

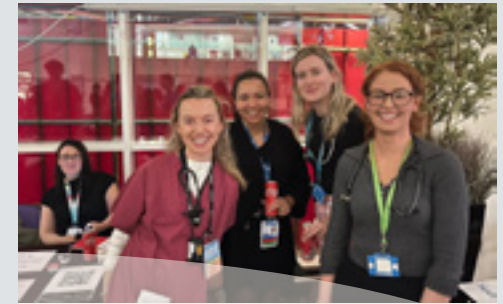


— CUH Group Staff Winter eNewsletter 2024 —

CUH Group Staff eNewsletter



CUH Stroke Outpatient Clinic has been recognised as an Age Friendly Health System



CUH Careers Evening



Liam Mc Trial Team



World Allergy Organisation Center of Excellence



CUH physiotherapy Well-being committee



End-of-Life Care Awareness Day

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A Message from Deirdre O'Keeffe, Acting CEO CUHG



Welcome to the Winter 2024 edition of the OneTeam newsletter, where we share updates on the progress and achievements across the Cork University Hospitals Group.

As we reflect on the past year, I am immensely proud of the collective efforts of our entire team. Your unwavering commitment to excellence in patient care and service delivery continues to make a remarkable impact, and I am truly grateful for all that we have

accomplished together. This newsletter is just a small sample of the incredible work happening day in and day out, right across CUH Group. It highlights the dedication of our clinical teams, advancements in research, and our ongoing efforts to support staff wellbeing. As winter approaches, I encourage all staff to remain vigilant with hygiene practices and to take up the flu and COVID-19 vaccinations to safeguard both our patients and ourselves.

As demonstrated with the opening of the new Helipad last September, we are striving to improve the service we deliver for our patients, and our priorities for 2025 include working closely with our colleagues in HSE South West to prepare CUH for the planned expansions under the Government's Acute Hospital Inpatient Bed Capacity Expansion Plan. We are also focused on further implementing the National Trauma Strategy as we continue to develop CUH as a Major Trauma Centre. The proposed surgical hub will be another exciting step forward in enhancing our service capabilities.

The UVC Centre represents a significant Regional South West initiative aimed at ensuring patients receive the appropriate care, in the right location, and at the right time. This innovative service is now accessible to GPs and NAS staff for clinically suitable cases. Since its launch on November 4th, the service has successfully managed over 600 referrals. This achievement highlights the exceptional collaborative efforts across the region, showcasing the true potential of integrated healthcare delivery.

Additionally, the development of an 18 bedded Medical Admissions Unit, adjacent to the Emergency Department will further enhance our capacity to provide timely care during the winter months. I also want to acknowledge a successful first year of the Pathfinder service, launched in collaboration with the National Ambulance Service. Since its launch in March 2023, the service has responded to over 1,000 low-acuity 999 calls from older adults in Cork, providing a tailored and effective response to support our community.

We are incredibly proud of the ongoing development of our Cancer Centre; I look forward to the coming years where we will further enhance the service for both our patients and staff. The dedication shown by everyone involved is truly inspiring, and we are committed to ensuring that our Cancer Centre continues to develop as a place of excellence in care, research, and support.

Last June, we successfully completed the amalgamation of the Mercy University Hospital Paediatric Unit with our own Paediatric Unit. This was no small task, and it reflects the extraordinary efforts of staff from both hospitals in ensuring a seamless transition and improved care for our young patients. We are also honoured to announce that the CUH and UCC Paediatric Allergy Research group has been accredited as a Centre of Excellence by the World Allergy Organisation. This is the first of its kind in Ireland and is a reflection of our commitment to excellence in clinical care, education, and research in Allergy and Immunology.

In another significant achievement, CUH has reached an important milestone in supporting internationally educated nurses (IENs). Through the dedicated work of our Assistant Director of Nursing for IENs, alongside the entire nursing leadership team, we have successfully supported the integration of our international nurses, ensuring they meet the standards required for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI). Our collective commitment to staff wellbeing continues to grow, and a real example of this is with the CUH Physiotherapy Department establishing a new wellbeing committee. Their initiatives, such as the mental health awareness board and team-building activities, are fostering a positive and supportive work environment for their team.

On a personal level, since stepping into the role of acting CEO in September, I have been deeply moved by the support and dedication shown by everyone across the hospital. Having already been part of the CUH team, this role has given me a fresh perspective, and I am incredibly grateful for your continued efforts and the warm welcome I have received. Your hard work and commitment to our shared goals have been truly inspiring, and I am excited to continue working together as we move forward.

As we approach the Christmas season, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you, especially those working over the holidays. Your dedication and compassion, often in challenging circumstances, ensure that our patients continue to receive the best care, even during this festive time. The work you do each day is truly remarkable, and I am grateful for your unwavering commitment. I wish you, your families, and friends a wonderful Christmas, filled with peace, joy, and well-deserved rest. Your efforts make all the difference, and I look forward to continuing our work together in the coming year.

Deirdre O'Keeffe
Acting CEO, CUH



Top up your protection – HSE South West Staff Winter Vaccine Campaign Underway

Winter Vaccination Clinics are now underway for all staff working across Cork and Kerry

Vaccination is safe, effective and your best defence against seasonal illnesses. By participating in the winter vaccination programme as a healthcare worker, you will protect your clients, your service, your family, and the wider community. Protect yourself early to avoid the need for isolating and missing out on social and seasonal get-togethers. Don't let yourself or your family be side-lined by Flu or COVID-19 this winter.

COVID-19 and Flu vaccines are:

- Free for healthcare workers
- Safe to get at the same time
- Your best protection against serious illness
- Available from staff vaccination clinics, participating GPs and pharmacies

Staff can receive their Flu and COVID-19 vaccines at the same time or separately. Full clinic details are available on the HSE Website.



*Maria O'Riordan Cavine Co-ordinator
and Lennon Nyamahindi ADON*

Update from the Medical Directorate



A big hello, from the medical directorate.

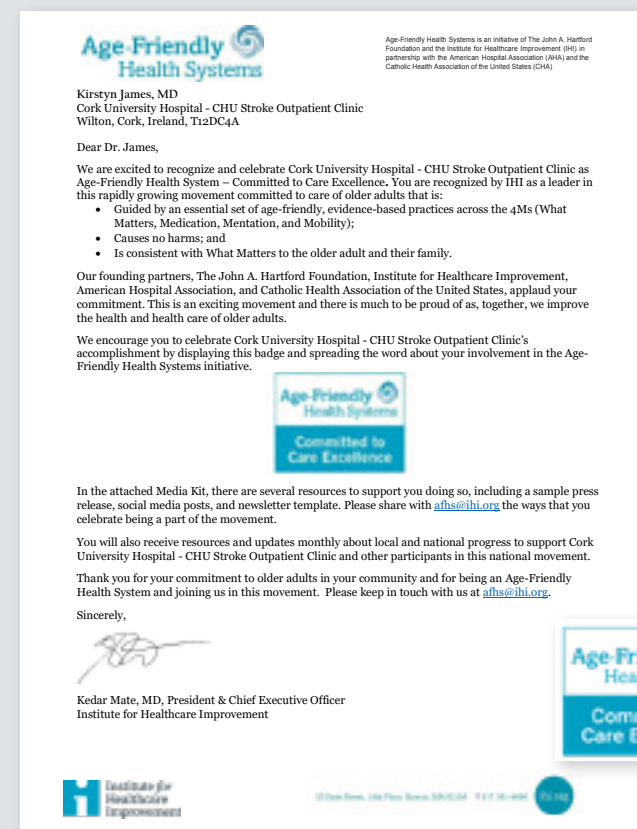
Wishing you all the very best for the festive season. On behalf of the medical directorate team, I would like to thank everybody for their continued hard work and dedication to CUH week-in-week-out. A special big thank you to those members of our directorate across all areas across the hospital who will be rostered to work across the holiday season, your commitment to delivering continuous excellent healthcare is something that needs to be acknowledged and remembered by all.

A massive thank you and well done to all who contributed to achieving a 10% reduction in the OPD waiting list for new referrals at CUH, since the last newsletter. This was far from an easy task but again highlights the commitment of everybody to support healthcare in the region despite the recent moratorium. Speaking of the moratorium, now that it has been lifted and pathways are being developed to prioritise posts, rest assured that the medicine directorate will work to the best of our ability in the first quarter of 2025 to highlight and hopefully restore a number of key posts across all areas of our directorate.

In the current newsletter there are a number of items that are important to our directorate to highlight and acknowledge. The age friendly medicine award for the stroke service OPD is an important milestone acknowledging how we value our care delivery to the vulnerable older adult. In addition, the doctors in training feature strongly with pieces on their recent careers evening and mini research symposium. Well done everyone! That's enough from us. Stay safe, remember your COVID-19 and flu vaccines. Merry Christmas, happy holidays, and wishing you all the very best for 2025.

Professor Barry Plant
Clinical Director for Medicine

CUH is home to 2 of 3 recognised age-friendly health systems in Europe and was the first recognised site in Europe in 2021





Infectious Diseases Department CUH

CUH Stroke Outpatient Clinic has been recognised as an Age Friendly Health System

Approximately 200 professionals including representatives of the Infectious Diseases Department at CUH attended a Sexual Health Conference focusing on digital technology and communication and their impact on sexual wellbeing on Wednesday 2nd October 2024, in Cork City Hall. The conference titled 'Minding your Sexual Wellbeing in a Digital Era' was hosted by the Sexual Health Network, the only network of its kind in Ireland. The network established in 2018, as a forum for knowledge and information sharing, capacity building, awareness raising and referral opportunities

between services in matters of sexual health, healthy relationships and wellbeing in Cork and Kerry. The network which commenced initially with 8 sexual health organisation and charities, has evolved to include a membership of 16 organisations and charities that span across Cork and Kerry. These comprise of HSE services and community and voluntary organisations. The network is funded by the Healthy Ireland Grant Funding via Cork City Council who hosted the conference on the day.

Cork University Hospital Doctors-in-Training Inaugural QI, Audit & Research Mini Symposium

The first ever DIT mini-symposium was held on June 21st last. Arranged by the DIT Leads and supported by NDTP and CUH, the event offered an opportunity for DITs to showcase their recent endeavours in quality improvement, audit and research.

Electronic posters presentations took place in the CRC Atrium throughout the day, and representation was strong across the specialities and across the hospital group, with CUH, CUMH and BGH projects on show. A series of short lectures were on offer in the afternoon, discussing the personal and professional benefits of QI, audit and research and exploring current and future areas of work. A varied spectrum of oral presentations were excellently delivered by DITs, with Dr Ahmed Lutfi winning the Prof Cillian Twomey medal for overall best submission for his project "Clinical testing of a novel obstetric blood loss quantifying device"



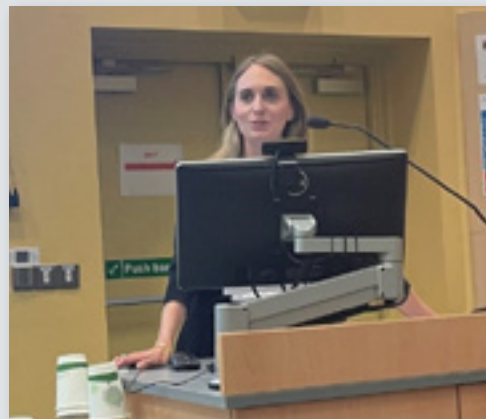
2023-2024 CUH Lead NCHDs Dr Kelvin Lynch, Reg in Gastroenterology, Mr A. Anwar Rudwan, Snr Reg in Colorectal Surgery & Dr Aidan Coffey, SpR in Radiology



Dr Claire Brady, Research Manager speaking on Driving NCHD Research in CUH



Dr Geoffrey Ronan, Radiology SpR CUH presenting his talk on improving the Patient Experience



Dr Kirstyn James, Consultant Geriatrician, CUH speaking on the Importance of QI Projects in Career Progression



Judges Dr Pat Barry, Consultant Geriatrician, Dr Kelvin Lynch, Reg in Gastroenterology discussing projects with Prof Conor Deasy, Clinical Director Emergency & Acute Medicine CUH



Judges Mr Emmet Andrews, Consultant in & Mr A. Anwar Rudwan Snr Reg in Colorectal Surgery

Cork University Hospital Doctors-in-Training Inaugural QI, Audit & Research Mini Symposium



Competitors who were selected to give oral presentations with the NDTP team.



