



The Academy of Clinical Science and Laboratory Medicine

RE: Non-Standard Pathways to becoming a Medical Scientist

15th July 2016

This statement follows a statement that was issued in September 2015 that the Academy was suspending the non-standard Pathways to CLP Programme.

Following a number of meetings with the State Registration body CORU the ACSLM is regrettably no longer in a position to continue with the non-standard Pathways to becoming a Medical Scientist, Clinical Laboratory Placement (CLP) programme. There are a number of candidates who are undertaking the CLP at present and the ACSLM has contacted these candidates to outline the position regarding registration.

Following the advice of CORU, any scientist wishing to pursue a career in Medical Science should contact the Colleges that provide currently ACSLM-accredited degrees to practice as a Medical Scientist; CIT/UCC, DIT, GMIT.

When the CORU register opens CORU will take over the monitoring and evaluation of qualifications and experience of candidates wishing to practice as a Medical Scientist in the Republic of Ireland. Until then, the Academy remains the competent authority for eligibility to practice as a Medical Scientist in a clinical laboratory in the Republic of Ireland.

The formation of the Board for Medical Scientists has been announced with a call for expressions of interest in being appointed to the board by the Minister for Health. It is expected that the composition of the board will be announced in the autumn and that the Register will open in late 2017 or early 2018. Once the Register opens there are 2 routes to registration, which is a mandatory requirement to practice; Existing practitioners must have been practising for 2 of the previous 5 years on the date the register opens and have the qualifications as laid down in schedule 3 of the Act as per Section 91 of the Act. Any other applicant must fulfil the requirements of section 38 of the Act.

The Academy is not in a position to offer assurances to candidates who do not have the standard qualifications to practice as a Medical Scientist, as outlined in the current requirements to practice, and who will not have completed 2 years practice as a Medical Scientist on the day of the opening of the Register, that their qualifications will be accepted by the Board. Thus the Academy is no longer in a position to continue with the non-standard Pathways to becoming a Medical Scientist, Clinical Laboratory Placement (CLP) programme.

Irene Regan

President ACSLM