

**Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland – MiniMed, MiniPharmacy and Physiotherapy
Programme for Transition Year students**

Report by Dobroslawa Staszewska

From the 22nd to the 26th of February, a number of TY students took part in the online MiniMed, MiniPharmacy and Physiotherapy programme held by RCSI. The programme featured a range of speakers from Ireland's medical field, including surgeons, general practitioners, specialized professors and medical students, who spoke about their experiences studying and working in Ireland and abroad. Students got an amazing insight into different medical career options and paths of study.

The topics presented were so varied and wide-ranging, there was something to grab everyone's interest. Some of the most memorable parts of the programme were undoubtedly the live surgeries. Students saw footage of a caesarean section and tonsillectomy on Tuesday, and a laparoscopic surgery on Wednesday. The professors who had performed the surgeries gave live narrations explaining what was going on.

It was like being there in the operating theatre. Viewers saw the tools the surgeons used, how the medical team worked together, they saw the inside of a live person's torso, and even the birth of a new life. At the end, there was an opportunity to ask questions.

Other speakers featured, gave presentations about their specializations: cardiology, microbiology and its connection to Covid-19, rheumatology and head injury. Professor Susan Smith talked about what a day in the life of a general practitioner is like, and some of the challenges she faces.

Mr Barry O'Sullivan gave a talk about plastic surgery, debunking the common misconception that plastic surgery is limited to lip fillers and implants. He explained that there is much more to plastic surgery. It is reconstructing the human body and restoring its function. For example, Mr O'Sullivan has reconstructed body parts that had to be taken away due to cancer or malformation.

Several RCSI medical students talked about their life in university, the structure of their day and their work-life balance. They said that they do in fact sleep and have a social life contrary to popular belief.

Dr Orla Walsh, a pediatrician, described what it's like working with toddlers and children. Dr Linda Mulligan gave a talk about her life as a forensic pathologist, working closely with the police department and being the first one called to a crime scene.

Overall, MiniMed was an amazing and inspiring learning experience! I urge everyone to appreciate the medical staff in our lives and recognize their contribution in keeping us safe and well as they work very hard!

