



“Get Energy, Save Energy Day” at Sligo University Hospital

Michael o Brien, Energy Officer, HSE North West, Gary Streete, Waste Management Coordinator, SUH, Declan Mc Goldrick, Project Manager, HSE Estates, Patricia Lee, Services Manager, SUH, Feargal Mc Girt, Estates Department, Pauline Kent, Smoking Cessation Coordinator, Tony Mootoo, Quality and Safety Department, SUH, Domhnall Mc Loughlin, Asst General Manager, SUH

One of the most successful promotional campaigns focusing on exercise and wellness in SUH was the “Get Energy, Save Energy” Open Day’ which took place recently. This was a joint initiative led by the Local Healthy Ireland and Sligo University Hospital Green Campus Committee. The focus of the day was to provide staff and service users with an opportunity to avail of health information and health checks, provided by specialists from many of the hospital departments. The health checks included; blood pressure, lung vital capacity, spirometry, BMI, blood sugar and individual exercise programmes.

Each individual received a Personal Health Passport where the staff conducting the health checks could record their reading and individuals had the record for future reference. The event was also supported by the Marie Keating Foundation who were offering advice on cancer prevention and health and well-being and there were information stands on walking and cycling initiatives. A spinathon also took place which greatly contributed to the atmosphere on the day.

Continued on page 8

CONTENTS

CEO update

Update from Women's and Children's Directorate

Feature Hospital- Sligo University Hospital

NEXT ISSUE AUTUMN 2018

The next feature hospital: Mayo University Hospital

For feedback, comments and suggestions,
Please email newsletter@saolta.ie

Welcome

Welcome to the Summer 2018 edition of the Saolta University Health Care Group newsletter. In this month's issue, we feature Sligo University Hospital and highlight some of the developments and achievements that have been taking place there, including a feature on one of the most successful promotional campaigns focusing on exercise and wellness in SUH 'Get Energy, Save Energy' Open Day', the focus was to provide staff and service users with health information and health checks. We feature Mayo University Hospital and the launch of a new awareness campaign aimed at improving communications around medicine use for patients.

There are lots of developments and new projects underway in all our hospitals and we would encourage you to take the time to read about them and learn some more about what is taking place across the group.

As always we encourage you to send your feedback on this month's issue. If you have any other comments, queries and questions or stories you would like us to feature, please do get in contact with us at newsletter@saolta.ie

We would like to thank all our contributors for all their hard work and support.

Kind regards,
Saolta Newsletter Team.

Table of Contents

Chief Executive Officer	4
Chief Operations Officer	5
Chief Financial Officer	6
Director Human Resources	7
Chief of Nursing and Midwifery	10
Feature - Sligo University Hospital	11
Peri-Operative Directorate	19
Medical Directorate	20
Women's & Children's Directorate	21
General News	25

Follow us online



www.saolta.ie



@saoltagroup



LinkedIn



ResearchGate

Top Tweets (April/May/June)

Apr 2018 - 30 days

TWEET HIGHLIGHTS

Top Tweet earned 7,241 impressions

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) along with the Patient Experience Committee #UHG today hosted their second Patient Experience Fair Day presenting their improvement plans and changes that have already been implemented for patients, their families, carers and staff.
pic.twitter.com/Wwic8DJK6m



Top media Tweet earned 5,306 impressions

@campaignforleo at #UHG @saoltagroup this morning to officially open the new 75 bed ward block.

pic.twitter.com/nqwqVdmmNW



May 2018 - 31 days

TWEET HIGHLIGHTS

Top Tweet earned 22K impressions

Congratulations to Gerry Lane #LUH who was honoured this week by the Letterkenny Municipal Council in recognition of his work as a consultant in Emergency Medicine, his contribution to the #NRS campaign and for his contribution to the health and welfare of the people in Donegal.

pic.twitter.com/BI9srHd0nP



Top media Tweet earned 4,117 impressions

Galway University Hospitals #GUH launch their 'Planning your discharge from Hospital Booklet' which will support patients, their carer's and families to understand how their discharge or transfer from hospital will take place. bit.ly/2r8jS7I

pic.twitter.com/QO34QraXmY



Top Tweet earned 10.3K impressions

The Department of Plastic Surgery at #RUH recently held a Sun Awareness Day in association with @RoscommonGAA in Dr. Hyde Park. This event was to promote sun awareness and the benefits of Sun protection.

Further details at: bit.ly/2JK4Wrz
pic.twitter.com/eDIWHjhWTP



Top media Tweet earned 4,023 impressions

Staff from the Department of Plastic Surgery #RUH with GM Mary Garvey & the Roscommon Senior Football team promoting sun awareness for the Sun Awareness Health Promotion Event in association with @RoscommonGAA in Dr Hyde Park, Roscommon today.

pic.twitter.com/0kZbVdvkx2



Top Media Tweets (April/May/June)

Chief Executive Officer

Saolta Group

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the summer edition of our newsletter. Once again, the second quarter of 2018 has been very busy. In April we welcomed An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, to University Hospital Galway where he officially opened the new 75 Bed Ward Block. This new €18m development, which is over three floors, provides much needed 75 single en-suite bedrooms, including six dedicated isolation rooms – two on each floor. The Corrib Ward on the ground floor is a dedicated oncology ward, the Shannon Ward on the first floor is a dedicated infection control ward and the Claddagh Ward on the second floor is the Haematology Ward.

We are continuing to progress with the options appraisal in relation to the long term future development of acute hospital services for Galway. The tender process has been completed and the preferred supplier has been appointed. The first meeting was held in early July and it is expected that the work will be completed before the end of the year.

Over the past few months our newly appointed Board of Directors have been continuing to meet and visit the hospitals in our Group. They held their first Public Board Meeting in Roscommon recently, and took the opportunity to visit and tour Roscommon University Hospital while there. They have also visited Sligo University Hospital, University Hospital Galway and Letterkenny University Hospital and intend to visit Mayo University Hospital in September and Portiuncula University Hospital in November. The Executive is continuing to work closely with the Board of Directors, and five Board sub-committees have been established which will oversee audit, finance, strategic manpower planning, quality and patient safety and strategic planning. I will keep you updated on the Board's activities throughout the year.

The report on the External Independent Clinical Review of Maternity Services at Portiuncula University Hospital was published on 3rd May. Many of the recommendations arising from the report have already been implemented. Work is also underway to ensure all recommendations from the report are implemented in all of the maternity units across the Group. The report recommended the need for an integrated clinical maternity network in Portiuncula University Hospital and work is at an advanced stage in implementing this.

In May, the 2018 National Patient Experience Survey was launched, with site visits taking place at all the hospitals across the Group. The Saolta Group welcomes this survey as it gives us important patient feedback and we look forward to the publication of the results of the survey later in the year. Once again I would like to thank all staff involved in promoting the survey with our patients.

Work on the Saolta Corporate Strategy and associated Clinical Strategies is ongoing. A number of workshops have been held across the Group and we hope to have the final Strategy approved by our Board of Directors in September and published shortly thereafter.



Maurice Power, CEO

Our partnerships with our colleagues in Northern Ireland are continuing to develop. Recently an €8m EU INTERREG VA Funded Cross Border Project was launched, where 13,000 patients will benefit from cross-border services such as dermatology, urology and vascular interventions, allowing them to be treated much closer to home.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your ongoing hard work and commitment. I hope that you get an opportunity to have some time off over the summer months and enjoy some of this fabulous sunshine we are experiencing.

Maurice Power
Chief Executive Officer

Chief Operations Officer

Saolta Group

Dear colleagues

We are now just over half way through 2018 and I would like to provide you with an update on activity and developments underway across the Group. In general terms activity has increased this year when compared with the same period last year. Our inpatients, outpatients and ED attendances have all increased when compared to 2017 while our day cases have reduced slightly on last year's activity. Births continue to show a decrease across the Group, a trend that has been apparent for the last number of years.

Reducing our inpatient, day case and out-patient waiting times remains a key priority for the Group. We are working across all our hospital sites to maximise capacity and work toward meeting the waiting time targets. We continue to work with the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF) in relation to insourcing and outsourcing initiatives. Across the Group there are a number of planned consultant and Advanced Nurse Practitioner appointments which will have a positive impact on waiting times. Validation of waiting lists is on-going and Saolta hospitals are participating in a project to improve outpatients' services for urology patients in co-operation with the national Outpatient Improvement Programme.

Across the Group work is continuing on the progression of capital projects. A project steering group has been established in GUH to progress the design of the new ED on Women's and Children's block. Initial briefing sessions have taken place on site and the project team and service user groups are currently working on the detailed design with the appointed design team. The CCU relocation to facilitate the Cath Lab project in UHG has taken place and the next phase of that project has commenced. In LUH, the radiology rebuild project is progressing and work is on-going in relation to the Blood Sciences Project in Roscommon, Portluncula and UHG laboratories.

In ICT developments, the Evolve / EDRM project in GUH continues to be implemented and we are still working toward the project go live target of August, 2018 in the first service area. We are continuing to work with our colleagues in Community Health Area West to implement the Group PAS project and we will shortly be interviewing for a number of additional staff to implement this important project. Testing of the MOCIS (Medical Oncology Information System) is currently underway with a target implementation date of 4th quarter 2018.

Since our last newsletter the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is now in place and briefings and updates have been taking place across hospitals in the Group over the last two months. The HSE's Consumer Affairs Department are rolling out training sessions for all staff and you will be advised of those dates over the coming weeks. There is a substantial amount of information on the HSE website – www.hse.ie and I would urge you access that – the link is also available via the Saolta website at www.saolta.ie.



Ann Cosgrove, COO

The service plan estimates process for 2019 has been on-going over the past two months and we submitted our final documentation to the HSE nationally last month.

As always, I would like to thank you for your hard work and commitment as you deliver such a broad range of services to our patients. I hope that you get the opportunity to take some time off over the summer and I look forward to working with you all for the second half of this year.

Ann Cosgrove
Chief Operations Officer

Chief Financial Officer

Saolta Group

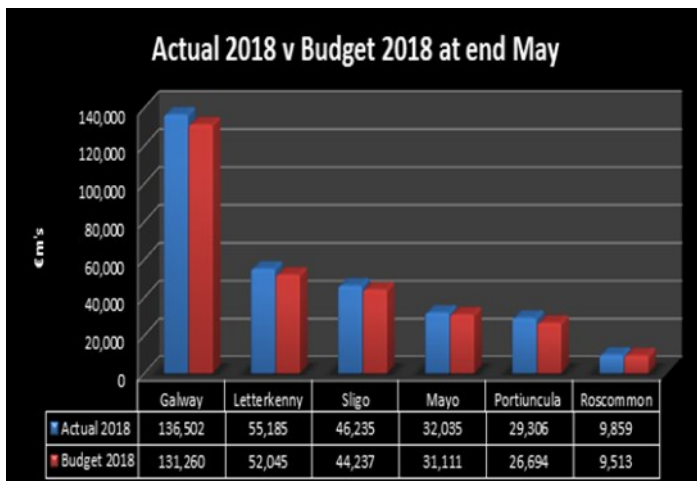
Budget 2018 - The Saolta University Health Care Group has received a net budget of €764m for 2018.

Following receipt of the May accounts for the Group indications are that the Group still face a significant challenge financially for the rest of 2018. There will be a renewed focus on employment control along with non-pay expenditure controls and these will dominate for the remainder of 2018. The Group have been set targets in cost containment plans (CCPs) of €7.7m for 2018.

These CCPs are in the areas of agency staff conversion to HSE staffing, drug expenditure and the increased use of biosimilar drugs, contract expenditure and gains in procurement across all expenditure areas.

The Group is currently performing well in achieving these CCPs and continued emphasis must be maintained by all hospitals in the Group.

Financial Performance – at 31st of May 2018



The graph shows the hospitals expenditure versus budget for the first five months of 2018. At the end of May the Group's net expenditure was €332.5m, which is an overspend of €17.2m versus budget. Pay expenditure is over budget by €3.7m with a growth of €14m versus the same period last year.

Non-pay expenditure has grown by €4.2m year on year and is €9.8m over budget. This growth in non-pay expenditure is mainly in the areas of drugs and medicines and medical and surgical supplies. Income has decreased by €5.1m on the same period last year and is €3.6m below Budget.

Activity Based Funding (ABF)

The ABF model, on which the 2018 Budget for inpatient and daycase funding is based, showed a positive adjustment of €5m. This is a marked improvement on 2017 for all the Group hospitals (with the exception of RUH which is outside this model).

The Group now compares favourably with other hospitals across the country from a cost perspective. The HIPE Departments and the Finance Units within each of the Groups' hospitals have all completed 2018 returns which will be the basis for the 2019 returns. These returns show a further improvement and this should translate positively into the 2019 Budget.



Anthony Baynes, I/CFO

ICT Update June 2018

There are a number of important IT projects that are now in progress.

The **Group Patient Administration System Project** will kick off in September/October when the project team is in place, the recruitment of 10 staff is currently underway. The project will move us from our current four separate PAS systems into a single Group PAS with a single Patient Index.

This project is fundamental to our Business, Clinical and IT strategies and will position us well for future group-wide developments.

The **Evolve Project** at GUH is progressing well and we will go live in the first specialty, paediatrics in September 2018. The project will help us move from a paper based medical record to a paper lite system. It is our intention to capture as much data as possible through the use of eForms and the system also supports the continued capture of data on paper (will be scanned after the patient care episode is complete)

There is lots of good engagement between the project team and the paediatric, laboratory and radiology staff in an effort to ensure that the whole system works more efficiently.

GUH and MUH are phase 1 sites for the Medical Oncology Clinical Information System and staff on both sites carried out functionality testing last month with the support of staff from St Luke's and NCCP. The system will provide for safe prescribing of chemotherapy across all sites nationally. Go live in GUH is scheduled for Q4 2018 with MUH to follow in 2019.

Work is ongoing on order comms for NIMIS and Cardiology in Sligo University Hospital with a go live date expected in the third quarter of this year. Finally, the Group eHealth Director recruitment process is currently underway.

Anthony Baynes

I/Chief Financial Officer

Director of Human Resources Saolta Group

'New Year New Year' national recruitment initiative.

The HSE launched a seven week recruitment initiative in December aimed at catching the attention of health care workers who were traveling in and out of Ireland over the Christmas and New Year holiday period. There was a social media dimension to this as well as a 'promotional' aspect in key airports and ferry ports. The campaign was very successful insofar as almost three thousand people (2,914), from Ireland and abroad, engaged with it as follows:

Health Care Assistants	724
Nurses/Midwives	625
Health and Social Care Professionals	352
Administrators	334
Social Care professionals	316
Paramedics/EMTs	146
Doctors	90
General Support staff	89
Pharmacists	13
Dentists	10
Other	215

Saolta has received contact details of respondents who have expressed an interest in working in our hospitals and we will continue to contact these as and when vacancies arise.

Recent severe adverse weather events

There are on-going discussions between the public service unions and public service employers in respect of how to address the impact on staff of the adverse weather events of recent months. Agreement has been reached on some aspects of the issue and it is expected that the more complicated issues (the unions are seeking certain compensations for staff who attended work, stayed overnight etc.) will be resolved soon and this will issue throughout the Group's hospitals.

To plan effectively for future severe adverse weather events, a joint employer/union working group has been set up to agree a protocol and it is anticipated they will complete their work in the summer.



John Shoughnessy, GDoHR

Extension of Maternity Leave in cases of Premature Births.

