



HEA Teaching and Learning Conference December 2024

Driving Changes in Teaching and Learning through Policy and Innovation

HEA AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS
HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY



Placing Pride in Medical Education

Name of Institution/Organisation
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI)
Who led the initiative?
Graduate Entry Medicine Programme
Date and timeframe of the initiative
Academic year 2023 – 2024 and ongoing.
What was the reach of the initiative?
The initiative was offered as a choice option to students in the first year of the graduate entry medicine programme

Aims/Objectives
The aim of this initiative was to enhance student knowledge regarding specific health needs of, and barriers and challenges experienced by, LJBTO people in accessing health care. This has been identified as a deficit in medical school curriculums internationally with lack of knowledge of the specific health needs of this minority group being identified through lived experience as a key contributor to poorer health outcomes of the community. The initiative was designed as a pilot project with a view to evaluation and subsequent quality improvement of the teaching. While offered initially to a small group, the ultimate aim is to identify the key components of the teaching on LGBTQ health with a view to scaling up the teaching to offer to all students in RCSI.
Rationale and Identified Needs
Although LGBTQ people experience disparities in accessing health care and are more susceptible to a broad range of medical conditions, medical curricula, including that of RCSI, traditionally incorporate few, if any, learning opportunities to educate students about LGBT healthcare. Lack of health care professional knowledge of their health needs is identified by LGBTQ people as one of the key contributors to disparities in their health care. This lack of education around LGBTQ health was identified by students in the graduate entry medicine programme year 1 as a quality gap in their curriculum



Frameworks, Policies, or Strategies Aligned (internal, local or national)
The project aligns with the National LGBTQI+ Inclusion strategy 2019-2021, specifically the thematic pillar related to health which advocates that “healthcare providers and practitioners are trained to understand the identities and needs of their LGBTI+ patients” This project is in line with the RCSI EDI mission and specifically with the aims and mission of the Pride society.

Categories	Elements	Topics	Target Groups
	Innovation in Teaching		
		Inclusive and Equitable Teaching Practices	
Celebrate & Continue			
		Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Approaches	