Some of the Prize-winners with the 2023:2024 Lead NCHDs.



Lead NCHDs pictured with Dr Ciara McGlade, CUH Site Medical Lead & David Donegan CEO CUH Group at the event.



Dr Pat Barry, Clinical Lead for Education & Training CUH presenting the Runner up Prize to Dr Rob Shannon, SpR Infectious Diseases CUH for his project on 'An education QIP, Bug Bytes.



Judges Prof Kevin O'Regan, Consultant Radiologist, Dr Aidan Coffey SPR in Radiology discussing a project with eventual prize winner Dr Aonghus Joyce NCHD Rheumatology



Overall Winner Dr Ahmed Lutfi reg in Obs and Gynae CUMH being presented with the Prof Cillian Twomey Medal by Dr Pat Barry NDTP Clinical Lead for Education and Training



The CUH NDTP Team who organised the event

CUH Careers Evening

CUH CAREERS EVENING

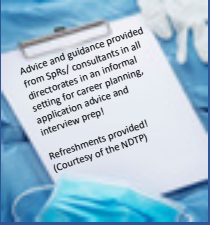
WHEN: 07/11/2024 @ 5pm

WHERE: CARDIO-RENAL CENTRE FOYER (beside Insomnia)

WHO: All NCHDs!

Advice and guidance provided from SpRs/ consultants in all directorates in an informal setting for career planning, application advice and interview prep!

Refreshments provided! (Courtesy of the NDTP)



The Inaugural CUH Careers Evening had a fantastic turn out and was attended by over 120 NCHDs on 07/11/2024. We had representation from nearly all directorates, with 29 SpRs providing career guidance and interview advice to our junior NCHDs. Feedback has been excellent so far.

The NDTP kindly provided some much needed (and enjoyed, judging by the lack of crumbs!) refreshments for our NCHDs attending the event. The evening provided a wonderful opportunity for interdepartmental engagement. A huge thank you to all the SpRs who contributed their time and efforts towards making the evening such a success! There were some learning points for next year's event, and we suspect the success of this year will lead on to an even better event next year



Caleb Powell (Cardiology) and Patrick Collins (Urology)



Lead NCHDs at CUH Careers Evening 7-11-2024



Meabh McNulty (Rad Onc) and Niamh Ryan (Med Onc)

CUH Careers Evening



Derry O'Flynn (Endocrinology) spreading the good word of the sodium content in pizza



Enjoying Pizza



Interdepartmental engagement



Kate O'Donoghue, Olan Kerrigan (Psychiatry), Dara Flanagan (GP), Sean Underwood (Emergency Medicine) and Orlaith Shinnors (Respiratory)



Mar Cotter (Maxillary-Facial), Alice Whelan and Alanna O'Shea (Geriatrics) with Rachel Rigel

Hello from the EAC Directorate



Professor Conor Deasy, Clinical Director, Emergency and Acute Care, Clinical Led South Trauma & MTA NOCA

As the winter nights draw in we continue to see a steep increase in the numbers of people presenting to the Emergency Department, up 25% on 3 years ago. Our sincere thanks go to CUH Team who work relentlessly and tirelessly each day to manage the busy-ness in ED and across the entire Hospital system for working with us in challenging times.

We have been busy as a Directorate; trying to manage this demand and patient flow while working with the region on solutions to minimise risk and maximise care. We are working to increase the capacity and efficiency of the Acute Floor model with increased Consultant hours 7 days a week and increased hours of operation planned for the Acute Medical Assessment Unit in 2025. The REO, Dr. Andy Philips designated the vacated eye clinic to become medical beds. These will be operationalised as an Acute Medical Decision Unit for admitted medical patients reducing the need for trolley care in ED.

Frailty Screening at CUH



CUH ED triage nurses went live on the 25th June on iPMS, with a frailty trigger to identify every frail older adult over 75 years.

We are indebted to Norma and her staff, Dr. Jonathan Costelloe Emergency Medicine Consultant, Dr. Liz Moloney, Consultant Geriatrician MUH and everyone on the acute floor work stream of the UEC programme for getting us to this point.

Next steps will be to quantify frailty in the over 75s presenting to CUH ED, map their current pathways and use that information to design pathways that enhance quality and appropriateness of care with regard to patient outcomes, as per the UEC.

Image Above: Frailty Screening in CUH

Urgent Virtual Care Centre



Integrated Teams from Emergency Medicine

The REO has set up a suite of Integr8 Projects to try and improve capacity across the Region. One of these projects is the Urgent Virtual Care Centre at CUH; modelled on similar concepts in North America, Victoria and Copenhagen. The Urgent Virtual Care (UVC) centre commenced operations on Monday 4th November at CUH. It is based on the main concourse of CUH next to the hospital's Ops Hub. This is a

key project of Andy Philips, REO for Cork Kerry Regional Health Area and we have been planning and negotiating this for the last 3 months. The UVC development committee was chaired by Priscilla Lynch who is the Integrated Health Area (IHA) manager and as such sits second in command to Andy Philips in this RHA, Mike O Connor (Consultant Geriatrician and National Clinical Advisor and Group Lead, Acute

Hospitals), Gerry McCarthy (Consultant in EM and was Clinical Lead for National Emergency Medicine program at this time), Cathal O'Donnell (Medical Director, National Ambulance Service), Diarmuid Quinlan (Medical Director, ICGP), Gary Stack (Medical Director, SouthDoc), Mari O Donovan (Manager, Cork Kerry Community Health), Iswari Pillay (Clinical Lead, Geriatric Medicine), Finn Coulter (Consultant in EM), Aideen O'Riordan (Unscheduled Care Manager), Siobhan Scanlon (ADON Emergency and Acute Care), Norma O' Sullivan (ADON for Patient Flow), and Conor Deasy (Clinical Director for Emergency and Acute Care) with project management support from PWC.

The aim of UVC is to support optimal navigation and resource utilisation by GPs and Paramedics so a patient gets the right care, by the right service, be that telemedicine virtual assessment and treatment by the UVC senior clinical decision maker or use of hospital or community pathways, much of the time avoiding ED attendance. The UVC is staffed by a consultant and SpR/Fellow in Emergency Medicine, Consultant in Geriatric Medicine with admin and nursing support from the hospital and community based at UVC with us. Hours of operation are 10am-6pm Monday – Friday.

With the central location of UVC in the main concourse at CUH, lends itself to any service being able to provide an urgent virtual appointment, be it a surgical specialty, neurology, rheumatology etc, enabled by the equipment and the staff in the urgent virtual care centre.

Steps towards an Electronic Health Record



Jennifer Carroll Retirement

While we wait for National delivery of an ICT system we have been working hard to push the boundaries of what is possible in the current system. We have now reverted nearly all of our ED discharge documentation to T-Pro with an immediate positive impact on patient care. Soundbites from our GP Colleagues have been very welcome in understanding the impact of the change:

- 'Makes a huge difference knowing what happened in ED. Detail in the letters has been good to date and much clearer than the old paper version.'
- 'This is really such an excellent initiative that promotes patient safety at the very dangerous interface of primary and secondary care. Speedy, succinct and legible discharges are essential'.
- 'The electronic discharges to date are clear, comprehensive and timely. As GPs it is so vital that we are made aware of any medication changes or follow up arrangements ASAP'

We said goodbye to our dear colleague Dr Jennifer Carroll who retired last week. Jennifer is an absolute legend and was the founding pioneer of the Acute Medicine Assessment Unit in CUH in 2012. Jennifer has had an extremely accomplished career; both clinically and academically, and has inspired many clinical and non-clinical Staff during her time. The Acute Floor Team 'family' had a great send off and we all miss her already. Enjoy the 'holidays' Jennifer!

Major Trauma Centre



Things have been busy in education and training initiatives supporting the development of CUH as a Major Trauma Centre.

The Department of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care in Cork University hospital ran the inaugural Trauma Resuscitation Anaesthesiology Course on September 24th, 2024. This specialised course, aimed at anaesthetic teams, provided

an immersive learning experience with high-fidelity simulation to sharpen critical trauma management skills. With support from Medguard, Decent Simulators, and the ASSERT cadaver lab, course attendees participated in skills based sessions which focused on emergency thoracostomies, contaminated airway management, front of neck access, and subclavian line insertion. Participants then tackled complex simulated trauma scenarios, combining the day's work to enhance both technical proficiency and decision-making in real-time.

We were fortunate to have an outstanding faculty team from Cork University Hospital (CUH) and from the UK, whose insights and expertise were invaluable in making this course a success.

The Faculty of Surgery also ran a very successful Emergency and Resuscitative Surgery Skills Course run by UCC/CoMH and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. This 2-day course was held at the ASSERT Centre, College of Medicine and Health, UCC, Cork on October 3rd and 4th 2024. The course was entirely practical, with no lectures. The focus on Day 1 was on learning to work as part of a multidisciplinary team in the initial reception and management of major trauma patients.



Simulated scenarios based on real cases covered initial assessment and management of polytrauma patients and attendees learned a systematic approach to critical decision making and intervention, including learning the differing and interchangeable roles that make up the multidisciplinary trauma team. Day 2 was cadaveric dissection, a full day gaining hands-on experience in our state-of-the-art surgical skills laboratory. The course was geared towards surgical trainees and consultants who wish to learn the common and the less commonly required techniques and exposures

encountered in emergency surgery particularly in severely injured patients. A really fabulous 2 day learning event which we hope to replicate in 2025

Congratulations to the In-patient Trauma Service who presented at the British Society of physical and Rehabilitation Medicine. The Team presented on the improved outcomes for all patients who receive Multi-disciplinary rehabilitation care; improving outcomes for the patients and reducing length of stay.

And another 20 candidates from the South Trauma Network completed ATLS training at UCC Brookfield in what is now a biannual course, supported by ATLS instructors from across the country.

A big thank you to all the participants, Faculties, Services and Directorates at CUH and UCC for their support in driving these improvements in trauma care delivery.

Update from the Directorate of Oncology – Dearbhaile Collins



Welcome to the winter edition of the one-team newsletter from the CUH/ UCC Cancer Centre. We have had an exceptionally busy few months preparing for our peer review visit in September with representatives from the Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OECI). I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all the staff who showcased our service so passionately over the two days. This was the culmination of two years' work, and it was wonderful to witness us coming together, as one team at the

packed opening and closing sessions in the auditorium. We have now received the findings and recommendations and I am delighted to share with you that the auditors found we were compliant with 77% of the 345 standards assessed. This is an excellent result and reflective of the high-quality service we provide every day to patients with cancer in the region. I am hugely proud of what we have achieved in such a short space of time and look forward to leading the cancer centre over the coming years as we deliver our strategy and continually improve conditions for patients and staff in our cancer centre.

I would like to welcome Heba Khalil, our new Quality Lead for the cancer centre along with Dr. Marie Tierney who has joined the Psyche-Oncology team. Congratulations to Martin Higgins who is the new lead for Radiation Oncology, and to Roisin Connolly who recently celebrated five years as the Chair of Cancer Research in UCC. We sadly said goodbye to Ciara Duignan last month, so a very big thank you to her for all her work over the past few years. I wish everyone a happy and healthy Christmas and I look forward to another great year working with you in 2025.



