College Dublin
- 1851** Richard Butcher, President RCSI 1866, devises “Butcher’s saw”
- 1854** College purchases a mace and gown for the President
- 1855** Catholic University Medical School opens in Cecilia Street – RCSI was the first licensing body to recognise its lectures
- 1858** The Medical Act establishes the General Medical Council and the Medical Register
- 1859** College subscribes 50 guineas towards a statue of John Hunter (Honorary Fellow RCSI 1790) in the Royal College of Surgeons of England
- 1862** Replica of Theed’s bust of the Prince Consort is commissioned and installed in the College – the first memorial to him by any public body in Great Britain and Ireland
- 1863** Written answers to written questions introduced for the first time in examination for the RCSI licence
- 1864** Hall of the King and Queen’s College of Physicians of Ireland (1654- ) opens in Kildare Street



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- Edward Dillon Mapother, President RCSI 1879 and professor of hygiene appointed the first Medical Officer for Health for Dublin City
- 1865** Robert Macdonnell, President RCSI 1877 performs first recorded transfusion of human blood in Ireland at Jervis Street Hospital, 20 April
- Francis Cruise, surgeon to the Mater Hospital, describes his 'endoscope' – the forerunner of the modern cystoscope
- Academic robes introduced for RCSI Council members, examiners and professors
- 1867** Examiners for the Licence to use a system of marking instead of the customary single vote – 'Yes' or 'No'
- Candidates for the final examination required to carry out surgical operations on a dead subject
- 1871** Clinical examination of the patient introduced for final examination
- Regularly appointed meetings introduced for conferring the Licence and administering the Declaration
- 1874** Students examined for the first time in histology
- 1878** Roll of Presidents which hangs in College presented by the Vice-President, Edward Dillon Mapother
- 1880** Committee appointed by RCSI Council to confer with the College of Physicians on the unhealthy state and high death-rate of Dublin city
- 1881** Examination in ophthalmology introduced for the Licence examination
- 1882** RCSI refuses to recognise medical schools in which evening lectures are delivered
- Academy of Medicine in Ireland founded – the prefix 'Royal' added in 1887
- 1883** Establishment of a Veterinary College in Ireland approved by RCSI, with a promise of support
- Second supplementary charter of Queen Victoria granted
- Telephone installed in College by The Telephone Co – rent £12 p.a.
- 1885** Third supplemental charter of Queen Victoria opens the RCSI Medical School, Licence and Fellowship to women
- RCSI recognises lectures delivered in the London School of Medicine for Women
- 1886** The first woman, Mrs Mary Dawson admitted Licentiate RCSI



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- The conjoint diploma of the Irish Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons establishes the joint qualification LRCPI and LRCSI: LRCP&SI
- 1889** Presidential gold chain commissioned
- 1890** Laboratory provided for the study of bacteriology
- 1891** Electric lighting in College
- RCSI deputation visits Berlin to investigate and procure Professor Koch's tuberculin
- The Barker Anatomical Prize awarded to Miss Isabel Wamptyn Harper for a dissection of the axilla – the first woman to win a College prize
- 1892** First USA Honorary Fellow elected: John Shaw-Billings, Surgeon-General
- 1893** Unsuccessful attempt by licentiates to obtain voting rights in RCSI Council elections
- RCSI Fellows petition against Gladstone's Government of Ireland Bill (Home Rule) for fear of its effect on College and the profession
- 1893** The first woman Fellow RCSI, Miss Emily Winifred Dickson (LRCP&SI, 1891)
- 1895** Discovery of X-rays by Conrad Röntgen
- 1896** First recorded use of x-rays in Ireland: R Bolton McCausland, FRCSI, removes a needle from a woman's hand at Dr. Steevens' Hospital
- 1901** College Dinner to be held annually
- 1903** Gaelic League delegation attends Council meeting requesting that Irish be included among the subjects for the Preliminary Examination, which was agreed
- 1904** New examination and banqueting hall completed: College Hall
- 1907** Sir Henry Rosborough Swanzy, President RCSI, attends Commission on Vivisection and supports investigation by animal experiment
- 1909** Students' Union formed with College's Albert Hall at its disposal
- 1910** The annual dinner to be known as the 'Charter Day Dinner' to be held on or near February 11
- Athletic grounds in Terenure purchased
- 1911** Presidential badge commissioned