Arrangements will soon be issued in respect of the extension of maternity leave when an employee gives birth prematurely. This will address the current situation where an employee who gives birth prematurely does not receive payment from the employer and will extend the entitlement to include the period arising from the premature arrival. The further period of maternity leave is equal to the 'premature birth period' (as defined in section 15(2) of the new Act) commencing on the actual date of birth and expiring on the date when the maternity leave was expected to commence. More details will issue when the changes have been formalised.

Retrospective Garda Vetting

I wish to thank sincerely all the staff who cooperated with our HR teams over the last number of months in pursuit of compliance with the National Vetting Bureau (Children and Vulnerable Persons) Acts 2012 to 2016. This was a gargantuan undertaking as the Saolta Group had 8,711 staff who were deemed 'relevant persons' for the purposes of the Acts. While a number of these already had a current Vetting Certificate in place, there was an enormous amount of work to be done in respect of the very substantial number of staff who did not. I thank all the HR team members across the seven sites who undertook this onerous task and brought the Group into full compliance.

Employee Engagement

Work continues in each hospital on the implementation of improvements arising from the 2016 Saolta Employee Engagement Survey and the HSE's National Survey. The commitment of our General Managers and Hospital Management Teams to respond to and engage with matters that can be improved from an employee perspective is very heartening and there are active Local Implementation Groups in place delivering on various areas. To give a flavour of what is happening:

MUH

- Action plan in place to address engagement and improve staff experience.
- Digital identity for all
- "Values in action" as staff wanted a focus on respect for all. Schwartz rounds
- Stress Management courses

RUH

Seven themes have been identified as key areas to be addressed:

- Communication – A Quality Improvement Programme is being implemented.
- Being Valued and Respected – the RUH Employee Excellence Awards Scheme was officially launched by the CEO on February 7th.
- Leadership
- Performance Management
- Training and Development
- Staff Well-being
- Conflict Management

GUH

A Quality Improvement Plan has been developed with working sub groups under the main areas of focus/themes:

- Communication
- Staff wellbeing
- Training and development
- Leadership
- Value and respect
- Performance management.

The sub groups will focus on tangible improvements for staff across both sites. The main areas of priority are in relation to:

Improving Communication between managers and staff; ensuring that information is being received and understood by staff; some communication tools being used will include Staff Meetings, Staff Information Sessions, Information Hub/ Intranet and Hospital Management Walkabouts.

Training and Development - needs are being assessed and a Training Needs Analysis has been circulated to Line Managers with a list of training needs identified which can be considered for inclusion in the GUH Training Programme for 2018.

Leadership has also been identified - visible leadership and engagement to communicate HMT Objectives for 2018. Hospital walkabouts have been scheduled to give expression to this theme.

Performance Management is being reviewed locally using templates previously utilised by Hospital Managers such as Personal Service Objectives (PSOs) and Personal Development Plans (PDPs). National Templates are being reviewed with a view to developing a GUH model for circulation to Line Managers.

Valued and Respected: a sub group are looking at ways in which staff can be recognised for working well - staff need to feel they matter to senior management and feel a valued member of their team. Some of the items stemming from this group will include an 'employee of the month' and a recognition award.

Staff Wellbeing will also be addressed in conjunction with Healthy Ireland opportunities for staff to engage with. Work will be undertaken with staff members to seek suggestions for further development.

LUH

A suggestion box was installed to facilitate private feedback to the Employee Engagement Committee. Staff Briefings are held twice a year, the first one for 2018 took place at the end of April. The General Manager attends the NCHD Committee meetings.

Hospital Management walkabouts are undertaken in conjunction with the Hygiene Services Action group and are supplemented by informal walkabout. Occasional Act of Kindness (OAK) Sessions are arranged in conjunction with the Lead NCHD and Hospital Management throughout the year. These multi-disciplinary sessions are attended by a wide spectrum of all grades of staff including the Senior Managers. LUH has engaged in the Caring Behaviours Assurance System (CBAS) Programme in two clinical areas and is in the process of rolling out the programme to other wards. LUH are also about to engage in the Values in Actions HSE Programme.

Training and Development - the Senior Management Team are currently reviewing options to extend training and development opportunities across non-clinical staff grades.

Performance Management - LUH were organising training for all support managers in performance management but encountered IR objections locally and national. However, performance management is implemented when there is an issue identified through actions plans by the relevant manager with HR assistance.

Health and Wellness – LUH's Junction Restaurant has attained the prestigious Happy Heart Healthy Eating Award from the Irish Heart Foundation. In order to achieve this, an independent catering audit was undertaken by Irish Heart Foundation Dietitian. This involved an assessment of overall food choice, counter layout, food preparation practices and menus, including the measures which had been undertaken to reduce fat, sugar and salt and to increase fibre, fruit and vegetables and assess portion sizes. Following the final visit on 6th of March 2018, Letterkenny University Hospital's Junction Restaurant was awarded The Silver Happy Heart Healthy Eating Award.

John Shaughnessy

Group Director of Human Resources

Chief Director of Nursing & Midwifery Saolta Group

I am delighted to be writing this summer newsletter with a real feeling that summer has arrived at last. I hope you have had the opportunity to enjoy some of the glorious weather in your time off.

Over the next few months all of our 2018 graduates will have been interviewed and many will be offered staff nurse positions. It is a great opportunity for our own newly qualified staff to embed the knowledge they have acquired over the last 4 years before they seek new horizons. Nurse recruitment remains high on our priority list and two of our Assistant Directors of Nursing have just returned from an International Recruitment drive in India. They recruited over sixty nurses for the group in all specialities. We make every effort to make the transition from working overseas to the Irish setting as painless as possible. We provide clinical facilitators to assist on the wards and also ensure that all overseas staff are supernumerary for the first few weeks. I know this is a challenge but it ensures that staff are confident when they assume their roles fully.

In April, NUI Galway appointed 27 nurses from Saolta to Honorary Adjunct Lecturer posts. This is a great honour and recognises the contribution that many of our staff make to under and post graduate education.

On June 11th the Quality Care Metrics Launch took place. On the day seven Quality Care Metrics reports were launched. They cover all aspects of nursing and midwifery and are available on the HSE website. The new dashboard for metrics reporting is now in the pilot phase in Roscommon University Hospital and Portlaoine University Hospital. I look forward to presenting nursing/midwifery data in a new format to the Board.

The National Patient Experience Survey is almost complete for 2018. The results will be available online in September and the information will be in a more accessible format this year. HIQA have visited all sites prior to the survey to say 'thank you' to the staff and to see all the good work taking place across the group to improve the patient experience. I have been informed that to date our results are very positive.

A Caring Behaviours Assurance System Ireland (CBAS-I) world cafe event was held in Roscommon in May to re-energise CBAS on all sites. Over 40 staff members attended and there was a general consensus to continuing with the programme in all hospitals. As noted previously CBAS holds staff members to account for their behaviours and most importantly it gives staff the professional and moral courage to challenge uncaring behaviours. The CEO and I look forward to working with you on this worthwhile programme.



Jean Kelly, I/CDONM

A large submission for Candidate Advanced Nurse Practitioners was submitted to the HSE under the demonstrator project. Unfortunately we have now been informed that the funding will not be available on this occasion. The current cohort of cANPs are progressing in their roles and proving beneficial in delivering quality care for our patients.

The Perioperative Nurse Interest Group has now developed a foundation course for surgical nurses which we are hoping to roll out across the group in the autumn. The recruitment of a coordinator at CNM11 grade 0.5wte is underway to facilitate the roll out of the course.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your hard work and dedication to making the patient experience better. I hope everyone gets some time to spend with their families during the summer months.

Jean Kelly
I/Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery

Sligo University Hospital-Featured News

- Get Energy, Save Energy day at Sligo University Hospital
- Sligo Stoma Support Group Win Community Award
- Feile a cain
- SUH Step challenge 2018
- Art in Sligo University Hospital
- SUH Emergency Department Focus on Care Team
- Memories in the Making Sligo University Hospital
- Men's International Health Week
- Renal Dialysis Cookery Demonstration
- Sligo University Hospital Choir Profile
- An Audit of an Outreach Community Cardiac Rehabilitation Programme
- The Development of a Visual Aid to assist in the Manual Cleaning of Colonoscopes at SUH
- "Pop Up Education"



Get Energy, Save Energy day at Sligo University Hospital

CONTINUED FROM COVER PAGE

There were numerous stands supporting sustainability and the hospital's Green Campus to tie in with Sustainability week. Calor, Kingspan, Sligo Co. Council and a recycling Ambassador all promoted sustainability and saving energy. The hospital's Green Campus Committee showcased some of the initiatives up and running in the hospital including the reduction of paper coffee cups, walking routes and the installation of a new energy efficient boiler plant. Onsite training to hospital staff on waste management, waste segregation and waste reduction was also provided by the waste operators to SUH. An energy talk took place in the canteen which was delivered by IT Sligo. Advice was given to staff on how they could avail of the Better Energy Home grants available from SEAI.

Prizes on the day included; a Calor barbeque, an Energia Weather Station, a ChromeCast, a fruit hamper and some one for all vouchers. The prizes encouraged participants to complete the evaluation questionnaire and feedback from the evaluations was overwhelmingly positive.

Sligo Stoma Support Group Win Community Award

The Sligo Stoma Support Group won the Sligo Cathaoirleach's Community Award at an event held recently. The ceremony was hosted by Mr. Seamus Kilgallen, Cathaoirleach Sligo County Council at County Hall.

The awards were introduced to acknowledge the contribution of the many unsung heroes who carry out invaluable voluntary work in our communities. There were nine categories recognising the contribution of volunteering in the community. The stoma support group were nominated by Susan Moore, Clinical Nurse Specialist at Sligo University Hospital in recognition of the contribution the group make to promote the health and wellbeing of people in Sligo and beyond with bowel and bladder disease needing stoma surgery.

The group was set up in 2000 with 5 members and now has over 50 members. It is the largest and most active stoma support group in the country and its members inspire other smaller groups nationally. The group is open to members from Sligo and surrounding counties of Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon, Donegal and beyond. The purpose of the group is to facilitate people to support each other practically and psychologically through a challenging period in their lives. It is very daunting for a person facing or having gone through surgery which requires them to wear a pouch on their abdomen to collect body waste. There are a lot of myths and taboos around living with a stoma however the support group members are living proof that it is possible to live a normal life. This support is invaluable.



Photo Back Row – L/R: Michael Doyle, Jack Kennedy, Mary Gilhooly, Carmel Foley, Ronnie Melly, Noreen Mulligan, Michael McElroy, Front Row L/R: Frank Geelan, Counsellor Chris McManus, Mary McLoughlin, Cathaoirleach Seamus Kilgallen, Susan Moore, Julie McGettrick

Feileacain

Feileacain is a not for profit organisation that aims to offer support to anyone bereaved through stillbirth or neonatal death. The organisation was formed by a group of bereaved parents following their own personal loss and now formally offer support to parents after the death of their babies.

Feileacain have generously donated a Cool Cot to Sligo University Hospital Maternity Department. The Cool Cot gives invaluable time to bereaved parents to spend with their baby.

The Cool Cot is central to the delivery of compassionate and sensitive maternity care to bereaved parents at an extremely difficult time in their lives. Feileacain also provide hospitals with beautiful memory boxes for bereaved parents.



Pictured Debbie Murphy, Féileacáin, generously donating a Cool Cot to Sligo University Hospital.

Sligo University Hospital Maternity Department want to acknowledge Feileacain for their most generous donation and continued support to the service. More information can be found on www.feileacain.ie

SUH Step challenge 2018

Sligo University Hospital registered for the Smarter Travel Step to Health Challenge which began on 23rd of April and concluded 27th of May this year. The steps to health challenge was a 5 week step challenge which required participants to record their daily step counts using a pedometer, 7 days a week for 5 weeks. The primary goal of the step to health challenge was to increase physical activity levels among staff members in particular those who may be less active in order to improve their health and wellbeing.

The challenge also included a leaderboard of the top three teams each week which motivated participants to try and compete with other departments and improve their place on the leaderboard. Sixteen teams from different departments in the hospital enrolled with a team captain assigned to each area. Their role was to motivate their teams through texts messages to increasing their weekly step count.

Overall 247 participants took part in the challenge. The total number of steps accumulated during the step challenge was 72010406 steps. This is the equivalent of 54553 kilometers which is more than a trip around the world in 35 days. On the last day of the Step Challenge participants were invited to participate in the local Park Run. Many participants took part in the first Sligo University Hospital Park Run with some of the staff partaking in their first run. The physiotherapy department staff supported their colleagues throughout the run.

At the end of the Step Challenge and Park Run a prize giving ceremony took place with awards for "Greatest Team Effort and Step Count", "Most Motivational Team Leader", "Most Kilometers Covered", "Most Consistent Team", "Most Steps in 5 days by an individual", and "Most Creative Team Name".

Healthy Ireland gift packs, pedometers and vouchers were given to winners and participants who attended the prize giving also received Healthy Ireland packs. Participants enjoyed the social aspect the Step Challenge and the overall consensus was that the challenge really motivated them to introduce more activity into their daily routines.



Art in Sligo University Hospital

SUH staff were recently invited to submit art work or photos that could be used to enhance the main foyer area in the hospital. Over 100 submissions were received and the finalists were selected by the Arts Director, Margaret Flannery, Saolta University Health Care Group.

The sculpture titled 'Transit' was created and donated to the hospital by local artist Paraic McGloughlin ably assisted by his father Paraic. The sculpture represents transition from sickness to health and through the process of change, sometimes in our lives we have to reflect and make changes in order to have an enhanced sense of health and well-being. Paraic states, "The elements are based on a basic structure that united becomes something greater, power in numbers."



Pictured L/R: Aidan Lacey, Domhnall McLoughlin, Adrianne Bolton, Michele Griffin and AnneClare Feely.

Paraic embraced this challenge as he saw it as an opportunity to give something back to his local hospital that he so often had to attend and was so well treated. Well done to all those who contributed.

SUH Emergency Department Focus on Care Team

Work has been underway in recent months to implement a number of improvements in the Emergency Department in SUH. The Emergency Department Focus on CareTeam meets once a week which is led by Clinical Nurse Manager (CNM) 3 and Consultant in Emergency Medicine. This team is made up of Medical, Nursing, Health Care Assistants (HCAs), clerical and secretarial staff. The aim of the team is to identify small improvements that can be addressed with simple solutions to improve patient care.

Some of the recent projects completed include the establishment of a Communication Board to display portering jobs, changing the flow of Emergency Department notes from reception to the Treatment Room, upgrading of signage within the Emergency Department. The team have also facilitated the insertion of new arrangement slots for Emergency Department patient notes in the Treatment Room.

There are a number of additional projects currently underway including the development of a Dementia-Friendly Emergency Department – this will mean identifying and developing a 'Safe Space' within the ED for patients with dementia. This will involve adapting one of the cubicles into a safer, less clinical-looking space. The team are also hoping to get new ED specific wheelchairs and undertake a re-design of the relatives room as part of the hospital's focus on End of Life care.



Memories in the Making at Sligo University Hospital

Memories in the Making which is underway in SUH is an impactful art exhibition, articulating personal memories and sharing reflections of loved ones who have died. The concept of paying tribute to someone significant in our life was captured by the artist Aideen Gough, who worked with the Irish Hospice Foundation on the project.

Aideen developed the idea of returning to 'the old ways', to fashion a memory, a story from hessian cloth, using the initials of the person to whom we wish to pay tribute.

The idea captured the public's imagination. 198 unique pieces of cloth were received, from individuals throughout Ireland, each with their own story. Every piece is beautiful in its own right, but together the exhibition of the combined pieces of art becomes much more impactful.