Cancer centre team and OECI auditors at the closing session of peer review on 11th September



Chair of the OECI team József Lövey from Oslo Comprehensive Cancer Centre presenting the opening address at Peer Review

OECI Peer Review

An independent panel of experts, from comprehensive cancer centres across Europe visited our centre in mid-September to evaluate our performance on all aspects of clinical care and research. Over two rigorous days, auditors from Oslo, Bergen, Netherlands, Gothenburg and Karolinska in Sweden assessed the validity of our self-assessment scores on 345 quality standards. In total, they conducted 28 group interviews and 13 tours, to determine if our performance meets the standard required for OECI accreditation and designation as a European Cancer Centre. Based on the opportunities identified in the report, we are now developing actions to inform a five-year Quality Improvement Plan that requires approval from the OECI board before a final decision is expected in early 2025. The QIP will be closely aligned to our new strategy and implementation plan.



OECI Auditors and CUH UCC management at the opening session of peer review on 10th September

Liam Mc Trial nominated for Multidisciplinary Team of the Year Award



Photo: L to R: Dr Brendan Noonan (Co-PI), Katie Johnston (Dietician), Joanne Kelly (Data Manager), Denise Stenson Russell (Research Nurse), Stephanie Corkery (Physiotherapist) and Professor Jack Gleeson (PI). Missing from picture: Anita Cahill (Advanced Nurse Practitioner).

The Liam Mc Trial team, led by Principal Investigators Professor Jack Gleeson, Consultant Medical Oncologist at Cork University Hospital (CUH) and Dr Brendan Noonan, University College Cork (UCC), was recently shortlisted as a finalist in the Multidisciplinary Team of the Year category at the Hospital Professional Honours Awards 2024. The awards event took place at the Dublin Royal Convention Centre on September 14th. Funded by the Irish Cancer Society as part of their Men's Health

Initiative, the Liam Mc Trial is a 12-week group-based interventional programme designed for men with advanced genitourinary cancers. This programme is available to patients at CUH and other hospitals in the region and encompasses intensive multidisciplinary input from a team of healthcare professionals based in CUH. Participants benefit from personalised tools and coping mechanisms for life with cancer. The programme incorporates expertise from physiotherapists, dietitians,

specialist nurses, medical social workers, and psycho-oncology professionals, with programme oversight by medical oncologists, all taking place at the Mardyke Arena, UCC. While the team did not receive the overall award on the night, the intervention and input from the team was recognised as being invaluable to improving the quality of life for people diagnosed with cancer.

Cancer Centre News

TELL US WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Email: cuh.cancerservice@hse.ie

Please tell us about the good news stories happening across the Centre! We want to hear about new initiatives and services, achievements, research, awards, patient feedback, new staff, etc. This content will be included in either our email updates, the CUH newsletter, and/or our annual report. You can also send in notifications of conferences, webinars, etc., for dissemination.

A reminder that the email distribution list is a work in progress - if you discover that a colleague is not receiving these updates please send their email address to cuh.cancerservice@hse.ie so that they can be added to the mailing list.

As always if you have any suggestions for our Cancer Centre Communications Plan please email them to cuh.cancerservice@hse.ie.



Conor Moloney at ESMO with his poster presentation

Upcoming HRB DIFA call information



Dr Scheryll Iken, Consultant Medical Oncologist, s.i. Adolescent & Young Adult Cancer Children's Health (CHI) at Crumlin

I would like to inform you that the HRB DIFA (Definitive Intervention & Feasibility Award) call is expected to open in December 2024/January 2025. DIFA is an HRB grant scheme that supports high-quality definitive intervention trials and feasibility studies in the areas of clinical research, population health research, or health services research.

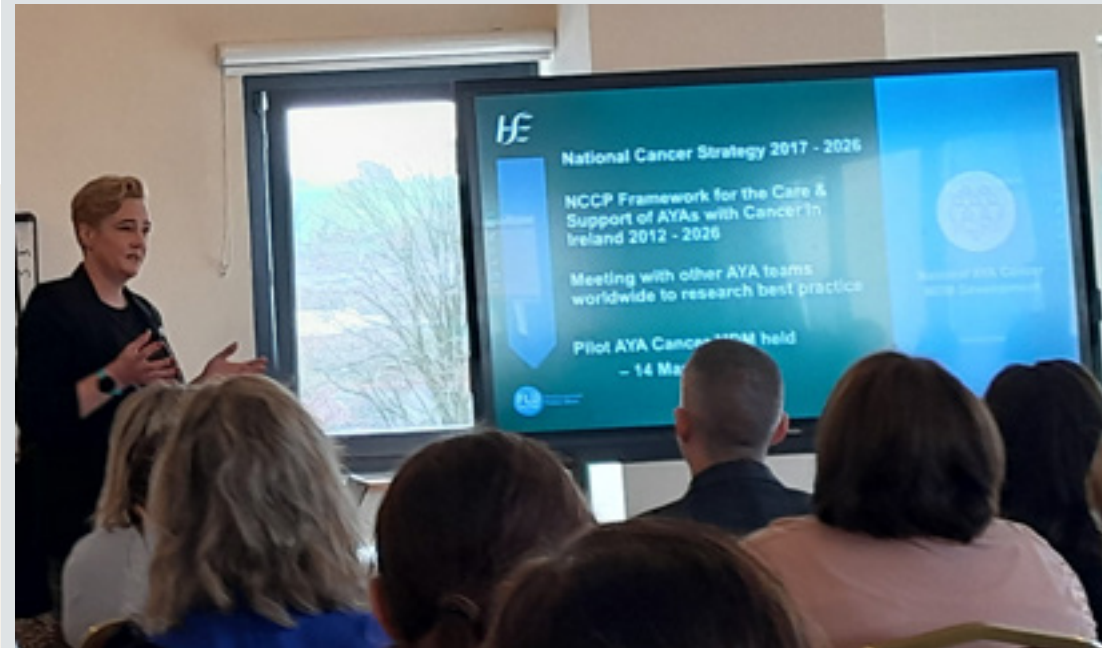
UCC Research Office will run the following workshop in early November, that might be relevant to the DIFA call.

What CRF supports are available and how best to maximise them for your application, workshop presented by Dr Erin Crowley and Dr Darren Dahly from the Clinical Research Facility. The date has yet to be confirmed, watch out for the official e-mail.

I would encourage you to attend the workshop, as the DIFA call would be suited for cancer research, and it would be a great opportunity for you to fund your cancer research projects. I will keep you updated on any information relating to the HRB DIFA call.

If you have any queries, thanks for contacting me at Barbara.Collins@ucc.ie.

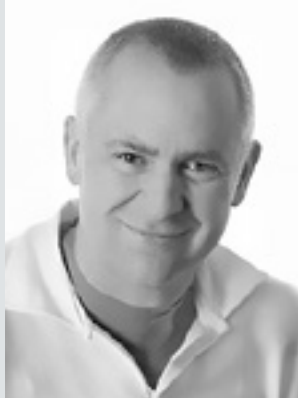
AYA Study day 11.11.2024



Sarah Lawrence AYA Cancer MDM & Data Manager (RA011441) Children's Health Ireland (CHI) at Crumlin

On November 11, 2024 a highly engaging and insightful Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Study Day took place at Bru Columbanus. This well-attended event offered healthcare professionals from various disciplines an invaluable opportunity to delve into the unique principles of care essential for supporting AYAs with cancer. The day featured diverse speakers, each bringing expertise from their field and enriching the understanding of AYA-specific challenges and best practices. A highlight of the day was a heartfelt presentation from a young patient of Dr. Molloy, who attended with her mother. With remarkable maturity and eloquence, she shared her personal journey navigating cancer treatment at Cork University Hospital (CUH), offering attendees a deeply moving perspective on the AYA cancer experience. Her story underscored the resilience and strength of young patients, leaving an impact on all present.

Clinical IR at CUH



It is now two years since the establishment of the interventional radiology clinic at CUH. As interventional radiology continues along the path of independent speciality recognition, CUH was one of the first sites nationally to formalise an in-person interventional radiology clinic. Established by Dr. Heather Moriarty in 2022, the clinic is now staffed by four interventional radiology consultants and has allowed for rapid expansion in the spectrum of elective/semi-urgent care and procedures delivered including:

Dr Gerry WYSE, Radiologist and Diagnostics & Therapeutics Clinical Director

- Interventional oncology: Tumour ablation and transarterial chemoembolization.
- The transfer of the national HHT pulmonary AVM embolization programme to CUH.
- Ovarian vein embolization.
- Prostatic artery embolization.
- Uterine fibroid embolization.

The clinic has allowed direct referrals to the IR department where the consultants now have the capacity to see their patients before their procedure and provide the appropriate clinical follow-up. In the most recent anonymised survey of patients attending the clinic, 100% of patients reported that the clinic had addressed the reason they were referred, and all patients rated their care in the clinic as excellent (85.7%) or excellent (14.3%).

Department of Pathology



Dr Safia Al Nabhani and Dr Abdulaziz Al Balushi, from Oman to the Department of Pathology, CUH, to train for a year with our Consultant Histopathologists led by Dr Nick Mayer in Genitourinary Pathology and Dr Niamh Conlon in Gynaecological Pathology

We are delighted to welcome our RCPI International Clinical Specialty Fellows, Dr Safia Al Nabhani and Dr Abdulaziz Al Balushi, from Oman to the Department of Pathology, CUH, to train for a year with our Consultant Histopathologists led by Dr Nick Mayer in Genitourinary Pathology and Dr Niamh Conlon in Gynaecological Pathology.



Dr Colin Hawkes Consultant and Clinical Director of Paediatric Directorate

Update from the Paediatric Directorate

Professor Colin Hawkes was appointed to the role of Clinical Director for the Paediatrics Directorate in October 2024. Colin returned to Cork in 2020 to take up his current position as Consultant Paediatric Endocrinologist in CUH. Prior to this, he completed Paediatric Endocrinology Fellowship at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, and was subsequently appointed as Clinical Director of their Diabetes Centre. While in Philadelphia, he led the development of the Endocrine Late Effects of Cancer Programme, and the Community Health Workers in Type 1 Diabetes Initiative. He is a US-board certified Paediatric Endocrinologist and has Masters Degrees in Education (UCC), as well as in Leadership in Healthcare (RCSI).

His PhD thesis (UCC) focused on disorders of childhood growth and his research includes over 100 publications and book chapters spanning the spectrum of paediatric endocrinology, including disorders of growth and puberty, calcium metabolism, thyroid dysfunction, diabetes and hypoglycaemia.

He regularly speaks internationally on these topics, and his current research focus is on improving outcomes in children with type 1 diabetes. He also holds appointments as Associate Professor of Paediatrics at University College Cork, Adjunct Associate Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, and Principle Investigator at the INFANT Research Centre.



CUH and UCC designated World Allergy Organisation Center of Excellence

- CUH and UCC Paediatric Allergy Research group accredited as Center of Excellence by World Allergy Organisation, the first of its kind in Ireland.
- Recognition is a testament to the excellence in clinical care, education and research in Allergy and Immunology at our institutions.
- Allergies can affect all aspects of a child's daily life, including their health and wellbeing.

Cork University Hospital-University College Cork (CUH-UCC) Paediatric Allergy Research Group at the Irish Centre for Maternal and Child Health (INFANT) has been recognised as a World Allergy Organisation (WAO) Center of Excellence, the first of its kind in Ireland.

The prestigious accreditation recognises CUH-UCC's position as a global leader in allergy and immunology research, education, and clinical care.

