RCSI’s Noble Purpose

“Building on our heritage in surgery, we will enhance human health through endeavour, innovation and collaboration in education, research and service”
Campuses in 4 countries
2,000 undergraduate students
1,300 postgraduate students
Students from >50 countries
Ireland’s largest medical school
900 employees
Mother Mary Martin
1892 – 1975
Hon Fellow - 1966
Surgeon Major TH Parke
1857 -1893
Hon Fellow - 1889
11% of the global disease burden is surgical

- Injuries: 38%
- Obstetric complications: 19%
- Perinatal conditions: 9%
- Congenital abnormalities: 6%
- Malignant tumours: 5%
- Cataracts and glaucoma: 4%
- Other: 19%

Source: Disease Control Priorities, June 2008
In July 2007, RCSI & COSECSA signed a Memorandum of Understanding to “improve the standards of surgical care, education, training and examinations in the East, Central and Southern Africa” and commenced the implementation of its collaboration programme in April 2008.

Came about through discussions with COSECSA President (an RCSI graduate & fellow) and RCSI President (Prof G O’Sullivan).

Irish Aid approached by RCSI and agreed initial support.

Governed by Joint Steering Committee – 6 COSECSA & 6 RCSI
• Irish Aid granted €400,000 start up funding for the first years of the Programme to June 2009 and €300,000 from June 2009 to December 2010.

• A 3 year programme proposal was submitted to Irish Aid in November 2010 to cover essential programme costs for the period 2011 – 2013. €1.5m awarded over 3 years.

• Increased focus is required to scale up activities through partnership development, funding diversification and securing sustainable income for COSECSA. (e.g. engagement with other training bodies and international donors).
RCSI provides support through the provision of RCSI staff time and resources (curriculum, education tools, skills training, examination and assessment methodologies, intellectual property, faculty exchanges, operational capacity building and quality assurance processes) and cash contributions.

Although housed in the Dept of Surgery, it has become a pan-College project with contributions across faculties and departments (Leadership Institute, Science Faculty, Examinations, IT, Epidemiology, Communications, Travel, Office of the President).

Together with COST Africa, RCSI has become a significant, international surgical training partner in Africa.

ALSO however, large benefits to RCSI ... at least equal to our contribution.
1. Surgical education and training for COSECSA surgical trainees.
   - by the end of 2013 there should be an average of 3 training locations in each of the nine COSECSA countries with a total number of trainees of 140. In addition there should be 40 MCS and 20 FCS examination candidates by December 2013.

2. Surgical education and training for non physician clinicians.
   - 5 Countries by end 2013.

3. Examination support and quality assurance.
   - Through administrative support, mock exams and external examiners.

4. COSECSA trainee engagement.
   - Through interactive student forum.

5. Development of COSECSA basic science faculty.
   - 27 surgeons to receive 3 years training – self sustaining.

6. ICT and e-learning development.
   - Alternative delivery methods, online development, on-line database and payments …

7. Training of Trainer courses.
   - Every COSECSA trainer to receive a course over three years, including on-line content / exam.

   - The first conference on surgical training in East Africa to be held in Europe? Bring all stockholders together.
   - COSECSA to become fully systemic regionally.

10. COSECSA qualification recognition.
    - Outstanding in 3 countries.

11. COSECSA marketing and branding.
    - Increase number of students, higher profile, increased training opportunities.

12. Organisation training and development.
    - Day to day running of the a regional body across 9 countries!

13. Faculty exchanges.
    - Cross college exchanges.

    - Starting 1st March 2011 for two years.

15. Funding diversification – grant based and income generating activities.
    - Critical to the ongoing success of COSECSA.
This building was refurbished by the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar (SMZ); supported by Sightsavers International and the people of Ireland through Irish aid.