The exhibition which is framed in six large box frames is exhibited as "Standing Stones" displayed on easels. The exhibition organised by Ann Hayes Development Coordinator for End of Life Care was very positively received.



Men's International Health Week

For the 15th year, the Research and Education Foundation at SUH hosted a public meeting on a variety of topics important to Men's Health to mark Men's International Health Week.

The theme of this year's **International Men's Health Week** was based on Neil Armstrong's **'That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind'** and the key question for everyone this year was: **'What will your "one small step" be towards improving your health?'**

This event included free health checks such as cholesterol, blood pressure, carbon monoxide and lung function. All health checks were carried out by specialist nursing staff from Sligo University Hospital.

The event also included four talks provided by an panel of experts including:

- Dr Paula Hickey, Consultant Geriatrician SUH - *"Use it or Lose it - how to keep your brain healthy"*
- Aidan McMoreland, Physiotherapist, SUH - *"Exercise, Activity & Health"*
- Dr Cathy McHugh, Consultant Endocrinologist SUH - *"Erectile Dysfunction"*
- Mark O'Callaghan, Principal Psychologist Manager & Derek McDonnell, Mojo - *"Stress - Ways to manage it"*

Renal Dialysis Cookery Demonstration



On April 5th last, a Renal Cookery Demonstration was held in the Radisson Hotel, Sligo.

The event was organised by Geraldine Slowey, Staff Nurse in Renal Dialysis and was supported by the Sligo branch of the Irish Kidney Association (IKA).

Liz Rafferty, Senior Dietician, SUH, spoke at the event about dietary requirements and restrictions of certain foods for renal patients. Joe Shannon of the Radisson Hotel sponsored the event and the hospital was very thankful for his support. The event was officially opened by Sligo's IKA ambassador for Organ Donor week, Ray MacSharry.

This was the first time an event like this had been organised and it was well attended by the renal dialysis patients.

Recipes for the night were taken from the cook book "Truly Tasty" written by a former dialysis patient, Valerie Twomey. Valerie, in conjunction with James Nolan of the PuncHESTOWN Kidney Research Fund (PKRF) sponsored a cookbook for every patient on dialysis in Sligo University Hospital. Joe Shannon prepared and cooked some wonderful dishes that were thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Feedback from the event was very positive and it is hoped that this event will be held in the future again.

Sligo University Hospital Choir Profile

The Sligo University Hospital Choir was formed in 2015 as a result of an initiative which was undertaken by the Hawkswell Theatre in Sligo which aimed to encourage people to sing in the workplace.

The mixed voice choir consists of staff throughout the hospital from all different disciplines and categories and their motto is 'Sing for the Serotonin Surge.'

The choir has been a wonderful addition to the hospital promoting positive health and well-being. They perform at least twice a year for hospital staff and raises funds for local charities in the process.



An Audit of an Outreach Community Cardiac Rehabilitation Programme Sligo University Hospital

Over fifteen years ago, a satellite community cardiac rehabilitation programme was established in Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim by Maeve O'Reilly and Ann McGowan, Sligo University Hospital. The catchment area of SUH expands for 60 miles from the hospital into Leitrim, North Roscommon and parts of Cavan. Before the establishment of the satellite service, distance was the main reason cited by patients for their non-attendance at the programme in SUH.

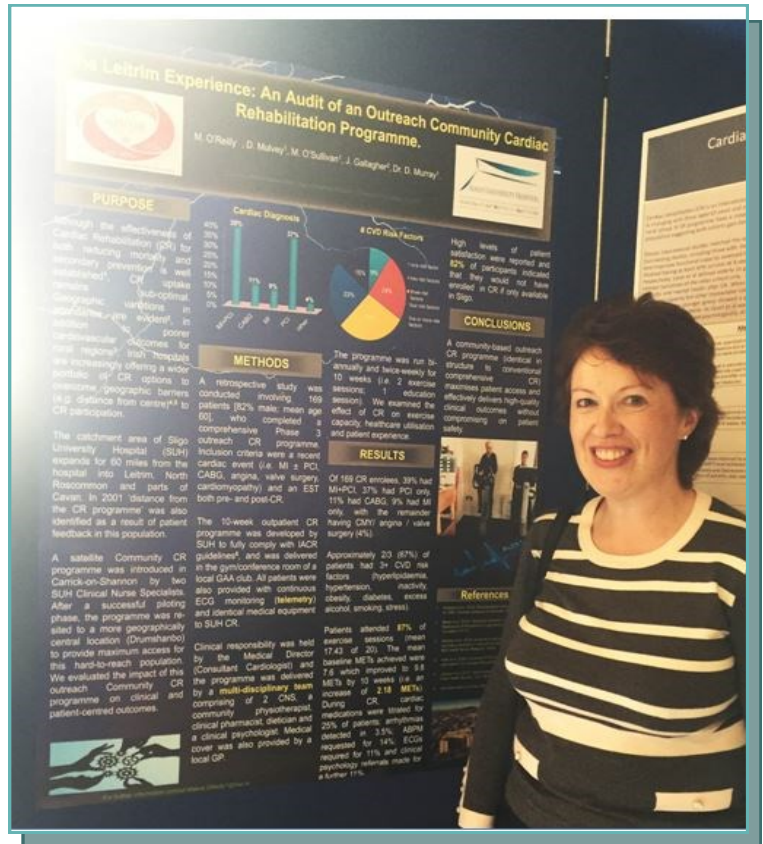
The pilot programme was a success and the location has now changed to Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim which is more geographically central for patients attending. Classes are run twice weekly, bi-annually for 10 weeks. The classes are identical in structure to those provided in SUH and are run according to IACR Guidelines with almost identical equipment and telemetry monitoring provided. Classes are run by Clinical Nurse Specialists from Sligo University Hospital. A community physiotherapist is also involved along with a local G.P. who provides medical cover.

An audit was of participants of this programme was undertaken recently. The audit analysed the physical activity outcome and events detected during cardiac rehab in 138 males and 31 females aged 39 – 77 (with an average age of 60) who attended the programme. Inclusion criteria for this study was a recent cardiac event and a stress test following this and again following cardiac rehab.

Of those studied 37% had PCI only, 39% had MI had PCI, 11% had CABG, 9% had an MI and the remaining 4% had either cardiomyopathy, angina or a valve replacement.

There was an average of 19.5 classes offered with 17 attended. Totally METS achieved on the pre rehab EST were 7.6 while post EST this increased to 9.8 i.e. an increase of 2.18 METS. Medications were changed for 42 (25%) of patients during the programme, 24 hour monitors ordered for 14% of this group, arrhythmias detected in 3.5% and ECGs and psychology referrals required in a further 11%.

Overall this has proven to be an effective and safe service.



Maeve O'Reilly, Clinical Nurse Specialist in Cardiac Rehab Department SUH

The Development of a Visual Aid to assist in the Manual Cleaning of Colonoscopes at SUH

The Quality Improvement Division review of Endoscope decontamination in acute hospitals (2015) recommended all endoscopy decontamination personnel complete a level 6 minor award in Endoscope decontamination. To date, two staff have undertaken course in Endoscopy Sligo University Hospital (SUH) and two more currently underway. Part of course involves completing a workbased Quality Improvement (QI) project. Wayne Brady, Health Care Assistant in Endoscopy, SUH, completed the course in 2017.

He developed a visual aid in the form of a poster with the aim of improving staff awareness and knowledge of the process for manual cleaning of colonoscopes.

This was developed using local and national decontamination guidelines and the endoscopy decontamination competency based training document at local level. Following a staff survey and positive feedback, the poster was implemented into practice. Wayne has also presented his project at decontamination network events under the guidance and support from management in Endoscopy and Ms. Caroline Conneely, National Decontamination Quality lead.



Pop Up Education

An innovative education strategy for staff.

Benjamin Franklin once said “Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn”.

In the ever changing and busy healthcare environment it is difficult to release staff to attend structured education. Considering this and identifying the need to keep up to date with knowledge, the surgical north ward under the leadership of Eunan Mc Guinness, Marie Beirne, Gillian Gordon (Clinical Nurse Managers) and the staff have recently rolled out “Pop Up Education sessions”. The initiative has also been supported by Director of Nursing Marion Ryder and ADON Therese Gallagher.

Staff have identified areas that need up skilling or just a general refresher of topics and these are short 15 min sessions where a member of the pop up team delivers onsite education at quieter times on the ward.

A pop up team was formed from the skill base within the ward and hospital. This team continues to expand to include all disciplines. To date, Margaret Given, CNM 2, Theatre, has delivered a session on mobile phone distraction; Deirdre Staunton, Resuscitation Training Officer, gave a refresher on Early Warning Score (EWS), Eunan Mc Guinness is covering nursing metrics, Marie Beirne is covering ENT topics and Teresa Donnelly is covering stress and resilience.

These sessions are up and running a month now and the staff are finding the sessions very beneficial. There has been wonderful engagement from staff. The short sessions which can be delivered at different times are proving to be successful in capturing large numbers.



L/R: Vilma Carr, Staff Nurse, Eunan McGuinness, CNM 2, Willie McGloin, Health Care Assistant, Gerry Vesey, Staff Nurse, Joan O'Neill, Staff Nurse and Kelly Hennigan, Clinical Nurse Specialist.



News from the Peri-Operative Directorate

President of Ireland Future Research Leaders Award

Professor John Laffey (CÚRAM & Anaesthesia) was one of the recipients of Science Foundation Ireland's 'President of Ireland Future Research Laboratory awards' worth €1.54 million. He was presented with the award by President Michael D. Higgins Áras an Uachtaráin earlier this year. Professor Laffey is pictured (right) with his wife, Dr Anne Browne; President Higgins; and SFI Director General, Professor Mark Ferguson.



Peri-Operative

Mr Nadeem Nusrat, Consultant Urologist pictured with his surgical team performing a Laparoscopic Urology procedure



News from the Medical Directorate

Pictured; Ciara Lynott, Jean Corrigan, Brian Kelly and Dr Ramona McLoughlin

There have been a number of new appointments over the last number of months in the Medical Directorate. **Dr. Ramona McLoughlin, Consultant Gastroenterologist**, has been appointed as the new **Group Clinical Director for the Medical Directorate** having replaced Prof. Donal Reddan.

Dr. Tom Walsh, Consultant Geriatrician and Stroke Lead, has been appointed as **Associate Clinical Director, at Galway University Hospitals**, the role previously held by Dr. McLoughlin.

Dr. Tom O'Malley, Consultant Geriatrician, who was the group specialty lead for Geriatrics has been appointed as **Associate Clinical Director for Medicine at Mayo University Hospital**. He has replaced Dr. Fionnuala Lavin who has held the position for the past 4 years. We wish to acknowledge Dr. Lavin's and Dr. McLoughlin's contribution as ACDs.

Group Specialty Lead Roles for Medicine:

Specialty	Name	Specialty	Name
Acute Medicine	Dr. Yvonne Smyth GUH.	Infectious Diseases	Dr. Catherine Fleming, GUH
Cardiology	Dr. Jim Crowley, GUH	Immunology	Dr. Vincent Tormey, GUH
Dermatology	Dr. Dermot McKenna, SUH	Nephrology	Dr. David Lappin, GUH
Diabetes & Endocrinology	Prof. Tim O'Brien, GUH	Neurology	Dr. Michael Hennessy, GUH
Emergency Medicine	Dr. Fergal Hickey, SUH	Oncology	Dr. Paul Donnellan, GUH
Endoscopy	Dr. Eoin Slattery, GUH	Palliative Care	Dr. Eileen Mannion, GUH
Gastroenterology	Vacant	Radiation Oncology	Dr. Joe Martin, GUH
Geriatric Medicine	Vacant	Respiratory	Dr. Michael O'Mahony, GUH
Haematology	Dr. Ruth Gilmore, GUH	Rheumatology	Dr. Bryan Whelan, SUH

We would also like to acknowledge the contribution and continued involvement of the other ACDs for Medicine

LUH – Dr. Jose Miranda, Consultant Geriatricia

PUH – Prof Gerry Clarke, Consultant Gastroenterologist

RUH – Dr. Gerry O'Mara, Consultant Geriatrician

SUH - Dr. Katherine Finan, Consultant Respiratory Physician

There have also been some changes in personnel in the **specialty lead roles**.

Prof. Timothy O'Brien is the new Specialty Lead for Diabetes and Endocrinology having replaced Prof. Francis Finucane. Dr. David Lappin is the new Specialty Lead for Renal Services having replaced Dr. Louise Giblin. Dr. John Lee, Specialty Lead for Gastroenterology has stepped down. We would like to acknowledge the contribution of Prof. Finucane, Dr. Giblin, Dr. Lee and Dr. O'Malley who have represented their respective specialties as Group Leads over the past four years.

We would particularly like to acknowledge Prof. Donal Reddan's contribution as Group Clinical Director for the Medical Directorate over the past five years.

He played a key role in developing the group wide structures and cultivating robust working relationships across the hospital sites and multidisciplinary teams to improve patient care and set sound foundations for a more integrated governance model for the future.

He was instrumental in initiating the Emergency Medicine Review, the Haematology Review, the Clinical Strategies and the Bi Directional Flow policy.

We wish him all the very best for the future.



News from the Women's & Children's Directorate

MatExp Whose Shoes Galway May 2018

A very successful 'Whose Shoes®' event was hosted by the UHG Maternity Department in the Croi Centre on 11th May, 2018. It was the first such event to be held in Ireland and was attended by over fifty people, including members of the public, volunteer groups, midwives, obstetricians, neonatologists and health and social care professionals.

'Whose Shoes®' is an innovative approach to exploring the concerns, challenges and opportunities facing the different groups affected by the transformation of health and social care. A poster showing the issues raised was drawn up during the event and will be on display in the Maternity Department, UHG.





Special Knitting for Special Babies at MUH

Staff of Mayo University Hospital would like to express their gratitude to the many gifted hands working in the "Knitting for Premature Babies" Group in Ireland.

The special babies born in Mayo University Hospital are very lucky to be on the receiving end of the gifted hands that make and knit beautiful clothes and bedding.

These volunteers have been sending us lovely hats, blankets, cardigans, cots and amazing gowns. Every item made with love and care and the attention to detail shines through each piece.

They are used to shower love on special babies and show love and support to their parents.

These gifts offer a hand of understanding where no words are exchanged and yet experiences are shared.



L:R Annelize Sebastian, Staff Midwife; Debbie Heaney, Clerical Officer; Collette O Malley, Staff Midwife; Michelle O'Malley, Staff Midwife; Jubilina Dago-Jack Intern Midwife; Maureen Hanlon, CMM1; Grainne Boyce, Staff Midwife



New Maternity Website launched for UHG

The actress Aoibhin Garrihy attended UHG on 1st May to launch the new University Hospital Galway Maternity Services website, www.uhgmaternity.com. The new website is an excellent resource and provides information on pregnancy, labour and parenthood.

Neonatal Grand Rounds in UHG

Professor Neil Marlow, Professor of Neonatal Medicine at University College London, presented at Neonatal Grand Rounds in the Clinical Sciences Institute, UHG, on 4th May, on the topic of prematurity and associated outcomes. The other Saolta maternity units were invited to join by videoconference.

Professor Marlow leads the EPICure studies, which are focused on long-term outcomes for extremely preterm infants. He also runs a series of local studies into brain and cognitive development following very preterm birth and is a co-investigator on a range of mainly UK-based cohort and randomised studies.

He is the current Chair of the NHS England Clinical Reference Group for Neonatal Critical Care, Chair of the Neonatal Critical Care Transformation Review and a member of the executive board of the European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants.