The WAO Centers of Excellence programme aims to intensify and accelerate multidisciplinary scientific and clinical innovation, education, and advocacy worldwide. CUH-UCC joins leading international centres which advance excellence in education, research, and training in allergy, asthma, and clinical immunology.

In Ireland, 10% of children and young adults have more than one allergic or atopic disorder such as food allergy, eczema, asthma and allergic rhinitis. Allergies

in childhood can have a major impact on the overall quality of life of a child. In severe cases, children may experience anaphylaxis, a severe and potentially life-threatening reaction. Early identification and management of allergies are crucial in supporting the lifelong health and well-being of children.



Transforming the lives of patients and their families

Operating from Cork University Hospital and University College Cork, the CUH-UCC Paediatric Allergy Research Group aims to transform the lives of patients in Ireland and worldwide. The group's main focus is on the translational paediatric allergy field, in particular food allergies, analysing how bacteria can affect allergies within the gut, skin and lungs, and quality of life. They are dedicated to discovering new therapies to diagnose food allergies and to prevent allergies from happening in the first place.

The co-directors of the Paediatric Allergy Research Group are Dr Juan Trujillo, Consultant Paediatric Allergist, and Program Director of the Postgraduate Program in Allergy and Clinical Immunology at UCC, and Dr Audrey Dunn-Galvin, Senior Lecturer, Associate Professor Applied Psychology at UCC.

Advancing multidisciplinary research and innovation

Cork University Hospital CEO, David Donegan said: "This accreditation highlights our dedication to providing the highest level of care to paediatric allergy patients. It reinforces our commitment to patient education, advocacy, and innovative therapies."

The majority of clinical research is undertaken in CUH, while research spans across UCC including the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, School of Applied Psychology, School of Food and Nutritional Sciences, and School of Nursing and Midwifery. Active partners and collaborators in the allergy field include the Irish Centre for Maternal and Child Health (INFANT centre), HRB Clinical Research Facility (CRF-UCC), and APC Microbiome Ireland.

The CUH-UCC Paediatric Allergy Research Group also delivers education programmes which attract students from across the globe and pivotal to the WAO accreditation is the success of the online postgraduate programme in Allergy and Clinical Immunology.

"This accreditation highlights our dedication to providing the highest level of care to paediatric allergy patients. It reinforces our commitment to patient education, advocacy, and innovative therapies."



PMI Awards L to R Kieran Barbalich (Partner & Management Lead PWC), Marie Watson Project Co-Ordinator SSWHG, Justin van der Spuy CEO Saros, Peter Glynn President of Ireland Chapter PM

In June 2024 after a number of years of hard work the amalgamation took place between the Mercy University Hospital Paediatric Unit and the Paediatric Unit of Cork University Hospital. This significant piece of work carried out by an extraordinary group of staff from MUH and CUH. The amalgamation incorporated moving everything that made St Annes Function in MUH across the city to CUH. The many work streams included Human resources, ICT, Moving day, communication and Governance. We had a lot of early morning meetings to allow staff go back to do their day jobs afterwards. The work was hard and difficult at times and required changing direction once or twice but in June the entire wards from MUH moved to CUH to bespoke Haematology oncology area and for the general paediatrics an increase to 12 beds for the service. We are all ever grateful that the actual day of the move went off without a hitch. Fast forward a few months and we are told we have been short listed for 2024 National Project Awards- Public Sector, run by Ireland Chapter of Project Management Institute and PWC. As you can see from the photos we won the award. This is a huge recognition to the work that the project group did together and a great endorsement from outside agencies for the work we had done. The award is shared with more than the 38 on the project team it is shared with every member of staff that works in the department and to the children and families that access our services.

Professor Helen Whelton, Head of College of Medicine and Health UCC, said: "This prestigious international recognition underscores UCC's commitment to excellence in multidisciplinary allergy research and education. It is testament to the hard work and dedication of the team and their ongoing translation of new knowledge to clinical care".

Professor Geraldine Boylan, Director of the INFANT Research Centre, said: "Being recognised by the WAO signifies the high standard of research being conducted by the Paediatric Allergy Research Group at INFANT, UCC and it opens up doors for strengthening global collaborations and connections."

"Being recognised by the WAO signifies the high standard of research being conducted by the Paediatric Allergy Research Group ..."

Prof. Geraldine Boylan

INMO Professional - CPC Section Annual Seminar CUH Impact

The INMO CPC Section hosted a National Seminar on October 8th 2024, in the Richmond Education and Event Centre in Dublin. The Seminar was co-ordinated by the CPC section Seminar organising committee, co-chaired by Anju Menon (CPC, CUH & National INMO CPC Section Education Officer). The programme on the day included:

- Adolescent Mental Health Issues – Speaker : Prof Vincent McDarby, Principal Clinical Psychologist Manager, Childrens Health Ireland (CHI)
- Emerging Drug Trends – Speaker : Prof Eamon Keenan, National Clinical Lead, HSE Addiction Services, HSE
- Introduction of Sexuality and Gender diversity. Supporting LGBTQI+ students and enhancing patient care Speaker: Dr John Gilmore, Assistant Professor in Adult General Nursing, UCD.

A Poster presentation display with defined criteria for competition entry was an important contribution to this excellent seminar. Congratulations to CUH NPDU staff whose posters were on display at the seminar.

- Clare O Brien CPC & Michelle Stout CPC “Exploring Preceptor Support in Cork University Hospital” (1st Prize)
- Bebhinn O Sullivan ALO & Katie Neville CPC “Health & Wellbeing Initiatives Supporting Students in Cork University Hospital” (2nd Prize)
- Kathy Healy ,CPC & Louise Murphy ,CPC : “Time to Learn :A calendar for Practice Development”
- Kathy Healy CPC & Laura Heffernan CPC : “In the Spotlight” – (NPDU Newsletter)

Overall, an excellent profile for CUH nursing and students on a national platform and fitting accolade to the teams who are passionate and committed to students and improvement.



CUH NPDU STAFF Clare O'Brien CPC & Michelle Stout CPC



Clare O'Brien, Anju Menon & Kathy Healy



NPDU Newsletter Poster for Seminar



Time to Learn Poster



CUH NPDU Staff

CCUH Child and Family Nursing Conference, 'Embrace the Present with a Vision for the Future'

CUH hosted a very successful 14th national Child and Family Nursing Conference, 'Embrace the Present with a Vision for the Future' on Tuesday 9th April 2024.

Ms Helen Cahalane, Director of Nursing, opened the conference to a packed Auditorium which included children's nurses and allied health professionals from around Ireland. The day displayed a bright future for care of children nationally offering high quality presentations. An excellent poster display of nurse led initiatives gave opportunity for learning and sharing of ideas.

Keynote Speakers included Ms. Loretta Grogan, Dr. Richard Hogan and Dr. John Allen. A personal experience shared by a service user, who transitioned from child to adult services in CUH, was both inspiring and informative. Congratulations to the conference committee for yet another great conference and a special note of thanks to Mr. Jack Karbowski, CUH AV Engineer, who provided invaluable IT support for the conference.

Planning has commenced for our CUH Child & Family Nursing Conference 2025 so Save the Date for 8th April 2025.

SAVE THE DATE

TUESDAY

8th April 2025

CHILD & FAMILY NURSING CONFERENCE

Cork University Hospital, Wilton - 07:30hrs - 16.00hrs

CUH
Ospidéal Ollscoile Chorcaí
Cork University Hospitals

UCC
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh
University College Cork, Ireland

HE
Aonad Pleanála & Forbartha Atráise & Cráin-íreachtas, Corcaigh & Cláráil | Nursing & Midwifery Planning & Development Unit, Cork & Kerry



CUH Child & Family Nursing Conference Committee 2024 Left to Right: Mr. Diarmuid Nolan, Mr. Conor Cronin, Ms. Jackie Dempsey, Ms. Shaunagh Browne, Ms. Bébhinn O'Sullivan, Ms. Sinéad Favier, Ms. Clare O'Brien, Ms. Rose Hayes, Ms. Niamh Watkins, Ms. Ann Moran



Attendees Child & family Nursibng Conference 2024



CUH IT Support Jack karbowski AV Engineer



Guest Speakers, DON Photo of Committee



Networking at the Child & Family Nurse Conference 2024

Keady Clifford Award for Excellence in Children's Nursing 2024

Congratulations to BSc Childrens & General Integrated Nursing Graduate, Kieran Dalton, on winning the Keady Clifford Award for Excellence in Children's Nursing 2024, at the recent UCC School of Nursing & Midwifery Annual Achievement Awards



Ken Dalton



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



Are you interested in becoming a Nurse Mentor or Mentee in CUH?



Large database of experienced nurses trained in Mentorship
available

Contact one of the **CUH Mentorship Leads** below to choose your mentor:

Bebhinn.osullivan@hse.ie 086 0201712

Rosemary.Hayes@hse.ie 087 3150130

punitha.vairamani@hse.ie 0874434858

Transforming Theatre CUH

Electronic Emergency Board: Improvement projects focusing on the quality and quantity of data capture within Theatre have led to the implementation of an Electronic Acute List for patients requiring emergency surgery. Patients can now be added to the acute theatre list from any location within the hospital by Surgeons and their teams. This milestone project was undertaken by the Theatre workstream team Aisling Lehane, CNM3 and Sarah Dwan, Theatre Data Manager with the support of the ICT iPMS team members Ann Marie Dineen, Clodagh Macklin and Niamh O'Connor. Over 150 staff nurses were trained in house to support the rollout of this theatre module which has been a huge success. Analysis of the data captured through this electronic module will provide valuable insights, and support future planning and development for CUH Theatres. A special mention must be given to Theatre 3 nursing staff that have championed this project and supported their colleagues through its' implementation. Congratulations to all involved.



Staff involved in the implementation. Left to Right: Mr. Noel Lynch - Consultant General & Colorectal Surgeon - Aisling Lehane Theatre CNM3, Sarah Dwan - Theatre Data Manager, Catherine Kerin - Staff Nurse, Elizabeth Zachariah - Staff Nurse, Karolina Walor - Staff Nurse. Not pictured; Marguerite Kearney - CNM2 of Emergency Theatre and Anna Marie Kenny - Clinical Facilitator.



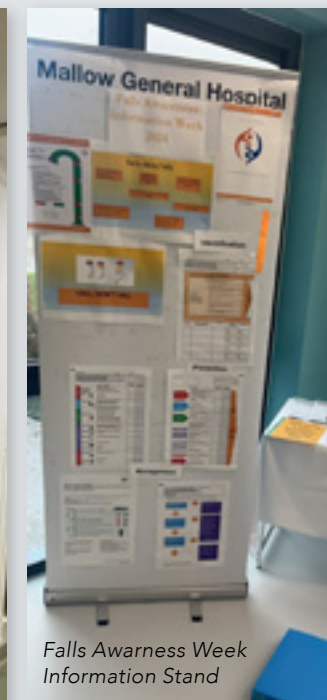
Mr Mark Dolan Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon & Clinical Director of the Peri-Operative Directorate

New Multifactorial Falls Risk Assessment Tool Launched at Mallow General Hospital

In September Mallow General Hospital Falls Committee ran a week long falls awareness campaign. The campaign focused on highlighting the importance of falls risk awareness for hospitalised patients. Educational sessions included topics such as falls prevention, falls risk identification via new orange alert bracelets and management. The Falls Committee also launched their newly adapted multifactorial falls risk assessment tool aimed at standardising falls risk screening and interventions for high falls risk service users. In addition to educational sessions, there was a hospital wide balance competition designed to challenge even the most active staff members which was energetically engaged with across the staff body.



