



OneTeam

CUH Group Staff eNewsletter



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OneTeam is intended for circulation among staff of Cork University Hospitals Group. Extracts from OneTeam should not be published without the editor's permission.



CUH Charity Gala Ball



Awards



Arts



Minister Coveney at CUH



Minister McGrath at CUH



World Diabetes Day



Welcome to our second edition of OneTeam Newsletter

Welcome to our second OneTeam newsletter, which is packed with updates from across our services and sites, and full of wonderful examples of the fantastic work you do every day for the people of Cork and indeed the southern third of Ireland that we serve.

Our first priority continues to be improving clinical service performance, and I'm really proud to say that in November we achieved 4 of the 6 Cancer KPIs for the first time in over a decade. In fact, our clinical director for Cancer recently said to me that our chemotherapy performance over recent months has been the best it has been in his 20 years working at CUH. There has also been a major turnaround in lung cancer and prostate cancer access in recent months. In unscheduled care, despite a significant increase in the number of attendances, admissions and ambulances in 2023, we have sustained the major improvements in ambulance turnaround time made at the start of the year for the last 3 quarters, releasing over 10,000 hours so far this year of National Ambulance Service capacity to respond quicker to 999 calls. Over the last 3 months, despite being one of the busiest EDs in Ireland, we have begun to regularly achieve the Non-Admitted Patient Experience Time KPI, and are now regularly one of the best performing Model 4 hospitals nationally in this area. While we have seen a significant increase in >75 year olds attending ED this year compared with last year, in the last quarter we have also virtually eliminated these patients waiting > 24 hours for admission to a bed. In Elective care, by the

end of this month, we will have reduced the number of patients waiting overall and eliminated all waits over 4 years. We also continue to sustain zero breaches of the urgent endoscopy pathway. These are major improvements to patient care and my huge thanks goes to everyone involved, including our colleagues in other parts of the health system who are working together with us closer than ever.

Our second priority is infrastructure, and the progress we are now making in that area is outlined over the following pages. In just the last week alone, we have opened a beautiful new inpatient ward block at Mallow General Hospital and a game changing new children's emergency department at CUH Wilton, which will become the centralised ED for all Children in Cork from April 2024 when we transfer services from the Mercy. The feedback from patients and staff has been amazing, and we are very grateful to the ongoing investment by government, and our charity to progress these developments. I know there will be disruption at times, and we're so grateful for everyone's cooperation at this exciting time. It's great to see so much construction now happening at all of our hospital sites. At our recent annual CUH Charity ball we received encouraging words of support from our three local cabinet ministers about our broader capital plans going forward, including the expansion of the Glandore Cancer Centre to incorporate 2 inpatient wards and the clear need for our Trauma, Acute & Critical Care (TACC) Tower which has now been approved to proceed to PBC stage of the capital funding process. We are planning

to communicate much more about the infrastructure improvements that are in hand over the next few months, so keep an eye out for more on this front.

These two priorities have been supported and enabled by our third priority, improved organisational governance and management. Our new transformation plan has been supported in 2023 by invaluable external management consultancy, and we would not have made the improvements we have made this year without them. That said, we have submitted plans to the HSE which would enable us to bring our own in-house management and administration resource in line with peers and support our transformation plan more sustainably going forward which would be great. As a clinician myself, I do want to particularly thank and acknowledge our own administrative and management staff for their ongoing vital contribution to improving healthcare. The senior leadership team are very clear that the people scheduling and organising your care are just as important and valued members of the multidisciplinary team as the people delivering your care. Our clinical directors, directors of nursing and HSCP leads understand the value you bring to patient care. We now have monthly board meetings, supported by regular directorate and senior management team meetings on all sites and a new committee structure that links ward to board in line with international best practice. A high level overview of our transformation plan is outlined later in this newsletter for your information, and in the directorate updates you will

read more about two examples of the important work being supported by our Project Management Office. Over the last 3 months the board has also produced 4 thought leadership papers for the HSE, outlining the main issues and opportunities at CUHG to realise our full potential. We very much look forward to welcoming the newly appointed REO to our region, and discussing these papers with the new RHA and national HSE leadership in the early New Year.

All that remains for me is to thank you for your continued hard work and success, and to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year. I'm very much looking forward to building on 2023, and supporting you to deliver even more improvements in 2024.

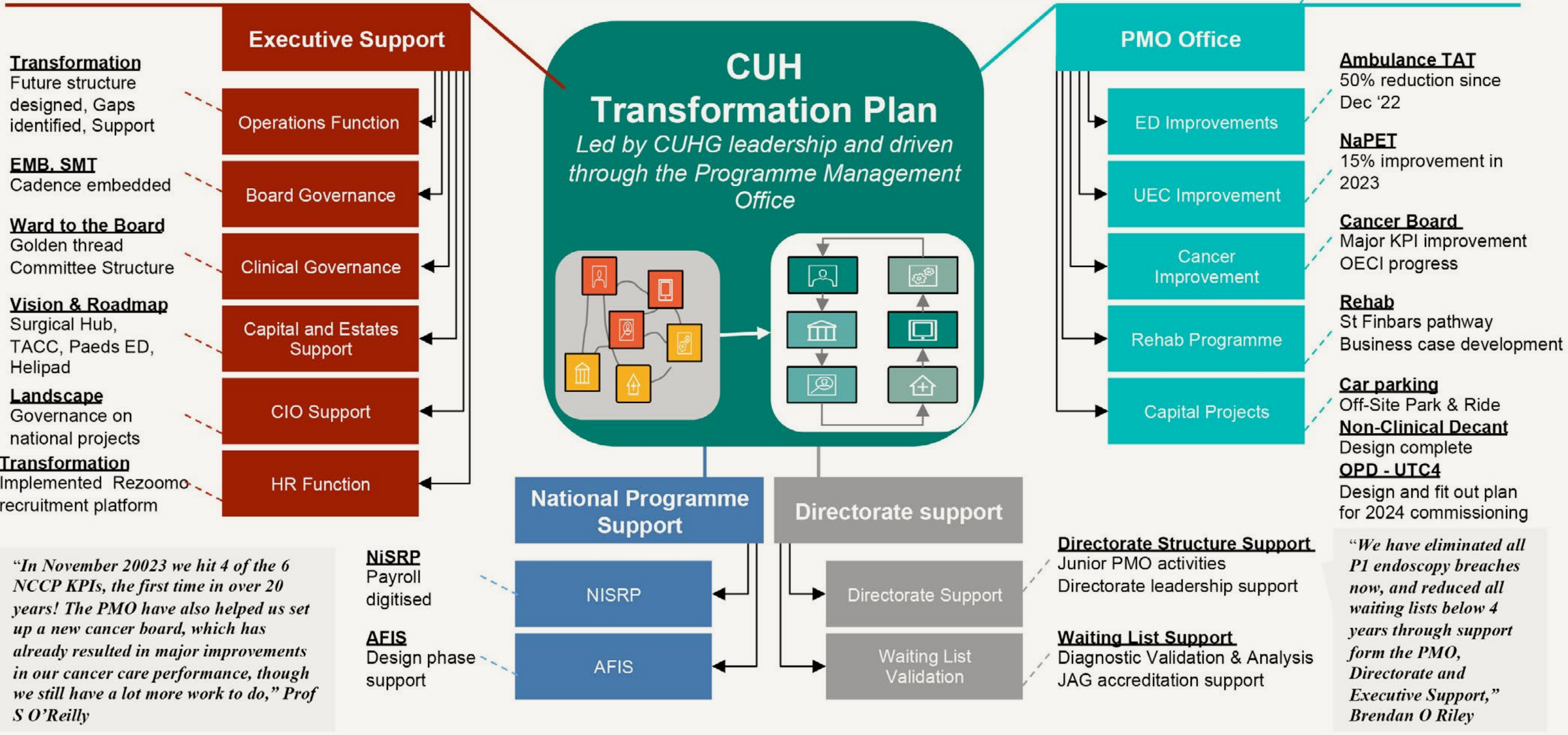


David Donegan, CEO
Cork University Hospitals Group

HE Transformation Overview

“We have gone from having one of the worst ambulance offload delays in the country, averaging over 90 minutes delayed, to one of the best, averaging 45 minutes now, thanks to this professional, co-ordinated project management approach to quality improvement. We are also now regularly achieving our KPIs for Non Admitted PET and are among the best of our KPIs, and have almost eliminated >75 Year Old Trolley Breaches” Prof C. Deasy.

Governance
Transformation roadmap
200 projects tracked
Business Case Process
PMO Programme Board
PMO Handbook



'IMAGINE BETTER' CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR CORK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, WILTON CAMPUS



Imagine. Better.

Cork University Hospital Group Infrastructural Developments

One of our top three priorities in 2023 was infrastructure. We have now agreed a strategic vision for our capital infrastructure improvement programme over the next 5 years, which takes account of our demand and capacity mismatch and our clinical service priorities. A summary of that plan and a 3D video are now available on our new web-site and you will shortly be seeing more communications around our sites, explaining and outlining our journey towards being 'Fit for Fifty', the theme behind our capital plan for 2023-2028.

We have also been working hard to speed up the delivery of all of our building projects. We have recently opened a range of wonderful new facilities, such as the 100% single room inpatient Wards at Mallow General Hospital, the Children's Emergency Department at CUH Wilton, a temporary Aseptic Compounding Unit for chemotherapy pharmacy, an additional state of the art MRI Scanner, our first Palliative Care Suite on Ward GB, a staff Outdoor Gym, a 5 bay extension of our Dunmanway Chemotherapy Suite, new Park & Ride Car Park facilities, and an ITU Seminar Room.

We've also now started construction of our Endoscopy Unit at Bantry General Hospital, and enabling construction work for our Elective Surgical Hub at CUH, the replacement of the CRC Cladding (for fire compliance reasons), installation of start of the art and automated Blood Sciences laboratory equipment (the largest haematology lab in Ireland), a Prayer Room for our Muslim staff, and an extension for a new CT scanner and 2 Trauma Bays in ED.

In early 2024, we will be opening more Off Site Car Parking, commencing the fit out of a new Outpatient Unit in Curaheen, building our long awaited Heli-Pad, starting construction of an Academic Centre in conjunction with UCC, and commencing enabling construction for our regional Paediatric Centre (enabling the centralisation of all (inpatient, surgical and diagnostic) acute paediatric



Above: Bantry General Hospital Endoscopy Unit Development.



Above: Mallow General Hospital Development.



Above: TACCT Workshop.



Above: Surgical Hub Development.



Above: OPD at UTC4.

care in Cork. We will also be upgrading and expanding our Ladybird Ward, to enable the transfer of all acute paediatric care from the Mercy to CUH in April 2024 ahead of the completion of our Paediatric Centre. Later in 2024, we will also be opening a new Clinical Administration Building off site, close to the main campus.

We have also made a significant number capital submissions to the HSE nationally which we hope to be included in the capital plan from 2024, including; a two storey extension of the Glandore Cancer Centre to accommodate 2 inpatient wards, building of an Emergency Vascular Hybrid Theatre, fitting out two further floors of the Mallow Development to include an additional 24 bed ward and OPD facilities, as well as the expansion of our St. Finbarrs Rehabilitation Unit. We will also be progressing with plans to build a Stem Cell Unit and Aseptic Compounding Unit on campus, expand the Endoscopy Unit at CUH, upgrade Inpatient Facilities on our current Trauma and Acute Medicine units, and create a transitional Paediatric High Dependency Unit prior to completion of the paediatric centre.

Finally, we have now commenced detailed planning and are in the process of producing the Preliminary Business Case for a major adult development on the Wilton campus which we are calling the Trauma, Acute and Critical Care (TACC) Tower. This landmark development will ultimately provide all of the additional critical care and adult inpatient ward capacity, emergency and cancer theatre capacity, and emergency and acute care assessment capacity (including cystic fibrosis) that we urgently need, both now and to meet the needs of the southern 1/3rd of Ireland that we serve for the next 15 years.

A huge well done to everyone involved, thank you for your patience and assistance, and we hope that these developments (and this photo montage) shows that together, we are building a better future for acute healthcare in Cork.



Above: Palliative Care Room GB Ward.



Above: Dunmanway Day Unit Expansion.



Above: Cardiac Renal Centre Refurbishment.



Above: Additional MRI Scanner.



Above: Glandore Development Plan.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL THE STAFF AT CUHG



On behalf of the Medical Directorate Team and myself, I would like to say a BIG thank you to all the staff at CUHG. We truly appreciate your hard work, dedication and professionalism. Wishing you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas and hope 2024 will be a great year for all! Thank you again.

Professor Barry Plant

Consultant Respiratory Physician, Clinical Director for Medicine and Director of the Adult CF Centre at Cork University Hospital (CUH).

Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month

September is Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month across the world and we are delighted to support Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Month throughout September 2023 by raising awareness of the condition and provide information and advice to patients and their families on how they can benefit from the services that is offered in the Cork University Hospitals Group in order to help them live well with their condition.



Above: Grace O'Sullivan Clinical Nurse Specialists Respiratory Medicine providing information and creating awareness on pulmonary fibrosis at CUH.

