

# Connect



Tallaght Hospital

Quarterly Newsletter for GPs

Issue 7 - Summer 2017



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## Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the summer edition of Connect and I hope you are all enjoying the sunshine and have had the opportunity to avail of same. There has been great progress with the New Children's Hospital project with government approving funding recently. There will be information updates via the Local Integrated Care Committee (LIICC) and in this newsletter particularly in relation to the new model of care for the paediatric satellite centre on the Hospital campus.

The Hospital remains very busy for this time of year with ED admissions hitting an all-time high in May of this year and ED attendance for patients > 75 years are 10% higher on this time last year. In addition there have been ongoing challenges with access to home care packages and nursing home beds. In combination these have had a knock on effect on elective admissions due to our own bed capacity issues but it is envisaged this may improve for July and August as trolley pressures ease.

I would like to take this opportunity to advise you of the retirement of Ms. Hilary Daly as Director of Nursing after many years of dedicated service to the Hospital and welcome Ms. Áine Lynch as her successor. At a time of growing demand, Tallaght Hospital under Hilary's leadership, has also been very successful at recruiting and retaining nursing staff, in contrast to many other hospitals in Ireland. Of the 62 new nursing graduates in 2016, 57 chose to take up permanent contracts in the Hospital. Following an extensive recruitment and retention campaign over the last two years, the Hospital is in the unique position of having nursing staffing numbers at 1,050 at the end of December, 2016.

Hilary truly espoused our motto of "People caring for People" and continuing with that theme I am delighted to advise that our 2016 annual hospital report is available on the Hospital [website](#). I would encourage you take have a look through the annual report which gives a flavour of just some of the excellent work being carried out here in the Hospital.

Best wishes

Lucy Nugent  
CEO

## New Children's Hospital Update

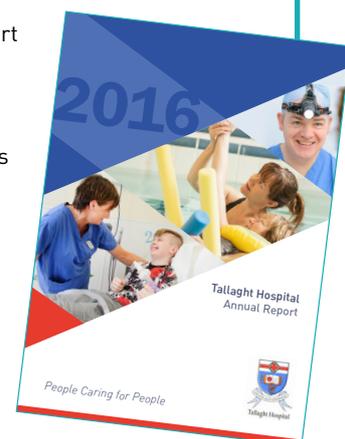
Minister for Health, Simon Harris TD recently announced that the Government has approved the investment required to enable the National Paediatric Hospital Development Board to award the construction contracts for the building of the new Children's Hospital on the St. James's Hospital campus and the two Paediatric Outpatients & Urgent Care Centres on the Tallaght and Connolly Hospitals campuses.

The new Children's Hospital on a shared campus with St. James's Hospital is scheduled to open in 2021, the Paediatric Outpatients and Urgent Care Centres at Tallaght and Connolly Hospital will open on a phased basis from late 2018.

Currently 85% of patients attending the Emergency Departments in the three Dublin Children's Hospitals go home on the same day. The Paediatric Outpatients and Urgent Care Centres will provide urgent care paediatric services, including short stay observation beds, and outpatients' clinics such as general paediatrics and orthopaedics for fracture clinics – all supported by therapies, phlebotomy, general x-ray and ultrasound services – and child sexual abuse counselling services. The HSE's primary care dental services will be provided at the Connolly centre only. Typically, the centres will care for children and young people who have a common, minor illness or injury, which cannot be managed by a GP (primary care) but does not require the acute services of an Emergency Department. In advance of the centres opening, there will be a full information and awareness campaign. This is to ensure that you, families, the public and other stakeholders understand the services that will be available and encourage patients to avail the right care in the right place near their home.

## Annual Report 2016

Tallaght Hospital has published its Annual Report for 2016, which shows that despite a significant increase in numbers attending the Emergency Department (ED), the Hospital successfully maintained its positive Patient Experience Times (PETs). While ED attendances rose by more than 9% (4,100+) to 49,663 in 2016 compared to 2015, half of patients were discharged within six hours and almost three quarters (72%) were discharged within nine hours. These rates were in line with 2015 figures, demonstrating that the Hospital is maintaining its high standards despite increased demand. **The report can be accessed on the Hospital [website](#).**