Pictured: Dr Ethel Ryan, Clinical Director, Women's and Children's Directorate with Professor Neil Marlow and Professor John Morrison

Promoting Midwifery Led Care at SUH

International Day of the Midwife was an opportunity to inform people about the work that midwives do and their contribution to improving the health and well-being of mothers and babies. The Theme for International Day of the Midwife 2018 was 'Midwives leading the way with quality care' and the day was celebrated with an event at Sligo University Hospital.

Midwives are highly skilled and recognised experts who provide a complete episode of care for healthy pregnant women and their babies. This care is tailored to the needs of the woman, her partner and her family during pregnancy, labour and birth and post natal. Midwives have the skills to provide up to 87% of childbirth related services making them the ideal health professional to support women through the maternity continuum of care. Midwives are the key advocates and supporters of women during pregnancy and birth (International Confederation of Midwives 2018).

A midwifery model of care is available for all normal risk women (supported care) attending Sligo University Hospital. There is also a pathway of care with the advanced midwife practitioner, Roisin Lennon, for women who do not meet the supported care pathway but do fulfil the criteria for assisted care. This model is available to those attending the antenatal clinic in Carrick on Shannon from May this year. There are plans to extend the service to Ballyshannon and other locations within the Sligo University Hospital Maternity services catchment area.

Boots in Carrick on Shannon and in Sligo kindly agreed to provide the location in which local midwives hosted and promote this special day in the beginning of May. This gave people the opportunity to celebrate the day and learn about midwifery care and ask questions or advice. Lots of people stopped, chatted and the team were visited by expectant parents, grandparents and even met up with some mums and their babies and toddlers. It was a very sociable event engaging with people and spreading the word about midwifery care and promoting the health and well-being of women. SUH maternity services are grateful to Boots for welcoming the staff and facilitating the event.



International Day of the Midwife UHG

International Day of the Midwife 2018 was celebrated in UHG on Friday, 4th May. In line with this year's theme, 'Midwives leading the way with quality care', a display of Quality Care posters took place on the long corridor.

The new maternity website was on display on the long corridor in the maternity unit in the Antenatal Clinics. Throughout the day, gift bags were presented to mothers on St. Angela's Postnatal Ward.

Thanks to all involved in organizing these events and to all those who took part.





News from Galway University Hospitals

Edel Kelly, Discharge Co-Ordinator; James Geoghegan, PALS (Patient Advice Liaison Service); Chris Kane, General Manager, GUH; Ger Kilkelly, PALS; Cathal O'Donnell, Patient Flow Improvement Project (PFIP) team and Breda Kilbane, Patient Council, Health Literacy Committee.

GUH launch 'Planning your discharge from hospital booklet'

Galway University Hospitals recently launched their 'Planning your discharge from Hospital Booklet' which supports patients, their carer's and families to understand how their discharge or transfer from hospital will take place.

The need was identified to produce a booklet following the National Patient Experience Survey May 2017 results, where respondents to the survey at GUH said they would like to receive more information in relation to their discharge from hospital.

James Geoghegan, PALS (Patient Advice and Liaison Service) explains, "Admission to and discharge from hospital can be a distressing and anxious time for patients, their families or carers, friends or relatives. The aim of this booklet is to provide information that will help patients think about what they need when they are ready to leave hospital or to enable them to leave hospital with adequate support services. The medical/surgical team will identify a date when they think the patient will be discharged and this date will be placed on the front of the booklet. It is important for patients to know that their discharge planning will start on admission and it is hoped that this booklet will assist the patient in becoming an active partner in identifying early on their admission supports that may be required on discharge."

A quality improvement programme was piloted in GUH and supported by GE Healthcare Finnermore to improve the patient's journey through the hospital. The booklet was then produced by a multi-disciplinary working group to improve health information available to patients for their entire health care journey from admission to discharge.

A policy on the development of written patient information by the Health Literacy Committee at GUH was created and following this the working group requested the support of the health literacy committee to review and score the discharge booklet using the Health Literacy Checklist which has been adapted by the HSE Guidelines for Communicating clearly with our patients and service users.

Some key elements in the booklet include: going home supports; planning your discharge checklist; going home day checklist; problem solving; common questions when discharged and safety at home checklist.

Inter-disciplinary learning through Hi-Fidelity Simulation

38 undergraduate students, from medicine, nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy and social work recently took part in an high-fidelity simulation session in the Irish Centre for Applied Patient Safety and Simulation. A scenario was created by the relevant practice tutors to involve each profession, with the aim of improving handover, teamwork and inter-professional communication. This session was coordinated as part of a quality improvement project aimed at improving inter-professional learning for students on clinical placements in GUH. Students' attitudes to inter-professional learning were measured before and after this session, with positive results. Overall feedback was also very promising with students reporting they enjoyed the session and 93% reporting they would recommend use of hi-fidelity simulation for similar sessions in future.



UHG Marks International Clinical Trials Day with public information event

University Hospital Galway celebrated International Clinical Trials Day 2018 with an information event for members of the public and for healthcare professionals on the importance of cancer trials. The Just Ask Your Doctor! public information campaign was also launched at same event. The campaign is designed to encourage people with cancer to ask their doctor and care team if there is a cancer trial available that might suit them.

The event was one of a number being organised with cancer trials research units around the country and Cancer Trials Ireland, which co-ordinates hundreds of cancer trials around Ireland every year. The event was led by the Radiotherapy Clinical Research Team which consists of Radiation Therapists, Medical Physicist Staff, Advanced Nurse Practitioner and is supported by the Radiation Oncologist team.

Approximately 100 cancer trials are currently recruiting patients in 16 hospitals around the country. UHG is one of 16 hospital-based cancer trials centres in Ireland. A further 50 trials are in the data collection and analysis stage. At any one time there could be in the region of 6,000 patients participating in these cancer trials. Around 50% of all clinical trials in Ireland are cancer trials.

The National Cancer Strategy 2017-2026 acknowledges that cancer trials should be a core activity of cancer centres and recommends that they be fully integrated into cancer care delivery. This will ensure cancer trials are central to the treatment options available to people with cancer. The strategy includes a target to double the number of people with cancer who can access cancer drug trials, from the current 3% to 6% by 2020.



Michelle Doherty, Radiation Therapist; Sophie Mangan, Radiation Therapist; Laura Kennedy, Radiation Therapist; Sinead Cleary, Medical Physicist; Joni Liddy, Radiation Therapist

The MSc in Medical Physics Programme a GUH-NUI Galway initiative

Medical Physics and Clinical Engineering (MPCE) as a profession supports health care professionals in the application of the physical sciences and the wider technology management in patient care. Activities undertaken by medical physicists/clinical engineers include scientific and engineering support, equipment management, quality assurance, research and development, and teaching and training.

In the early 2000s the rapid expansion in radiotherapy and the introduction of significant quantities of "high end" medical technology into many hospitals throughout the Republic of Ireland, created the need for the further development and expansion of medical physics/clinical engineering services. These developments also required increased efforts in the education of the next generation of medical physics/clinical engineering professionals. This was recognised by the late Prof Wil van der Putten in 2002 and to address these requirements he established a Master of Science (MSc) in Medical Physics programme based in NUI Galway.

The MSc programme is a full-time one-year taught master course (90 ECTS credits) delivered in close collaboration between the Department of Medical Physics and Clinical Engineering (MPCE), Galway University Hospitals, and the School of Physics, NUI Galway.

The training of medical physicists requires the acquisition of a body of knowledge and the skills and competencies to apply this knowledge in clinical practice. The MSc programme introduces the student to fundamentals in radiation physics, radiobiology, medical imaging (eg. x-ray imaging, MRI, ultrasound), radiotherapy physics, clinical instrumentation and biostatistics. In addition, the programme extends outside the physical sciences domain by offering modules in anatomy, physiology, occupational health, risk and safety applications, human factors engineering, and medical ethics. The latter is a valuable addition to the course, instilling in the student the patient-focused approach of the profession at an early stage of their careers.

Hospital-based medical physics staff plays a major role in the teaching of the individual modules, in the supervision of the extensive practical and laboratory components as well as in the facilitation of hospital based research projects. Key elements of the programme delivered by MPCE staff are, among others, radiation protection, risk assessment, radiation dosimetry, radiation shielding, medical information technology, clinical instrumentation, diagnostic imaging, and radiotherapy physics. Also, MPCE has developed strong collaborative links with other hospital departments and clinical specialities such as Anaesthesia, Radiology, and Radiation Oncology, who provide guest lectures and contribute to the course content.

The choice of clinical research subjects is service driven and generally relates to the implementation and performance evaluation of new technologies or the evaluation of therapeutic or diagnostic outcomes. In general, the research component of the MSc programme is aligned with the broad research strategy of the Hospital Health and Social Care Professionals (HSCP) research committee, which has been recently established on the initiative of the GUH-NUI Galway Academic Office.

Recently, a project establishing guidelines for patient precaution times after brachytherapy prostate cancer treatments with radioactive sources, received the Prof Wil van der Putten HSCP award for outstanding research by a HSCP. The high standard of MSc based research is further reflected by the succession of prizes awarded to our graduates for presenting their project work at the annual scientific meetings of the Irish Association of Physicists in Medicine (IAPM), the professional body representing medical physicists in the Republic of Ireland.

During their clinical project work most students are based full-time in the Medical Physics and Clinical Engineering Department at Galway University Hospitals. Pursuing their research projects in a clinical environment provides students with additional first-hand experiences of the routine work of a medical physicist/clinical engineer and also provides them with an understanding of the clinical workflow in a busy University affiliated teaching hospital. Experiences such as these will add to the student's future employment prospects. Galway MSc graduates will not only find employment in the area of medical physics but also in clinical engineering where this high-skilled workforce is needed in the management of complex medical technology ubiquitous in the modern hospital environment. Past graduates also pursued roles in further academic research and in the medical industry.

MSc projects are not only conducted at UHG but also performed in cooperation with Departments of Medical Physics and Clinical Engineering outside of Galway, thus contributing to an active Irish research landscape. In addition, it is important to note that in compliance with the internationalisation strategy of NUI Galway, individual projects have been conducted in collaboration with Canadian and German medical centres.

The MSc in Medical Physics was initially accredited by the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM), UK. In 2015, the programme received accreditation by the "Commission on Accreditation of Medical Physics Education Programs" (CAMPEP), an organisation which oversees medical physics educational programmes in North America. The Galway MSc is one out of only two CAMPEP approved graduate programmes outside of North America (the other one being in Seoul, Republic of Korea). The accreditation allows recruitment of applicants from North America, but also creates opportunities for MSc graduates to pursue careers in the US and Canada. Currently, three North American students are enrolled in an MSc class of 21 students

With the imminent transposition of the European Union Basic Safety Standards (BSS) Directive 2013 into national legislation, education to an MSc in Medical Physics level will become compulsory for future clinical-based medical physicists. The council directive lays down basic safety standards for protection against the dangers arising from exposure to ionising radiation, including a qualification framework for medical physics experts. In the Republic of Ireland, the Galway MSc in Medical Physics is the only such programme at present providing the required European Qualifications Framework (EQF) Level 7 (Master of Science) education.

A key hospital and MPCE Department strategy is to encourage staff members to contribute to and enrich the MSc student experience in order to further develop their own professional skill set. Contributing to the MSc programme not only gives the fulfilment of seeing students to progress into their chosen profession, but also provides hospital medical physics/clinical engineering staff with the opportunity to engage in continuing professional development (CPD) through lecturing as well as the opportunity to pursue their own research interests through project supervision. Thus, MPCE staff is making significant contributions to the academic requirements of delivering this internationally recognised MSc in Medical Physics programme.



National Frailty Education Programme Launched at UHG



Edel Shiels cANP For Older Persons, Siobhan McHugh, CNM1 Arus Mhuire Tuam, Dr Stephanie Robinson, Consultant Geriatrician GUH, Orla Sheil, Senior Occupational Therapist, Frailty Service GUH, Catherine Gavin, Senior Physiotherapist, GUH; Janette Maguire, Senior Physiotherapist, GUH; Edel Mannion, cANP for Older Persons GUH

Population ageing is occurring rapidly. In Ireland, the population 65 years and over is projected to increase by between 58 and 63 per cent from 2015 to 2030 (ESRI 2017). A national education programme "The Fundamentals of Frailty" was developed to provide healthcare professionals with an understanding of frailty coupled with the knowledge and skills required to provide effective care to older people living with frailty as a long-term condition, wherever they access health services. The programme has evolved out of collaborative working between the Older Persons, Acute Medicine and Emergency Medicine Clinical Programmes in Ireland (Specialist Geriatric Services Model of Care, 2012).

As older people have different healthcare requirements, the Irish healthcare system is now beginning to adapt to meet the demands associated with these demographic changes. Empowering health care professionals with up-to-date knowledge and skills will ensure that when an older person needs health or social care, the care they receive will be better planned, better coordinated, easier to access and truly person centered (integrated care).

The 'National Frailty Education Programme' philosophy is based on the belief that education increases knowledge and enhances healthcare professionals' skills in clinical areas. It complements the Guidance on Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment (CGA) produced by the National Clinical Programme in 2016 (NCPOP Guidance on CGA).

Our national frailty education programme promotes and encourages evidence based practice through ensuring knowledge is current. The philosophy underpinning this education programme is to promote excellence, encourage innovation and creativity in the management of the older person living with frailty.

Edel Mannion, cANP (Candidate Advanced Nurse Practitioner) for Older Persons, University Hospital Galway explains, "This programme is very beneficial to all healthcare professionals as the majority of us work with older people regardless of our speciality. By increasing the understanding of frailty, we can improve the detection, prevention, management and therefore outcomes for older people.

"UHG is one of the pilot sites offering the National Education Programme. The programme was officially launched in University Hospital Galway on 13 June with the aim of promoting the importance of the programme among staff. The education programme is run in Galway University Hospitals one day a month and facilitators include a Consultant Geriatrician, Physiotherapist, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Occupational Therapist and Social Workers."

GUH Multidisciplinary Research Meeting



Multi Disciplinary Research, Clinical Audit and Quality Improvement day at GUH today with some of the amazing staff presenting their research.

The 5th Annual GUH Multidisciplinary Research Meeting took place on June 15th 2018 in the Clinical Science Institute in UHG. There were over 150 abstract submissions with poster and oral presentations from virtually all health-care disciplines. The meeting kicked off with poster sessions over lunchtime. There was a lively discussion around the posters as presenters and attendees reviewed and discussed the high quality work presented.

Professor Aine Carroll, National Director for Clinical Strategy and Programmes, HSE, and Professor of Integrated Medicine in UCD opened the meeting with a presentation on the value and importance of being inquisitive and highlighting the essential role of research for healthcare. A highlight of the meeting was the delivery of a summary of 6 quality improvements by the QI in Action teams. The presentations included work on pathways for treating cellulitis and Hip fractures etc. The common theme was patient centric care, quality, and cost effectiveness. The Clinical Director, Dr Pat Nash; Hospital General Manager Ms Chris Kane, and the Saolta Director of Quality and Safety, Mr John McElhinney had the difficult task of choosing the best project and awarded this to QI project: 'Hip Fracture Admission Times'. Dr Nash commented that these projects were impressive in their reach and a great addition to the quality of care for patients in GUH.