Members of Mallow General Hospital Falls Committee and Balance Competition winners Left to right Siobhan Daly (MAU) Klara Curtin (A/CNM 1 Medical 2) Cliona Woulfe (A/CNS Care of the Older Adult) Dr Sean O’Gorman (SpR) Aideen Kelly (UCC Medical Student) Collette Edwards (CNS Tissue Viability) Dr Emma Jennings (Consultant Geriatric Medicine) Louise O’Hare (Physiotherapy)



Falls Awareness Week Information Stand



Newly Developed Multi-Factorial Falls Risk Assessment Tool which has been incorporated into nursing documentation

MGH launched the electronic point of entry for incidents and dangerous occurrences on Friday 25th October.

All reported incidents (clinical & non-clinical) can now be entered directly onto the NIMS, eliminating the need for paper reporting. It is expected that this will speed up the time from incident occurrence to uploading onto NIMS, resulting in more accurate and timely reports for the hospital.

The benefits of electronic point of entry include:

- Real time data on incident occurrences/ near-misses
- User-friendly, intuitive, reliable system
- initiates prompt for review & risk mitigation processes
- Supports the monitoring of KPIs in patient safety
- Eliminates common issue of illegibility in incident reporting
- No licence fees



Left to right photo: Siobhan Coughlan, Risk Manager Samantha Hughes, National Quality Patient Safety Directorate NIMS Project Lead Claire Roe, Patient Safety Strategy Manager, SSWHG Patricia Moloney, Director of Nursing Dr. Orla Healy, National Clinical Director, QPS Directorate

Mallow General Hospital was awarded a first and a second prize in the National Patient Flow Academy Excellence Awards.

The project "New Care Pathway to Enable Ambulances Transfer Patients to a Model 2 Hospital Medical Assessment Unit" was awarded a first prize and will be presented at the Patient Flow Academy conference on November 13th. This was a collaborative project with the National Ambulance Service.

The project "Increasing Utilisation of an Existing Inpatient Flow Pathway to a Model 2 Hospital" was awarded a second prize. This project was a collaborative project with colleagues in CUH.

Details of both projects will be available on the National Patient Flow Academy website in due course.



Cork University Hospital Internationally educated nurses 2024 reached a milestone by facilitating and supporting the candidate nurse adaptation for Internationally educated nurses (IENs)

The process facilitated by Assistant director of nursing for IENs and supported by Director of Nursing, Senior nurse management team, Clinical nurse managers, clinical skills facilitators and registered general nurse preceptors has been very successful in supporting the integration of international nurses.

Programme Objectives

The purpose of the period of adaptation is to ensure that each Candidate Nurse becomes eligible for registration with the Nursing and midwifery board of Ireland (NMBI). In order to become eligible for registration the Candidate Nurse must achieve clinical competence.

Our mission for nursing in Cork University hospital is to provide highest standard of patient centred care with professionals integrity through the promotion of high standards of education, training, and professional conduct. We provide a comprehensive organisational orientation week for IENs followed by 6-11 week of supervised clinical practice placement, inclusive of clinical education workshops.

Vision

Cork University Hospital is committed to fulfilling this objective by supporting candidate nurse and registered nurse preceptors in providing the highest standard of care. Our Internationally educated nurses bring a variety of skills, abilities and diverse culture to the hospital, they will be supported with education to integrate into our team.



Educated Nurses

CUH physiotherapy Well-being committee



CUH Physiotherapy Department New Wellbeing committee

The CUH physiotherapy department have recently established a new well-being committee. The committee is comprised of staff from CUH, CUMH & SFH.

Some of the initiatives so far have included development of a mental health awareness board, a book swap facility, a whole team lunch held in the various locations where we are based & implementation of the work positive tool to assess which areas we can focus on to support team well-being. A group of the team also walked the 17km Old Kenmare Road from Kenmare to Killarney on a very hot & humid September Sunday & finished off climbing Torc mountain before heading for a well earned pizza afterwards! More events are planned for 2025



New Running Club at the Hospital: Join Us for Fitness and Fun!

We are excited to announce the establishment of our Hospital's new running club! Over the past few months, our team, consisting of staff members from various Hospital departments have participated in a range of events, including the Cork Business House Athletic Association (BHAA) race series and the Ballincollig Regional Park Parkrun. We've already seen tremendous success, with various team and individual prizes won across multiple events, showcasing the enthusiasm and commitment of our members.

Looking ahead to the next 12 months, we aim to expand our participation in even more BHAA races and Parkruns, while also increasing the number of members in our club. Whether you're a seasoned runner or just getting started, there's a place for everyone in our club!

A special thank you to the CUH Charity Office for generously sponsoring team singlets for our registered runners, adding extra team spirit to our events.

Information on upcoming events and race details are regularly shared in the running club WhatsApp group. To get involved, or for more information, contact our team secretary, Enda via email, enda.gavin@hse.ie. Open to all staff members in Cork University Hospital, Cork University Maternity Hospital and Saint Finbarr's Hospital.





World Arthritis Day

1) On Wednesday 25th September the full rheumatology MDT did our annual 5k run and 2k walk to raise awareness of Inflammatory Arthritis and promote the great work Arthritis Ireland do to support our patients living with a chronic disease.

Pictured here are members of our full MDT including Rheumatology Consultants, Nurses, Physiotherapists, NCHDs, and Admin staff.

2) To acknowledge World Arthritis Day and increase awareness of arthritis the Rheumatology team took up position at the CUH main reception and held an information stand. Our Physiotherapist Karen Quinn was on hand to measure grip strength and sit-to-stands on colleagues and passers-by. Our information stands are coordinated by Davida Hehir CNS, pictured here at the stand with colleagues Arun, Louise, and Niamh (Rheumatology Nurses).

To acknowledge World Osteoporosis Day the Rheumatology team ran a stand again at the CUH main reception to promote awareness of Osteoporosis and the importance of dietary calcium and exercise. This information stand always draws a crowd and is part of a community Osteoporosis awareness initiative with the SIVUH. Pictured here at our stand are Prof Sinead Harney (Rheumatology Consultant), Louise Murphy (Rheumatology ANP), Dr John Ryan (Rheumatology Consultant), and Karen Quinn (Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist).

World Thrombosis Day



Davida Hehir CNS, pictured here at the stand with colleagues Arun, Louise, and Niamh (Rheumatology Nurses).

An event to mark World Thrombosis Day was held in CUH on Oct 9th. This was co-ordinated by the CUHG hospital thrombosis committee and involved an information stand in main reception, a grand rounds on thrombosis and coffee cups and tray sheets to raise awareness in staff and patients. It was truly a hospital wide effort with involvement from catering staff, porters, administration, medical, nursing and pharmacy staff.

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Photo: L to R Prof Sinead Harney (Rheumatology Consultant), Louise Murphy (Rheumatology ANP), Dr John Ryan (Rheumatology Consultant), and Karen Quinn (Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist).



World Sepsis Day

Sepsis is a global health crisis and medical emergency which claims a life every 2.8 seconds. The International Forum - Sepsis Alliance - was founded in 2011 to raise awareness of this life threatening condition, in which each country participating, highlights their own awareness campaign yearly during the month of September. Here in Cork University Hospital, the Deteriorating Patient Service promoted this Awareness Campaign, which is now in its 6th year locally. Together with our ADON Siobhan Scanlon, SSWHG ADON for Sepsis, Denise McCarthy and fully supported by our Director of Nursing Helen Cahalane, we showcased this Campaign on 13th Sept. last. Awareness Stands were accessible in two different areas for the day, where onsite support for staff, patients and families were available from the team. Information leaflets on the Adult, Paediatric and maternal Sepsis were at the forefront but we presented over 10 prizes to people that engaged. CUH was lit up the internationally recognised 'Pink' for the month Sept portraying our hospitals support in Sepsis awareness for early recognition and treatment. We brought our work to a different site on Sat 14th Sept to support the community awareness drive. Together with DR. Colm Henry CCO HSE, and Michael Dwyer National Clinical Lead for Sepsis, SSWHG Sepsis ADON Denise McCarthy, the Deteriorating Patient Team completed the 5k Park Run in Ballincollig, while highlighting a very important condition that sometimes can go under the radar.



Sepsis Day: L to R: S. Scanlon (ADON), N. Twomey, T. Jordan, D. Carey, H. Cahalane (DON), D. McCarthy Sepsis (ADON SSWHG), M. Doyle, C. Healy, J. Shanahan, C. Curran, C. O'Donovan, D. O'Leary in the second picture Deteriorating Patient Service with ADON Sepsis SSWHG D. McCarthy.

Adult Patient Safety Huddles in Cork University Hospital

As of 2024 the Deteriorating Patient Service are delighted to highlight Cork University Hospital is the first Hospital in Ireland to implement a standardised Patient Safety Huddle, specific to acuity, across all our 20 Adult In-patient wards. Our target was to proactively identify avoidable harm with the aim to reduce or eliminate adverse events through situational awareness. We followed the recommendation from the deteriorating patient improvement programme of Ireland (DPIP) and a hospital directive. We used a standardised huddle script and quality improvement tool as a marker to improve compliance. Additional to this, six wards are affiliated with Royal College Surgeons of Ireland incorporating the S.A.F.E. (Situational Awareness For Everyone) Programme, with the most recent team from ward 1A and our CNM2 Therese Jordan completing their course. Ward 4A a currently undertaking the course this semester. Further to this completion, Catharina Healy CNM2, on behalf of the Deteriorating Patient Service - Mary Doyle, Therese Jordan and Caroline Curran, together with our ADON Siobhan Scanlon, was presented with First Prize for her Poster Presentation on the Standardisation of Patient Safety Huddles at the ANP/CNS Conference 2024 in CUH this year.



Patient Safety Huddle Poster Presentation: L to R: Catharina Healy and Mary Doyle CNM2 Deteriorating Patient Service.

ANP Grand Rounds

On 24th September the ANP Council launched ANP grand rounds hospital-wide.

ANP GR will be held once a month and will have candidate and Registered ANPs presenting on a variety of topics and caseloads.

Pictured here is Committee member Catriona O'Leary (anti-coagulant services) with Colorectal RANP Joanne McCarthy presenting on Colon Cancer, the good, the bad, and the ugly.



End-of-Life Care Awareness Day

On Wednesday 13th November, Cork University Hospital held its annual End-of-Life Care Awareness Day.

Staff and visitors alike were invited to wear a purple 'forever in our hearts' ribbon which was available at the end-of-life care awareness stand in the main atrium of the hospital.

Its purpose was:

- To acknowledge our compassionate hardworking staff and to highlight the great care staff are giving every-day to patients and their families at End-of-Life.
- To acknowledge our own personal loss and grief, and to take a moment to remember those important to us that have died.
- To bring awareness to the lives that will never be forgotten- our patients, our colleagues, our friends and families.

Information on dying, death and bereavement care was available at the stand.

In response to the results of the National End of Life Survey, we also took this opportunity to launch our new end of life care resource folders to help patients and families at what can be for most, a very difficult time. We encourage all staff members to ensure families receive these booklets at a time appropriate to their needs.

May I take this moment to also thank each and every one of you for your compassionate care, the random acts of kindness and your professionalism?