# Paediatric Diabetes Service – National Award

**The Paediatric Diabetes Service in The National Children's Hospital, Tallaght looks after over 400 patients under the age of 19. Type 1 Diabetes is a demanding and challenging diagnosis to manage on a daily basis and the team is dedicated to providing a holistic approach that meets the physical, psychological and social needs of our patients.**

The team consists of two consultants, two registrars, two senior house officers, an intern, a candidate advanced nurse practitioner, two clinical nurse specialists, a staff nurse, a dietician, a medical social worker, a senior clinical psychologist, an art therapist and administrative staff. Over the past 12 months the team have implemented innovative initiatives such as STAND: Support Through Art and Networking in Diabetes and 'DA Clinic!', a dedicated clinic for adolescent patients. These are in addition to existing successful programmes, such as CHOICE: CarboHydrate Insulin Collaborative Education.

The team work efficiently and collaboratively as a MDT, respecting and acknowledging the importance of each professional's input.

The team's philosophy is to provide a friendly, respectful and culturally sensitive environment to support, educate and empower families to achieve the best possible outcomes for their quality of life and health.

Their work was recognised at the Irish Healthcare Centre Awards recently as they were presented with the Clinical Team of the Year Award.

The team includes: Ciara McDonnell, Consultant; Edna Roche, Consultant; Helen O Byrne, Medical Social Worker; Claire Crowe, Senior Clinical Psychologist; Aimee O'Neill, Art Therapist; Mona O'Brien, Admin; Grainne Mallon, Dietician; Helen Fitzgerald, Clinical Nurse Specialist; Patricia Morris, Diabetes Nurse and Martina Comerford, Diabetes Nurse.



Helen O'Byrne, Medical Social Worker, Dr. Edna Roche, Consultant and Helen Fitzgerald Clinical Nurse Specialist represented the team on the night, collecting the award from Tony O'Brien, Director General HSE and comper for the evening Marty Whelan.

## The Rosheen Suite



Over the last few months a lot of work has gone into the redevelopment of Family rooms in our Adult ED – with the generous support of the Adelaide Health Foundation. These rooms provide a quiet space for our patient's next of kin at a difficult stage in the journey of care they take with us. Further works are planned for the family viewing room with the Irish Hospice Foundation through their Hospice Friendly Hospitals programme who through the Design & Dignity Grant will add another important improvement to the Hospital environment.

## H.pylori Care App Launched

**The Science Gallery was the location for a new app designed to clinicians to provide clear and precise information on how to diagnose and treat Helicobacter Pylori along with contact information for referral centres around Ireland.**

The app which is available for Apple and Android platforms is the result of a joint research initiative between the Trinity Academic Gastroenterology Group (TAGG) a joint research initiative between the School of Medicine, Trinity College, Tallaght Hospital, St. James's Hospital and Naas Hospital.

This initiative developed by the Irish Helicobacter Pylori Working Group Consensus which is Chaired by Prof. Deirdre McNamara, Consultant Gastroenterologist at Tallaght Hospital and Co-Founder of TAGG, was funded by the Health Research Board. The App was custom designed and developed by Neurobranch Ltd a student startup company which came out of the Trinity College accelerator program Launchbox.

The app clearly outlines the regimens for first line, second line and rescue therapies, displaying dosage and duration of therapy. For patients, it will provide information on symptoms of infection and any treatment that may be prescribed. In the future, there is potential for the app to act as a reminder tool for patients to take their medication. It is hoped that this app will provide clinicians with the necessary information needed to treat this infection effectively and in turn will improve the falling eradication rates of H.pylori infection in Ireland.



Prof Deirdre McNamara Prof Barry McMahon Dr Shiobhan West and Dr Paul Crotty

## RECENT RESEARCH

Two studies undertaken at Tallaght Hospital have made the headlines in recent weeks. A summary of each of the papers and a link to the full paper is outlined below.