The registrar prize took place immediately after the QI sessions. Seven presentations were selected from 42 submissions by the judging panel of Prof John Morrison, Prof John Laffey, Prof Peter McCarthy, and Dr Ethel Ryan. Prof Jack Kelly chaired the sessions and the level of audience participation was a testament to the quality of presentations. Topics included service audits of the cardiology PCI pathways and the care of the frail elderly, systematic review of methotrexate toxicity, work on antibiotic pharmaco-vigilance and new pathways in managing dislocated shoulders etc. The winner of the Consultants Medical Board Medal was Dr Etimbuk Umana, Registrar in Emergency Medicine, and the Professor Michael J O'Donnell Medal for best research by a medical registrar was Dr Christine Mc Carthy, SpR in Geriatric Medicine.

The last session was a presentation by the Medical Basic Specialist Trainees for the Prof Ciaran McCarthy Award. Professor McCarthy, Professor of Medicine, is remembered as a great supporter of research and clinical excellence. The presentations were outstanding and the judging panel of Dr Helen Tuite, Dr Bernadette Lynch, and Dr Mira Gorecka. Chose the ultimate prize winner Dr Ella Murphy.

The meeting was followed by a reception and award ceremony in the Stem Café. The event recognised everyone's input into academic activities and clinical education over the academic year. The award winners were

Research

GUH Research Day- Best Poster Presentation Nursing Medal

Rachael Dalton

'Prostate cancer information and support series'

Prof Wil van der Putten HSCP Medal

Annmarie Wrafter

'The investigation of umbilical cord blood parameters for primary immunodeficiency screening in relation to the administration of live vaccines in infants'

GUH Research Day - Best Poster Presentation awarded by the Medical Board

Dr Sadiq Siddiqui

'Endoscopic Vein Harvest: First Irish Experience of a Minimally Invasive Conduit Harvesting'

SpR GUH Research Medal - awarded by the Medical Board

Dr Etimbuk Umana

'Methoxyflurane Versus Propofol (MVP) for the Reduction of Acute Anterior Shoulder Dislocation in the Emergency Department'

Best Quality Improvement in Action Project

Hip Fracture Admission Times - Team Lead, Dr. Ciara Egan

Ciaran McCarthy Medal - Outstanding SHO

Dr Ella Murphy

Michael J O'Donnell Medal - SpR Research Award

Dr Christine Mc Carthy

HR achieve ISO Certification

Pictured:
Kevin
Callaghan
with Mary
Hynes and
Maureen
Nolan



GUH Human
Resource 's
team who
received
their ISO
certification
on the 13th of
April this year.



Kaizen 3, 90 Day Report

The Final Kaizen 3, 90 Day Report took place in May and was extremely well attended by staff across UHG.

Kaizen 3 focused on Ward Quality Improvements within GUH, this was the first out of three Kaizen's that was GUH led.

There were over 90 opportunities identified on this Project which was multidisciplinary led. National colleagues attended all the Kaizen 3 Report outs, this being the final 90 Day report out.

The Kaizen Team will now be sustaining all the great work achieved on this very successful project.



Cheque presentation to Patient Comfort Fund Claddagh Ward, UHG

The family of Lily Flaherty recently visited University Hospital Galway and presented a cheque of €900.00 which was raised through a fitness fundraising event for the Patient Comfort Fund, Claddagh ward, University Hospital Galway.

Lily's sister, Christine Cox from Spiddal presented the cheque to staff members Catherine Mularkey, CNS; Evelyn Faherty S/N; Deirdre O'Halloran, CNM; Karen Mulhall, CNS and Karen Maloney CNS in recognition of the support and care her sister Lily received during her time in hospital.

Deirdre O'Halloran, Clinical Nurse Manager, Claddagh ward, expressed her gratitude to Christine Cox and said, "We are delighted to receive this donation for the Patient Comfort Fund. This donation will enable us to purchase comfort items for our patients."



Special mass of remembrance

The Children's Remembrance Day Committee, University Hospital Galway invited parents and their families who had experienced the death of a child before birth, shortly after birth or at a later stage to remember their loved ones in a special Mass of Remembrance, which took place on Sunday 27 May in the Church of the Sacred Heart, Westside, Galway.

The theme of this year's mass was 'Family' and included a talk from Fr. Dáithí Ó Murchú, Chaplain, University Hospital Galway.

The Chairperson of the Children's Remembrance Day Committee, Mrs Margaret Duignan, said, "There is a need for a special day for parents and families to share their grief. Support lets the bereaved person know that there are people there that they can call on."

Committee member Susan Massey, said, "Any death especially that of a child upsets a family. Parents are robbed of the joys and expectations that go with parenthood and siblings also feel cheated of the chance to get to know their little brother or sister. This Mass of Remembrance offered family members the opportunity to come together and share their grief in an understanding and empathetic environment."



The Children's Remembrance Day Committee was formed 22 years ago. Every year a special Mass takes place for those who have died and the Books of Remembrance was available for viewing after Mass.

If you would like further information on the Children's Remembrance Committee please contact Margaret Duignan on 085 821 4443 or Susan Massey on 087 9452810.

GUH holds Stoma Care information evening

Galway University Hospitals Stoma Care Unit held their annual free public information meeting for anyone who had or was contemplating stoma surgery in Galway city recently. The event was open to patients, family members, friends and carers.

Entitled "A stoma in your life", the evening focused on quality of life issues and looking together at positive influences on living with a stoma.

Clinical Nurse specialists from Galway University Hospitals and Portlincula University Hospital were in attendance and spoke about improving quality of life for Ostomy patients, abdominal core exercises and some people shared their individual experiences.

Clinical Nurse Specialist Mary Quigley, said, "During the evening, there were informative talks, exhibit stands for new ostomy products like, swimwear, underwear and support garments. It provided an opportunity for those attending to speak to the clinical nurse specialists on a one-to-one basis.



Mary Quigley, Clinical Nurse Specialist Manager, Colorectal/ Stoma Care and Aisling Dunne, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Colorectal/Stoma Care, GUH pictured with James Marshall, patient.

Poet Michael Coady launches Poems for Patience at Cúirt International Festival of Literature



Galway University Hospitals Arts Trust celebrated the fifteenth series of Poems for Patience as part of Cúirt International Festival of Literature. Award winning poet Michael Coady launched the 2018 series on the Arts Corridor of University Hospital Galway.

Poems for Patience is part of an ongoing initiative by Galway University Hospitals Arts Trust to introduce poetry into Galway University Hospitals. The poetry is circulated throughout the waiting areas of University Hospital Galway and Merlin Park University Hospital.

The concept of poems in waiting rooms was piloted in London in 1998, with poems commissioned on the theme of waiting. Galway University Hospitals Arts Trust's first series of Poems for Patience in partnership with Cúirt was launched at the festival in 2004. The poems will be on display on the Arts Corridor at University Hospital Galway until May 25.

Poet Michael Coady said [about the project]: 'The posters are exhibited in various hospital contexts, which can be locations of hurt and healing, hope and human congregation, skills that touch the crossroads, boreens and boundaries of birth and life and death. Accessibility and clarity are desirable qualities, along with variety. While subjects might touch on the profound, they should avoid unmitigated despair. At the same time any gratuitous dumbing down was out of the question – unworthy of and trivialising the art of poetry and devaluing the sensibilities of its creators and its readers. Poetry may ask deep questions, directly or by indirection, employing literary devices of verbal imagery and rhythm. For the most part it is an art of compression, reaching towards enchantment, mystery and insight'.

In conjunction with the Poems for Patience project, Galway University Hospitals Arts Trust has held an annual poetry competition since 2013. This year, the winning entry is Ruth Quinlan's poem 'Small Acts of Anticipation'. Galway based poet, Ruth Quinlan was introduced as the 2018 winner by poet Kevin Higgins, and read her winning entry at the launch. The poem will now be included in the Arts Trust's Poems for Patience poetry collection. Ruth Quinlan won the 2014 Over the Edge New Writer of the Year Award and the 2012 Hennessy Literary Award for First Fiction. She has been shortlisted or runner-up for other competitions like Cúirt New Writing, the Francis Ledwidge Poetry Awards, and Doolin Writers' Weekend.

Margaret Flannery, Arts Director at Galway University Hospitals Arts Trust said: Poems for Patience is my favourite project of the year. I have the opportunity to co-ordinate a project for patients in our hospitals where we all get to discover and experience poetry. I enjoy working with different editors each year as the selection is always fresh with a different perspective. Michael Coady has reminded us of some old favourites this year, introduced new poets to the collection and we are delighted to three poems from the Irish language selected this year.

Previous year's participating poet Noel Crook, Texas stated: "What lovely work you do, giving poetry to those who might need it. A beautiful thing!" Patients have stated; 'It is great to be able to stop for a minute and forget everything and share in a silent way with the world', 'Wonderful collection to ease the mind of even the most impatient patient!'

Artist Tory Irvine officially launches art work 'T H R I V E' on the Arts Corridor of UHG

'T H R I V E' by artist Tory Irvine was officially launched on the Arts Corridor of University Hospital Galway on Thursday June 7th. Irvine is an abstract, contemporary artist interested in emotional health. The exhibition features a series of paintings, which are vibrant, expressive and colourful. Working with acrylics on paper, Irvine layers washes and blocks of colour with a spontaneous energy.

Inspired by the process of creating, Irvine comments that 'my work is intrinsically linked to my own self-care and wellbeing. The result is a body of work that, while portraying a unique perspective, is relatable and relevant to modern life. My hope is that my original paintings have a positive and uplifting effect on the onlooker. Art has the power to encourage reflection and promote emotional health which is a critical component of thriving communities'.

Margaret Flannery, Arts Director said, 'Galway University Hospitals Arts Trust is delighted to welcome this exhibition to UHG. 'T H R I V E', by artist Tory Irvine has a calming effect through its contemporary form and use of colour and is already being positively received by patients and staff'.

For more information on Tory Irvine visit <https://www.toryirvineart.com/p-o-r-t-f-o-l-i-o>.

For information regarding the arts programme contact Galway University Hospital Arts Trust at 091-544979 or email guhartstrust@hse.ie



Pictured at the official launch of 'T H R I V E' by artist Tory Irvine in UHG, were Barry McCann, Tory Irvine, Teddy McCann, Elsie Belle McCann.

Sun shines for afternoon garden tea party benefiting the arts programme at GUH

Saolta University Health Care Group Board member Phyllis MacNamara recently hosted an afternoon tea style event to benefit the arts programme at Galway University Hospitals. With over a hundred guests in attendance to support the event, host Phyllis MacNamara said, "I would like to thank everyone who helped make this event a success. From our fantastic guests to our wonderful supporters and sponsors. Thank you all for supporting the arts programme in Galway University Hospitals and I hope everyone learned about how important the arts programme is to the hospital community".

As the sun shone in a garden in full bloom, guests mingled and sampled the delicious consortium of afternoon tea delights including gourmet sandwiches and delicate desserts along with a choice of homemade lemonade or prosecco and were entertained throughout the afternoon by renowned singer and piano man, Seán De Burca.

Mary Surlis from Clarenbridge took the title of most elegant lady and was presented with a bespoke, an original design sponsored by Emily-Jean, Milliner and Jewellery Designer.



Galway University Hospitals Arts Trust was established in 2007 to provide an arts programme for the hospital community. The organisation runs the west of Ireland's leading Arts and Health programme as a means of improving the hospital experience for patients, staff and visitors. Galway University Hospitals Arts Trust believes access to the arts promotes well-being and enhances the hospital environment, providing a multi-disciplinary programme of events and activities, including exhibitions, participative workshops, music, theatre and poetry.

Healthy Ireland Garden Initiative at MPUH

Green fingers are blossoming on the Merlin Park campus as staff take to planting vegetables and herbs as part of a Healthy Ireland Gardening initiative.

Margaret O'Toole Business Manager, Merlin Park University Hospital who was behind the initiative explains, 'We came up with the idea and when we suggested it to staff the feedback we got was so positive. Sean Fergus who is the horticulturist in Merlin Park came on board with us and provided the expertise needed to educate staff in all areas of gardening. To-date staff have planted a variety of vegetables and herbs.

"The lunchtime gardening class brings staff together and gives them an opportunity to get to know one another and build friendships. Engaging with nature is good for the mind and body and plants give us a sense of connection."

Anna Larkin, staff member and participant in the gardening class said, "This class gives me something a little more creative and interesting to do at lunchtime which I thoroughly enjoy and look forward to."



GUH launches 'Pay your bill online'



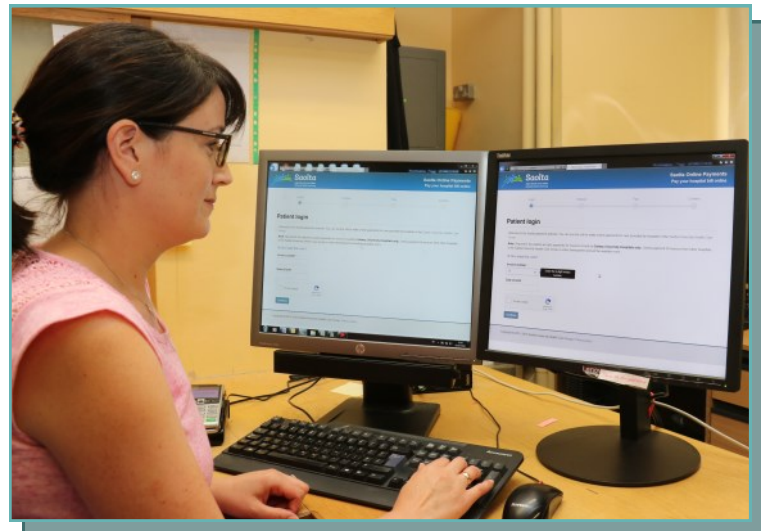
L:R Carol Kelly, Una O'Donnell, Sheila McDonagh and Rosemary Flannery, Patient Accounts, UHG

Galway University Hospitals (University Hospital Galway and Merlin Park University Hospital) have recently added a pay your hospital bill online function to the Saolta website. Patients can now use the website to pay their hospital bill securely using a credit or debit card. When completing the process online, patients will be requested to input the invoice number and their details.

Commenting Dermot Sheriff, Finance Department, GUH said, "We hope that the addition of this facility will make it more convenient for patients to pay hospital charges. Patients can still pay by post or in person as they traditionally could and this new facility gives them a further option. We have developed this system to the highest internet security standards so patients can be assured that their data will be protected at all times in the payment process".

The payment facility can be accessed from the home page of the Saolta website at www.saolta.ie.

The Saolta Group plans to extend this facility to other hospitals in the group over the next year.





News from Mayo University Hospital

Nutrition steering committee top row L: R Rebecca Kean, Dietitian; Celene Sands, Dietitian; Grace Hallinan, Dietitian; Lorna Concannon, catering duty manager ; Loretta Bracken, catering manager, bottom row L:R Eibhlin Walsh, dietitian manager; Paula Roberts, Patient Representative, Marie Fraser , Paediatric Dietitian and Caroline Conway, nurse practice development

Patient and Family Engagement MUH

Patient and Family Engagement is gaining momentum in Mayo University Hospital. Eighteen Patient Experience Advisors have been recruited; they have completed a formal induction process and are starting to work on Committees and Quality Improvement initiatives in the hospital.

Eibhlin Walsh, Chairperson of the Nutrition Steering Committee, welcomed Paula Roberts, Patient Experience Advisor to their meeting on 31st May. The committee is committed to moving forward together; to ensure the patient is central to all nutrition focused projects and improvements.

The Paediatric Decision Unit, quality improvement project, includes a Patient Experience Advisor who will bring the perspective and 'lived experience' of a parent directly into the planning and evaluation of care.

The work was presented at the Person Centredness Conference in Dublin and the Health Promotion Conference "Participation and Empowerment for Health Service Users: Strengthening the Circle" in Galway.