World Osteoporosis Day - Be Unbreakable Fight Osteoporosis 20th October, 2023

CUH Rheumatology Staff bringing a spotlight on Osteoporosis. Some amazing educational supports and information on bone health.



World Arthritis Day 12th October, 2023

Since 1996, October 12 is recognised as World Arthritis Day, a global initiative bringing people together to raise awareness of rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs). Established by Arthritis and Rheumatism International (ARI) and managed by the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR), the aim of World Arthritis Day is not only to raise awareness, but also to influence public policy and inform those living with RMDs as well as their caregivers of the support network available to them.

Every year CUH Rheumatology Staff come together to help raise awareness of the impact of RMD's. The theme of this year's World Arthritis Day is 'Living with an RMD at all stages of life'. It can be challenging living with a chronic condition such as arthritis but our five inspirational individuals who live with arthritis and who champion and advocate for self-management have fought back against this chronic condition and reclaimed their lives.

World Arthritis Day 2023: Self-care tips to manage arthritis pain

Balanced diet: Include anti-inflammatory foods like green leafy vegetables, berries, nuts, legumes, ginger, and fibre in your diet

Nutrient intake: Vitamin D and calcium are important for our joint's health, make sure of sufficient intakes.

Weight check: Always check your BMI, excess body weight stresses your joints.

Regular physical activity: Low-impact exercises like swimming, walking, and cycling reduces joint stress. You can also go for yoga and meditation to promote muscle relaxation.

Quit smoking: Smoking is not only harmful for your lungs but also for your joints and musculoskeletal health.



Above: CUH lights up in orange for World Arthritis Day.



HELLO AND MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE EMERGENCY MEDICINE AND ACUTE CARE DIRECTORATE



Left: Professor Conor Deasy, Clinical Director, Emergency and Acute Care, Clinical Lead South Trauma & MTA NOCA.

We are the Directorate who represent all services who meet patients with an emergency or acute illness or injury at the ‘front door’ of the hospital. We are a diverse collective of Medical, Nursing, Health and Social Care and Support service professionals with expertise in emergency and acute medicine. We are integrated internally with specialist streaming services in frailty, psychiatry, acute oncology and acute surgery and externally with the National Ambulance Service and Community Emergency Services. The quality of the care we provide is determined by a wide range of clinical care programmes; from the National Emergency Medicine Programme and the National Acute Medicine Programme specifically and inclusive of all National Clinical care programmes where patients may present via the ‘unscheduled – urgent and emergency care’ route, for example stroke, hip fracture. We see on average 220 patients per day and treat and discharge 70-75% of those patients home. For those requiring admission to the hospital we initiate investigations and treatments and navigate patients through to the many specialist care pathways that exist at CUH. The numbers of patients attending the ED increases week on week.

What have we achieved in 2023

- Reduction in ambulance turnaround times, despite an increase in numbers, from 139 average to 45 minutes – achieving a highly commended in the 2024 HSE Quality Awards.
- 30% Improvements in capacity for streaming patients to acute medical assessment.
- Improvement in capacity for streaming patients to acute oncology.
- Improvements in capacity for frailty assessment at the ‘front door’ and prevention of 24 hour trolley waits in ED for the older person over 75.
- Reduction in ambulance turnaround times, despite an increase in numbers, from 139 average to 45 minutes – achieving a highly commended in the 2024 HSE Quality Awards.
- 30% Improvements in capacity for streaming patients to acute medical assessment.



Above: Staff of Emergency Department at CUH.

- Improvement in capacity for streaming patients to acute oncology.
- Improvements in capacity for frailty assessment at the 'front door' and prevention of 24 hour trolley waits in ED for the older person over 75.
- 15% improvement in the time it takes to assess and discharge a non-admitted patient.
- The designation of CUH as a Major Trauma Centre with associated increased recruitment throughout all parts of the trauma pathway and transformation of the care delivery at reception and resuscitation and in-patient management of a severely injured patient.
- Build of an audio-visually separated Children's Emergency Department.
- Excellent retention of medical staff thanks to a world-class training programme for doctors in training delivered by consultants recruited from centres of excellence all over the world.
- Implementation of Safe Staffing in nursing resulting in better quality of emergency and acute care delivery and better staff morale.
- Building on our pre-hospital outreach with the addition of pathfinder to the Advanced Pre-Hospital car fleet; treating patients at scene and avoiding ED attendance for specific 112/999 calls.
- Acute Medical governance of our post-acute care site in Riverstick; providing an excellent egress pathway for people no longer needing acute care.

What's happening in our Team?

We are sorry to say goodbye to Dr Sarah Moran from our Acute Medical Team but equally excited to be working with her as she takes up her Consultant Nephrology post in CUH.

We are excited to welcome some new members to our Team. Dr Adeel Ahmed, a Consultant Nephrologist who is joining the Acute Medicine Team and Dr Habib Khan Emergency Medicine.

We are also sad to say goodbye to Sylvia one of the true pioneers of the crisis nursing Team. Sylvia has been a true innovator in integrated working between community and acute services and has provided many years of excellent care to patients in crisis. She will be sorely missed and we wish her a long and happy retirement.



Above: Staff at the CUH Emergency Department wishing Sylvia a fond farewell.

NEW STATE OF THE ART PAEDIATRIC EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OPENS IN CUH ON THE 7th DECEMBER 2023



Above (l-r): James Mathews CNM2 Emergency Department; Dr Dave Mullane, Paediatric Consultant CUH; Siobhan Scanlon, Assistant Director of Nursing (ADON) Emergency Medicine & Acute Care; Minister Michael McGrath; David Donegan, CEO CUHG; Dr Rory O'Brien, Paediatric Emergency; Professor Conor Deasy, Medicine Consultant; Norma O'Sullivan ADON, Patient Flow CUH.



Above (l-r): In the New Paediatric Emergency Department are Professor Conor Deasy; David Donegan, CEO CUHG; Siobhan Scanlon, ADON Emergency Medicine & Acute Care; James Mathews, CNM2 Emergency Department; Dr Rory O'Brien, Paediatric Emergency Medicine Consultant; and Minister Michael McGrath.



Above: Michael McGrath meeting our CEO and Clinical Directors. Back row (l-r): Professor Seamus O'Reilly, Dr David Mullane, Professor Liam Plant, Professor Conor Deasy, Mr Mark Dolan. Front row (l-r): Dr Ciara McGlade, Minister Michael McGrath, David Donegan CEO CUHG.

Unscheduled Care Programme

What is unscheduled care?

Unscheduled Care is defined as health and/or social care which cannot reasonably be foreseen or planned. It must be available to all people regardless of age or circumstance 24 hours a day seven days a week. It is delivered by a multiplicity of emergency services; including the National Ambulance Service (NAS), the Emergency Department (ED) and the Acute Floor which is the streaming service for acute medical and acute surgical needs. CUH is one of the busiest unscheduled care sites in the country, seeing approximately 72,000 people a year.

Is it the same as Urgent and Emergency Care (UEC)?

It is. This year the HSE Acute Hospitals office changed the terminology to Urgent and Emergency Care (UEC). Instead of the traditional approach which asked for a Winter Plan every year they are now structuring improvement within a 1 year and 3 year UEC plan.

What is the CUHG plan?

As CUHG is a HSE site we are guided in our practise by the Department of health. Nationally they have designed a suite of Key Performance Indicators which reflect a Hospital's performance in the delivery of urgent and emergency care. These are named as:

- Ambulance turnaround times
- Patient experience times
- Trolleygar
- Delayed Transfer of Care
- Length of Stay - Bed Days Used

In CUH we have created a programme of improvement which will enable us to deliver high quality and timely care to all patients arriving to CUH with an urgent and emergency care need. This is our plan on a page. It is a model of improvement with targeted projects which includes a multiplicity of stakeholders from multiple Directorates and Departments. It aims to facilitate integration within the Hospital between all the Directorates and beyond the boundaries of CUHG to integrate Acute and Community Care. Our aim is to enable right care, right place and right time. This is managed by the Unscheduled Care Programme Board .

Is it working?

We think so. We were established in April 2023 and so far have achieved the following:

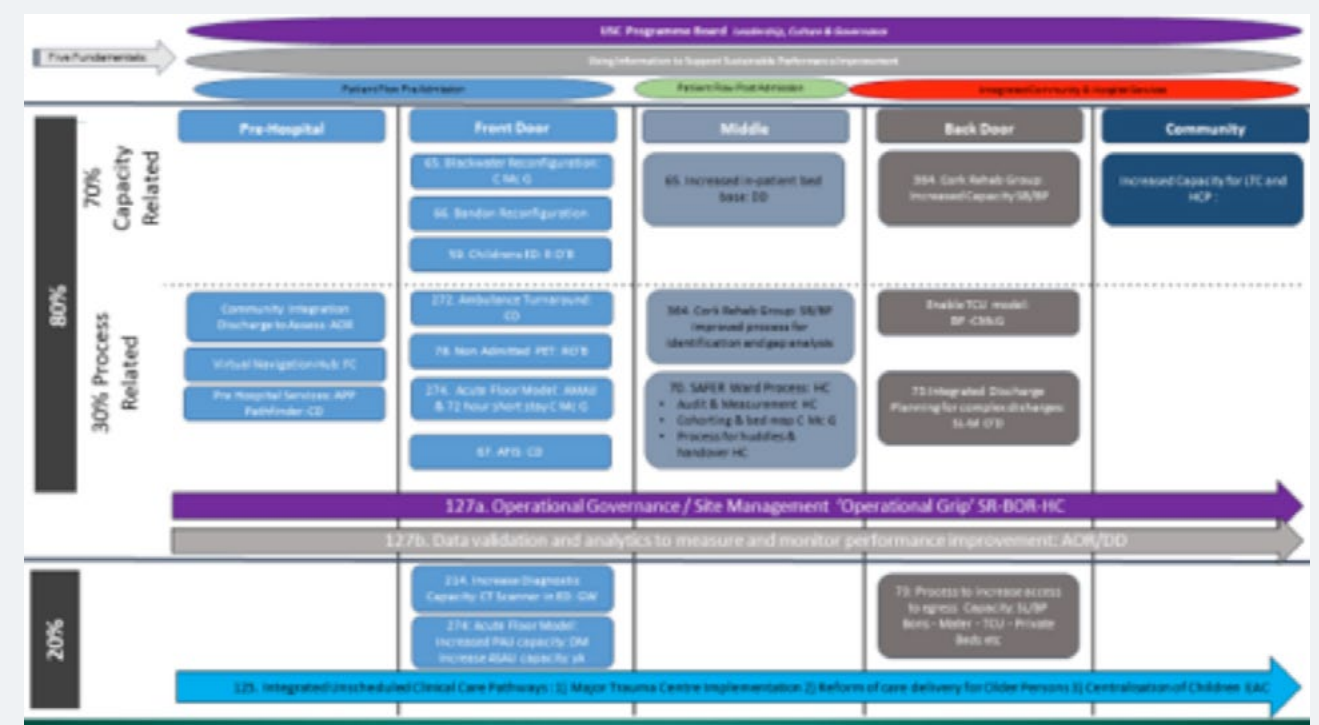
- Reduction in ambulance turnaround times from 139 minute average to 45 minute average.
- Reduction in patient experience times for the non-admitted patients from average 7.9 hours in April to 6.5 hours.
- Renewed focus on enabling a cohorting model of care to support right care, right place and right time with an increase in cohorting from to
- Reduction in trolley time for the over 75 patient.
- Improved processes for the in-patient requiring rehabilitation; including earlier identification and an improved demand capacity model.

- Acknowledgement locally and nationally of the fundamental need for improved post-acute rehabilitation services for Cork.
- Improved processes for the integrated management of complex discharges.
- Improved integration with Cork and Kerry Community services for Hospital avoidance and for minimising Length of Stay.
- Secured commencement of design planning for increased capacity including the TACCT Tower.

What next?

Despite all of our improvements we continue to see inherent risk to all of our patients arriving with an unscheduled need by not being able to secure a patient experience time of 6 hours.

Our KPIs require continued focus and commitment to achieving better for our patients. We will continue to work within all our projects on facilitating the best care for our patients. The biggest way of harmonising risk is enabling flow out of the Emergency Department into specialist in-patient care. There will be a big focus on in-patient processes over the next quarter and we would love you to get involved. The 2 biggest enablers of patient care are cohorting for specialities and SAFER process on the ward. We need your help to get involved and support your wards. If you are interested in getting involved please contact Fiona Foyne on fiona.foynes@hse.ie



Introducing the Alternative Pre-hospital Pathway (APP) Team



APP Team, comprised of a Specialist Registrar (SpR) in Emergency Medicine (EM) and an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) based in Cork. This dynamic team serves a diverse urban and rural population of approximately 300,000 people within a 40-minute drive of Cork University Hospital (CUH). Their primary focus is on responding to low acuity 112/999 calls, aiming to deliver definitive care at the scene or appropriately refer patients to community or specialist services.