Every-day you make a profound difference in the lives of others. Christmas Wishes to you and yours,

Máiréad



EOL Alice Fitzgerald (Palliative Care CNS) and Marian O'Brien (Speech and Language Therapist)



EOL Andrea Moriarty (Quality and Patient Safety) and Mairead Lyons (end of Life Care Coordinator)



EOL Mairead Lyons End of Life Co-Ordinator and Maria O'Connell (CNS for Children with Life Limiting Illness)



EOL Members of the Clinical Pastoral Education Group Assisting at the EOL Care Awareness stand



EOL remembrance Tree



EOL resources

Update from CUH research Committee Chair



Prof Fai Ng, Director of CRF-UCC

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for the opportunity to update you regarding developments in enabling Clinical Research in CUH. I am the current Chair of the CUH Research Committee. I am a Consultant Nephrologist in CUH since 2005. My areas of special clinical interest are Renal Transplantation and Small Vessel Vasculitis and my research interests are predominantly in interventional clinical trials in glomerular disease and clinical outcomes in small vessel vasculitis. I took on the role of Chair because I strongly believe that excellence in clinical research is a prerequisite for excellence in clinical service delivery. We must always seek to be at the forefront of improvements in patient care through participation in clinical research activities. I believe that CUH is very well positioned to become a national leader in clinical research activity given the co-location of all specialties on

one campus, our strong collaboration with the UCC College of Medicine and Health (CoMH) and the large and diverse patient population that we serve.

My wish is to see CUH build on its existing strong and diverse portfolio of research activities in areas including Cancer, Medical Imaging, Cystic Fibrosis, Renal Medicine, Gastroenterology, Dermatology, Vascular Neurology & Stroke, Gerontology, and Respiratory Disease as well as across surgical specialities such as Urology, Orthopaedics and General Surgery to name but a few. We are very fortunate to have committed, dedicated and internationally recognised investigators along with CUH based dedicated research groups, including CRF-UCC, Cancer Trials Cork, INFANT and APC. I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome Professor Fai Ng as Director of the CRF-UCC. Professor Ng is a Consultant Rheumatologist with globally recognized expertise and is a key opinion leader in Sjögren's syndrome and fatigue research. He has led numerous early-phase clinical trials and experimental medicine studies. Prof. Ng was previously the Director of the NIHR Clinical Research Facility in Newcastle. We look forward to working closely with him and his team.

There is increasing awareness and emphasis as to the vital importance of clinical health research and that it needs to be embedded in the routine everyday activity of delivering healthcare. Clinical research needs to be seen as a fundamental component of a well-functioning healthcare system. Patients benefit from better outcomes and when well resourced, helps to retain and improve job satisfaction for our clinical staff.

Nationally, the importance of clinical research can be seen with the establishment of the HSE national Research and Development Office, under the guidance of Dr. Ana Terres.

Regionally this commitment can be seen by the appointment of Ms Rafaela Carapêto as SSWHG Research Manager in 2022. Rafaela is passionate about research and is committed in supporting the region thereby ensuring patients have access to the benefits that clinical research has to offer. Rafaela knows first-hand the importance of this, having previously worked in the Cancer Trials Cork as a Research Radiation Therapist. She is supporting the establishment of The Academic Health Science Research and Development Office (AHS R&D). A collaboration between UCC and the South West Region for supporting researchers in the development, implementation and delivery of world-class experimental, translational and clinical research.

Establishing the AHS R&D Office will serve as a cornerstone in developing an Academic Health Science System within our Health Region. The collaboration aligns research, education, and clinical care across the university and health service which will facilitate and foster innovation, and excellence.

Key developments in CUH:

CUH Research Committee: The CUH Research Committee has been re-established since Q4 2023. It meets bi-monthly to oversee all Clinical Research activity within the CUHG. It is tasked with overseeing the administrative and governance requirements

for Clinical Research in an ever more complex regulatory framework. The Committee seeks to promote and support high quality healthcare research aligned within the CUHG mission, vision and values. I am proud that the Committee has a broad representation from UCC CoMH, the Clinical Research Facility (CRF-UCC) and across medical, nursing, allied health and administrative groups within the institution. I am delighted that Dr Fiona Byrne, (PhD, RD, CUH Dietitian Manager in Charge III) has agreed to be the Vice Chair of the Committee and brings with her a wealth of expertise in the field.

CUH Research Office: This is currently being formally established and I look forward to updating you more on this in the future. The establishment, co-ordination and management of this will be under the remit of Dr Claire Brady who was successful in being appointed as CUH Research Manager. Dr Brady is a 2010 medical graduate of University College Cork and previously worked as an Oncology Registrar with Cancer Trials Cork in CUH. She is patient focused and wants to ensure that patients can access trials in a timely manner through streamlining the research approval process and working to eliminate any administrative hurdles that may act as a barrier to opening trials.

CUH commitment to research is clear with Research, Innovation & Education being named as one of the five key strategic priorities in the recently published Cork University Hospital Four Year Strategic Plan – Fit for Fifty.

We are building strong foundations to ensure that Clinical Research is a core and integral part of our service delivery to ensure patients receive the

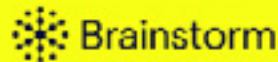


highest standard of care. I look forward to updating you in the New Year of our ongoing progress.

Please feel free to reach out to Dr. Claire Brady @claire.brady2@hse.ie if you have research related questions or suggestions as we develop the research infrastructure at CUH.

For now, I wish you all a very happy festive season and I hope you all get some well-deserved time off to enjoy with your families.

Principal Clinical Biochemist graduates with first IRC funded employment-based PhD in the HSE South/Southwest Hospital Group.



Professor Keelin O'Donoghue (Principal Investigator, INFANT), Dr Caroline Joyce (Principal Clinical Biochemist, CUH) and Professor Tommie McCarthy (School of Biochemistry & Cell Biology, UCC)

Caroline Joyce, Principal Clinical Biochemist in CUH was the first employee in the HSE South/Southwest Group to secure an Employment-based PhD scholarship from the Irish Research Council (IRC) for her PhD entitled "The evaluation of biomarkers for the diagnosis, management and follow up of women with Gestational Trophoblastic Disease (GTD)".

GTD is a rare disorder affecting 1 in 600 pregnancies. Molar pregnancy (hydatidiform mole) is the commonest form of GTD, and women can develop a malignancy known as gestational trophoblastic neoplasia (GTN) following a molar pregnancy. In 2017, the National GTD Registry was established in Cork University Maternity Hospital (<http://gtd-cumh.irelandsouthwid.ie/>) by the HSE and the NCCP with Dr John Coulter (Consultant Gynaecological Oncologist) as the National Clinical Lead.

Caroline's PhD evaluated biomarkers for the earlier detection of GTD and GTN. Her research investigated novel methods to measure the biomarker hCG in an effort to provide timely and equitable access to diagnostics for all women with this rare disease. Her PhD was supervised by Prof. Keelin O'Donoghue (Pregnancy Loss Research Centre (PLRG) INFANT Centre, UCC) and Prof. Tommie McCarthy (School of Biochemistry and Cell Biology, UCC). Dr John Coulter (Clinical Lead for GTD) was Caroline's employment-based mentor and PhD advisor.

She submitted her thesis by publication to UCC in March 2024 and was examined in her viva voce, by Dr Christianne Lok, Consultant Gynaecological Oncologist (Netherlands Cancer Institute) and Dr Collette Hand, Lecturer Department of Pathology (UCC). She successfully defended her thesis on 19th April 2024 and graduated with a PhD from the College of Medicine and Health, UCC on October 25th 2024. On the same day her daughter Rachel Moriarty graduated in the inaugural class of the iED Hub's MSc in Industrial Pharmaceutical Sciences Operations and Management (IPSOM), making this a unique day for the family and UCC.

Her PhD resulted in 8 first-author publications in high-impact journals, all available as open access. In 2023, she was commissioned by RTÉ to write an article on GTD which featured on their website in November (<https://www.rte.ie/brainstorm/2023/1102/1414271-molar-pregnancy-explainer-cancer-risk/>).

During her PhD, Caroline completed her fellowship examinations with the Royal College of Pathologists, London. This examination is an assessment of a candidate's training programme, indicating fitness to practice, and ability to enter independent practice as a consultant in pathology. Caroline was awarded full fellowship status (FRC Path) in September 2023.

Caroline works closely with the Perinatal Pathology team in CUH, led by Dr Brendan Fitzgerald and she has collaborated internationally with Professor Michael

Seckl, Consultant Oncologist at the Charing Cross GTD centre. She has co-authored papers with members of the European Organisation for the Treatment of Trophoblastic Disease (EOTTD). These include Practical Guidelines of the EOTTD for Pathological and Genetic Diagnosis of Hydatidiform Mole (2023) and When to Consult a Geneticist Specialising in Gestational Trophoblastic Disease (2023). She is also co-author of the HSE National Clinical Guideline for the Diagnosis, Staging and Treatment of Patients with GTD (2022) and a member of the Expert Advisory Group for the NWHIP National Maternity and Gynaecology Clinical Guideline Programme.

She has presented her work at CUMH grand rounds and numerous research symposiums. She has delivered oral presentations at multidisciplinary conferences both nationally (All Ireland Rare Disease Interdisciplinary Research Network, RAIN) and internationally (International Society for the Study of Trophoblastic Disease, ISSTD XXI World Congress on GTD in Sydney, Australia 2022), (European Organisation for the Treatment of Trophoblastic Disease, EOTTD Cork 2022, Warsaw 2023 and Stockholm 2024). She remains an active member of PLRG and further information on Caroline's research work is available on their website

(<https://www.ucc.ie/en/pregnancyloss/researchprojects/biomarkersforgestationaltrophoblasticdisease/>)



Dr Caroline Joyce (Principal Clinical Biochemist, CUH) and Professor Michael Osborne (President, Royal College of Pathologists London)



Ms Rachel Moriarty MSc (Associate Specialist Engineer, MSD Ireland) with her Mum, Dr Caroline Joyce (Principal Clinical Biochemist, CUH)

The Healthirl Migration is now Completed

The Healthirl Migration project for CUH, CUMH, BGH and MGH Staff is now completed. A Big Thank You from both the CUH ICT Team and the Healthirl Migration Team for supporting this transition from the South Domain to the Healthirl Domain

You will now get the benefits of this Migration:

Account Security: HealthIRL is a secure modern platform, supporting best practice identity management, resilience and security.

With HealthIRL you can access cloud-based systems and get a single view of the organisation. It simplifies collaboration and means you use 1 account as you move throughout the organisation.

- Benefits of HealthIRL and why you need it
- Must be on HealthIRL to access Microsoft Teams, Office 365 and Exchange Online
- Ability to access cloud-based systems such as HPVP, single sign-on (SSO), Trendcare, and others
- Locate any HSE staff member in a single email directory
- Share calendars with colleagues across all locations
- Login from any location, on any HSE device
- Keep the same login if you relocate between HSE regions
- Access national applications and shared folders from any location

- Reset expired and forgotten passwords using self-service
- A more connected and standardised user experience

Once you have been Migrated to the Healthirl:

The Next Step

Within a few weeks you will receive an email notification from the Office 365 Team to inform you that you will be setup on Office 365 on a specific date

Question: how will I know if I have been setup on Office 365 ?

Answer: When you try to Open Your Email Account – it will be asked for Authentication and to set up an Authenticator App

- For Email logins please access via Staff Directory Icon on the Desktop - Applications - Office 365
- Sign in with @hse.ie email and set up Multi-factor Authentication.

What 365 page looks like. You will be able to check your emails / Open Teams meeting / Use Word Documents and Excel Documents / Create PowerPoint Presentations.



ICT Help Desk Group Shoot Back Row Mark Russell (PFH Migration Engineer), Nigel White (CUH IT), Gavin Fahy (ICT Infrastructure), Greg Ikpeamonwu (PFH Migration Engineer), Wiktor Kubasiak (CUH)



James Cashman CUH IT Helpdesk

Office 365 MFA Guide

- Office 365 may be logged into via: Staff directory -> Applications -> Office 365
- Sign in with full HSC email address e.g. john.blaney@hsc.ie
- Select next when it says 'More information required'
- On the 'Keep your account secure' page you will have a choice to receive code via SMS or via the Microsoft Authenticator App.