The initiative has the full support of the Hospital Management Team in working for continuous quality improvement and excellence in service delivery.

Nutrition and Hydration day at MUH

Aramark Catering department in conjunction with Dietetics and Speech and Language MUH recently welcomed Alan Quinlan to promote Nutrition and Hydration across the hospital. There was very positive engagement from patients and staff during Alan's visit.

L: R Una Daly, catering duty manager; Breeda McDermott, Catering Duty Manager; Lorna Concannon, Catering Duty Manager; Rachel Leonard, Senior Speech & Language Therapist; Alan Quinlan; Rebecca Kean, Dietitian; Ronan Fox, Catering Chef; Eibhlin Walsh Dietician Manager



Mayo University Hospital Hand Hygiene Awareness Day



Pictured (l-r) Ramona Neill CNS Infection Control, Rose Cafferkey Antimicrobial Pharmacist, Grainne McHale CNS Infection Control, Justin Valiakalayil CNS Infection Control and Declan Gibbons Chef, Aramark Catering

Mayo University Hospital is a member of the WHO Save Lives: Clean Your Hands Initiative Hospitals and hold a Hand Hygiene Awareness Day during May of each year to start the conversation of the importance of Hand Hygiene. This year the campaign theme was 'Clean Hands-Save lives' and an Awareness Day took place in the main foyer of the hospital.

The event was organized to promote hand hygiene as an important factor in the prevention of transmission of infection - as an easy, effective, and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives. It also wanted to bring people together across the hospital in support of hand hygiene improvement while maintaining a hospital-wide profile on the importance of hand hygiene. The team also wanted to increase hand hygiene awareness among staff, patients and visitors. The event also sought to address the myths and misperceptions about hand hygiene and empower patients to play a role in their care by asking or reminding healthcare providers to clean their hands. On the day demonstrations took place of the most appropriate agents/technique for hand-hygiene.

The Hand Hygiene Awareness Day was organised to involve everyone in MUH. The children in the paediatric ward were actively involved under the direction of the Volunteers and took part in a coloring competition to mark the day. These pictures were also displayed on the stands used. 164 participants completed quizzes throughout the day, all in an effort to raise awareness about the importance of hand hygiene.

Displays of a range of awareness and technique posters, a demonstration stand using an ultra violet light glow box and Adenosine triphosphate (ATP) Technology was used.

ATP is the primary energy transfer molecule present in all living biological cells; it cannot be produced or maintained by anything but a living organism and as such is a direct indication of biological activity. This year the team used swabs of staff hands. This initiative was beneficial in raising awareness of correct Hand Hygiene Technique and demonstrated that hands that were not decontaminated correctly can be biologically contaminated which can result in an increase in microbial growth. This exercise clearly showed staff the 'Before Hand Hygiene and After Hand Hygiene Count' which was an effective learning tool.

The feedback on the day was very positive, participants eager to improve their practices, to become familiar with products available and what should be used for Hand Hygiene. Over 190 people participated over the course of the day across the hospital.

Managing Actual and Potential Aggression

In November 2017 CNM2 Colette Murray and SN Damian Ansbro completed the five day managing actual and potential aggression instructors course (MAPA). As part of Mayo University Hospitals commitment to ensuring the safety of all staff Colette and Damian will be facilitating a series of two day MAPA training courses open to all frontline hospital staff working within MUH over the coming months. Pictured are some of the hospital staff who attended the first of these courses which was held in the centre of nurse education here at the hospital. The feedback received from this first course was very positive and those that attended felt that the course content has given them the knowledge and techniques to better manage when faced with potential aggressive situations.



Pictured: L: R Ryan O Sullivan, Damian Ansbro , Instructor; Colette Murray ,Instructor ; Siobhan Molloy; Joe Lawlor and Breege Giblin

New Medication Safety initiative launches in MUH

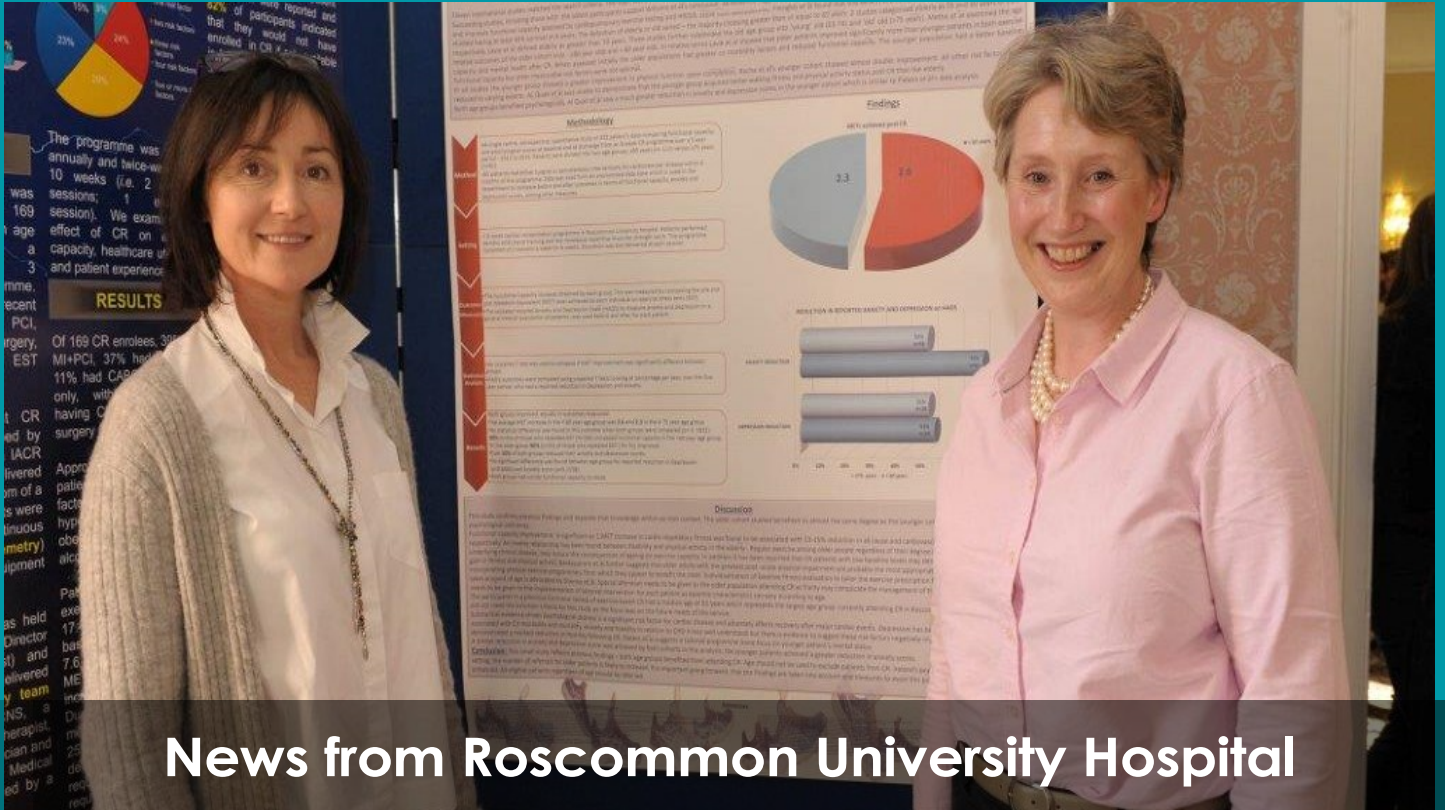


Everyone has a role to play in managing medicines safely.

In response to a call from the World Health Organisation to improve medication safety, Mayo University Hospital has launched a new awareness campaign aimed at improving communications around medicine use for patients. The campaign involves doctors, nurses, pharmacists and patients themselves and emphasises that everyone has a role to play in improving communications and safety around medication usage. It asks healthcare staff and patients to communicate better and check or ask for information if they are not familiar with a medicine. It is called the "KNOW, CHECK, ASK Campaign".

As part of the initiative, the hospital has redesigned its discharge prescription so that changes to medicines can be clearly documented and also the reasons for these changes. The time of administration for each drug can also be documented on the prescription on the day of discharge to ensure the patient or their carer know when the next dose is due. The hospital has also launched a "Knowing my medicines leaflet" which encourages patients to provide an up to date list of their medication when they are admitted to hospital or attend OPD appointments.

Commenting Geraldine Colohan, Chief Pharmacist at Mayo University Hospital said, "Everyone, including health care staff and patients themselves, have a responsibility to help us to improve medication safety. Research shows us that most medication related incidents happen because of either a lack of knowledge or poor communications around drug use and administration. By proactively introducing this medication safety initiative involving the entire health care community along with the patients we aim to improve awareness and safety around medicines for our patients."



News from Roscommon University Hospital

Pictured Rosemary Thorpe and Deirdre O'Reilly, Cardiac Rehabilitation Coordinators

Cardiac Rehabilitation – Are age related needs being met?

Rosemary Thorpe and Deirdre O'Reilly, Cardiac Rehabilitation Coordinators at RUH recently presented their research and findings related to a cardiac rehabilitation study undertaken at RUH at the Irish Association of Cardiac Rehabilitation conference. The aim of this study was to compare measurable outcomes before and after participation in a phase III CR programme RUH between patients aged ≤ 60 years and patients aged ≥ 75 years.

The benefit of cardiac patients participating in a cardiac rehabilitation (CR) programme is well established. Ireland's population is aging and the number of referrals for older patients is likely to increase. There is a body of work which compares the quantifiable outcomes of both the older and younger population suggesting both cohorts gain benefit from attending a phase III CR programme. This age - related difference in outcome to CR has not been examined within an Irish context.

This was a single centre, retrospective, quantitative study of 172 patient's data comparing functional capacity and psychological scores at baseline and at discharge from an 8-week CR programme over a 5 year period - 2012 to 2016.

Both groups improved equally in outcomes measured.

- The average MET (a measurement to quantify the energy cost of activity) increase in the < 60 year age group was 2.6 and 2.3 in the ≥ 75 year age group. A metabolic equivalent of task or MET is defined as a measurement to quantify the energy cost of activity. METS are used to describe the aerobic power or functional capacity of an individual. One MET is the resting metabolic rate – the amount of oxygen used at rest, 2 METS requires twice the metabolism, 3 METS three times the metabolism and so forth (Jetté et al 1990).
- This is significant as 1 MET increase in cardio respiratory fitness was found to be associated with 13-15% reduction in all cause and cardiovascular/CHD mortality respectively (Kodama et al 2009).
- A reduction in anxiety and depression score were achieved by both cohorts in this analysis, the younger patients achieved a greater reduction in anxiety scores.

This small study reflects previous international findings – both age groups benefited from attending CR and demonstrated an improvement in both physiological and psychological outcomes. Age should not be used to exclude patients from CR. It is important going forward, that the findings are taken into account and measures to assist this population to access CR are enhanced. All eligible patients regardless of age should be referred.

RUH Sun Awareness Day in association with Roscommon GAA



The Department of Plastic Surgery, Roscommon University Hospital held a Safe Sun and Awareness Health Promotion Event in association with Roscommon GAA in Dr. Hyde Park recently as part of an Open Day for Roscommon GAA Supporters. During the campaign, staff from the Department of Plastic Surgery provided high quality, evidence-based information on preventative measures, safe sun practices and timely recognition of skin cancers.

This event was part of a wider campaign by the Hospital to increase knowledge among patients, visitors and members of the public regarding the dangers of sun exposure, the benefits of sun protection and how to adopt safe sun practices prior to the holiday season.

The Plastic Surgery Department at Roscommon University Hospital is led by Ms. Deirdre Jones, Consultant in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and has the first and only registered Advance Nurse Practitioner in Plastic Surgery in Ireland, Amanda O'Halloran. Working alongside them is Bernadette Finneran, candidate Advanced Nurse Practitioner Plastic Surgery (Skin Cancer) and a team of skilled nurses and other support staff.

The health promotion event in Dr. Hyde Park was organised by Bernadette Finneran, candidate Advanced Nurse Practitioner Plastic Surgery who said, "We need to take a pro-active approach in relation to encouraging children to wear sun screen every day from an early age. Skin cancer incidence and mortality rates are increased with age, however melanoma is disproportionately high in people under 35 and is the second most common cancer in ages 15-34. Intermittent strong sun exposure is more damaging than moderate long term exposure. In fact holiday sunburn once every two years can triple the risk of skin cancer. Research has shown 6 out of 10 melanomas and 9 out of 10 Non Melanoma Skin Cancers are caused by the sun. 80% of cases could be prevented through adoption of safe sun behaviour from childhood to adulthood".

Mary Garvey, General Manager, expressed her thanks to Roscommon GAA and in particular to Kevin McStay and to the management and members of the senior football team for facilitating and supporting the event.



Pictured at the Safe Sun and Awareness Health Promotion Event were Bernie Finneran, Staff Nurse, Roscommon University Hospital; Kevin McStay, Manager, Roscommon Senior Football Team and Mary Garvey, General Manager, RUH.

A First for RUH and Trinity College Dublin



Left to right Patricia Rogers Catering Manager, Peter Curley and Sarah Bennet, DIT/TCD Dietetic Students, Madeline Spellman, Senior Dietitian, Roscommon University Hospital

For the first time, two dietetic students recently undertook their practice placement at RUH as part of their Trinity College Dublin course. This placement is an introduction to life and work in a hospital environment at the end of year one of the Human Nutrition and Dietetics course. This four week pilot placement programme is made up of two weeks introducing the students to the catering management side of the hospital, followed by two weeks of structured experience with the dietician which provided an introduction to clinical practice.

The students who undertook their placement in RUH reflected that their experience offered great insight into the processes and challenges of the catering department in a hospital, followed by a wonderful introduction to clinical dietetics and multi disciplinary interaction on the wards.

The placement was facilitated in RUH by Madeline Spelman (Senior Dietitian), Patricia Rogers (Catering Manger) and Maeve Graham (Practice Education Co-ordinator in Human Nutrition and Dietetics), together with many other staff across the hospital.





News from Letterkenny University Hospital

Pictured at the launch of the Donegal Age Friendly Car Parking Spaces, Sean Murphy, General Manager, Letterkenny University Hospital; Mary McGowan, Age Friendly Alliance; Cathaoirteach, Cllr. Gerry Mc Monagle; Grainne Hines, Older Persons Council and Liam Ward, Director of Services D.C.C

Launch of Donegal Age Friendly Car Parking Spaces

The launch of Donegal Age Friendly car parking spaces took place recently at Letterkenny University Hospital.

Cathaoirteach Gerry McMonagle accompanied by Liam Ward, Director of Services, Donegal County Council and Assistant Chair of Age Friendly Alliance, Sean Murphy, General Manager, Letterkenny University Hospital, Joint Chairpersons of the Older Person's Forum Mary McGowan and Grainne Hines and other members from the Older Persons Council, Peter Byrne, Facilities Manager, LUH, Pat Price, Euro Car parking and members from the Letterkenny Age Friendly group. This initiative is the first in Donegal.

In May 2015, Donegal Age Friendly Alliance launched the Age Friendly Strategy for the county, based on the World Health Organisation's eight Themes to improve the quality of life for our ageing population. We are now three years into implementing our Age Friendly Strategy.

Liam Ward spoke of importance about engaging and working with older people in order to ensure effective solutions to rising issues and to plan for an age friendly county that provides for quality service delivery and facilities for our older people and that at some stage will benefit us all. One of the actions under the strategy was to investigate the possibility of implementing age friendly principles within Hospital facilities, in partnership with the HSE, DCC and a group of Older People a walkability Audit was carried out in LUH. This helped the HSE identify the needs of the older person if they were attending the hospital as a patient or visiting for an appointment.