Ireland's healthcare system. The report advocates for an integrated care model predominantly delivered in the community to address the complex clinical and social care needs of the aging population.

patient registrations recorded on the hospital's Integrated Patient Management System (iPMS). In the inaugural year of operation (December 2019–December 2020), the APP Team attended to 2001 patients over 297 shifts, averaging seven patients per shift. Remarkably, almost 70% of patients received effective management in their homes or the community and avoiding a transfer to hospital.



In Ireland, the current Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) clinical practice guidelines emphasize hospital conveyance unless the patient declines treatment. Recognizing the unsustainable demand for such conveyances, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) systems are transitioning from a treat-and-transport model to acute mobile healthcare services. This shift aligns with the Sláintecare Report, a consensus document outlining a long-term policy direction for

In line with Sláintecare's objectives, the Alternative Pre-Hospital Pathway (APP) Team was established in November 2019 through a collaborative effort between CUH and the National Ambulance Service (NAS). This Emergency Medicine initiative responds to low acuity 112/999 calls, the APP team will frequently join with paramedics on the scene, intervening early in the patient journey to deliver definitive care on-site or refer patients to the most suitable community or specialist services. The initiative aims to reduce emergency department conveyances, optimize emergency ambulance resources for critical cases, and provide comprehensive patient care in the community.

Calls to the APP Team are generated through the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) via 99/112. For direct liaison with the APP Car Registrar there is a mobile number available via hospital switchboard or the Emergency Medicine Consultant in ED.

The APP Team at CUH ED serves as a testament to the success of collaborative initiatives between community, pre-hospital, and hospital services, exemplifying a shift towards patient-centered integrated community care within the health service.

Patient interactions are documented in real-time during each shift, with



Inpatient Trauma Service

The Inpatient Trauma Service (IPTS) became operational in June of this year as part of the wider evolution of CUH into a Major Trauma Centre

At present, the IPTS is designed to co-manage and support the traumatically injured patient's care, hopefully unburdening teams of some of the co-ordination and key worker function. The IPTS also ensures the hospital achieves key performance indicators designed to improve care for the traumatically injured patient including optimising pain and anticoagulation management, performing tertiary surveys, and the provision of a rehabilitation needs assessment and the delivery of the rehabilitation prescription.

In addition to early rehabilitation on the wards, the Brainwave Clinic has been

established. This is a Trauma Rehabilitation Medicine led clinic aimed at providing a rehabilitation pathway to patients presenting with mild traumatic brain injuries. This is the first of its kind in the Munster Region with specialist input from Psychology, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language Therapy.

The return of the monthly **Trauma M&M** facilitates a robust review of patient outcomes and opportunities to discuss areas for improvement. This is held at 7.30am on the first Wed of the month in the MDM room in CRC.

Meet the Inpatient Trauma Service team

CUH has employed 12 consultants across trauma facing specialties in the last 9 months as part of MTC designation. Of these appointments, the IPTS staffing model includes 4 consultants including specialists in Emergency Medicine, Ortho-Geriatric Medicine, Emergency Surgery & Rehabilitation Medicine. We operate on an inter-disciplinary team model of consultants, NCHDs, trauma coordinators, psychology, social work, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and dietetics.



Above front (l-r): Ruairi Connolly, Rehabilitation Medicine Consultant; Jade Tett, Social Work; Oludayo Ajani, Social Work; Michael Dunphy, Consultant in Emergency Medicine.
Back (l-r): Sinead Long, Physiotherapy; Stephen Halpin, Psychology; Conor Murray, Trauma SHO; Marie Howard, Occupational Therapy; Chloe Aherne, Physiotherapy.





Above: Professor Seamus O'Reilly, Clinical Director of Cancer Services and Consultant Medical Oncologist.

Update from the Oncology Directorate

WELCOME TO THE ONCOLOGY DIRECTOR UPDATE

At Cork University Hospital, we as a team understand that facing a cancer diagnosis can be a challenging and emotional journey. That is why we are committed to providing the highest level of care and support throughout the patient's oncology treatment. Our team of dedicated oncologists, nurses, health and social care professionals along with a large network of support staff are here to guide patients every step of the way, ensuring that the treatment received is personalised, comprehensive and tailored to each individual's needs.

There have been some very exciting developments both within the directorate and across the hospital as a whole over the past number of months. With the current efforts underway to review and adapt the hospital governance structure, our cancer directorate is now composed of 7 clinical business units. These include Medical Oncology, Haematology, Radiation Oncology, Palliative Care, Psycho-Oncology, Rapid Access and Clinical Trials. Due to the diversity of cancer treatments we need to recognise the increased dependency on various other directorates including diagnostics, peri-op and unscheduled care.

In the realm of Cancer Services, we have made significant strides in enhancing our care, research, and patient support. We believe in a patient-centred approach to oncology care, placing well-being and comfort at the forefront of our services. Our state-of-the-art facilities, combined with the latest advancements in cancer treatment and technology, allow us to offer

cutting-edge therapies and clinical trials to improve outcomes and quality of life for our patients. These advances can be seen in the areas of radiotherapy where we can now offer our patients SABR lung treatment. In the past patients requiring this type of radiotherapy had to travel to Dublin. A huge well done to all the team in radiotherapy for successfully executing this project. We are also proud to announce that we are 1 of 4 chosen Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) centres across the country. When discussing AYA in the context of cancer, it refers to the unique challenges and considerations that arise when this age group (16-24) is diagnosed with cancer. AYA oncology is a specialised field that focuses on understanding and addressing the specific needs of adolescents and young adults facing a cancer diagnosis. Addressing the needs of those young adults diagnosed with cancer calls for the involvement of the wider multi-disciplinary team and we are grateful for the interaction and commitment of all those involved in this project. Our close collaboration with the University College Cork, has proven essential for our advancement in research, training and education. It is also plays a pivotal role in the process of OECl accreditation and we are very happy to have them on board.

As we move forward, we want to assure you that your work matters. It makes a difference, not only in the lives of the patients we serve but also to you the staff who commit to the challenges, hard work and demands that are presented to you daily.

Key Achievements

- Medical Oncology KPI hit 100% in October
- Prostate Cancer KPI steadily improving
- New Cancer Centre mailing list and email updates, established Communications group
- New guidance on determining Ready To Treat dates for systemic anti-cancer therapies
- First lung SABR patient treated
- First palliative care suite opened
- Business Cases drafted for Glandore Inpatient beds & MR Planning
- Daffodil Centre outreach information and support commenced in Glandore Unit.

Key Events

- Hugely successful CUH/UCC Cancer Centre Town Hall event 160+ attendees
- Cancer Services staff take part in Sunrise swim to raise awareness for World GynaeOnc day
- CTG celebrate 20 years of Cancer Trials in Cork
- CUH Charity ball in aid of Cancer Services, key speaker Professor Mark Corrigan Breast Surgery
- Launched Oncology Nursing Learning Forum, held
- Urology team attend TrinityStJames for Annual NCCP Urological Cancer Update
- UCC and CUH staff representing at Breakthrough Cancer Research ball
- AOS Conference set for May 2024
- Distress assessment and management training for MDT.

Grand Rounds “Recent advances in the treatment of Genitourinary Cancers”, Professor Jack Gleeson (Consultant Medical Oncologist and Associate Professor in Medical Oncology)



Grand Rounds are an important part of the hospital’s academic calendar. In his Nov 8th excellent grand round presentation on “Recent advances in the treatment of Genitourinary Cancers”, Professor Jack Gleeson (Consultant Medical Oncologist and Associate Professor in Medical Oncology) also highlighted the **LIAM Mc** trial (**Linking In** with **Advice** and supports for **Men** impacted by **Metastatic Cancer**) which is a 12 week survivorship programme for men with genitourinary cancers, run between UCC/CUH. As part of the presentation, some of the HCPs involved in the trial outlined their roles.

Above (l-r): Anne Marie Cusack (CNM1 Clinical Trials Research Unit), Professor Jack Gleeson, Stephanie Corkery (Lead Physio), Anita Cahill (Prostate ANP) and Katie Johnston (Lead Dietitian).

The LIAM Mc Trial
 Linking In with Advice and supports for Men Impacted by Metastatic Cancer

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT05946993
 Cancer Trials Ireland #: CTIRIAL-IT-23-18
 ICS Study reference: M11006
 Sponsor Study Code: 22022

European Federation of Radiographers Societies Patient Centred Care Awards 2023 – CUH Radiotherapy Department Winners

Congratulations to the Radiotherapy Department Team who were Runners-Up in European Federation of Radiographer Societies Patient Centred Care Awards 2023 for the project ‘Introduction of dog therapy (animal assisted Intervention (AAI)) in a radiotherapy setting to support and enhance patient wellbeing.’

and provided an important source of support for patients undergoing radiotherapy.

The project involved the introduction of a therapy dog to the reception area of the radiotherapy department to support and enhance patient wellbeing.

The Dept of Radiation Oncology, Cork University Hospital are very proud to be the first radiotherapy department in Ireland to introduce AAI in our oncology setting and this would not have been possible without the support of My Canine Companion, UCC and MCC Ana. A special thanks to Kate Fitzgerald, Derry McCarthy and Claire Harman for initiating the project.

A survey of patients was conducted pre and posts the introduction of the therapy dog and the results were very positive with 100% of those who had interacted with the dog reporting a positive experience.

The feedback from patients highlighted that a dog was a welcome distraction and lovely talking point for patients. The feedback also included request to increase the time that the therapy dog spent in the department.

The project demonstrated that the dog therapy programme in our radiotherapy department has numerous benefits for patients and staff. It has created a more relaxed, social and welcoming environment in the reception area,



Above (l-r): Derry Little, Kate Fitzgerald and Claire Harman.

CANCER PROGRAMME BOARD UPDATE

What is the Cancer Programme Board?

The Cancer Programme Board was established to provide strategic oversight of the development of Cancer Services in CUH, with the ultimate aim of improving the quality of care and outcomes of patients with cancer.

The Cancer Programme Board has representation from all of the Clinical Business Units within the Oncology Directorate (Medical Oncology, Haemato-Oncology, Radiation Oncology, Palliative Care, Psycho-Oncology, Clinical Trials), and from all of the Directorates that provide cancer care (Surgery, Medicine, Diagnostics, Emergency & Acute Care).

What is the Cancer Programme Board doing?

The Cancer Programme Board identified the priorities for cancer care in CUH, and established Working Groups to develop these areas as follows:

- Performance & Access KPIs, led by Beth Hackett
- Infrastructure, led by Dr Richard Bambury
- OECI Accreditation, led by Claire O'Regan
- Governance & Strategy, led by Dr Dearbhaile Collins
- Communications, led by Michelle Coleman
- Education, Training & Research, led by Prof Roisin Connolly.

Is it working?

The Board was established in March 2023 and the Working Groups were established gradually since then. So far this year, the teams have achieved a lot:

Performance & Access KPIs

The teams involved in improving the KPIs for rapid access clinics for breast, lung, and prostate, and for the delivery chemotherapy have made huge progress, which has ultimately resulted in improved access for patients with cancer.

Key Performance Indicator	Jan 2023	Nov 2023
Rapid Access Breast (urgent)	43%	91%
Rapid Access Lung	83%	97%
Rapid Access Prostate	13%	93%
Medical Oncology Treatment	64%	91%

Infrastructure

The Infrastructure Working Group have developed and submitted Business Cases and Project Initiation Documents to National Estates for two priority projects for cancer care:

- Extension of the Glandore Centre for two inpatient wards for haematology & oncology patients
- Procurement of an MRI unit for the Glandore Centre that will enable more targeted radiotherapy treatment planning

OECI Accreditation

CUH, with partners UCC, have recently become members of the Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OECI) and we are undergoing the process to become a fully accredited Cancer Centre. This process and accreditation is a guarantor of excellence in clinical care, research, clinical trials and education, and will enable close cooperation with peer institutions and major teaching hospitals across Europe, with the ultimate goal of improving patient care. The OECI

Working Group have:

- Pathways mapped
- Received funding to implement patient feedback kiosks across the hospital.

Governance & Strategy

- Governance workshop & framework in development
- Mission & Vision, strategic plan in development

Communications

- Staff newsletter
- Town hall events.

Education, Training & Research

- Strategy development.



Above: Glandore Development.

AMBITIOUS VISION FOR CANCER SERVICES ANNOUNCED AT PACKED TOWN HALL EVENT



deliver quality cancer care, together with teaching, training, research and innovation. David Donegan presented his overall vision for the hospital in terms of strategy, performance, infrastructure and education. He highlighted key achievements in the past year and acknowledged the fantastic teamwork that has resulted in chemotherapy and lung access KPI's turning green for the first time in many years.



The CUH/UCC Cancer Centre Town Hall meeting took place on October 10th in Cork University Hospital. A packed auditorium of over 160 attendees were presented with an ambitious vision for the future of cancer services in the region and the pivotal role of UCC and OEI accreditation in the development of an internationally recognised cancer centre.