### Older Motorcyclists in Ireland

The Irish population is getting older, and so too is the motorcyclist population. In Ireland although motorcycles represent a very small proportion of the total number of licensed vehicles (1.4%), motorcyclists are consistently over represented in road fatality and injury statistics. In 2014, motorcyclist fatalities in Ireland were 28.45 times greater than those of private car drivers and passengers per mile travelled. The total number of licensed vehicles recorded on Irish roads on 31st December 2015 was 2,570,294, of those 36,974 were motorcycles, rising from 26,085 in 1985 and 30,638 in 2000. However, growth in motorcycle popularity is slowing in recent years and the number of motorcycles being registered for the first time is reducing. In 2015, only 2830 motorcycles were registered for the first time compared to 7420 in 2007. Older car drivers have an excellent safety record: older motorcyclists, however, appear to be a particularly vulnerable group and have attracted less recognition. Several studies internationally have documented a rise in fatalities and injuries in older motorcyclists. Motorcycling has changed significantly over the last few decades. More people are riding for pleasure rather than for commuting or transport. Older motorcyclists generally have greater purchasing power and choose to ride more expensive larger capacity engine motorcycles. A substantial proportion of this group are returning riders, who despite presumed depreciation of their riding skills in the intervening years, resume motorcycling on more powerful motorcycles than they ever rode previously. We sought to examine older motorcyclists in Ireland: to see if older motorcyclists are particularly vulnerable road users, if older motorcyclists are being affected by a disproportionate rise in injuries and fatalities, as in other countries and what factors could potentially be responsible for this. You can read the published paper through this [link](#).

### Barriers to Dental Attendance in Older Patients

Health professionals in Ireland are increasingly concerned about the quality of oral health in older patients. The aim of this study was to identify the obstacles that face this age-group when accessing dental care, so that we are in a better position to address them. A questionnaire was completed by 105 patients attending a geriatric outpatient clinic. Over 50% of respondents had not attended a dentist in over 36 months, for the reasons that 'I have no problem or need for treatment' (62%) and 'I have no teeth, and therefore I have no need to go' (54%). While it is common to assume that no teeth means no need to see a dentist, research shows that regular dental visits are vital for ensuring the early screening of oral cancer and other mucosal pathologies, and the optimisation of existing rosthesis / restorations.

Oral health is important at all stages of life, it is particularly pertinent to older people. The difficulties experienced by frail patients when masticating foods limits their dietary choices, and leads to poorer nutrition, which in turn affects general health. A full copy of the study can be read [here](#).

## New Hospital Chairman

Mr. Liam Dowdall was recently appointed Chairman of Tallaght Hospital. He previously served as a Non-Executive Director of the Hospital Board since 2011 and was until recently the Vice Chairman of the Board. He takes over the role from outgoing Chairman, Michael Scanlan.



Mr. Liam Dowdall, Chairman Tallaght Hospital

Following the announcement of his appointment, David Slevin, CEO said: "I would like to welcome Liam to his new position and to sincerely thank our outgoing Chairman, Michael Scanlan for his service and commitment. We have all greatly benefitted from his wisdom and leadership. At Tallaght Hospital, our guiding principle is "People Caring for People, and we try to put this into action every day in a variety of different ways. Our new Chairman will undoubtedly make use of his skills and experience to advance this motto even further. I and the management team of the Hospital are looking forward to working with him."

Commenting on his new role Mr. Dowdall said, "It is a great honour to take up the position of Chairman of the Tallaght Hospital Board. This Hospital is such an important part of the local community and provides excellent care and treatment to its patients. I have enjoyed serving as Vice Chairman of the Board over the past few years and I am confident that I can bring this experience to the position of Chairman."

## Cholesterol Happens!

Professor Vincent Maher has recently taken to the roads to cycle the length and breadth of Ireland. During the 10 day cycle he wanted to raise awareness about Cholesterol and raise money for the establishment of an Advance Lipid Management & Research Centre (ALMAR) at Tallaght Hospital.

As you know the issue of high cholesterol is very prevalent in Ireland can increase the risk of heart disease and stroke, especially among those who smoke, have diabetes, obesity or high blood pressure. If the Irish population is similar to that of England, then one in 12 people have markedly high cholesterol levels, one in nine people have low HDL cholesterol levels, which normally protect against heart disease, and genetic disorders of "bad" cholesterol occur in approximately one in every 200 people. Overall, approximately 80% of individuals are unaware of their cholesterol problems and many are diagnosed only after a heart attack or stroke. Ireland currently lacks accurate information on the extent of its cholesterol related problems. There is no national screening strategy or dedicated resources in hospitals, primary care or the community to diagnose and treat cholesterol-related disorders effectively so as to reduce cardiovascular risk. It is hoped that a dedicated and adequately resourced centre such as the proposed ALMAR Centre, will provide support to patients with challenging cholesterol disorders, facilitate family screening and help refine patients' diagnoses with the use of more specialised investigations. In addition to cycling, the team will stop at various points inviting members of the public to have their cholesterol tested. We will report back in the next edition of Connect on the results of those tests and indication of what the national Cholesterol Number is.



