Statement from the Deans of Medical Schools

in association with the publication of the HPAT interim report

Following publication of the interim report on school-leaver entrants to medicine, *the deans of medical schools have* recommended that the issue of entry to medicine and the inclusion of the HPAT as part of that process, be included in the deliberations of the Irish Universities’ Association (IUA) working group currently considering the admissions process and criteria to universities.

This group, chaired by Professor Philip Nolan, President of NUI Maynooth, is expected to report at the end of this year.

Among the findings of the interim report on school-leaver entrants to medicine was that students who missed out on a place in a medical school of their choice were taking up other university courses, repeating the HPAT and – if their scores improved second time around – abandoning their current course and switching to medicine. Consequently, this creates a vacuum in second year which cannot be filled and denies other students a place on those courses.

Speaking on behalf of the Council of Deans of Medical Schools, Professor Bill Powderly said that, although constraining the sitting of the HPAT to one year only may reduce some of the problem consequences, a better solution would be to consider entry to medicine in the context of overall university entry and Leaving Certificate reform.

“I believe that rather than tweaking HPAT here or adding bonus points there, we should consider university entry overall so that tackling one issue doesn’t create problems elsewhere.” Professor Powderly said.