Professor Helen Whelton, Head of UCC College of Medicine and Health, provided the opening address; highlighting the importance of a fully coordinated partnership between UCC and CUH to

Professor Seamus O'Reilly stressed the importance of patient-centered care while the crucial role of research and education in the development of a centre of excellence was illustrated by Professor Roisin Connolly. In 2019, Trinity St. James's Cancer Institute was the first centre in Ireland to achieve OEI accreditation. We were therefore delighted to be joined on the night by their Medical Director Professor John Kennedy, who shared first-hand experiences and ongoing benefits of accreditation from their Institute. Finally, Professor John Higgins (CEO SSWHG) spoke to the importance of regional collaboration in establishing a comprehensive and integrated cancer care network for the southern region.

Attendees were treated to wonderful candlelight reception in the atrium of the cardiac renal centre after, so a very big thank you to Anne Bodley and her catering team from everyone at the cancer centre.



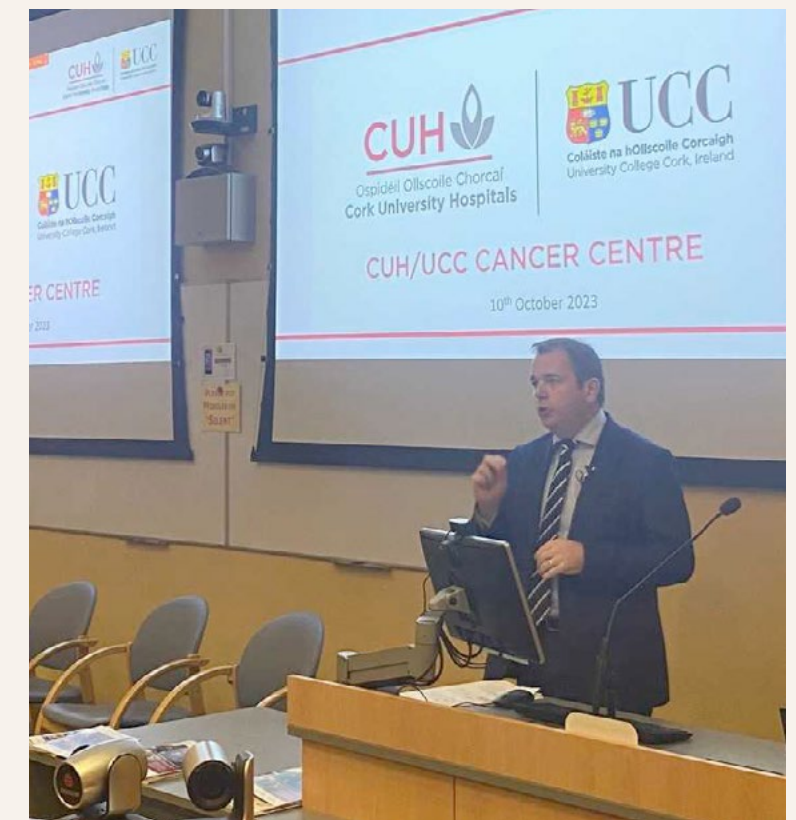
Above (l-r): Professor John Kennedy, David Donegan CEO, Professor John Higgins, Professor Roisin Connolly, Professor Seamus O'Reilly.



Above: Professor John R Higgins, Professor of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, CEO South/South West Hospital Group.



Above: Professor Helen Whelton, Head of UCC College Medicine & Health.



Above: David Donegan CEO CUHG.

End-of-Life Care Committee

The End-of-Life Care Committee, at Cork University Hospital, was established in 2020. Its members sharing a common goal. To identify the needs of End-of-Life care, for adult and child patients and their families, and to ensure that the essential elements of a consistent high quality approach to end-of-life care are in place in all departments of the hospital, whether death is expected or unexpected.

Their achievements have been great. Through their dedication the role of the End-of-Life Care Co-ordinator was put back on the agenda as a priority for the hospital, and in February 2023, Máiréad Lyons began in her post as End-of-Life Care Co-ordinator. A position she is privileged to uphold.

CUH is one of 43 hospitals who are a member of the Hospice Friendly Hospital (Hfh) Programme. The establishment of this programme by the Irish Hospice Foundation was to encourage the implementation of Quality Standards for End-of-Life Care in Hospitals (2010), thus making end-of-life care central to hospital care. These Standards endorse the importance of hospitals having systems in place to ensure that end-of-life care is central to the mission of the hospital; to reflect a clear and transparent hospital ethos; and to ensure a consistent and quality approach.

There now is a focus on 6 domains which encompass and guide the direction of the End-of-Life Care Co-ordinator and Committees role.



With these in mind the past few years have seen a plethora of review and changes.

- Quality Improvement, Audit and Research.
- Audit and research has been a key priority for the End-of-Life Care Committee and beyond.

Room to Improve: An Audit of in-hospital End-of-Life Care for Oncology Patients in a Tertiary Cancer Centre in Ireland During the Covid-19 Pandemic was published in the Journal of Death and Dying, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00302228231196620>

This retrospective study assessed the quality of care using a validated tool. This study prompted change, to include: the development of a care of the dying patient guidance checklist to ensure comprehensive communication, expansion of the End-of-Life Committee to include junior doctors and regular audit.

At international level, Conor Moloney NCHD, presented these findings at ESMO 2023, with an impressive poster presentation.

A second advantageous project has been a review of End of Life Care in the Emergency Department at CUH.

The arrival of the Covid pandemic in 2020 put a spotlight on the importance of delivering 'good quality' end of life care to the patients and

families in our hospital. In response to the crisis, the Emergency Medicine team led by Dr Saema Saeed, in consultation with our hospital Palliative Care team, drafted a guidance document to provide clinicians with general guidance around safe and effective symptom control measures to ensure patients die in a dignified and comfortable manner. In 2020, this guidance document was adopted by the Irish Association of Emergency Medicine (IAEM) as the National Clinical Guidance Document for end of life care in the ED. [IAEM-CLINICAL-GUIDELINE-EOL.pdf](#) This guideline was subsequently selected for a multi-centre national survey by the Irish Trainee Research Network (ITERN) focusing on physician attitudes and knowledge about end of life care in the ED. This study, the EDEL Survey (Emergency Department End of Life) was published by the European Journal of Emergency Medicine (see link below). This group have subsequently presented a second paper, EDEL 2, at the IAEM Annual Scientific Meeting focussing on the enablers and barriers to the provision of EOL care in Irish ED departments. This study has demonstrated a clear willingness and desire by Irish emergency doctors to provide an excellent standard of End-of-Life care to patients, but these desires are limited by knowledge and experience.

https://journals.lww.com/euro-emergencymed/fulltext/2023/08000/attitudes_and_knowledge_of_emergency_doctors.9.aspx



Far left (l-r): Daniel Nuzum (Co-chair EOLC Committee), Máiréad Lyons (End-of-Life Care Co-ordinator) and Professor Seamus O'Reilly (Co-chair End-of-Life Care Committee).

Left: Conor Moloney (NCHD) with poster presentation ESMO 2023.

Education and Training

At MDT level The Summer Series 'Dying to Live or Living to Die?' was initiated by our End-of-Life Care Co-ordinator to put the spotlight on End-of-Life care. Over the summer months a series of educational talks which encompassed holistic aspects of End of Life Care took place. Topics included:

- Compassionate Conversations (Máiréad Lyons, End-of-Life Care Co-ordinator)
- Advance Healthcare Directives (Valerie Smyth, IHF)
- Spirituality (Rev Daniel Nuzum, Pastoral Care)
- Loss and Bereavement (Louise Finn, Senior Psycho-Oncology Social Worker)
- The Psychology of Hope in Palliative Care (Marcia Ward, Senior Clinical Psychologist)
- Pharmacological Management of Symptoms at End-of-Life (Dr. Karie Dennehy, Palliative Care Medicine Consultant)
- These diverse topics were chosen to embody the holistic aspects of what dying, death and bereavement entail. There was great support for these sessions and stimulated some impassioned discussions. It brought members of the MDT together to challenge current practice and to inform future practices.
- At ward level the provision of short education trainings are being implemented to help improve the compassionate care we give to patients who are recognised as dying and their families.

- Improving the Hospital Environment
- The development of the Comfort Care Suite on GB Oncology ward, is the first project of its kind for CUH. This project, supported by CUH Charity, is the culmination of vision, commitment and a shared goal to improve End-of-Life care here at CUH. It was a vision borne out of commitment to improving the hospital environment, ensuring increased comfort for patients who are in their final days and weeks of life and also for their loved ones. Only opened in September, it has served to allow families to spend precious time with their loved ones as death approaches, in a calming and dignified and home-like environment.
- To conclude, the responsibility of ensuring that the care we give to patients who are dying, and their loved ones is to a high and consistent quality, lies with each and every one of us.

'The way a patient dies remains as a lasting memory for the relatives and carers left behind.'

WE ONLY HAVE ONE CHANCE TO GET IT RIGHT!

Dates of note:

End-of-Life Care Awareness Day:
7th November

CUH Staff Remembrance Day:
16th November.



Above (l-r): Staff Engagement Mark Fenton (Social Worker) Máiread Lyons End -of-Life Coordinator and Anju Menon CPC NPDU.



Above: Staff Volunteers, Sheila Lordon (CNM2 1B Ward) and Tyrone Horne (CNS Children with life limiting illness).



Above (l-r): End of Life Care Day Engagement Session; Nora Twomey (ADON), Helen Cahalane (DON), Andrea Moriarty (QPS Lead).

Mr Simon Coveney meets the staff in the Aseptic Compounding Unit Open at CUH

The Pharmacy Aseptic Compounding Unit (ACU) is a specialist unit with responsibility for the preparation of individually tailored doses of cytotoxic and biologic agents used in the management of malignancies and other conditions. This includes the production of medicines for Cancer-related Clinical Trials. Senior Pharmaceutical Technicians (Compounding) are the staff specifically trained to prepare these doses of cytotoxics within the ACU, under the direction of Pharmacists.

The first ACU opened in CUH in 1998. It was originally designed to serve the patients of a single Oncologist and Haematologist,

but this very limited unit served the staff and patients of the growing cancer service until August 2022, when an unscheduled breakdown brought forward a project to establish an 'interim' ACU. This was built ahead of a larger facility which will be built as part of an integrated development with an enlarged Cancer Day Unit and other related facilities.

After a few false dawns, the interim ACU was opened in October 2023 and one of the first visitors to see the unit was local TD, Simon Coveney Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment.



Above: Minister Simon Coveney and David Donegan CEO, CUHG, joined by CUH Daffodil Centre Cancer Nurse, Sinead Power and our volunteers, Theresa and Eleanor, highlighting the importance of raising the awareness of cancer.



Above (l-r): Deirdre O’Keeffe, Noreen Harvey, Deirdre Lynch, Minister Simon Coveney, David Donegan CEO of Cork University Hospitals Group, Lydia Murphy, Aoife Crowe, Carol Morgan.



Above: David Donegan, CEO, CUHG, Simon Coveney Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment with ACU Pharmacy Staff in the Aseptic Compound Unit.

World Thrombosis Day 13th October 2023

CUH LIGHTS UP IN RED FOR WORLD THROMBOSIS DAY



Staff at CUH shining a spotlight on the signs, symptoms and risk factors of thrombosis, commonly known as blood clots.

A huge thank you to the staff in the CUH Catering department supporting World Thrombosis Day.





Above: Dr Gerry Wyse, Radiologist & Diagnostics & Therapeutics Clinical Director.

Diagnostics & Therapeutic Directorate Update

For this edition of the CUHG OneTeam Newsletter we have a spotlight on Laboratory Medicine

A key project initiated by the CUH Bloodsciences Team is the creation of a Blood Sciences department to deliver an improved Laboratory Medicine Service to our patients and the greater healthcare community.

Both the Haematology and Biochemistry Departments provide a quality laboratory service accredited by the Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) compliance with International Standard ISO 15189 and ISO22870 and are continually committed to providing the highest quality diagnostic and consultative services for all its users. The Laboratory provides a service to CUH/CUMH, citywide hospitals and general practice, and is the referral laboratory for MGH, BGH and UHK. The Blood Sciences department processes 15 million tests per year on a 24/7 basis.

The roadmap for the reconfiguration of the Routine Haematology/Coagulation and General Chemistry/Immunoassay services to CUH Blood Sciences was first published in 2018. Despite some delays to the project initiation, an extensive tendering process was completed by HSE and Laboratory Staff (including supplier prequalification, the issue of tender documents, receipt and review of tenders and award of contract) and the new Blood Sciences Laboratory commenced construction in March 2021.

CUH Blood Sciences Project includes a pre and post analytical processing solution with particular focus on the tracking of analytical equipment, the pre and post analytical pathways, intelligent ICT management and

ultimately total laboratory automation. Existing equipment in the Haematology and Coagulation Laboratory will be upgraded to the most innovative laboratory solutions available improving the throughput and turnaround time for patient results in addition to improving the quality of the diagnostic testing platforms available in use. The pre-analytic phases for Haematology and Biochemistry will be amalgamated into a single department.

