



At the official launch of Saolta Arts and the Offset exhibition by Mrs Sabina Higgins, from left, Chris Kane, General Manager, Galway University Hospitals; Hazel Hendy, Chairperson, Saolta Arts Board; Mrs Sabina Higgins; Margaret Flannery, Saolta Arts Director; and Ann Cosgrove, Chief Operations Officer, Saolta University Health Care Group.

## Launch of SAOLTA Arts

In August Mrs Sabina Higgins officially launched Saolta Arts, the new name for the Galway University Hospitals Arts Trust which has been extended to include all the other hospitals in the Saolta Group - Roscommon, Portlincula, Mayo, Sligo and Letterkenny University Hospitals.

The Arts and Health programme provides a multi-disciplinary programme of events and activities, including exhibitions, participative workshops, music, theatre and poetry across the hospitals.

To read about the launch of Saolta Arts, [click here](#).



At the launch of Saolta Arts, from left: Eimear Fitzpatrick, Occupational Therapist; Martina O'Connor, CNM St Marys Ward; Mrs Sabina Higgins; and Gillian Collins, Occupational Therapist.



# Top Tweets - July/August/September

Jul 2019 • 31 days

## TWEET HIGHLIGHTS

**Top Tweet** earned 6,261 impressions

Great new resource launched by @HSELive today for parents and parents-to-be, [mychild.ie](http://mychild.ie), check it out. Welcoming the new resource at #UHG today is mom Lisa Spellman and baby Jamie along with midwives, Sarah, Sylvia and Claire. [pic.twitter.com/WRfWZMUm0](https://pic.twitter.com/WRfWZMUm0)



**Top media Tweet** earned 3,296 impressions

The simplest way to keep you and your family safe from infection is to wash your hands regularly. #HandHygiene [pic.twitter.com/PGIgUaw7GJ](https://pic.twitter.com/PGIgUaw7GJ)



Aug 2019 • 31 days

## TWEET HIGHLIGHTS

**Top Tweet** earned 4,786 impressions

Members of the Healthy Ireland Committee recently promoting health and well-being in #RUH - Mary Connell, Vice Chair, Helen Treacy, Secretary, Celia Tully, Chair, Madeline Spellman, Dietetics and Nutrition. [pic.twitter.com/hcvy8GQWwN](https://pic.twitter.com/hcvy8GQWwN)



**Top media Tweet** earned 4,485 impressions

An bealach is fearr le hionfhabhtuithe a stopadh ó scaipeadh ná trí do lámha a ní mar is ceart nuair a bhíonn tú ag tabhairt aire do na h-othair. [pic.twitter.com/38FJUX4rWY](https://pic.twitter.com/38FJUX4rWY)



Sep 2019 • 11 days so far...

## TWEET HIGHLIGHTS

**Top Tweet** earned 6,963 impressions

Best of Luck to Emma Helebert, Student Midwife in #UHG playing in the All Ireland Camogie Final on 08 September. [pic.twitter.com/dDbNGFzaWw](https://pic.twitter.com/dDbNGFzaWw)



**Top media Tweet** earned 6,523 impressions

Good Luck to staff nurse Tracey Leonard who is captain of the Galway Senior Ladies Football team playing in the All Ireland Final in Croke Park on Sunday 15 September, from all her colleagues in the Hepatology Unit and everyone in #UHG. [pic.twitter.com/jDik1uGfml](https://pic.twitter.com/jDik1uGfml)



# Top Media Tweets - July/August/September

## Chief Executive Officer Saolta Group

Dear Colleagues

It gives me great pleasure to bring you this Autumn edition of the newsletter.

I am delighted to have recently returned to the Saolta University Health Care Group to take up the role of Chief Executive Officer. I would have met and worked with many of you previously, in my role as Chief Operating Officer from 2012 to 2015. I look forward to working with you again, catching up with everyone who knows me and meeting those who don't.

You will see from the newsletter that the past few months have been very busy, with many positive initiatives and events taking place across the Group. I hope to visit each hospital over the coming weeks to meet with staff and see services at first hand.