Keep your account secure

Microsoft Authenticator

Start by getting the app

On your phone, visit the Microsoft Authenticator app download page. After you install the Microsoft Authenticator app on your device, choose 'Next'. I want to use a different authentication app.

Next

LAST USED ON: 08/06/2024 Donegal

365 Guide Page 1

SMS Authentication

- Select 'I want to set up a different method'
- Enter phone number and "send a code by text message", click next.

Additional security verification

Step 1: How should we contact you?

Method

Send me a code by text message

Send me a code by voice call

Next

Step 2: Enter the code that we sent you

Verification code

Next

Keep your account secure

Phone

Verification complete. Your phone has been registered.

Next

Donegal

365 Guide Page 2

Outlook

- It will also be possible to launch Outlook from your Desktop once above steps complete
- If you have any issues with the above, please contact 021 451 8000 or cs@it.hsc.ie

365 Guide Page 3

Welcome to our new staff



Dr Diana Olszewska MD, PhD, MRCPUK, is a Movement Disorders Specialist. She obtained her MD from Warsaw Medical University. She has undertaken Basic and Higher Specialist Training in Neurology with the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and was awarded her PhD from University College Dublin. Her PhD focused on clinical and molecular genetics and biomarkers in Parkinson’s disease. She trained in Neurogenetics and laboratory work at the Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, FL, USA. Subsequently, she undertook a clinical Movement Disorders Fellowship at Toronto Western Hospital, Toronto, Canada, one of the top movement disorders programs in the world where she served as a Chief Fellow. She finished both her HST and fellowship training with awards for the best research (the William Stokes Award from the RCPI and two awards from the University of Toronto Postgraduate Medicine Award and the James Sharpe Award).

After the fellowship she was appointed as a Consultant Neurologist at CUH.



Dr Katie McFaul is a consultant in infection and general internal medicine at Cork University Hospital. She graduated from University College Dublin in and completed higher specialist training in Infectious Diseases and General Internal Medicine in Ireland.

She completed a fellowship at Europe’s largest HIV centre at Chelsea and Westminster hospital in London. She established a large prospective cohort to research the immunology of HIV seroconversion and was awarded a PhD for her thesis by Imperial College London.

Following this she held consultant posts in London at Guys and St Thomas’ Hospital and subsequently St George’s Hospital. She joined the Infectious Diseases team at CUH in 2023 and is the current clinical lead for HIV and long COVID services.



Dr. Marie Tierney is a Senior Clinical Psychologist and holds a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the University of Limerick. She completed a doctoral thesis exploring the impact of grief on staff in disability services. Previously, Marie has worked in both primary care and mental health services, and older adult services. More recently, Marie has worked as a Senior Psychologist within HSE Adult Mental Health Services, and HSE Mental Health and Intellectual Disability (MHID).

Marie is part of the Hospital Psychology Department, and Psycho-Oncology Team at CUH. Marie is focused on understanding and addressing the unique psychological needs and challenges for each patient as they navigate their cancer journey. Marie holds a strong interest in a compassionate approach to service delivery.



Heba Khalil obtained a Bachelor in Pharmaceutical Sciences, Faculty of Pharmacy, Alexandria University, Egypt in 2004. She has a Diploma in Total Quality Management (TQM) in Healthcare, American University, Cairo, Egypt 2012. She also has an MBA degree in Hospital Management (Graded A), 2017. She is a Fellow of (ISQua), (International Society for Quality in Health care), Dublin, Ireland, 2024. Heba has lead QPS (Quality Patient Safety) team in the accreditation by The World Bank funding program, the WHO accreditation program and JICA (Japan international cooperation agency) Quality Improvement program. She got training in CVS Company in Chicago, USA, in dealing with customers’ satisfaction issues.

She lead several quality improvement projects such as Glaucoma care in Alexandria

Claire Concannon, Executive Director of CUH Charity



Claire Concannon CUH Charity

The board of Cork University Hospital Charity wants to inform you that the charities Head of Development and Marketing, Claire Concannon, will take up the position of interim Executive Director of the charity. This follows Michael Nason notifying the board in December 2023 of his intention to step down as CEO at the end of June 2024.

Claire Concannon joined CUH Charity in December 2020 as its Head of Development & Marketing and has over 13 years' experience in the Charity Sector,

working with national & international charities including Debra Ireland, Jigsaw and Concern Worldwide. Prior to joining the Not-for-Profit sector, Claire worked in Incentive Event Management and the tourism industry. She holds a degree in Business, a Diploma in Fundraising from Charities Institute (then Fundraising Ireland) and a Professional Diploma in Human Resources Management from UCD Professional Academy.

Notwithstanding the challenges always associated with fundraising, CUH Charity has maintained a steady level of growth since its foundation, thanks in no small way to the dedicated staff who work tirelessly to achieve ambitious targets. In that regard Gerry O'Dwyer, Chairman for CUH Charity, would like to pay a particular tribute to our departing CEO, Michael Nason, who took over in early 2019 and steered the charity during the challenging Covid 19 period. The Board would like to wish Michael every success in the future.

We look forward to working with you further, and please feel free to contact Claire directly on claire@cuhcharity.ie or 086 271 7867

CUH Charity looking forward to 2025

We are grateful to all hospital staff in CUH and CUMH who have worked with us in various capacities in the past year. The -sometimes very personal- stories donors and fundraisers share with us depict the warmth and care they have received from the brilliant people working in both hospitals. None of our work would be possible without your dedication and commitment to your patients.

In 2025, CUH Charity will continue to save and change lives in CUH and CUMH. Our 'Walk in their Shoes' campaign that puts fundraisers virtually in the shoes of our hospital staff, will take place in February.

20 Runners will compete in the London Marathon in April for CUH Charity. Maybe we will see you on our team someday? The popular annual Dr Con Murphy Golf Classic will take place again this year on 11th of September.

The CUH Charity Ball is back! In October, we invite you to get dressed

up and join us in the Vienna Woods Hotel to dance for a good cause.

Together with the Paediatrics Diabetes Team, we will once again raise awareness for Type 1 Diabetes, in November, with our Type Onesie Day aimed at schools in and around Cork.

Please make sure to follow us on social media to stay up to date with our latest campaigns and appeals. If you want to get involved, feel free to send us an email to info@cuhcharity.ie or knock on our door (Room 8, Main Concourse, CUH).

Reflective Practice Supports Deeper Understanding of Self and Others



Reflective practice has enormous potential not just to improve the quality of work in healthcare settings but also the capacity to improve the emotional wellbeing of staff through a carefully facilitated process of group reflection.

Driven by that potential, a team of CUH and CUMH psychologists took on an important piece of work bringing reflective practice to staff groups within the campus. UCC psychology student Sarah Nester went on to study the impact of that work. Under the supervision Dr Marcia Ward and Dr. Eadaoin Whelan, School of Applied Psychology, UCC, Sarah Nester looked at the impact a reflective practice group had on the reflective practice skills among healthcare workers in CUH/CUMH.

The study lead to some interesting findings and suggestions for further research. The themes identified from the data illustrated that reflective practice groups can lead to a deeper understanding of self and work colleagues and can provide individuals with the skills to better manage work challenges. The author posited additional research could provide further evidence that reflective practice groups are an evidence-based practice in supporting staff wellbeing and ensuring a high quality of care for patients in healthcare settings.



HSE Mental Health Resources

CUH Staff Wellbeing utilised World Mental Health Day Oct 10th to raise awareness of mental health supports available to all HSE Staff. Our mental health can be like the tide, ebbing and flowing in accordance with life circumstances and events. Our humanity means that all of us are open to challenges on our mental wellbeing. Asking for help is a sign of strength and an important step in regaining feelings of balance and control.

Click on the link below to read some helpful information on listed headings and more.

- Anxiety
- Stress
- Sleep
- Low Mood
- Difficult life events and situations
- Helping yourself
- Helping someone else

<https://www2.hse.ie/mental-health/>

Free Online Mind Your Mental Wellbeing Programme

HSE Health & Wellbeing provide a free online mental health and wellbeing programme called Minding Your Wellbeing. This evidence-based programme, focusing on the promotion of mental wellbeing has been adapted from a face-to-face programme into a series of online videos that you can watch at any time.

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/healthwellbeing/about-us/minding-your-wellbeing.html>

HSE EAP Programme

All HSE staff have free and confidential access to trained counsellors through our HSE EAP programme. Additionally, staff can choose free access to a free external counsellor from "Inspire" our HSE external staff counselling partner. Inspire also provide an out of hours service. Both EAP and Inspire service can be contacted on 0818 327327. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBT1oaWZwks>

Staff Wellbeing Resources



Thanks to our colleagues in Health Promotion, the Wellness at Work Resource Booklet provides a comprehensive list of wellness at work resources in one place. Including are links to online yoga, wellbeing podcasts, lists of gyms, pension advice, EAP service and much more.

Also included for your convenience is a link to RCSI who offer a range of free online courses on a diverse range of topics including The Science of Health and Happiness & Science of Health and Happiness as We Age.

Access the resource book on link below-
HSE-SW-Wellness-at-Work-Resource-Booklet.pdf (thewellbeingnetwork.ie)

Spotlight on Safety

CUH Services Department recently reintroduced Fire Safety week back to CUH Campus. Fire Safety week took place from Monday, 30th September – Friday 4th October. As part of Fire Safety week, we ran a number of Fire prevention campaigns highlighting the risk associated around the causation factors that lead to fires and preventative measures that are in place to reduce the risk of fires starting and spreading. Please see a list of the Fire prevention measures that are in place within the CUH Campus:

- No wedging open of doors.
- Escape routes are to be kept clear at all times and free of combustible items.
- Firefighting equipment are to be visible and clear of stored items.
- Provision of Fire training.

As an initiative of Fire Safety week, we ran a quiz, which over 1,200 staff part took in with 18 prizes on offer. We would like to congratulate all the prize winners and to thank the following companies who sponsored prizes for the draw.

Kendellan Construction
AFEC International Fire Safety and Engineering
MMD Construction
Allied Fire Protection
Apex Fire Protection.



Conor McCarthy and Ryan Connolly

Hand hygiene



CUH is proud to report significant improvement in our hand hygiene compliance with the 5 moments of hand hygiene for the month of November. An overall result of 92% compliance (from 87.6% on last national

audit) was reported both in National hand hygiene and local hand hygiene audits. HSE target is 90% compliance. Well done and thank you to all the local auditors and IPC staff driving improvement in this area. Managers are supported by trained hand hygiene auditors and Infection Prevention Control Nurses to embed good hand hygiene in every day clinical practice in their areas and their dedication and leadership in this area is key to ensuring standards area maintained.

Hand hygiene education continues to be available for all staff on a monthly basis and all staff area required to have HSE land hand hygiene training up to date. CUH continues to ensure the most effective hand hygiene is being delivered by supporting the bare below the elbows campaign. Watches and jewellery pose a risk to effectiveness of hand hygiene as harmful organisms can adhere to these surfaces and are not easily removed. Hand hygiene is the single most important practice in the reduction of the transmission of infection in the healthcare setting.

CUH 102 FM promo in conjunction with Cork Opera House

**BY NEVILLE JEWELLERS
CORK OPERA HOUSE 1910**

CINDERELLA

30 NOVEMBER - 19 JANUARY

The stage is set for another Cork Opera House pantomime extravaganza. Cinderella - the beloved fairy-tale full of magic for everyone! Opening on November 30, Cinderella will dazzle and delight audiences over a 69-show run that continues through Christmas until January 19. This timeless fairy tale promises to be a spectacle of joy, filled with delightful surprises, and a sprinkle of pantomime magic that will leave everyone, young and old, believing that dreams come true! Join Cinderella, Prince Charming, Buttons, Baroness Hardup, the Wicked Stepsisters and of course everyone's rollicking favourite, Nanny Nellie, live at Cork Opera House.