This multi-year investment in CUH laboratory services will ensure that maximum efficiencies are realised from laboratory resources in order to meet increasing demands on our Laboratory services, in addition to future proofing our services to meet expansion in response to projects planned in Cork University Hospital. Examples of these projects include the expansion of Molecular Haematology testing capacity in CUH, the establishment of CUH as a Major Trauma Centre, the planned transfer and

consolidation of paediatric services from MUH to CUH in addition to the construction of a dedicated paediatric Hospital on CUH campus.

CUH Blood Sciences Project is scheduled to go-live in January 2024. The large-scale verification of such an extensive volume of new analytical equipment for the CUH Blood Sciences Project has never been undertaken in the history of the CUH Laboratory Service. Incredibly, this was achieved without any impact to our current service provision, turnaround times of patient test results or the accreditation status of either department. The CUH Blood Sciences project would not be possible without the tireless work and dedication of the entire Laboratory Team within the Haematology & Biochemistry laboratories, Medical Laboratory Assistant staff in the pre-analytical department and the Haematology & Biochemistry Administrative staff.



Blood Sciences Team: Scientific and Consultant Staff from the Haematology, Biochemistry and Haem/ Bio Administrative office met with Beckman Coulter Diagnostics at a 2 day Kaizen event. The Kaizen group observed current lab processes and identifying waste within these processes on Day 1. Day 2 involved idea generation and priority matrix, action list, reporting & follow-up meetings.

The Patient Coach

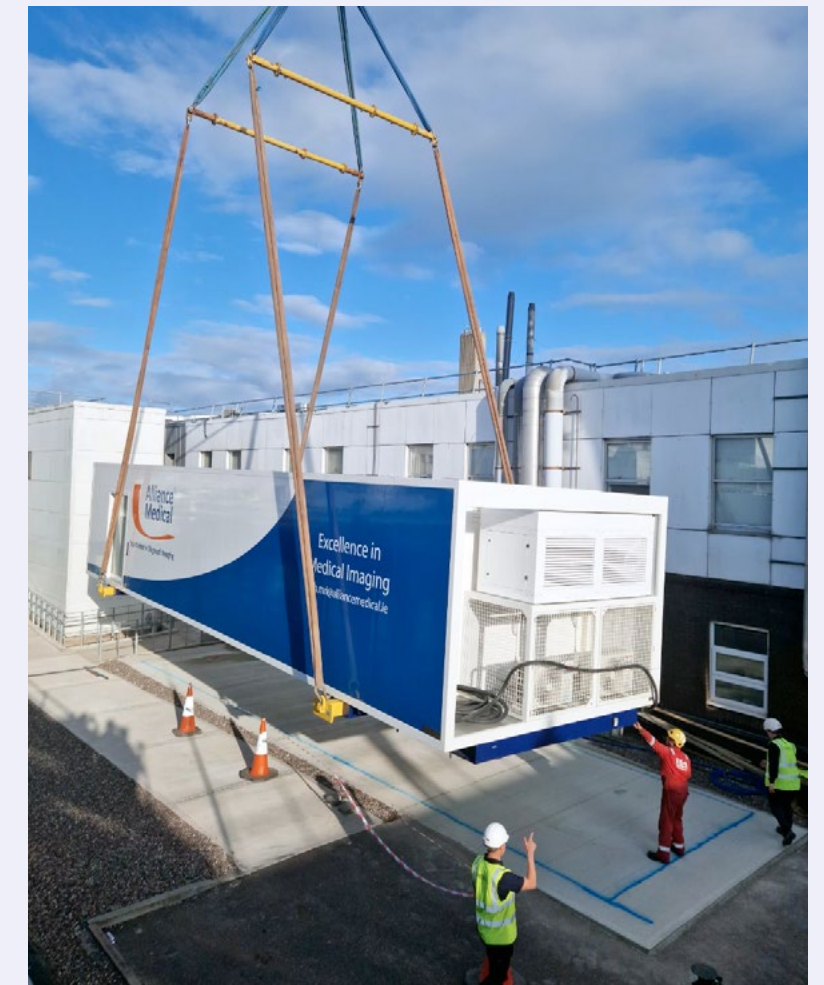
'The Patient Coach' is designed as a resource for all patients with chronic illness who wish to engage in exercise in a safe and enjoyable manner. At present we know that patients don't engage in enough exercise and this is often because of perceived barriers, fears that symptoms may get worse, lack of resources and lack of specific knowledge. With this you tube channel I will be bringing short videos about different aspects of exercise both in a general sense and in relation to specific diseases. I will also be doing short videos and workout videos with a physiotherapist for patients. I just launched the channel to help patients with chronic illness exercise safely.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCt7-e6B8inodYlli3MHTzxA>



Above: Jennifer Dineen (CUH Consultant Neurophysiology).

Additional MRI Scanner arrives at CUH





Above: Dr David Mullane, Consultant Paediatrician and Clinical Director of the Paediatric Directorate.

What's happening in our Paediatric Directorate: The New Paediatric Building

CUH is designated as a Regional Centre in the Model of Care from the National Clinical Programme for Paediatrics and Neonatology. Phase 1 of the paediatric capital project at CUH delivered a new Children's out-patient facility, day unit and academic centre in 2017.

The final phase incorporating new inpatient wards and operating theatres has full planning permission, enabling groundworks are underway and is due to start construction in 2024. This Children's Centre will deliver 82 single in patient rooms with sleeping facility for parents, haematology/oncology unit, 6 bed high dependency unit, large disability access rooms, a new school, play space, 6 bed paediatric assessment unit, 4 operating theatres, HSPC therapy facility and space for MRI and ultrasound.

The Children's Centre will centralise all paediatric medical and surgical care in the city to one site at CUH in a child and family focused modern facility.



Paediatric Neurosurgery Outreach Education Programme was held on 25th October 2023

A Paediatric Neurosurgery Outreach Education Programme, was hosted by CUH in the Kingsley Hotel, Cork on 25th October 2023. This programme was delivered by the Paediatric Neurosurgical team-Children's Health Ireland at Temple Street, Dublin. The event catered for 90 healthcare professionals, who provide support and care for children and their families in the Cork and Kerry Region. Attendance also included CUH BSc Children and General Integrated.

The programme provided an overview of the Paediatric Neurosurgery Service and the Referral pathway, Paediatric Neurological Observations, Tumours of the Central Nervous System, Hydrocephalus and Trauma. The central theme was providing safe, high quality and effective Child and Family Centred care and the importance of providing care closer to home for children and young people, aligned with 'Leading the Way' National Strategy for the Future of Children's Nursing in Ireland (2021-2031). The highlight of the day was the opportunity to discuss Case Presentations and to participate in Workshops on Paediatric GCS, Head Circumference Monitoring and Surgical Devices. The discussions and reflections afforded great learning, sharing of experiences and opportunity to liaise and interact with CHI - Neurosurgical team.



Above: Professor Darach Crimmins Consultant Neurosurgeon Temple Street.



Above (l-r): Sarah Dennehy CNS, Ciara O'Prey CNS, Michelle Doyle ANP, Emma Holohan Neurosurgical Clinical Services Co-ordinator Temple St, Jackie Dempsey Paeds CNF & Una Martin CNS Neurodisability CUH.

Paediatrics Masterclass

Caring for a child with a Life – Limiting Condition Masterclass was supported in Cork by CHI – CCNE and hosted by CUH on 12th September 2023 in Bru Columbanus. The event catered for 100 healthcare professionals, who provide support and palliative care for children with life-limiting conditions, and their families in the Cork and Kerry Region and beyond. Attendance also included CUH BSc Children and General Integrated Nursing Interns. This integrated approach to the delivery of healthcare knowledge is essential to

provide safe, high quality and effective care to meet the needs of children and their families across all regions. The Masterclass explained the philosophy and principles of providing supportive and palliative care for these children in any practice /healthcare setting, or even in the child’s own home. This day afforded great learning, sharing of experiences and opportunity to liaise and interact with a range of local speakers whom specialise in this area. See photos from the event below:

****New Information Hub is a great resource for parents and families****

<https://scanner.topsec.com/?d=257&r=show&u=http%3A%2F%2FInformationhub.childreninhospital.ie&t=55fe1347b5323672d7077efde63ee08d94f08b8c>



Above: Part of the expert panel whom discussed caring for children at end of life.



Above: Dr John Allan, Paediatric Care Consultant, CHI Crumlin.

CUH Hosts National Irish Paediatric Orthopaedic Society Meeting



Pictured left (l-r):
Mr David Moore Paediatric Orthopaedic Consultant CHI; Ms Fiona Murphy Deputy CEO CHI; Mr Colm Taylor Paediatric Orthopaedic Consultant Cork; Ms Sinéad Boran Paediatric Orthopaedic Consultant Cork; Mr David Donegan CEO CUHG.

Cork had the privilege of hosting the National Irish Paediatric Orthopaedic Society Meeting this year in November 2023. It was opened by our CEO Mr David Donegan in collaboration with the Deputy CEO of Childrens Health Ireland, Ms Fiona Murphy.

The theme of this year’s meeting was “*Bespoking the Spoke*”, to explore how local, national and international collaboration can propel us forward, creating an environment where groundbreaking advancements and best practices are shared and implemented.

The meeting was held over 2 days and featured an array of local and international presentations including; updates on National Childrens Hospital to Paediatric Services in Cork, Paediatric

Orthopaedic Trauma in a Major Trauma Centre, Requirements for Paediatric theatre complex, Environmentally-friendly ‘green’ theatres, the vision for neuromuscular care in Ireland, novel surgical techniques in Cerebral Palsy, updates on musculoskeletal infection, Skeletal dysplasia, Paediatric foot conditions, patellofemoral and low back pain disorders. We also discussed strategies to build capacity and reduce wait-times to be seen at an OPD through virtual work.

In the ever-evolving landscape of healthcare, collaboration stands as the cornerstone of success and this meeting afforded over 80 delegates the opportunity to exchange ideas, the fusion of perspectives, and the cross-pollination of expertise.

ARTS

Helium Arts Charity Brings Creativity and Fun to Paediatric Outpatients in CUH

Ashleigh Ellis (Artist) with Dr Trishee at 'Create While You Wait' presentation on Oct 5th Lunch n' Learn. Children in Seahorse clinics enjoy drawing on a blackboard-wall organised by Arts officer Edel Ni Nuallain and Maintenance staff, or make paper stained-glass windows to alleviate anxiety and improve wellbeing during appointments.



Above (l-r): Dr Trishee of CUH and Artist Ashleigh Ellis.



Above: Seahorse Outpatient and Artist Ashleigh Ellis.

WELCOME TO OUR PERI-OPERATIVE DIRECTORATE UPDATE FOR THE ONE TEAM CUH STAFF NEWSLETTER



Above: Mr Mark Dolan Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon & Clinical Director of the Peri-Operative Directorate.

Spotlight on our Pre Assessment Team

Who are the Pre Assessment team?

The Pre Assessment team is a team of nurses, anaesthetic doctors, clerical staff, and medical interns. PAC is a nurse led clinic run under the supervision of Consultant Anaesthetists. We are part of the Peri Operative directorate. As per Models of Care for Pre Admission – all patients should be pre assessed. We see patients who are undergoing an elective surgical procedure requiring general or regional anaesthesia

Pre Assessment pathways

Patients are assessed using 2 pathways:

1. Pre Admission Assessment Physical clinic +/- My Pre Op online assessment software (PAAC)
2. Pre Assessment Clinic Telephone clinic +/- My Pre Op online assessment software (PACT)

What do we do and challenges we face?

We carry out a thorough assessment of patients who require elective surgery and reduce delays and cancellations on the day of surgery. Most patients are admitted on the day of surgery and rarely need to come in the night before surgery. We work with several other internal and external staff to enhance communication, identify patient readiness for surgery, and streamline the patients journey including: clinical nurse specialists, advanced nurse practitioners, bed booking, surgical secretaries, theatre and wards, infection control, laboratories, endocrine, renal, brachytherapy, GP's, practice nurses, community intervention team and many others to improve communication and patient safety.

Up to 4,000 patients a year currently use our service. We see multiple specialities including Breast, Neurosurgery, Urology, Plastics, Colorectal, Vascular, Brachytherapy, General surgery, Endocrine and Hepatobiliary.

Our service is constantly evolving and changing and presents ongoing challenges that include: 1) Older patients with more complex co-morbidities, 2) Increase in chronic diseases, 3) Higher risk surgeries being performed, 4) Urgent surgeries with short lead times, 5) A greater onus on shared decision making and patient choice, and 5) Careful use of resources: theatre utilisation, reduction in delays, correct appointment type.

Currently 44% of our patients receive a telephone Pre Assessment and the rest are seen in a face to face clinic where up to 50% of these patients are seen by or reviewed by one of the anaesthetic team.

Introduction of a digital platform

To assist streaming patients to the most appropriate clinic, we introduced a digital platform in April 2022 (My Pre op, run by Ultramed). This allows patients to complete an online pre-operative assessment and the results (clinical summary) are reviewed by PAC medical or nursing and this allows the patient to be given the most appropriate appointment for their clinical needs.

24% of all patients seen have been streamed to both clinics using My Pre Op and 50% of our patients have been streamed to telephone assessments

using the My Pre Op tool. This is a significant saving in resources. We monitor how many patients have been inappropriately booked into each clinic to help refine the booking process.