Professor Vincent Maher

## Tallaght Cross

Tallaght Cross is undergoing a transformation into a new health quarter, housing the National Ambulance Services, Trinity College Dublin Institute for Population Health, Tallaght Cross GPs, Primary Care Centre and Out of Hours GP Service.



The Simms Building

The Simms Building is a four storey HSE owned building located on the far corner of Tallaght Cross and funding has just been confirmed for an exciting new venture with Tallaght Hospital and St. James's Hospital. As our Hospital services grow the demand for outpatient space in our Hospital has exceeded our campus capacity. Between now and the end of the year works will be ongoing to prepare the building for facilitating a Primary Care Orthodontics Service which will move from St. James's. Two of the four floors available will be made available to accommodate ambulatory outpatient services. This bespoke modern outpatient department is now being redesigned to provide quality care to our patients in specialties such as Endocrinology, Diabetes, Neurology and Ophthalmology. The fit-out is scheduled to be completed by year end with the services moving in the Q1 2018. We will provide further information in future editions of Connect.

## Consultant Appointments

**Anna Rose Prior**  
– Consultant Microbiologist

## Cardiology Nurses Win Nursing Award

Nurses in Cardiology from Tallaght Hospital and Naas General Hospital recently won a bursary award for their service innovation at a recent nursing and midwifery conference. This award recognises advance nursing practice collaboration across the Hospital Group.

At the conference, the Nursing and Midwifery Values in Practice: Bursary was awarded to Registered Advanced Nurse practitioners (RANP) in Cardiology from Tallaght Hospital and Naas General Hospital for their service innovation entitled: 'Connecting cardiology services through advanced nursing practice: nursing values in action.'

Commenting on the award, Áine Lynch, Director of Nursing said: "Winning this award is recognition of the core nursing values which underpin the care we provide and evidences collaboration working across the Hospital Group."



Jacqueline O'Toole RANP Cardiology Naas General Hospital, Shirley Ingram RANP and Niamh Kelly CNMII from the Cardiology Dept at Tallaght Hospital following the presentation of their award at the national conference

## New ED GP Liaison Nurse



**Pauline Deacy has recently been appointed to the position of Children's ED GP Liaison Nurse for the National Children's Hospital at Tallaght Hospital.**

**Pauline Deacy** She has worked within the ED for 10 years as a staff nurse. Her primary role is to co-ordinate the GP Liaison Service and community services with responsibility for implementing GP follow up procedures and improving the patient/ED interface.

She will also work closely with Social Work as child protection is an important part of the role. She is available to answer any queries GPs may have about referrals and results. In her new role she is looking forward to strengthening the links between our community services and the Paediatric ED.

### CONTACT DETAILS:

[Pauline.Deacy@amnch.ie](mailto:Pauline.Deacy@amnch.ie)  
Tel: 01 414 2396, Fax 01 414 3890  
between 7.30am and 1:30pm Monday – Friday.

## Upcoming education events available for GPs and Practice Nurses

DATE	COURSE DETAILS	CONTACT
Every Friday during Term Time	<b>Grand Rounds</b> 8am-9am Trinity Lecture Theatre	Sandra Daly Tel: 01 414 2883 <a href="mailto:Sandra.Daly@amnch.ie">Sandra.Daly@amnch.ie</a> Fee: Free of Charge
15.08.17 05.09.17 19.09.17	<b>Venepuncture &amp; Peripheral Venous Access Device (PVAD) Insertion</b> 10:30am-12:30pm Two Rock Clinical Skills Lab – CLD.	Clodagh McLoughlin Tel: 01 414 2851 <a href="mailto:Clodagh.Mccloughlin@amnch.ie">Clodagh.Mccloughlin@amnch.ie</a> Fee: €50
<b>Day 1</b> / 06.09.17 <b>Day 2</b> / 20.09.17	Dementia Care Introduction Programme CLD Day	Sinead Fagan Tel: 01 414 3170 <a href="mailto:Sinead.Fagan@amnch.ie">Sinead.Fagan@amnch.ie</a> Fee: HSE Employees €100. €200 for external candidates



If you would like any more information about any articles in the Connect or have suggestions for future editions please do get in touch.

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