



**Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte**  
**Health Service Executive**



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5<sup>th</sup> November 2016

To the board of trustees of the Michael Foundation,

**Re: Bursary for VIREPA Advanced EEG course (2015-2016)**

I write to thank the Michael Foundation for their extremely generous support in assisting me to successfully undertake the VIREPA course. I hugely appreciate this help.

I found the VIREPA course really interesting and challenging. The learning resources were of the highest quality and interaction with the expert tutors was very engaging. I learned a lot, contributed to the online group discussions several times each week and I thoroughly enjoyed the course. Completing the assignments was a fruitful experience, particularly when followed by in-depth group discussion, as lots of different opinions and views could be appreciated.

In my day-to-day work, my newly-acquired knowledge from the VIREPA course was very useful. My EEG interpretation skills improved significantly. I became much more confident at reading EEG for patients at our centre (both in the outpatient clinic and in the epilepsy monitoring unit) and at presenting data about potential surgical candidates at the national epilepsy surgery meeting. Of the patients who underwent video-EEG monitoring at our centre since I started the VIREPA course, 14 have already had successful epilepsy surgery and another 11 await surgery.

I am coming to the end of my epilepsy fellowship in Cork. I was the first person appointed to this new position and there was always considerable uncertainty regarding whether the Irish Health Service Executive would continue funding. I am pleased to say that, due to the success of our growing service, in which I feel the Michael Foundation has had a role, national funding has now been secured and the epilepsy fellow post has been formerly incorporated into the neurology specialty training programme in Ireland, which should safeguard it and help to improve epilepsy care in Ireland for years to come.

Thank you again for your kind support.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

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Ronan McGinty  
Epilepsy Fellow