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 (LInCC) 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
DCEO
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 Malon, 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 compere for the evening Marty Whelan.

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.

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.

Prof Deirdre McNamara Prof Barry McMahon Dr Shioihan West and Dr Paul Crotty
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 39,638 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 motorists, 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 motorists. 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 when accessing dental care, so that we are in a better position to address them. 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.

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.
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.

Upcoming education events available for GPs and Practice Nurses

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<th>DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Every Friday during Term Time</td>
<td>Grand Rounds 8am-9am Trinity Lecture Theatre</td>
<td>Sandra Daly Tel: 01 414 2883 <a href="mailto:Sandra.Daly@amnch.ie">Sandra.Daly@amnch.ie</a> Fee: Free of Charge</td>
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<td>15.08.17 05.09.17 19.09.17</td>
<td>Venepuncture &amp; Peripheral Venous Access Device (PVAD) Insertion 10:30am-12:30pm Two Rock Clinical Skills Lab – CLD.</td>
<td>Clodagh McLoughlin Tel: 01 414 2851 <a href="mailto:Clodagh.Mcloughlin@amnch.ie">Clodagh.Mcloughlin@amnch.ie</a> Fee: €50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day 1 / 06.09.17 Day 2 / 20.09.17</td>
<td>Dementia Care Introduction Programme CLD Day</td>
<td>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</td>
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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.”

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. 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
Tel: 01 414 2396, Fax 01 414 3890 between 7.30am and 1:30pm Monday – Friday.

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

If you would like any more information about any articles in the Connect or have suggestions for future editions please do get in touch.
Email: GPConnect@amnch.ie