The average lead time for patients who use PAC is 3-5 days and this requires the service, and patient's management plan to be tailored to the individual patient needs and the urgency of their surgery. Having shorter lead times for urgent surgeries changes the focus from optimizing the patients' medical conditions to the need to flag all of the patient's vulnerabilities and anaesthetic risks to the anaesthetist team and surgical team and other team members. Staff use opportunities to provide brief intervention training.

Patient optimisation can include: Blood pressure control, diabetic reviews, weight and exercise advice, smoking/vaping cessation, abnormal bloods follow up, cardiology and respiratory reviews. These patients are tracked until their optimisation and test follow up is complete.

Pre assessment clinic (PAC) developments

Our PAC team have implemented developments to our service and some include: 1) standardised pathways for patients using the

service, 2) standardised assessment documentation, 3) completion of Pre Assessment nurse education programme, 4) ongoing support from a lead Anaesthetic Consultant to oversee service provision and advancement, 5) standardised policies and procedures to direct care, 6) use of standardised guidelines on preoperative testing, 7) development of a role for Staff Nurse, CNS, CNM and future ANP's, 8) expansion of the nursing role in addition to nursing assessment, observations and swabs to systems assessment, assessments of anaesthetic

history, screening for malnutrition, and assessment of functional capacity.

Using audit to improve our service

PAC proactively use audit and the results of patient satisfaction feedback to drive changes and expansion. Staff are been involved in Intern teaching, student nurse training and in-house education and poster sessions to champion their service. Examples of audits done in PAC include:

1) KPI's as per Models of Care for Pre Admission,

2) audit of the number of preventable cancellations of patients seen in PAC (1 patient this year),

3) number of referrals for echo's, BP follow up, cardiology and respiratory reviews, no of non-attende'e's, number of day cases seen,

4) number of inappropriate bookings to each clinic,

5) number of deferrals for optimization,

6) audits on correct side of surgery,

7) in-house metric's, and

8) number of direct admissions through the surgical day ward.

Patients are given information regarding preparation for their procedure, what to expect before and after surgery, lifestyle management pre surgery, advice on prevention of blood clots and chest infections. Surgical day ward feedback any preventable cancellations.

The PAC team monitor deviations in care, need for new pathways and aims to responds to changes in service needs.



Above (l-r): Eileen Murphy, PAC clerical, Lisa Murphy, PAC staff nurse, Dei Cliffe, PAC staff nurse, Geraldine Otway, CNM2, Colette Sweeney CNM2, Sudha Ezhilalin PAC clerical and Wayne Allen CNM3. (Other team members include Noreen O'Leary, ADON and Dr Brian O'Donnell, Consultant Anaesthetic lead).



Above: Geraldine Otway, CNM2 and Aileen Lee, CNM2.

Health Service Excellence Award Winners 2023: Innovation in Service Delivery



Professor Mark Corrigan, Clinical Professor & Consultant Breast & General Surgeon.

Congratulations to Professor Mark Corrigan and Team who were recent Winners of the Health Service Excellence Award Winners 2023: Category Innovation in Service Delivery. The team received their award on the 30th November 2023 in Farmleigh, Pheonix Park, Dublin.

Project title: The Operating a Perioperative Initiative across the South/ South West Hospital Group (SSWHG).

What does the project involve?

The Transforming Theatre programme is an integrative approach to identifying and improving patient flow through the operating theatre.

What hospital(s) are participating?

10 hospitals across the SSWHG and their 56 operating rooms.

1. Bantry General Hospital
2. Cork University Hospital
3. Cork University Maternity Hospital

4. Kilcreene Orthopaedic Hospital
5. Mallow General hospital
6. Mercy University Hospital
7. South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital
8. Tipperary University Hospital
9. University Hospital Kerry
10. University Hospital Waterford

What is its aim?

The aims of the programme are as follows;

1. Embed a system of standardised theatre metrics enabling both locally led (tactical & strategic) improvements and high-level Hospital Group development opportunities.
2. Align a process for routine review and action of these metrics locally by Theatre staff and Hospital Theatre Governance Group, and collectively by a Hospital Group Theatre Governance Group.
3. Provide a structured Quality Improvement methodology to achieve tangible improvements through a multidisciplinary teams (MDT) approach.
4. Advance QI capability for all by providing training, facilitation and coaching at all stages of the programme.

When was it introduced?

TTP was commenced in 2020 as a collaboration between the SSWHG, the national clinical programme in surgery, the national clinical programme in anaesthetics, the HSE and the RCSI

What are the results?

- Standardised metrics across 10 hospitals and 56 operating rooms.
- In the first 6 months of 2023 use theatre hours have increased by 1363 with an increase in the number of patient treated through an additional 1775 cases performed across the SSWHG.
- €2.8m additional theatre activity.
- Perioperative governance structure deployed in all 10 hospitals.
- Quality improvement project support.
- Trust developed across network.
- Network forums established with regular bidirectional communication opportunities.
- Recipient of Science Foundation Ireland support to employ artificial intelligence to analysis collected data.
- Recipient of European and national management awards.

Will it be shared with other hospitals in the Group and/or nationally?

Yes, all 10 hospitals in the group are using the system and a similar national version also being currently designed and deployed.

Who are the people who started it?

A collaboration between the SSWHG, the national clinical programme in surgery, the national clinical programme in anaesthesia, the HSE and the RCSI.

Original steering team:

Prof Debbie McNamara
 Mr Charlie Dineen
 Ms Grace Reidy
 Mr Padraig Kelly
 Ms Bridie O’Sullivan
 Mr Gerry O’Dwyer
 Dr Gerard O’Callaghan
 Dr Julie McCarthy
 Prof Mark Corrigan

In addition team members in each site have played key roles in delivering the transforming theatre philosophy to their hospitals.

What are your views on it and any other information you like to give me?

The Transforming Theatre Programme (TTP) at the South South West Hospital Group has helped develop perioperative services through a strategic focus on data-driven decision-making and frontline staff empowerment. Following the initial implementation of the TTP which finished in March 2022 the SSWHG Executive Team realised the potential this programme could achieve with some investment. The SSWHG appointed a Clinical lead and a Programme lead to operationalise the programme across the group.

This has ensured consistency in embedding the TTP structure and systems into business as normal within perioperative settings in the hospitals and building sustainability.

Recognising that the key to enhancing perioperative services lies in the hands of its providers, the SSWHG has fostered a culture of continuous improvement and data analysis among its staff.

Central to the TTP’s success is the establishment of a robust communication network connecting perioperative stakeholders across the group. This network has cultivated a shared learning environment, facilitating the exchange of best practices and innovative ideas among different sites.

A significant aspect of the TTP’s approach is the integration of lean methodologies, guided by expert mentors. This has led to the development of numerous quality improvement projects, further elevating the standard of care.

In collaboration with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) and University College Cork (UCC), the TTP has also incorporated an academic dimension into its activities. This is exemplified by the recruitment of a PhD student to explore the role of artificial intelligence in enhancing perioperative services, a project funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI).

The culmination of these efforts is evident in the tangible outcomes achieved by the TTP. Not only has there been an increase in the number of surgical patients treated across the SSWHG, but these improvements have also generated an additional 2.8 million euros in operating time. This underscores the TTP’s role as a catalyst for both operational efficiency and financial growth within the hospital group.





Bantry General Hospital World Diabetes Day

Health service Excellence Awards Bantry General Hospital QI Project which aimed to reduce hospital associated blood clots.



Above (l-r): Sharon Levis and Marion O'Donovan.



Above (l-r): Dr Oisín O'Sullivan, Consultant Ginna Polania Zuleta, Dr Ethar Elsunni, Dr Roisin Murray and Dr Ali O'Neill.



Above (l-r): Marion O'Donovan, Aisling O'Driscoll and Sinead Kavanagh.



Above (l-r): Sharon Levis, Ann O'Sullivan, Marion O'Donovan, Lily McCarthy and Sinead Kavanagh.



Above (l-r): Paul Finegan and Sharon Levis.



Above (l-r): Sharon Levis, Margaret O'Donoghue and Marion O'Donovan.



Above (l-r): Aonghus Joyce, Sharon Levis, Dr Mark Hannon, Marion O'Donovan, Sinead Kavanagh, Lily McCarthy, Dr Rory Plant and Medical student Aindrias Lyons.

Mallow General Hospital

Mallow General Hospital is a 37 bed acute general hospital providing general medicine services, general surgical services, medical day services (transfusion and infusion), Endoscopy, MAU, IU, and Out-patient services. It is supported by diagnostics such as Laboratory and Radiology and therapies such as Physiotherapy, Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy and Dietetics.

Key Achievements 2023

1. Increased attendance activity via Medical Assessment Unit and Day Services 2019 v 2022.
2. 40% increase in attendances to the Mallow Injury Unit 2019 v 2022
3. Expansion of ENT and Dermatology Services to include Audiology and Pigmented Lesion Clinics
4. Introduction of Pulmonary Rehabilitation Service and expanded Cardiac Rehabilitation Programme
5. Delivery of a new Ultrasound facility and General X-Ray facility within Radiology Department.
6. Delivery of 48 single occupancy inpatient beds by year end.

Key Priority Areas for Actioning in 2024

1. Develop new Outpatient Department and additional inpatient bed capacity
2. Progress Obesity Service - subject to suitable infrastructure
3. Reduce dependency on locum and agency medical staff
4. Progress Slaintecare agenda (ECC Hub, ICPOP) with colleagues in the Acute and Community sectors.

Mallow Hospital extension will be finished by the end of the year and the new building at Mallow General Hospital will see the number of beds increase from 37 to 71

Overview of the hospital

Mallow General Hospital is a 37 bed hospital and is part of the Cork University Hospitals Group within the South / South West Hospital Group.

Mallow General Hospital (MGH) provides acute general hospital services to the populations of North Cork, West Kerry and South Limerick.

The services provided at Mallow General Hospital include:

- General Surgery (including Urology and Ear Nose Throat [ENT])
- General Medicine (including Cardiology Respiratory Gerontology and Gastroenterology)
- Day Procedure Unit (Transfusion and Infusion Services)
- Endoscopy Unit
- Medical Assessment Unit
- Local Injury Unit
- Radiology
- Laboratory
- Out-Patient Department
- Palliative Care (Supported by Marymount Hospital).

Details of bed replacement project 2021 -2023

- MGH is currently undergoing a service expansion with a project of 48 single occupancy inpatient rooms due to be delivered by Q3 2023. This will increase the inpatient capacity from 37 inpatient beds to 71 inpatient beds. 14 existing inpatient beds will relocate to the extension upon completion.
- MGH's inpatient bed capacity reduced from 54 to 37 during the Covid 19 Pandemic in 2020
- Multi-occupancy rooms were reduced by 50% inpatient capacity.
- The 48 single occupancy inpatient rooms project commenced in February 2021
- The building is a modular type construction, manufactured off-site by ESS Modular Ltd and transported to site for assembly.
- The project extension consists of four floor and a service machinery basement, connected to the western end of the existing main hospital building.
- An extensive project board has overseen the construction, staffing plan and equipment programme.

- The project will delivery single occupancy inpatient accommodation meeting national and international bed practice recommendations.
- Two of the four floors are fitted out for inpatient acute medical beds and will become operational by the end of October 2023.
- The remaining two floors are a shelled finish to allow for future development. The remaining two floors will be developed for a further 24 inpatient single inpatient beds and a new Out-Patient, Ambulatory Care and Obesity Service.



Above: David Donegan, Cork University Hospital Group, CEO with Claire Crowley Mallow Hospital Manager at the new extension at MGH.

MALLOW HOSPITAL EXTENSION



Above: EMB Visit to Mallow General Hospital. David Donegan CEO CUHG meets with Staff at Mallow General Hospital on the opening of the additional inpatient wards.



Mallow General Hospital



Pictured above are staff at Mallow General Hospital on World Thrombosis Day highlighting the risk factors & when to seek medical help.

Above (l-r): L. Jones, ADON; L. Barry, MTA; M. Howard, CNM3; S. Daly, CNM2; AM. Cronin, Physiotherapy Manager.



Pictured above and left are staff at Mallow General Hospital at their Hospice Friendly Hospitals (HFH) stand.

Left (l-r): C. Cunningham, CNM3; P. Moloney, DON; J. Noonan, CNM2; S. Daly CNM2.
Above (l-r): S. O Sullivan, RGN; C. Kearney, HK; J. Noonan, CNM2; K. Lucey, Discharge Co-Ordinator; D. Kearney, ADON.

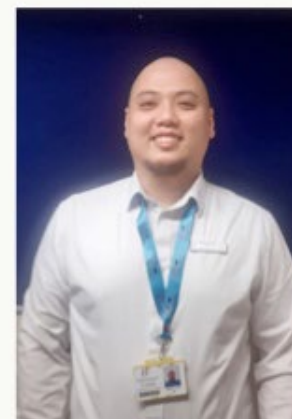
Update from Nursing

Delighted to welcome over 100 first year nursing students to Cork University hospital. Orientation ahead of their first clinical placement. Celebrating these bright stars as they commence their journey of making a positive difference to our patients lives.



