**Dr Crotty announced as new President of the IHCA**

**New IHCA President highlights lack of frontline resources restricting patient care**

**June 10th 2014:** The IHCA has announced that Dr Gerard Crotty, Consultant Haematologist, Midland Regional Hospital, Tullamore, was elected President of the Association at the IHCA National Council meeting on 7 June.  Dr Crotty takes over the Presidency from Mr Denis Evoy who had completed his two year term.

Dr Crotty, commenting after his election, said that he was delighted to take on the role of Presidency and that he was looking forward to leading the Association for the next two years. He warned however that there are a number of serious challenges ahead for the health sector.

“I am delighted to become the 15th President of the IHCA however I am very conscious that there is a pressing need to increase frontline resources to enable the delivery of high quality, safe care to patients in acute hospital and mental health services in contrast with the current overstretched situation”

Dr Crotty said that the delivery of care is being restricted due to the structural underfunding of frontline services and deep budgetary cuts.

Dr Crotty repeated the Association’s call for the urgent reversal of the 2012 unilateral cut in new Consultant salaries which has undermined the recruitment and retention of the number of Consultants that are needed to deliver high quality safe care to patients on timely basis. He said that up to 20% of the approved Consultant posts in acute hospitals and mental health services are either vacant or filled on a temporary basis through agencies at much higher cost than recruiting permanent consultants.

**ENDS**

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