

ACADEMY FOR MEDICS OPENS IN MAYO

Doors have been opened to the Mayo Medical Academy by NUI Galway in partnership with Saolta University Health Care Group and Mayo University Hospital to integrate medical education with clinical training for doctors.

This new academy, housed in a purpose-designed facility located in the former chapel on the grounds of Mayo University Hospital, is one of a series of proposed medical academies in the west/north west region.

Construction of similar facilities at Sligo and Letterkenny University Hospitals is almost complete and they are scheduled to open early in the New Year.

In welcoming this investment into clinical training facilities for medical students at Mayo University Hospital, An Taoiseach Enda Kenny said it was a tremendous contribution to medical education and research in the west of Ireland.

"The ongoing development of the Medical Academies by NUI Galway and Saolta Health Care Group is an important strategic investment in the north west region. The Mayo Medical Academy will support university medical education at Mayo University Hospital and, thereby, enhance its reputation and significantly benefit the local knowledge economy."

CLINICAL SKILLS

The new facility will allow doctors to fine tune their clinical skills under the watchful eyes of tutors and lecturers covering all medical specialties. A total of 60 students per semester from third, fourth and final medical years rotate through Mayo

University Hospital for one-year clinical training.

Its co-location with the hospital is deliberate as it allows students to attend didactic teaching in the Academy and also bedside teaching in the hospital. One of the strengths of the NUI Galway Medical School Academies is the ratio of both tutors to students and also of students to patients.

NUI Galway President, Dr Jim Browne said: "As well as being enormously important for the clinical education of our students, the real benefit of this partnership is to the health system across our region. Our relationship with Saolta University Health Care Group through the Mayo Medical Academy brings a range of tangible benefits.

"These include better learning outcomes for medical students; better treatment rates for patients, with increased personnel on wards; and better opportunities for recruitment and retention of top staff in hospitals across the region through association with the university."

JUNIOR INTERNSHIP

From January 2016 onwards, the Mayo Medical Academy and Mayo General Hospital will also welcome students as part of the school's new junior internship programme called iJUMP (Intern Junior Mentoring Programme).

The School of Medicine promotes the development of its graduates to a level of excellence in preparedness for clinical practice, allowing them to function as a competent doctor in a changing, complex and demanding working environment.

Final year medical students will from January be working on the wards as part of a team and functioning as junior interns. They will be supported by supervising consultants and will work closely with current interns to learn everything about the clinical environment first hand.

Prof Kevin Barry, Consultant Surgeon and Dean of the Medical Education, said, "Mayo University Hospital has always had very close links with third level institutions, particularly NUI Galway and GMIT. Now it will become part of an officially recognised teaching network. Providing students with a positive and rich experience within our acute hospitals will enable the hospital and the wider Saolta Group, attract and retain first-class consultant and non-consultant hospital doctors."

Charlie Meehan, General Manager of Mayo University Hospital, said that the vision of the Academy is to integrate medical education with clinical delivery. "The aim is develop an ecosystem that positions the hospital as a progressive facility that delivers the highest quality patient care together with excellent medical training and research," he added.



An Taoiseach Enda Kenny officially opened the Mayo Medical Academy in the grounds of Mayo University Hospital, Castlebar. (Pic: Keith Heneghan/Phocus)