Above: First Year Nursing Students.

Nursing Documentation Month: Message from our Nursing Documentation Officer Christian Alipio



Picture Above: Christian Alipio, Nurse Documentation Officer

As part of a campaign in collaboration with the Cork University Hospital Nurse Practice Development Unit and key stakeholders to improve practice, October has been dedicated as the Nursing Documentation month with the aim in improving awareness and stakeholder involvement on current and future developments in nursing documentation in Cork University Hospital

As part of this campaign, in collaboration of diverse partners of the Cork University Hospital nursing practice and administration, various activities such as nursing documentation stand at the canteen, knowledge refresher sessions for staff and a documentation quiz have been launched to increase awareness on how quality of care can be reflected in quality in nursing documentation.

There are multiple actions we can perform as to provide a greater standard in nursing documentation and maintain our professional responsibilities as nurses.

Some steps in improving the quality nursing documentation

1. Individualize each patient's care episodes
2. Document what is required in accordance with documentation guidelines

(CUH Documentation Policy, 2021), (HSE Records Management Standards 2011).

3. Ensure the documentation is of a standard that appropriately reflects the care received by the patient

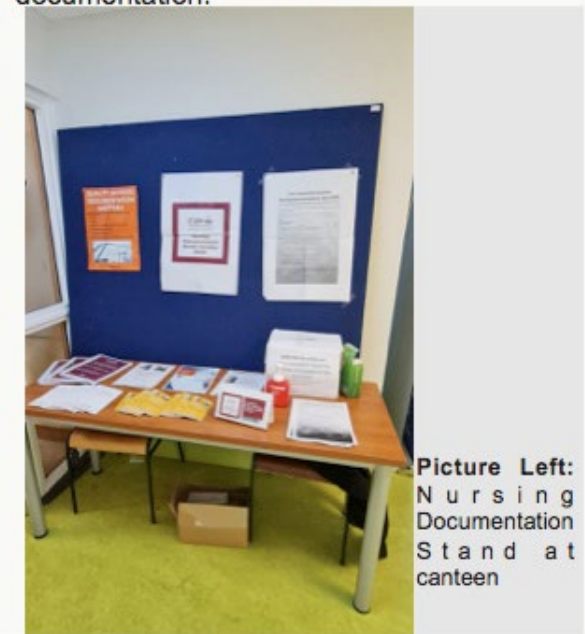
4. Reduce unnecessary writing and time wasted on repetitive documentation

5. Date, time and sign each entry

6. Label each record with patient's name and MRN

7. Ensure abbreviations used are only from the HSE approved abbreviations (June 2010). All abbreviations must be written in Higher Case (Capital) BLOCK Letters e.g. PRN

Thank you to all the excellent staff nurses, clinical nurse managers, ANPS and CNS's who are working hard to improve Cork University Hospital's nursing documentation.



Picture Left: Nursing Documentation Stand at canteen

Above: Nursing Documentation Officer Christian Alipio.

Update from our Health & Social Care Professionals

Speech and Language Therapy International publication

The Speech and Language Therapy Department are proud to have raised €1,411 through a very successful bake sale and staff donations. This money will go towards the CUH Charity. Members of the SLT department will also be summiting Carrauntoohil in aid of the CUH Charity. The date has been rescheduled to early 2024 due to poor weather conditions this winter! The SLT department would like to thank everyone who has donated thus far.

If you wish to donate to the CUH Charity, you can access the SLT iDonate page here:

[iDonate.ie | Support SLT Department CUH Fundraising Page](#)



Above: Members of the SLT Department.

Workshop for Dysphagia

Hospital wide ward-based dysphagia workshops for Nurses and Health Care Assistants took place from the 17th-19th of October this year. This was conducted by Staff Grade Speech and Language therapists with the assistance of Brendan Cullinane from Nutricia Medical.

Training focused on educating ward-staff on signs and symptoms of dysphagia, understanding modified diets and fluids and how to refer to Speech and Language Therapy.

Approximately 100 nurses across 18 wards attended training. Many thanks to everyone who engaged with these workshops.



Above: SLT Workshop for Dysphagia.

Update from our ICT Department

IT Helpdesk

Welcome to the CUH IT Helpdesk, where we endeavour to service and resolve a monthly average of 2000+ User Requests and Incidents that we receive via Phone and Email.

We work Onsite and Offsite covering CUH, CUMH, Bantry and Mallow Hospitals. Installing Hardware and Software to maintain a high quality of service.

As an IT Department we support the following teams, Infrastructure, Applications Team and BI Team.

We support Vendors that support many Departments within the Hospitals, a percentage of the

Vendors use Citrix Cloud Access to update software and or resolve technical issues.

Every day on the Helpdesk brings new challenges and we are aware of the stress that End Users can be under due to the nature of their role within the Hospital settings.

End User experience is at the heart of what we are trying to achieve, knowing that quality patient care benefits from professional technical assistance.

Helpdesk: 021 4928000
Ext: 28000
E-mail: CUHIT.Helpdesk@hse.ie



Above (l-r): Members of the Help Desk Team; Nigel White, Sean Blake, Wiktor Kubasiak, Pat Delahunty.

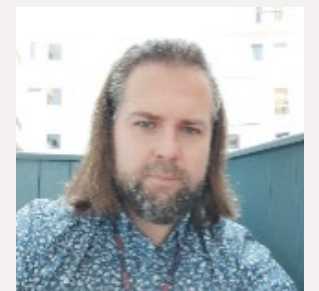
To prevent issues with your PC /Laptop, here are 5 important reasons to restart your PC /Laptop on a daily bases

1. To prevent PC / Laptop slowness or RAM Problems.
2. To prevent Application Errors or Memory Leaks.
3. To achieve better Internet Connectivity.
4. To reduce performance issues.
5. To receive important updates.

Sean Blake, Help Desk Manager, IT Department

Audio Visual

The **AV Support Engineer** is a new role in Cork University Hospital. It was introduced shortly after Covid-19 outbreak in December 2021. Lockdowns and times of isolation have created a demand for working from home for many staff. Hybrid meetings availability has become a standard requirement. Surveys, system upgrades and new technology implementation creates better connectivity between teams to discuss treatment plans and provide the best solutions for patients.



Above: AV Support Engineer Jack Karbowski.

I work closely with the ICT Infrastructure Team as AV is highly dependent on IT & networking.

My day to day duties are focused on supporting MDT Meetings to keep all systems running smoothly, supporting large auditorium Town Hall - Grand Rounds webinars and also proposing the best AV solutions throughout the CUH group.

Jack Karbowski, AV Support Engineer

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS



Niamh O'Connor

We are delighted to welcome **Niamh O'Connor** to our Applications Team. Niamh Graduated with a degree in BIS from UCC in 2019. Before starting in the Applications support team in August Niamh was working as a Software Quality Engineer in Dell Technologies in Ovens.

“Since I started in August I have been making myself familiar with the different systems used throughout the hospital and how they integrate with one another. I am enjoying working with the ICT applications team. It has been great to get experience working in a hospital setting and has been an exciting change.”



Aaron Doherty

Aaron Doherty joined the Clinical Microbiology team in August, shortly after completing his MD on novel peptide polymer antimicrobials with RCSI where he was also employed as clinical lecturer in microbiology. Aaron graduated from University College Cork in 2013. He obtained MRCPI in 2015, and FRCPath(UK) Clinical Microbiology in 2020. During the pandemic he completed a fellowship with evidence synthesis Ireland and Cochrane Ireland, assessing diagnostic test accuracy for point of care SARS-CoV-2 antigen testing. Aaron has published on topics related to clinical infection, infection prevention and control, artificial intelligence applications in healthcare, and postgraduate medical education.

Aaron acts as a regular reviewer for a number of infection related international journals.

In conjunction with UCC, Aaron is currently supporting research in the area of novel diagnostic techniques to rapidly identify bacterial virulence factors associated with increased patient morbidity and mortality. As part of his role in CUH, Aaron will oversee the future development of the virology and Infectious Diseases serology laboratory, and the introduction of new molecular tests.



Dr Killian Nugent

Dr Killian Nugent is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin and completed General Professional Training at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin.

Having acquired Membership of the Royal College of Physicians, he completed specialist training in Radiation Oncology at both Galway University Hospital and St Luke's Radiation Oncology Network, Dublin. He became a Fellow of the Faculty of Radiology at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in 2020 and thereafter joined Oxford University Faculty of Oncology in 2022. During his time in Oxford, he completed a Clinical Research Fellowship in stereotactic ablative radiotherapy (SABR).

Alongside his recent fellowship he also was a member of the Oxford Clinical Trials Research Unit and acted as an investigator for multiple phase I SABR trials. He has a special interest in treating Head and Neck, Breast and Thyroid cancer with a special focus on the further development of SABR in the CUH for oligometastatic cancers. He will also be taking up roles with both Cancer Trials Ireland and the Irish Research Radiation Oncology Group.



Séan M. O’Cathail

Séan M. O’Cathail MSc DPhil (Oxon) MRCPi FRCP (Lond) FRCR, graduated from the School of Medicine, University College Cork, Ireland. On completion of internship and BST in the Cork hospitals he moved to the UK for specialist training in oncology, initially in Imperial College London and then Oxford. He completed his Fellowship of the Royal College of Radiologist in 2015. In 2016 he was awarded a CRUK Clinical Research Fellowship at the Oxford Institute of Radiation Oncology and was subsequently awarded a DPhil from the University of Oxford for his research into mechanisms of radioresistance in rectal cancer. He also holds an MSc in Oncology from the Institute of Cancer Research. In 2020 he took up an Academic Oncology post a Clinical Senior Lecturer & Honorary Consultant Clinical Oncologist at the Institute of Cancer Sciences and Beatson Cancer Centre, Glasgow. There he was Co-Lead of the Clinical Research workpackage at the CRUK Glasgow RadNet Centre of excellence, lead a number of early and late phase clinical trials and carried out a translational research program in rectal cancer. He was admitted as a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London in 2023.



Dr Adeel Ahmed

Dr Adeel Ahmed is a consultant Nephrologist and Acute Physician at Cork University Hospital. He completed his specialisation in nephrology in Ireland. He has performed numerous leadership, management and teaching roles including an adjunct clinical lecturer role with University College Cork at its clinical site UHW.

After graduating with an honours degree in medicine and surgery from the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin, Ireland (RCSI), he went on to pursue basic specialist training in Internal Medicine (BST-Medicine) in Ireland. During this period, he completed the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians Ireland (MRCPi).

One of his special interests is in medical education and has a diploma in clinical education from the National University of Ireland, Galway. He also holds the European Certificate in Nephrology (ECN), European Speciality Examination in Nephrology (ESENeph) and Membership of Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, UK. His achievements and credentials were recognised by the American Society of Nephrology by honouring him with the Fellow status (FASN).

Dr Ahmed believes in equitable healthcare delivery and has executive certifications in health care economics, policy and management from the London School of Economic and Political Sciences and Yale School of Management. Dr Ahmed has a keen interest in improving acute kidney injury outcomes.



Dr Sarah Moran

Dr Sarah Moran is an Acute Physician and Nephrologist. Dr Moran is a 2007 first class honours graduate of University College Cork School of Medicine. She received the Intern of the Year award at Cork University Hospital in 2008. She undertook basic and higher specialist training in Nephrology and Internal Medicine with the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. As part of her training she was awarded a prestigious placement on the Health Research Board of Ireland National Specialist Registrar Academic Fellowship Programme in 2014. She then completed sub speciality fellowships in Glomerulonephritis and Obstetric Nephrology at the University of Toronto with the support of the Louise A. Fast Foundation scholarship. This was consolidated with further research training at the University of Toronto with support from the Ainsworth Scholarship and Postgraduate Travelling Scholarship in Medicine.

Dr Moran’s research focuses on the development of novel urinary biomarkers of renal inflammation and fibrosis. Her PhD thesis has personalized patient care at its core. It focused on usCD163, a novel urinary biomarker of crescentic glomerulonephritis. This has been successfully translated its use from a laboratory research test to a clinically useful biomarker using prospective clinical studies and external validation with international collaborations.

CUHG hosted 3rd Series of the Senior Leadership Masterclass in 2023

Cork University Hospitals Group, hosted its third series of Masterclasses in 2023 for the Senior Leadership Team on 21st November 2023.

David Donegan CEO, CUHG was delighted to introduce our Guest Speaker, Professor Liam Plant, Clinical Professor in Renal Medicine, University College Cork, who provided the audience with an incontestably thought provoking and stimulating masterclass titled, **'Reflections on Medical Leadership Through the Prism of Seven Great Works of Literature'**.



Above: David Donegan, CEO CUHG, opening the third series of Masterclasses in 2023, followed by the CUHG Staff Awards 2023 ceremony.



Above: Professor Liam Plant, Clinical Professor in Renal Medicine.



CUHG OneTeam Staff Recognition Award Ceremony

Award Category: **Improving Access for Patients**



WINNERS. Medical Oncology, Haemato-Oncology & Aseptic Compounding Unit.