One of the issues raised in the Walkability report was that there was no parking facilities for older people outside the hospital. After presenting the report to the Alliance and discussions between Sean Murphy and the Older Persons Council the process began to put in parking places for older people.

Sean Murphy thanked the Older Persons Council for their contribution in identifying the needs of older people for Letterkenny University Hospital, the launch of four age friendly parking space is a start, with more to follow in the future planning for the hospital.

INFORMATION AND RULES OF USE FOR AGE FRIENDLY SPACES

Special signs have been erected at designated parking places, these spaces are courtesy spaces and it is hoped that motorists will enter into the spirit of this initiative and leave them free for older persons who need them.

The same fee applies as the other parking on the Hospital grounds.

EU invests €8.8 million euros in cross border acute hospital services



An €8.8 million EU INTERREG VA funded cross-border project has been recently launched which will benefit 13,000 patients. The CAWT Acute Services Project has recently secured this EU funding to assess and treat higher volumes of patients more effectively through improvements to and modernisation of current service delivery models.

This EU funding allocation has been secured by the Co-operation and Working Together (CAWT) Health and Social Care Partnership. This Partnership comprises the HSE, the Southern Health and Social Care Trust, the Western Health and Social Care Trust, the Public Health Agency and the Health and Social Care Board.

Both scheduled and unscheduled care services will be reformed and modernised as part of this cross border EU funded project. The scheduled care activities focus on the specialities of dermatology, urology and vascular interventions. Unscheduled care initiatives being implemented include new advanced community paramedic services, clinical decision unit, community cardiac investigations and a community geriatrician led service.

It is also planned to establish an integrated clinical dermatology network using telehealth technologies. Other additional technology solutions will be investigated and implemented to enable clinicians to communicate with patients outside of the acute hospital setting. Specialist training for staff across all of these areas will be undertaken to support the development and implementation of these new and innovative ways of working.

Opening the launch event, Project Chair Sean Murphy, General Manager of Letterkenny University Hospital said: "It is a great privilege to be part of the CAWT cross border group that has secured this additional investment for communities and services. The collaborative working required to deliver this suite of initiatives, with the support of the EU funding, will provide patients with additional quality services and, in many situations, enable them to be treated much closer to home." He added: "This project will also help to further strengthen and consolidate cross border and north / south co-operation in health and social care."

Commenting on the EU investment, Damien McCallion, Director General CAWT, said: "This is an important EU funded project which is taking a cross border approach in order to improve access to services for people living in border areas in particular. He added: "The CAWT Acute Hospital Services project is supporting the investment and reforms underway in our health services, which places primary and community care at the heart of health care delivery and the enhancing of capacity within acute hospital services."

Welcoming the launch of the CAWT Acute Hospitals Services project, Gina McIntyre, CEO of the Special EU Programmes Body said: "This highly innovative EU INTERREG VA funded project will deliver real efficiencies in vital health and social care services for the benefit of thousands of people on a cross-border basis. It will utilise some of the latest advances in e-health technology and enhance access to essential medical care used in the treatment of a wide-range of life-threatening illnesses."

Commenting, Alastair Campbell, Director of Secondary Care in the Department of Health in Northern Ireland said: "The Department is delighted to be providing match-funding to this CAWT cross border project. The aims and objectives of the project support the Department of Health's priorities for a modern health and social care service, in particular the focus on new ways of working across traditional organisational boundaries, the use of technology to drive better services, and ultimately, care that is designed around patients. He added: "I have no doubt that this project will provide valuable learning for other transformation projects underway in health and social care in Northern Ireland."

Dr Ray Nethercott, Consultant Paediatrician at the Western Health and Social Care Trust also spoke at the event about cross border information exchange.

Match-funding for the project has been provided by both Departments of Health in Ireland and Northern Ireland.

LUH - Gerry Lane honoured by Letterkenny Municipal Council



Congratulations to Mr Gerry Lane, Letterkenny University Hospital who was honoured by the Letterkenny Municipal Council in recognition of his work as a consultant in

Emergency Medicine, his contribution to the National Road Safety campaign and for his contribution to the health and welfare of the people in Donegal.

Let's Get Up, Let's Get Dressed and Let's Get Moving Initiative LUH

The Let's Get Up, Let's Get Dressed and Let's Get Moving patient quality improvement initiative began in March this year in Medical 2 ward at Letterkenny University Hospital. Research shows that 10 days in hospital is equivalent to 10 years loss of muscle mass for older patients' (TILDA, 2014). Unfortunately acute hospital admissions are associated with cognitive and physical decline, adverse events and longer length of stays for older people (NCPOP, 2017). Enhancing safe mobility and falls prevention are key target areas that may help improve and prevent these issues for patients.

The aim of the initiative is to promote patient recovery, rehabilitation and resilience; enable proactive participation by patients, carers and multidisciplinary team (MDT) and create a positive change in the culture of recovery.

Staff were educated on the initiative, its rationale and aims involving a collaborative inter-disciplinary approach. Patients are invited to participate in getting dressed in their day clothes and encouraged to get out of bed at the earliest opportunity once medically stable. The rationale is communicated to patients and carers on admission and throughout their recovery. MDT handovers, ward rounds and a special symbol the 'Patient Status at a Glance Board' is used to highlight patients medically stable and willing to engage.

Frailty Initiatives at LUH



Frailty is an emerging syndrome not well understood outside the field of Geriatric medicine. In Ireland "The Fundamentals of Frailty" education programme has been developed to increase knowledge and awareness. The programme is open to all healthcare professionals and is delivered in the CNME in Letterkenny. The first programme was delivered in September 2017 and feedback has been positive since the outset. Originally delivered by nurses only, the team has expanded and includes Physiotherapists,

Occupational Therapists and a Social worker and we are the first group of multidisciplinary facilitators in Ireland. There are almost 1000 healthcare professionals trained in the Fundamentals of Frailty nationally, 300 of whom have undertaken that training in Donegal.

“Hills of Donegal” perfect for sustainable transport pilot programme event hears



Back Row: John O Donnell Taxi/Hackney Operator, Fiona O Shea Local Link Donegal, Shane Prendergast SEAI, Front Row: Conference Chairperson Eileen Magnier, Laura Beehan Dept of Transport, Dr. Brian Caulfield, Trinity College Dublin and Kevin Brady Dept Communications, Climate Actions and Environment

The “Let’s Talk...Cleaner, Greener Transport” conference took place in the Mill Park Hotel, Donegal Town on April 4th, 2018 and was chaired by well-known RTE correspondent for the North West, Eileen Magnier and featured a range of guest speakers.

The event centred around an innovative pilot project that saw six local taxi and hackney operators swap their regular diesel-powered vehicles for either a fully electric, plug in hybrid and hybrid car for six weeks.

One of Donegal’s most experienced public transport operators, who recently took part in an innovative trial to use sustainable transport to bring Renal Dialysis patients to Letterkenny University Hospital, said there was no better place to conduct the test than the roads around the hills of Donegal.

The conference heard in a video presentation Inishowen based transport operator Jackie Holmes, who has been transporting Dialysis patients to Letterkenny University Hospital for almost 40 years, that the nature of our rural county, and the weather we experience, made for the perfect place to conduct this ambitious programme.

6 drivers changed their regular cars for new vehicles supplied by both by Toyota Ireland and Nissan. The results were extremely interesting indicating both substantial financial savings and significant reduction in emissions.

The operators who took part in the trials were Jackie Holmes from Inishowen, Ryan Dorrian, from Ballybofey, John O Donnell, from Ranafast, Derek Vial in Killybegs, Donal Cullen from Carrigart/Downings, Charlie Gildea from, Letterkenny and Liam Conneely, Killybegs.

Fiona O Shea, Manager at SITT/Local link, coordinates and manages transport for the National Transport Authority - Transport for Ireland; under the Rural Transport programme now branded Local Link, all HSE Day services throughout the county and all non-emergency acute transport including renal dialysis for Letterkenny university Hospital outlined the nature of renal dialysis transport; it is a service that is required 7 days per week, 52 weeks of the year with the only down day being Christmas Day. Patients travel from all over Donegal with a select few travelling to Derry and Omagh.

There are 68 people receiving dialysis at present which in turn amounts to approximately 20,608 return journeys clocking up over 1.3 million km annually.

She stated that the taxi and hackney operators are an unrecognised front-line service as they are out in all weathers and do not miss a day no matter what. To that end, their vehicle is critical to the success of their work. It must be reliable, efficient and cost effective for all conditions while being comfortable and suitable for transporting vulnerable people.

West Donegal based transport operator owner John O'Donnell, who had been driving dialysis patients to Letterkenny for over 20 years, during his presentation said he and the other trialists took on the challenge with the new technology cars as they were aware of the pending phasing out of diesel vehicles in the future and they wanted to get gain more knowledge on what alternatives could be used, as well as helping to have a positive impact on the environment.

He stated: "Overall it was very successful pilot and we are glad we had the opportunity to participate.

The event was chaired by RTÉ's Eileen Magnier and also featured guest speakers Kevin Brady who is Principal Officer leading the Heat & Transport Energy Policy division at Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment; Laura Behan, Head of the Climate Change Unit of the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport; Dr Brian Caulfield, Associate Professor in the Department of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering, Trinity College Dublin; Fiona O'Shea Manager at SITT/Local Link Donegal; Shane Prendergast, programme Executive for SEAI's Electric Vehicle Grant Programme; Declan Medally, Head of Department with responsibility for the Emerging Sectors in SEAI; Ranafast based Public Service Vehicle Operator, John O'Donnell and Head of Taxi Regulation for the National Transport Authority (NTA), Wendy Thompson.





News from Portiuncula University Hospital

Pictured at the launch were : Helen Ely, Palliative Care, Mary Barrett, Assistant Director of Nursing, James Keane, General Manager, Portiuncula Hospital, Joan Kelly, Cancer Support Manager, Irish Cancer Society, Jerry Nally, Assistant Director of Nursing, Anne Regan, Assistant Director of Midwifery, Michell Fallon, PALS Officer, Catherine Cotton, Discharge Co-ordinator and Mary Keegan-Hynes, ADON.

Irish Cancer Society launches Cancer Information Point at PUH

The new Cancer Information Point was officially launched recently at Portiuncula University Hospital by the Irish Cancer Society and is now open and accessible to the public. The Information Point, located in the front foyer of the hospital, provides cancer information to hospital patients and out-patients as well as visitors and the general public.

Information can be viewed on screen and there are also a selection of booklets and leaflets on a range of topics available. The information covers subjects such as; cancer prevention, risk reduction, early detection and local and national available services.

Speaking at the launch of the Information Point, Joan Kelly, Cancer Support Manager with the Irish Cancer Society said, "We are delighted to officially open the Information Point in Portiuncula hospital. On average, over 1,700 people in Galway receive a cancer diagnosis each year so the Information Point will be a valuable support to local cancer patients, their families and the general public.

The team in Portiuncula University Hospital have been very enthusiastic about having the Cancer Information Point at their hospital which services a wide community in East County Galway and surrounding counties."

James Keane, General Manager of Portiuncula University Hospital added, "We are very pleased to unveil the new Cancer Information Point. It will serve as a valuable resource in the hospital to the significant number of patients and visitors that attend the hospital on a daily basis. This information point has the potential to reach a large audience with this important health information."

The Irish Cancer Society is the leading provider of cancer information and support in Ireland. The Society provides cancer information and support to anyone affected by or concerned about cancer.

The Cancer Nurseline is open Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm and provides confidential advice, support and information. We also provide information on a range of topics via our information booklets and online resources.

To speak to a cancer nurse on any aspect of cancer contact the Cancer Nurseline on Freephone 1800 200 700, email cancernurseline@irishcancer.ie or drop into one of the 13 Daffodil Centres in hospitals nationwide. For locations and opening times email daffodilcentreinfo@irishcancer.ie. For more information visit www.cancer.ie.

Portiuncula University Hospital 2018 Steps to Health Challenge



Staff at Portiuncula University Hospital (PUH) recently participated in the nationally organised *2018 Steps to Health Challenge*, which is a fun and enjoyable way to get more physically active with colleagues at work. 10,000 steps was the daily goal to reach which is equivalent to approximately 8km or 5 miles, but any improvement in daily step count is a personal gain. 150 staff from Portiuncula registered on 14 teams this year, more than twice the number who registered in 2017. Step counters were issued to participants and weekly lunchtime walks organised with refreshments provided.

'How many steps have you done today?' became a daily topic of conversation in many departments over the course of the challenge, with staff members competing to be the one sent to Stores to pick up items and get their step count up simultaneously!

126 staff completed the 5 weeks steps challenge. It is hoped that even greater numbers of hospital staff will enter the 2019 steps challenge, and that many staff will continue with the habit of getting more physical activity in every day between work and leisure time.



News from across the Saolta Group

Service Improvement update



Saolta Programme for Service Improvement- Summer Update

The Saolta Programme Management Office (PMO) co-ordinates a consistent and best practice approach to project management. It is responsible for a programmes of work, establishing a governance model, engaging with key internal and external stakeholders and providing guidance and direction to deliver agreed projects . The programme includes projects listed below. Further details can be obtained from pmo.saolta@hse.ie

Saolta Integrated Governance Project

- Configuration for “Managed Clinical Networks” (to replace former “Clinical Business Units”) has been agreed and approved by Executive Council in May 2018.
- Detailed design ongoing with a number of workshops on site integrity, roles and responsibilities and with Nursing, HR, Finance, QPS.
- Cancer, and the Women’s & Children’s Managed Clinical Network to be implemented by end of 2018.
- Project underway between Portiuncula and Galway Maternity Services to implement integrated unit as per recommendation of external review of Portiuncula Hospital Maternity Services.

Saolta Group Strategy 2018 - 2023

- Saolta University Healthcare Group Strategy document nearing completion with 2 year plan.
- Draft Saolta Strategy to be considered at July Executive Council and to September Board Meeting.

Clinical Projects

- Emergency Medicine implementation project underway. Steering group with cross site representation agreed. Local programme groups being established.
- Hematology Review - cross-site implementation plan ongoing.
- Blood Sciences Project – Implementation of managed service arrangements /equipment replacement in GUH, PUH and RUH in progress.

