

MALTESE DOCTORS GRADUATE IN DIPLOMA IN THERAPEUTICS (IRISH COLLEGE OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS)

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On 1st November 2002, 14 Maltese doctors successfully graduated in a Diploma in Therapeutics, carried out by distance learning, organized by the Irish College of General Practitioners. The programme was coordinated locally by Dr. Anthony Azzopardi, MCFD council member and launched on 14th September 2001 under the auspices of the MCFD. The Diploma was open to all general practitioners in public and private medical care but for

to work on and present a project related to one of the topics covered in the programme. The range of topics was very varied, including not only management of the commoner medical problems encountered but also subjects like counseling, complimentary medicine, drugs in sports, uncomfortable prescribing decisions and other relatively unfamiliar areas of interest. Written material was supplied for each

Not only were all 14 Maltese candidates successful, but one of them, Dr. Sonia Abela, came first from all the 45 participants of the Diploma course. The graduation ceremony was held on 1st November 2002 in Dublin and was attended by 4 of the Maltese doctors. Dr. Sonia Abela was called out for a second appearance to receive an award for first placing in the Diploma course. Later in the evening, the Irish College officials hosted the Maltese doctors to a dinner specially



logistical reasons the number had to be limited to not more than 14 doctors.

This was the third distance-learning programme on Therapeutics organized by the ICGP. The course runs over one academic year and consists of 30 weekly modules, each covering one topic and requiring the doctor to send in answers to a test sheet based on the respective topic. In addition, course participants were expected to keep a learning diary of critical incidents in their practice and to show practical application of the knowledge they acquired on the course. Furthermore, they had

respective module which was also available on the ICGP website.

The course also included two workshops, usually held in Ireland but specific arrangements were made for the trainers to come over to Malta instead. The two workshops in September and December 2001 were led by Dr Margaret O' Riordan and Dr Ailis Ni Riain. The expenses involved in covering the workshops and some of the other course fees were generously shouldered by several local entities.

arranged for them. The 14 successful Maltese candidates were: Dr. Sonia Abela, Dr. Saviour Cilia, Dr. Mario Grixti, Dr. Mario Vella, Dr. Marco Rosso, Dr. Michael Borg, Dr. Adrian Micallef, Dr. Lucienne Portelli, Dr. Rudolph Busuttill, Dr. Anthony Azzopardi, Dr. Zaid Teebi, Dr. Angela Sammut, Dr. Andrew Zammit and Dr. Pierre Mallia.

This was the first time that the course has been organized for candidates outside Ireland and it is evident that we made a very positive impression on the College, especially as we even pipped the local candidates to the post! Another feather in the cap for the Maltese family doctor.