Above (l-r): Deirdre O’Keeffe (Office of the CEO), Avril O’Sullivan CUH Group Finance Manager, Sinead Carroll, Fionnuala Hoctor, Lydia Murphy, Noreen Harvey, Carol Morgan, Jane Shanahan, Ciara Ni Faolain, Katie Cooke, Michelle Coleman, David Donegan CEO CUHG.

2nd PLACE. Seahorse Unit, CUH.

Above right (l-r): Avril O’Sullivan CUH Group Finance Manager, Gillian Kelleher, Diarmuid Nolan, Conor Cronin, Dr David Mullane, David Donegan CEO CUHG.

3rd PLACE. Rapid Access Breast Service, Breast Family History Service, Orchid Centre, CUH.

Right (l-r): Susan Walsh, Dr Rose Murphy, Avril O’Sullivan CUH Group Finance Manager, David Donegan CEO CUHG.

CUHG OneTeam Staff Recognition Award Ceremony

Award Category: **Innovation and Integration in Service Delivery**



WINNERS. CUH Discharge Co-ordinators & Riverstick Transitional Care Unit.

Above (l-r): Catherine Buttimer, Ann Marie Galvin, Dr Ciara McGlade, Jennifer Conroy, Ellen Murray, Dr Noma Harnedy, Sarah Moloney, Aileen Horgan, Kate Howard, Sheila Leopold, Pauline O’Keeffe, Ellis Madden, David Donegan CEO CUHG.

2nd PLACE. Diabetes Team, Bantry General Hospital.

Above right (l-r): Ann Marie Galvin, Emer O’Sullivan, Sharon Levis, Sinead Kavanagh, Marion O’Donovan, David Donegan CEO CUHG.

3rd PLACE. Sepsis Team, Bantry General Hospital.

Right (l-r): Ann Marie Galvin, Sinead O’Neill, Maggie O’Shea, Dr Gohar Ali, Carol Walsh, Emer O’Sullivan, David Donegan CEO CUHG.

CUHG OneTeam Staff Recognition Award Ceremony

Award Category: **Excellence in Quality and Patient Safety**



1st



2nd



3rd

WINNERS. Laboratory Medicine, CUH.

Above (l-r): John Sheehy, Helen Cahalane, Pdraig O'Sullivan, Bernadette O'Donovan, Sinead Creagh, David Donegan CEO CUHG.

2nd PLACE. GC Medical, Infectious Diseases and Respiratory Medicine Ward, CUH.

Above right (l-r): Helen Cahalane, Clemence Guibourt, Lennon Nyamanhindi, Nora Twomey, David Donegan CEO CUHG.

3rd PLACE. Physiotherapy Department & Centre of Nurse Education, CUH.

Right (l-r): Helen Cahalane, Fiona Campbell, Maeve O'Grady, Elaine O'Farrell, Aine O'Sullivan, Claire O'Donovan, David Donegan CEO CUHG.

CUHG OneTeam Staff Recognition Award Ceremony

Award Category: **Staff Health and Wellbeing Initiative**



WINNERS. Radiotherapy Department, CUH.

Above (l-r): Dr Ciara McGlade, Eoin McGrath, Derry McCarthy, Claire Keating, Anna My Canine Companion, Kate Fitzgerald, David Donegan CEO CUHG.

2nd PLACE. General ICU, CUH.

Above right (l-r): Kate Fitzgerald, Anna My Canine Companion, Dr Ciara McGlade, Claire Crowley, Maria Dowling, David Donegan CEO CUHG.

3rd PLACE. Nurse Practice Development, CUH.

Right (l-r): Dr Ciara McGlade, Anne Power, Lennon Nyamanhindi, Reema Anthony, Susan Jacob, Rose Hayes, Anju Menon, Ann Marie Galvin, David Donegan CEO CUHG.

CUHG OneTeam Staff Recognition Award Ceremony

Award Category: **Technology & Innovation in Healthcare**



WINNERS. Department of Laboratory Medicine, CUH.

Above (l-r): Deirdre Carey, Bernadette O'Donovan, Aidan Kelleher, Deirdre Duggan, Sinead Creagh, David Donegan CEO CUHG.

2nd PLACE. Department of Radiation Oncology, CUH.

Above right (l-r): Eoin McGrath, Deirdre Carey, Derry McCarthy, Claire Keating, David Donegan CEO CUHG.

3rd PLACE. Department of Anaesthesia, CUH.

Right (l-r): Deirdre Carey, Eileen Murphy, Geraldine Otway, Sudha Ezhilalan, Ger Barry Murphy, Colette Sweeney, Noreen O'Leary, Dee Cliffe, Eileen Healy, Wayne Allen, David Donegan CEO CUHG.

CUHG OneTeam Staff Recognition Award Ceremony Exceptional Service Award 2023



Winner: Maintenance Department.

Above: PJ Murphy and David Donegan CEO CUHG.



UPDATE FROM THE CUH CHARITY

CUH Charity Gala Ball took place on the 21st October 2023, an evening of fantastic food and great entertainment. Funds raised will help save and change the life's of cancer patients.



Above (l-r): David Donegan CEO Cork University Hospital Group, Michael Martin, Tanaiste/Minister for Foreign Affairs/Defence, Kieran McCarthy, Lord Mayor of Cork, Michael McGrath, Minister for Finance, Simon Coveney, Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment.



Above: Professor Mark Corrigan speaking at the CUH Charity Ball held on the 21st October 2023.



CUH CHARITY WORK Come Along Carolling with ICU Fundraisers

CUH Charity invites you to join them for some festive fun. Join them for carol singing in support of their London Marathon 2024 fundraisers. All funds raised will support the CUH Intensive Care Unit.



SUPPORT THE LONDON MARATHON 2024 FOR ICU RUNNERS WITH SOME DESTIVE FUNDRAISING.

CUH GYM OPENS NEW OUTDOOR GYM

The gym was built with the use of charitable funds donated directly from the public during COVID-19. It is a great symbol of a big thank you for the incredible work done by all in the CUH and CUMH during COVID-19. May it bring great joy to many in the years ahead. The Gym is located by the staff exit to Highfield near the Convent.

On the 9th December, they'll be carolling at The English Market. At Wilton Shopping Centre on the morning of 16th December. Then at Mahon Point in the afternoon of the 16th December.



Family Rooms funded by CUH Charity

CUH Charity funded family rooms in our oncology & radiotherapy inpatient ward. These rooms are a wonderful edition to our services providing a quiet and peaceful area for both families and patients.



RETIREMENT

Our dear friend & colleague **Frank McCarthy** reluctantly retired at the start of October. He has been part of the CUH physiotherapy team for the last 10 years & will be sorely missed. Many thanks to Anne Bodley & the catering team for making this lovely cake for him! Frank left us with a fantastic rendition of 'You've got a friend in me' which he had us all singing & crying along to. The patients in MSSU ward above were treated to an impromptu song on a cold Tuesday morning!

Wishing Frank a long, happy & healthy retirement from all of us in CUH, CUMH & SFHRU team physio!

Fiona Campbell
(CUH Physiotherapy Manager)



Maintenance Department

Note of Appreciation

Following our first edition of the OneTeam eNewsletter, a number of staff wanted to take the opportunity to say a big thanks the PJ Murphy and his team for being there early in the morning and later at night, making sure that we have well run facilities to deliver care to our patients. We salute you and your team for all that you do to make our hospitals a better place to work in.



Back row (l-r): Denis Hallinan, Stephen Radford, Pat Dorrington, Jamie Werner Lane, Jimmy Hegarty, Ben O'Sullivan, David Nason, Robert Mulholland, Dave Morgan, Kevin Reynolds, Donal O'Mahony and Brian Coughlan.

Front row (l-r): Tony McKeon, Colin O'Leary, Sean Kiely, Robert Mickle, PJ Murphy, Michael O'Mahony, David Trindle, David Brennan, Declan O'Mahony, Jerry O'Regan, Owen Dunlea and Rosalind Condon.

CUH CHARITY 2024 FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Thinking about your New Year's resolutions? Add a CUH Charity fundraising challenge to that list.

Step challenges in the spring. Triathlons in the summer. Golf Classics in the autumn and more - get involved and support your CUH and CUMH.

Plus, tell them your fundraising event ideas. If you want to raise money for a particular department, let them know. CUH Charity wants to hear from you.

Contact: matthew@cuhcharity.ie

Right: Michael Nason, CUH Charity CEO, CUH Charity Triathlon 2023.



NON TOUCH WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATIONS

Supporting the Green Campus initiative, aiming to reduce plastic waste, four Kalix Contactless Water Coolers have been installed on landings next to wards 1A/1B, 2A/2B, 3A/3B and Puffin.

Staff can fill water their water bottles on the go in a hygienically safe way using laser sensor technology.



Staff Wellbeing

Free Ice Cream Day

On one of the hottest days of the year staff from every discipline across CUH, Bantry and Mallow were happy to queue for free ice cream. It created a great wonderful buzz with great banter in the queue! A very well deserved small treat for staff who enjoyed their scoop.



Cork Jazz Festival Weekend



Are pleased to return to play for you



JAZZING IT UP!

Celebrating the 2023 Jazz festival, Cork Light Orchestra once again honoured CUH staff with their wonderful jazzy tones and tunes in the canteen. Entertaining all, their upbeat rhythms reverberated across the canteen. To add to the theme, our wonderful catering staff served lunch with a Cajun vibe on the day. Delicious!

Relaxation Music on Staff Dining Corridor

A sound system has been installed in the newly decorated nature themed staff corridor leading to the canteen. The system plays relaxing soothing music as staff head to and from lunch/ coffee breaks. Many staff can be observed slowing down their pace on the corridor taking in the soothing musical notes. The music is especially appreciated by those spending time at display stands at the entrance to the canteen.





Cork University Hospitals Patient Safety Message Bare Below the Elbows Month

During the month of November the Infection Control Committee has engaged with all line managers to promote the need for all healthcare workers to be 'Bare below the elbows' in clinical areas. This campaign is important for patient and healthcare worker safety as being bare below the elbow facilitates effective hand hygiene. Jewellery, artificial fingernails/ nail polish or sleeves worn to the wrist can interfere with the performance of optimal hand hygiene.

You will have seen posters of different members of CUH healthcare workers promoting the need for everyone to be 'Bare below the elbows' in clinical areas. Great engagement with this has been evident in many units/ departments. We hope this initiative has highlighted the importance of this practice and embeds this in all healthcare workers approach to delivering care.



REFLECTIVE PRACTICE TRAINING UNDERWAY

The Reflective Practice (RP) training cited in last OneTeam edition is now underway. CUH psychology team are deepening their skillset on RP with monthly training sessions. The goal going forward is to utilize this learning to offer RP sessions to staff groups within CUH. This is a pilot initiative to assess the level and value of emotional support brought about through the RP model.



Staff Seminar: Brain Healthy Lifestyles



The series of Staff Wellbeing Seminars in the auditorium continue to be popular on campus. Over 80 staff have signed up to attend the November Brain Healthy Lifestyle Seminar. Attendees are from both clinical and non-clinical backgrounds. Fantastic speaker line up:

- Professor Yvonne Nolan Dept Neuroscience UCC
- Dr Gerard Clarke Dept of Psychiatry UCC
- Marcia Ward Neuropsychology CUH.



Youth Mental Health First Aid

Saint John of God Hospital, Dublin delivered a 'Youth Mental Health First Aid' (Youth MHFA) programme to staff in Children's services on 22nd & 23rd November 2023. The two day workshop catered for 22 healthcare professionals including Children's nurses, Healthcare assistant, Social workers, Occupational Therapist, school teacher and play specialist, all of whom care for children and young people in CUH. The programme was generously funded by Senior Management to assist staff in building confidence to support young people with mental health presentations. This evidence-based training programme was designed for adults who live with, work with and support young people aged between 12 and 18 years. The aim of the workshop was to assist children and young people who may be experiencing a mental health problem or a mental health crisis using a practical, evidence based action plan. Discussions and reflections afforded opportunity to share experiences, liaise and interact with Mental Healthcare professionals. Although a difficult subject, the programme was presented using a sensitive approach and all participants enjoyed the workshop and learning opportunities. For further information, contact Mental Health First Aid International: www.mhfa.com.au



Submissions to the next edition of our OneTeam eNewsletter

Anyone who would like to contribute a news item or story to the next edition of our newsletter please email cuh.oneteam@hse.ie

Cork University Hospitals Group is the HSE statutory hospital provider for all of Cork, operating 3 acute hospitals (CUH Wilton [Model 4], Mallow General Hospital [Model 2] and Bantry General Hospital [Model 2R]), 2 community in-patient units (St Finbars Hospital Rehabilitation Unit & Riverstick TCU), a nursing home (St Josephs), and a range of satellite outpatient and admin sites. We also provide services to/at voluntary hospitals (Mercy, South Infirmary, Marymount), community services (ECC/IGPOP/ Dental), the emergency services (NAS / App Car / Medico) and general practice.