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- 1916** Insurgents occupy College during Easter Week under the command of Michael Mallin and Countess Markievicz
- 1918** RCSI World War Roll of Honour is published containing some 1500 names
- 1921** RCSI Council deputation attends the Congress of the American College of Surgeons in Philadelphia to confer honorary fellowship on eight American surgeons: Brewer, Crile, Finny, Harte, Keen, the Mayo brothers and Ochsner
  - Irish Free State established
- 1922** Civil War in Ireland
  - Special vote of thanks passed to the Minister of Defence for sending a guard to take charge of the College during the recent disturbances in Dublin, and appreciation expressed for their care of the property whilst in possession
  - The Incorporated Law Society is allowed to hold lectures and examinations in the College, pending the reconstruction of the Four Courts after the Civil War
  - At the request of the Provisional Government, RCSI Council nominates two members to the first Senate: Sir William de Courcey Wheeler, President RCSI and Sir Arthur Chance
- 1923** Address of welcome presented by RCSI to the first Governor-General of the Free State, Timothy M. Healy, K.C
- 1925** Special meeting of RCSI Council considers Government's proposal of a separate Medical Register for the Irish State: a local Register is instituted in addition to the General Medical Register
- 1927** The President and Council urge early action upon the Government regarding the retention in England of Sir Hugh Lane's collection of pictures
- 1930** The Minister for Defence grants a petition from RCSI students for the revival of the Officers' Training Corps
  - New sports ground purchased at Bird Avenue, Clonskea
- 1932** RCSI Association of Graduates formed under the presidency of Sir William Taylor
  - Bird Avenue sports ground opened by Frank Crawley, President RCSI and memorial to Alfred Scott, professor of pathology 1889-1926 unveiled there by Sir William Taylor
- 1936** Neurosurgeon Adams McConnell, President RCSI 1936, performs the first posterior fossa craniotomy in the Richmond Hospital
- 1940** Public air-raid shelter constructed in the basement of College; Air Raid Precautions organised in the building



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- 1942** Diploma in anaesthetics established
- 1944** Extension of the pathology department opened as a memorial to William Boxwell, professor of pathology 1918-1943
- 1951** Reciprocity in the primary fellowship examinations established among the Royal Colleges
- 1953** Number 33, first of York Street houses bought by RCSI
- 1957** RCSI – a founder member of the International Federation of Surgical Colleges
- 1958** Royal College of Physicians of London admits approved RCSI licentiates to its Membership examination
  - Clinical tutors appointed to co-ordinate teaching in the schools with that in the hospitals
- 1959** Faculty of Anaesthesia constituted, T Gilmartin first Dean
- 1960** Faculty of Radiologists inaugurated, Desmond Riordan first Dean
- 1961** Eoin O’ Malley President RCSI 1964-5 performs successful open heart bypass for ventricular septal defect in the Mater Hospital
- 1962** Joint Conference of Surgical Colleges Ireland, Britain, U.S.A., Australasia and South Africa meet for the first time
  - Dr Harry O’Flanagan appointed RCSI Registrar – marking a period of rapid expansion at RCSI
- 1963** Joint committee of surgical colleges held in RCSI – Edinburgh, London and Glasgow represented by their Presidents and Canada by its Vice-President
  - Faculty of Dentistry founded
- 1965** Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (Charter Amendment) Bill 1964 becomes law – College recognised as a ‘charitable body’
- 1966** Council acquires more York Street houses from Dublin Corporation
- 1967** First joint meeting of the Royal Colleges of Great Britain and Ireland
- 1968** First announcement of RCSI intention to build new Medical School
  - Irish Surgical Training Committee established with representatives of RCSI, Department of Health, Universities and Hospitals to structure and supervise surgical training
- 1970** The first Department of International Health in Ireland established at RCSI



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- 1973** Abraham Colles (1773-1843) bicentenary..... President RCSI 1802, 1830, professor of anatomy, surgery and physiology, described his eponymous fracture in 1825
- 1974** Foundation stone of new Medical School laid by President RCSI John McAuliffe-Curtin
- RCSI Faculty of Nursing inaugurated, Mary Frances Crowley, first Dean
  - Maurice Neligan performs the first coronary artery bypass in the Mater Hospital
- 1975** Inauguration of Department of the History of Medicine and Chair in the subject
- 1976** New Medical School formally opened by the President of Ireland Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh
- 1978** RCSI becomes a recognised college of the National University of Ireland – RCSI Licentiates henceforth conferred with university degrees (MB, BCh, BAO) in addition to the traditional licence of RCSI
- Primary FRCSI examinations take place in Kuwait for the first time
- 1980** Link building connecting the new Medical School with the older College completed
- The Biological Society RCP&SI begins its 50<sup>th</sup> session
- 1981** RCSI President and Council travel to Washington DC and confer Honorary Fellowship on Loyal Davis, professor of surgery in Northwestern University, Chicago
- 1983** Mercer’s Hospital closes after 250 years – RCSI purchase the building
- 1984** Bicentenary of RCSI – seven distinguished international surgeons conferred with Honorary Fellowships at the Charter Day Dinner 11 Feb 1984
- Council meet in the Rotunda Hospital Board Room commemorating the first meeting of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland there on 2 March 1784
  - Co-operation agreement with Bahrain Defence Forces Hospital to assist in training surgeons for the Bahrain Defence Forces
- 1985** Final FRSCI examination first held outside Ireland takes place in Saudi Arabia
- First heart transplant in Ireland carried out in the Mater Hospital by Maurice Nelligan and Freddie Wood
- 1986** Millin House opened by Victor Lane, President RCSI – College’s first students’ residence
- 1987** Established the first Department of Family Medicine in Ireland



