



The Gilmartin Lecture

THOMAS JAMES GILMARTIN 1905-1986

First Dean of the Faculty of Anaesthetists RCSI

Thomas Gilmartin was born in Ballymote Co. Sligo in 1905 and educated at Summerhill College and subsequently Belvedere College Dublin. He attended medical school at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and graduated L.R.C.P.S.I. in 1929. He then trained in Anaesthetics in Liverpool and London. He was appointed assistant anaesthetist in Mercers Hospital in 1932 and full consultant in 1946. He is credited with introducing Thiopentone to anaesthetic practice in Ireland in 1934 and subsequently curare in 1945. He was involved in development of the first Diploma in Anaesthetics which was a conjoint examination of both the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ireland, which was held for the first time in 1942 and which he received in 1943.

In 1945 he applied to the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland to form a section of Anaesthetics. Permission was granted provided a committee of 12 be formed. The committee was created with TPC Kirkpatrick as President and Tommy Gilmartin as secretary. At their inaugural meeting Sir Ivan Magill spoke on "Current topics in anaesthetics." He subsequently held the role of president of the anaesthetic section RAMI. In 1949 he was a foundation fellow of the new Faculty of Anaesthetists of the Royal College of Surgeons (England)

In 1959 he was a founding member and first dean of the Faculty of Anaesthetists of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. He was also a founding member of the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (AAGBI) in 1932, was a council member and vice-president (1973-1975). He was awarded the John Snow Medal by the AAGBI in 1985.

He was made an Associate Professor of Anaesthetics by the RCSI in 1965, the first academic post in the Republic of Ireland, just a year after the appointment of John Dundee as Professor in Belfast. He received an Honorary F.R.C.S.I. in 1974. The Gilmartin lecture was inaugurated in his honor following his death in 1986. Since 1985 Prof Gilmartin has been commemorated by the Gilmartin Lecture which is held annually.

Author: Joseph A Tracey April 2016.

Gilmartin Lecture Speakers

2016: Prof Deborah Kelleher, Director of the Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM).

‘Spackling Band: What can we learn from the music of Georgian Dublin?’

2015: Dr Joe Tracey, Retired Consultant Anaesthetist, ‘250 years at 22 Merrion Square’.

The story of the house and the specialty’

2014: Dr Rhona Mahony, Master of National Maternity Hospital Holles St, Dublin.

‘Take Me Away From The Monto’

2013: Professor Aidan Halligan, Director of Education at University College London Hospitals.

‘Rediscovering Lost Values’.

December 2012: Mr Kevin O’Sullivan, Editor of the Irish Times Newspaper. "Why Quality Newspapers matter in the Ireland of 2012"

May 2012: Mrs Margaret Murphy, Expert Lead, Patients for Patient Safety, World Health Organization.

‘The Patient Experience as a Catalyst for Change’

2011: Prof Charles Normand, Edward Kennedy Prof of Health Policy and Management, Trinity College Dublin. “Doing more for less”

2010: Mr Marc Coleman, Economic Editor of Newstalk Radio Station

2009: Prof Paul Muldoon, Professor of English, Princeton University

2008: Dr Archie Brain ‘LMA’

2007: Prof Garret Fitzgerald ‘NSAIDS and Beyond: Cardiovascular Consequences of COX inhibition’

2006: Dr John Hillery ‘Professional Self Regulation in the 21st Century: Hall-mark or outdated artefact?’

2005: Prof Carol Black ‘The changing practice of Medicine’

2004: Prof Richard M Satava, Professor of Surgery University of Washington, USA, ‘The Bio intelligence age –Science & Healthcare after the information age’

2003: Mr Michael McDowell, Minister for Justice

2001: Micheal Martin, Minister for Health & Children

1997: Art Cosgrove, President UCD, ‘The Universities Bill 1996’

Ms Orla Doran

Education Department