We would like to give CUH staff the chance to win a family pass to Cinderella on January 9th, 2025. All you have to do is answer the following question;

How many ugly stepsisters does Cinderella have?

Send your answer with name and contact number a) in writing to Panto Competition, CUH 102 FM Hospital Radio, Main Concourse, CUH or b) by text to 086 1766 966. Closing date 12 noon Fri 20th Dec. Draw will take place live on Jerry Forde's Anything Goes Programme 12.30 - 3pm on Fri 20th Dec.

CORK OPERA HOUSE
Official Sponsor: NEVILLE JEWELLERS
Official Accommodation Partner: maldron HOTELS
Official Partner: the Pavilion
Official Partner: Red Cork's GOOD THINGS
WWW.CORKOPERAHOUSE.IE | 021-422-0022

C.diff awareness in CUH (Clostridium difficile)

C. difficile infection continues to pose a risk to patients on our facilities. National CDI (C. difficile infection) rate in hospitalised patients Q2 2024 is reported to be 4.2 cases per 10,000 bed days used (BDU), which is higher to that reported for Q2 2023 [379 cases; rate 3.5]. The national KIP aims for 2 per 10,000 BDU. CUH Infection Prevention Control Team (IPCT) and Antimicrobial Stewardship Team (AMS) joint forces to create a really impactful C. diff awareness day July 2024. Highlighting to all staff on how debilitating a C.diff infection can be for our patients and emphasising all the key measures each staff member to take to reduce risks of C.diff.

Regardless of staff members role they play a part in reducing the risk of C. diff transmission. Emphasising the correct cleaning using hypochlorite solution, appropriate hand hygiene, early identification of symptoms to promptly initiate contact precautions and isolation. Careful use of antimicrobials was emphasised using pharmacy app (new app. is 'Eolas medical'). These infections can be extremely debilitating and have long lasting impact on patients' lives with some reporting symptoms prevented them from participating in usual daily activities. The IPCT and AMS continue to drive this messaging locally to reduce the rates of these infections and reduce negative impact for our patients.



Part of the CPE Team



L to R Niamh Ni Mhaoldhomhnaigh Dr Caitriona Hickey Sheila Leopold Deirdre O'Keeffe PJ Murphy Maeve Crudge Helen Cahalane



Con O'Donovan, Eimear Kennedy, Christy Shine Mathew, Prof. Corinna Sadiler, Dr. Nahid Ahmed

CLOSTRIDIODES DIFFICILE
(formerly known as Clostridium difficile)

Clostridium difficile (C. diff) is a bacterium that causes diarrhea and colitis. C. diff infection can be life-threatening.

IMPACT

- C. diff affects over 1 million people in Ireland each year with the majority of these over 65 years of age.
- About 1 in 5 patients who get C. diff infection will get it again in the subsequent 24 weeks.
- Over 17 people over 65 die each week with antibiotic-associated C. diff infection in Ireland.

RISK

- Broad spectrum antibiotics increase the risk to catch C. diff because spectrum antibiotics kill good bacteria and leave more space for C. diff.
- Standard steps in healthcare settings, such as hospital and nursing homes, can increase the risk of C. diff.
- Over 80% of C. diff infections in people 65 and older.

SPREAD

- C. diff spreads when people touch a surface that is contaminated with fecal matter from an infected person.
- Or when people don't wash their hands with soap and water.
- It can also happen when one healthcare facility fails to notify another when it transfers a patient with C. diff.

PREVENTING C. diff is Everyone's Business

ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP

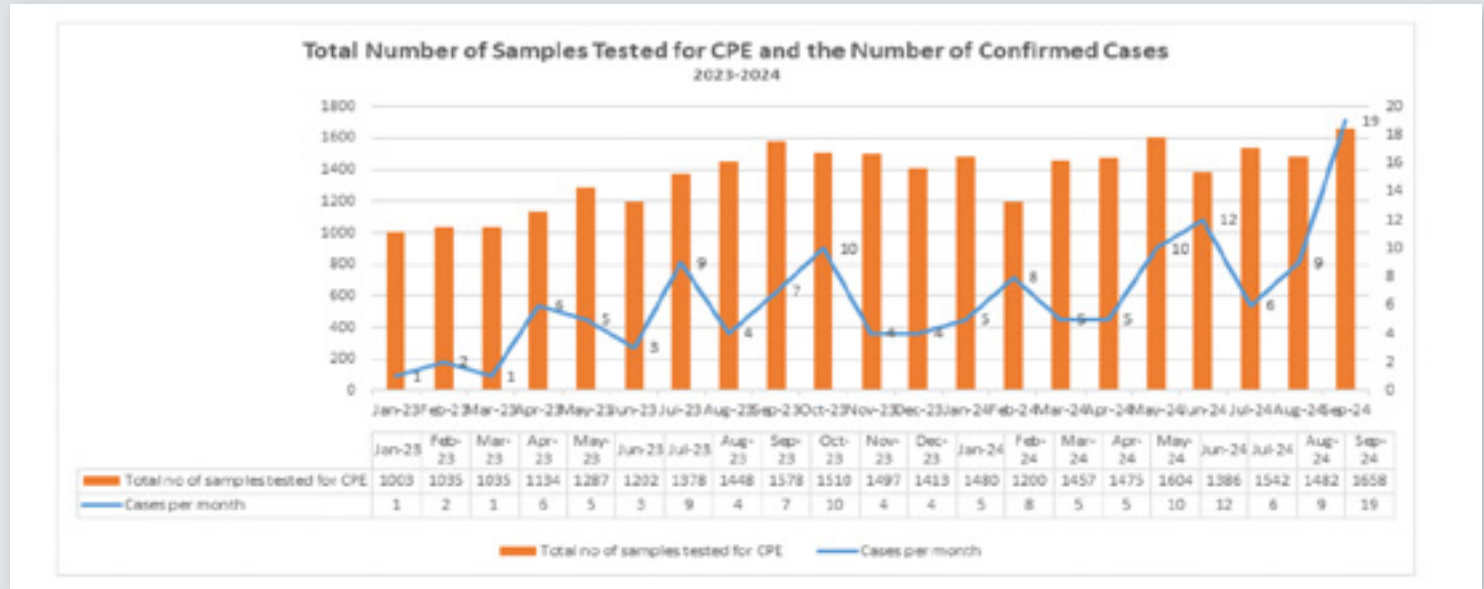
- Optimising the way we prescribe antibiotics.
- Test and sample promptly.
- Early starting and shortening of the treatment when C. diff patients are treated with medical treatment and water followed by dilute bleach solution of 100ppm.
- Washing gloves and gowns when treating patients with C. diff remembering that alcohol hand rub does not kill C. diff spores.
- Rapidly identifying and isolating patients with C. diff.

CUH

CUH making a splash about CPE (Carbapenemase Producing Enterobacterales

We know CPE is a bacteria that are resistant to last resort antibiotics available for treating serious infections. And CPE can cause up to 50% mortality rate if infection occurs. Though worryingly we are seeing an increase in CPE cases nationally and locally. It has been well documented CPE can be found in wet environments such as sink and shower drains. This campaign aimed at increasing awareness of the risks associated with inappropriate use of our hand hygiene sinks.

Particularly in relation to how harmful inappropriate disposal of waste liquids can be. This one measure can do to try mitigate the risks of resistant organisms contaminating the clinical environment. To enhance the understanding of this campaign CPE education sessions have been facilitated at a local and hospital wide level. We continue to make a splash about CPE and drive quality initiatives around this for improved patient safety. locally to reduce the rates of these infections and reduce negative impact for our patients.



CUH Ospidéal Ollscoile Chorcaí Cork University Hospitals | UCC University College Cork, Ireland Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

CPE Awareness

Hand Hygiene sink to **only** be used for washing your hands

Don't put waste down this sink



Clostridioides difficile infection



Classification and treatment of initial episode and first recurrence

Recommend all recurrences are discussed with Clinical Microbiology or Infectious Diseases

Severity of infection	Features	Treatment of initial episode and first recurrence
Non-severe CDI <i>Monitor closely for deterioration/progression to severe CDI</i>	Increase in WBCs but $<15 \times 10^9/l$ and Typically associated with 3-5 loose stools per day. No symptoms of severe CDI	First line: Vancomycin 125mg QDS PO for 10 days Second line: Fidaxomicin* 200mg BD PO for 10 days
Severe CDI <i>Monitor closely for deterioration/progression to severe- complicated CDI</i>	Suggested by any of the following: <u>Clinical features:</u> Fever $>38.5^\circ C$, rigors, abdominal pain. <u>Laboratory features:</u> Leucocytosis of $\geq 15 \times 10^9/l$, an acute rise in serum creatinine of $\geq 50\%$ above baseline <u>Radiological features:</u> distension of the large intestine, pericolic fat stranding, colonic wall thickening (including low-attenuation mural thickening)	Seek early Surgical Opinion Vancomycin 125mg QDS PO for 10 days OR Fidaxomicin* 200mg BD PO for 10 days
Severe-complicated CDI	Severe CDI with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> hypotension, septic shock, rising serum lactic acid levels, partial or complete ileus, toxic megacolon or bowel perforation, any rapid deterioration of the patient 	Recommend urgent MDT approach with surgical consultation Vancomycin 500mg QDS PO/NG PLUS Metronidazole 500mg TDS IV for 10 days Consider intracolonic route for Vancomycin 500mg every 4-6 hours if ileus present or suspected

* Fidaxomicin is a restricted agent and should only be used in consultation with clinical microbiology or ID teams. It requires a high tech prescription for supply in the community

Santa's Visit



Bantry General Hospital: Supporting Key Health Initiatives

Over the past number of months, Bantry General Hospital has been dedicated to promoting health and wellness through various key health initiatives. Our team has actively supported World Diabetes Day, Falls Awareness Week, Infection Control Week, Dementia Awareness Week, and ongoing vaccination campaigns. An information stand at Bantry Hospital provided valuable resources and educational materials to the community. This initiative aimed to raise awareness about diabetes prevention and management, fall prevention, hygiene and infection control, dementia awareness, and the importance of vaccinations.

During World Diabetes Day, our staff engaged in activities, empowering patients and the community with knowledge about diabetes. Falls Awareness Week focused on preventing falls, especially among the elderly, by sharing practical tips on creating safer environments. Infection Control Week highlighted best practices in hygiene and infection prevention, reinforcing our commitment to maintaining a safe environment for all. Dementia Awareness Week included seminars and interactive sessions to educate the community about recognizing early signs of dementia and seeking support.



Infection control Bantry



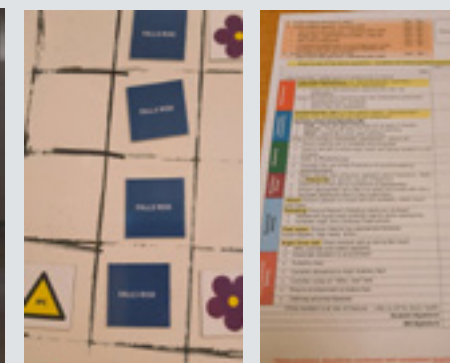
Dementia Awareness Bantry



Falls awareness week



Multifactorial falls risk



Multifactorial falls risk

Bantry General Hospital: Supporting Key Health Initiatives

Additionally, our team has been instrumental in supporting vaccination campaigns, administering vaccines, and educating the public on their importance in disease prevention. Bantry General Hospital remains committed to enhancing public health and wellbeing. We are proud of our team's efforts and their unwavering dedication to these initiatives.



Bantry World Diabetes Day



Vaccine Awareness Campaign

*Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year*

Ospidéal na hOllscoile Corcaigh
Cork University Hospital