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- Conferring ceremony in Dammam
- Fellowship examination in ophthalmology held in Saudi Arabia
- Richmond and Jervis Street Hospitals close and amalgamate as Beaumont Hospital
- 1988** Beaumont Hospital opens
  - First RCSI Overseas meeting takes place in Bahrain
- 1989** First Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance for those who donated their bodies for medical education and research at RCSI
  - Purchase of 32 acre site in Dardistown for new sports complex
- 1990** David Boucher-Hayes, RCSI professor of surgery, leads team performing the first laparoscopic cholecystectomy – heralding the era of minimally invasive surgery
  - RCSI enters eight year contract with the Ministry of Defence and Aviation in Saudi Arabia to manage the NW Armed Forces Hospital in Tabuk
- 1991** Opening of reconstructed Mercer’s building with RCSI general practice unit, student accommodation and new library by Mary Robinson, President of Ireland
  - RCSI Department of Orthopaedic Surgery opens in Cappagh Hospital
- 1993** RCSI first to embrace new technologies in third level education in Ireland by providing laptops to all medical students
  - Senate of the Royal Colleges and Speciality Associations founded
- 1996** Penang Medical College opens as a co-operative initiative between RCSI and UCD to facilitate training of Malaysian medical students in pre-clinical studies in Dublin and hospital training in Penang
  - Intercollegiate Speciality Fellowships awarded at the end of surgical training
  - Associated Fellowship replaces the traditional FRCSI
- 1998** President Bill Clinton visits the College
  - SurGen Research Laboratories open
- 1999** RCSI School of Physiotherapy opens
- 2000** RCSI first to establish a Clinical Research Centre on an Irish hospital site: RCSI Education and Research Centre, Smurfit Building at Beaumont Hospital





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- RCSI first to develop an On-line Surgical Education Programme (BeST) globally
- College of Anaesthetists located at 22 Merrion Square
- 2001** Professor of Medical Informatics appointed
- 2002** RCSI School of Pharmacy opens
  - RCSI runs MSc course in Women’s Health
- 2003** Changes to RCSI Charter signed into law by President of Ireland, Mary McAleese
  - Foundation stone laid for York House by Dermot Desmond, Chairman, RCSI International Development Board
- 2004** RCSI Medical University in Bahrain opens in temporary quarters
  - Minister for Health and Children recognises Sports & Exercise Medicine as a Specialty
- 2005** RCSI Institute of Leadership established – specifically dedicated to developing the leadership and management capacity of health professionals
  - RCSI independently adopts the standards of the World Federation of Medical Education (WFME)
  - RCSI joins the Dublin Molecular Medicine Centre
  - RCSI confers Ireland’s first graduates with MSc in Women’s Health
  - First conferring of RCSI Fellowship by Special Election
  - York House opened by An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern – accommodating the RCSI School of Pharmacy
- 2006** Foundation stone laid for new building for RCSI Medical University of Bahrain
  - RCSI awarded its first ETS Walton Visitor Award by Science Foundation Ireland
  - Penang Medical College celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary
  - RCSI forms new Strategic Partnership in Medicine with TCD
  - RCSI confers its first cohort of Pharmacy graduates
- 2007** RCSI first to launch Graduate Entry Programme in medicine in Ireland
  - RCSI launches first Nurse Prescribing Programme in Ireland



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- First chair in Medical Education in Ireland at RCSI
- 2008** Physiotherapy Postgraduate Diploma in Neurology and Gerontology launched at RCSI
- First Mini-Med School for transition year students at RCSI
- RCSI endorses the World Health Organisation's second Global Patient Safety Challenge
- RCSI establishes first Chair in Translational Medicine in Ireland
- 2010** Graduates of Ireland's first National Pharmacy Internship Masters Programme (MPharm) conferred in RCSI
- RCSI receives Designated Awarding Body status from the State giving the College the power to award its own degrees
- 2012** First graduate in medicine through a Traveller Access Programme in Ireland
- 3U Partnership launched – bringing together a new force in Irish higher education that combines the complementary strengths of Dublin City University, NUI Maynooth and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland