

Suzanne O'Sullivan MD, FRCOG, FRCPI

I am an Obstetrician and Gynaecologist and subspecialist Urogynaecologist in Cork University Maternity Hospital, and am National Director of Training with the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in RCPI. I graduated from UCD in a 1992 that still feels like yesterday! I trained between Ireland and the UK and became a consultant in Bournemouth in the UK in 2002. I moved to Cork in 2006 and found my tribe ☺ I have always been interested in teaching and training, and coming home after 8 years in the UK, I became involved in training with the RCPI. In those days, structured training was in the early stages and postgraduate training was poorly resourced. I became national specialty director for Basic Specialist Training in 2013 and then Higher Specialist Training in 2015. With my colleague Maeve Eogan I oversaw the first large expansion of our training scheme whilst navigating the transition to EWTD. We drove the introduction of simulation training as integral to the curriculum. We successfully lobbied for 2 rounds of funding to resource this, and we won the first Excellence in Medical Education award from NDTP in 2018.

In 2020, I was appointed as the first Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologist's National Director of Training in RCPI. We have advocated for improved resourcing of training and for regionalisation and flexibility in training. One of my concerns over the years has been the erosion of morale amongst staff in maternity services and the impact of litigation on recruitment and retention. So, in 2018 I did a large study looking at attitudes to these issues amongst medical students, trainees and consultants. This published work confirmed that litigation is a significant deterrent to medical students considering our specialty as well as a major contributor to poor morale amongst trainees and consultants, and I believe we can improve support and advocacy in this area. In this role it has been my privilege to work with the National Women's Taskforce and Global Health Steering group. I am also the Fellow's Rep on the RCOG council and enjoy the opportunity to see how issues are addressed in the UK.

My other passion is Urogynaecology. I am the co-director of the EUGA accredited subspecialty training programme in Cork, the only one in Ireland. I was President of the Continence Foundation of Ireland from 2012 to 2017 and led the response of Urology and Urogynaecology specialists to the vaginal mesh controversy and subsequent pause. I chaired the Urogynaecology National Clinical Guideline Development Group and am senior author on the HSE guideline for the Management of Stress Urinary Incontinence. I sit on the National Mesh Oversight Group and am lead for the Cork centre for mesh complications.

I am the proud mother of two young women and lucky to be married to Brian who makes all this work possible, and then tolerates my campervan obsession!