Saolta / CHO Joint Working

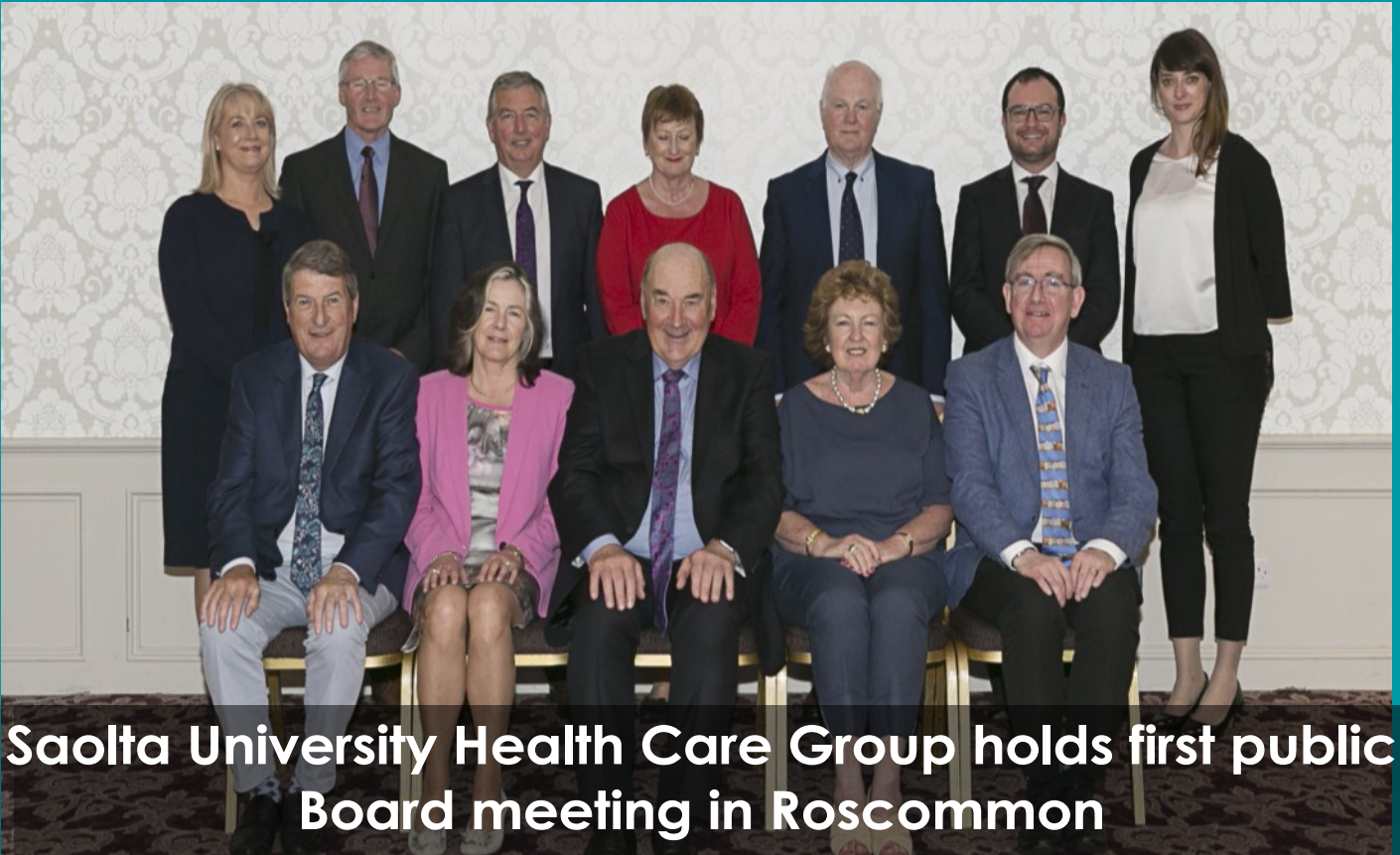
- Saolta and CHO’s PMOs collaborating to progress the Saolta/CHO Joint Working project. Current “As Is” mapping process underway with a focus on Older Persons’ Services to inform scope of work.

Elective Care, Acute Strategy & Planning

- Saolta has been selected as national pilot for implementation of Urology Pathway proof of concept across the spectrum of care working in partnership with National Clinical Programme. Project at initiation phase.

Options Appraisal – Model 4 Hospital

- A project will commence in coming weeks focusing developing an options appraisal of the infrastructural requirements in Galway as the Saolta Model 4 hospital, to facilitate the delivery of safe high quality acute, elective and cancer care for all patients across the West/Northwest, now and into the future.



Saolta University Health Care Group holds first public Board meeting in Roscommon

Pictured Board Members ,back row : L-R: Dariona Conlon, Tom Canavan, Brian Thornton, Mary Dunne, Gerry McManus, Dr. John Morris, Dr. Aislinne Freeman front row: L-R: Dr. Brendan Day, Darina Kneafsey, Dr. John Killeen, Phyllis Mac Namara and Professor Ciaran O hOgartaigh

The first public meeting of the recently appointed Board of the Saolta University Health Care Group recently took place in Roscommon.

Commenting Dr John Killeen, Chairman of the Board said, "The current Board was appointed by the Minister for Health in late 2017 and has met monthly since then. This meeting was the first public meeting of the Board. The Board is responsible for ensuring that the Saolta Group is achieving its strategic objectives and effectively managing its available resources to provide sustainable, safe and effective person-centred care. We are continuing to develop and progress our governance structures. Patient safety and quality are core to our mission and are at the centre of our decision making.

"We were particularly delighted that the Board met in Roscommon and that the Board members had the opportunity to visit Roscommon University Hospital (RUH) to see the excellent service provided there and meet its committed and dedicated staff."

Commenting at the meeting Maurice Power, Chief Executive Officer of the Saolta University Health Care Group said "We have always worked very closely with our non-executive Board members and value the oversight and support they provide. The current Board was established in late 2017 and we continue to meet monthly. Of particular value to the executive are the sub-committees of the Board, which deal with patient safety, audit, strategic manpower planning and finance. They provide an extremely valuable external dimension to the work we do and the decisions we take."

Board meetings rotate across the Group allowing Board members the opportunity to visit the hospitals in the Group and meet with the staff.

At the meeting Mary Garvey, General Manager, Roscommon University Hospital provided Board members with an update on the activity and developments underway at RUH. "The number of patients attending Roscommon University Hospital continues to increase. In 2017 there were 6,195 attendances at our Injuries Unit, a 22% increase on the previous year. We are now getting a significant number of referrals from GPs outside of County Roscommon which is a very positive development and the average waiting time, including treatment for patients, is 53 minutes.

Our day-surgery service continues to grow and we have increased the range of specialty surgery in the hospital over the last number of years to include Plastics, Vascular, Maxillofacial and Urology alongside Endoscopy and General Surgery. Our key priorities over the next number of years is the further development of our day surgery service with a particular focus on patients who are waiting longest in other hospitals in the Saolta Group. We will also be progressing the Rehabilitation Unit project."

Saolta Group 'Get a vaccine, give a vaccine' campaign enables UNICEF to purchase 36,910 polio vaccines



Anne Healy, Occupational Health, GUH; Owen Buckley, UNICEF; Jean Kelly, I/Chief Director of Nursing/Midwifery, Saolta Group; Pamela Normoyle, Flu Vaccine Lead, Saolta Group; John Shaughnessy, Director of HR, Saolta Group and Dr Aine McNamara, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, HSE.

Last October Saolta University Health Care Group and Community Healthcare West together with the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences NUI Galway partnered with UNICEF as part of a promotional flu campaign for staff 'Get a vaccine, give a vaccine' which meant that for every flu vaccine given to a staff member, 10 polio vaccines were donated to UNICEF.

On 26 June, Saolta University Health Care Group were delighted to present a cheque for €6,274 to UNICEF to facilitate the purchase of 36,910 polio vaccines. This donation will assist UNICEF with their global effort to eradicate polio in three countries (Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria).

John Shaughnessy, Director of HR, Saolta University Health Care Group said, "Saolta were delighted to partner with UNICEF this year and support them in their efforts to eradicate polio.

A total of 3,691 health care workers (37.1%) in the Saolta group received their flu vaccine in 2017/2018. This figure reflects a 50% improvement on last year's uptake rates of 24% with Roscommon University Hospital, Portlinculla University Hospital and Mayo University Hospital achieving a staff uptake rate of greater than 40%.

"I would like to thank all our staff who protected themselves, their loved ones and their patients against influenza by getting the flu vaccine.

"I also recognise that the endorsement of campaign by the General Managers of the hospitals has played a significant part in the improvement of the vaccine uptake. Finally, I acknowledge the work of the various teams involved in this vital prevention programme and the dedication of all the Occupational Health staff and Peer Vaccinators who delivered the vaccinations."

Health Innovation Hub Ireland – new location in the West



HSE, the Saolta University Health Care Group and NUI Galway are happy to announce that Health Innovation Hub Ireland are now based in the West. Health Innovation Hub Ireland (HIHI) works across the health sector and with Irish businesses to solve challenges in healthcare.

Commenting, Aisling Dolan, Manager of the new office said

'We are delighted our new office will open here in September 2018 on the ground floor of the Lambe Translational Institute for Research and beside the Clinical Research Facility (CRF). We have a team in place and will be running IGNITE Innovation 2018 aimed at HSE staff here and Innovation Into Healthcare focused and open calls for start-ups and SMEs. We have an open door policy to anyone with an idea to improve patient care – so drop by and meet our team'.

Who is Health Innovation Hub Ireland?

We are a national programme with Hubs based in Cork, Dublin and now here at Galway. This initiative is led within a National Executive Team by key strategic representatives listed below;

- Professor Tim O'Brien, Dean of the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at NUI Galway and Saolta Executive Board Member
- Professor Martin O'Donnell, Director of the HRB Clinical Research Facility, Galway (CRFG)
- Dr Martin O'Halloran, Director of the Translational Medical Device (TMD) Lab, NUI Galway
- Dr Conall Dennedy, Director of the Irish Clinical Academic Training Programme (ICAT)
- Professor Stewart Walsh, Associate Director HRB CRFG, both patient and team experiences.'

At a university level, the Health Innovation Hub also has strong support from the Office of Research & Innovation at NUI Galway and the President's Office to build upon the innovation ecosystem on campus.

A working group led by Professor Anthony O'Regan, Chief Academic Officer, Saolta University Hospital Healthcare Group brings together key stakeholders in the primary and community care in the HSE, NUI Galway and industry groups to ensure key objectives are achieved.

The Galway operations team is getting bigger with HSE's own Dr Diana Hogan-Murphy's dual role as Senior Antimicrobial Pharmacist and now Clinical Co-ordinator with the Hub. Dr Jimmy Eaton-Evans, a mechanical design engineer and BioInnovate Fellow in Medtech Innovation brings crucial start-up and business know-how as a Technology Evaluator. Aisling highlights that 'this is a unique initiative between the Department of Health and the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation. By bringing together cutting-edge technology & project management skill-sets along with key expertise of HSE professionals – we will work with healthcare to find solutions to everyday challenges. This is an opportunity for people in primary care and within the Saolta Group to find out more about innovation and how to develop ideas to improve both patient and team experiences.'

So what do Health Innovation Hub Ireland provide?

We assess all concepts for healthcare innovation from those on the frontline – from clinicians to nurses to porters. We encourage healthcare professionals to get in touch with HIHI if they have an idea or solution to how something in your job might work better.

For healthcare professionals we provide the support structures to develop ideas that will improve patient care. For companies, we connect products with people qualified to test them. HIHI will further support this innovation out with dedicated education programmes available to all HSE staff.

Why is Health Innovation Hub Ireland in the news?

We have just launched our Innovation Into Healthcare open and focused calls aimed at companies, start-ups and SMEs. For 2018 the HSE specific priority theme is 'Enable Positive Aging'. Our HIHI partner, the HSE, has highlighted a strategic need in the Health Service for products with an impact in dementia care, integrated care, limiting acute hospital admissions, promoting healthy living for longer, minimising polypharmacy and promoting increased independence at home. Companies can submit an application available at hih.ie by August 31 2018 and also have access to expert support from the Health Innovation Hub Ireland to develop their product.

I am working in the HSE here in Galway and I have a great idea, what do I do next?

IGNITE 2018 is a competition where individuals or teams can submit innovative ideas and have an opportunity to engage with experts in innovation. The best applicants will be brought together for a dragon's den style pitch on 6th December, winners and 5 runners-up will receive a bursary to develop their idea in collaboration with Health Innovation Hub Ireland. A follow-on from the success of Neurotransmitter 2017, IGNITE 2018 will launch in September, this is open to people working in Healthcare in the West of Ireland.

Health Innovation Hub will join with partners HSE NDTP (National Doctors Training & Planning), the Spark Innovation Programme and Dr Dara Byrne, Intern Co-Ordinator NUI Galway/West Northwest (WNW) Intern Training Network and Director of Irish Centre for Applied Patient Safety and Simulation (ICAPPS) NUI Galway and to deliver this programme to healthcare providers in the West.

Dr Dara Byrne highlighted 'We are excited to work with our partners in the Hub and the HSE to build on the success of Neurotransmitter with IGNITE 2018. This is a chance to submit your own idea or to work with a team, to build your innovation skills and to compete in a pitch event' and Aisling emphasized 'We will be promoting this programme over the next few months and with such a high interest in this programme – Health Innovation Hub Ireland and the HSE are hoping to expand this further to Cork and Dublin in 2019'.

How do I get in touch?

Come talk to our team and follow us on Twitter to find out about our upcoming events @hihireland.

Aisling Dolan, Manager, Galway, Health Innovation Hub Ireland, aisling.dolan@nuigalway.ie

Dr Diana Hogan-Murphy, Senior Antimicrobial Pharmacist, HSE & HIHI Clinical Co-ordinator diana.hogan.murphy@hihi.ie

Dr Jimmy Eaton-Evans, Technology Evaluator, Health Innovation Hub Ireland jeaton-evans@nuigalway.ie www.hih.ie

Other news from Twitter

Saolta Group
@saoltagroup

Lovely Mary McGough from Tuam, Co. Galway with @MargaretB1326, Quality and Patient Safety Lead, @HSELive and @mrachelflynn @HIQA on St Ann's ward #UHG today. Mary will be one of many patients participating in the National Patient Experience Survey @NPES this year. #patientsvoice



Saolta Group
@saoltagroup

Its all 'Hands On' for sepsis prevention at Roscommon University Hospital #RUH #handhygiene #sepsis



Saolta Group
@saoltagroup

The #Haematology #Oncology ward at #LUH received a donation of paintings from transition year class 2015/2016 of Colaiste Ailigh, Letterkenny in memory of the late Claire Callaghan, mother of Amy TY student. The paintings will be on display in the relatives waiting room.



Saolta Group
@saoltagroup

Some of the staff from the Claddagh ward and St Anthony's ward with Fr. Dáithí Ó Murchú, Chaplain #UHG who have been actively promoting the @NPESurvey with @MargaretB1326 @HSELive and @mrachelflynn @HIQA #ListeningRespondingImproving



Saolta Group
@saoltagroup

Our @saoltagroup #LeadersInManagement group who received their course certificates from @saoltagroup CEO Maurice Power. Well done to all participants. #FutureLeaders



Saolta Group
@saoltagroup

Today's visit at #SUH by @HIQA CEO Phelim Quinn. Promoting the survey among patients and thanking hospital staff for all their hard work! #Listening #Responding #Improving



Saolta Group
@saoltagroup

Today's visit from @HIQA, thanking all staff for their continued support in promoting the #NPES Survey and meeting with lovely Patients at #MUH.

Saolta Group
@saoltagroup

Congrats to our newly appointed International Nurses in #ED at #PUH who were presented with their Certificate of Orientation.

Saolta Group
@saoltagroup

Jean Kelly Group Director of Nursing on a site visit to #PUH welcomed our International Nurses as they undertook a seven day #ED induction program. The program is designed to support the learning needs of our International Nursing colleagues who will be working in the #ED.

Saolta Group
@saoltagroup

The quality champions from St Josephs and St Francis Ward presenting their #CBAS (Caring Behaviors Assurance System Ireland) findings to James Keane, General Manger and drop in information sessions for staff.

Saolta Group
@saoltagroup

Well done to the winning team in the #RUH quiz which was held recently to mark International Nurses' day at Roscommon University Hospital #RUH #InternationalNursesDay

Saolta Group
@saoltagroup

Our #GUH Interns Sarah Gaffney and Paul Donovan receiving certificates and commendatory letters from Group CEO Maurice Power and Group Clinical Director Dr Pat Nash for their participation in the GUH led Kaizen 3 Ward Quality Improvement Project.



Saolta University Health Care Group
University Hospital Galway
Newcastle Road
Galway

newsletter@saolta.ie
www.saolta.ie