A significant number of projects from across the Group recently received funding as part of the €20 million Sláintecare Integration Fund which was announced by Minister Harris in September. Many of these projects are joint initiatives with our colleagues in Community Healthcare West and CHO1, represent best practice in the management of chronic diseases and caring for older people and encourage innovations in the shift of care to the community. We know this is the direction our services should take and we know that this is what patients want.

The Group has now concluded the Options Appraisal process to ensure that the region served by the Saolta Group has a model 4 hospital that meets the highest standards and enables the delivery of the best possible outcome for patients across the West and North West of Ireland. We hope to shortly update all staff on the outcome of this process which we undertook to identify the best way the Saolta Group meet the current and future needs of patients in the region and beyond.

I am really looking forward to the Staff Recognition Awards which will take place this winter. This is the fourth awards ceremony and it provides us with an opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the many achievements of staff across the Group. This year's event will take place on Friday 8th November.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the commitment and dedication of my colleague Maurice Power and to thank him for his very significant contribution to the Group as CEO over the past five years.



Tony Canavan, CEO

## Chief Operations Officer

As we move through Quarter 3 of this year a number of projects across all our sites continue to progress. The HSE published its Capital Plan 2019 in September and many significant infrastructural projects for the Saolta Group are contained in it. We continue to progress the ED project in UHG and the Radiation Oncology development on that site. The new radiology facilities are now operation in LUH and we will continue to work towards progressing capital developments on the other hospital sites.

In ICT developments, the Evolve Electronic Medical Record System is live in GUH and the scanning of charts for both adult and paediatric patients has now commenced. We continue to progress other critical ICT projects including Group PAS.

Roscommon University Hospital played an important role in the development of a new model of care for urology by being the pilot site for a Rapid Access Haematuria Service, which is one of the key initiatives under the new model of care. This model aims to maximise the surgical workforce to deliver urology care not just in hospitals but in primary care centres along with access to radiology tests, while ensuring appropriate clinical governance to support a safe and high quality service. Financial control remains an on-going priority for the Group and we will continue with a strong focus on managing our costs over the remainder of 2019 while working to ensure that we do not compromise on patient care and safety.

We continue to work towards reducing the length of time patients wait for hospital appointments and procedures across the Group. We work closely with the National Treatment Purchase Fund on insourcing and outsourcing initiatives for our various sites. We are also working to transfer inpatient surgical activity from the model 4 hospital to model 3 and 2 hospitals within the Group and maximising throughout from existing capacity on all hospital sites in major theatre, day surgery and outpatients.



Ann Cosgrove, COO

## Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery

Autumn is always a busy time for everyone with the school and college year commencing. In September many of our nurses and midwives commenced postgraduate education and this year we have over 200 undertaking courses from certificate level to master's degree.

I would like to congratulate our graduate nurses on completing their training. A number of the graduate nurses have been offered nursing positions within our hospitals and I am pleased to welcome them to the Group.

I am delighted to announce the fourth Saolta Staff Recognition Awards which will take place in November in the McWilliams Park Hotel, Claremorris. The awards were relaunched in September and the extended closing date for nominations was Friday 4th October.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who took the flu vaccine last year. Last year we donated over 40,000 polio vaccines at the end of the Flu campaign and this year we are again partnering with UNICEF to support the eradication of polio by donating polio vaccines for every flu vaccine given to staff.



Jean Kelly, I/CDoNM



## Director of Human Resources

Healthcare workers are being urged to get their flu vaccination early to ensure they're ready to fight flu ahead of winter hitting. The HSE have highlighted the role of healthcare workers in reducing the risk of the virus spreading, particularly following the sharp rise in flu cases over recent years. Getting the flu vaccination early can help stop the spread of the virus and protect staff members, their family and their patients.



John Shaugnessy, GDOHR

For the upcoming flu season, the Saolta Group are asking key influencers such as lead nurses and team leaders, to "champion" the flu vaccine by raising awareness of the vaccine and the seriousness of flu amongst the workforce. This "ground up" approach has been shown to increase flu vaccine uptake amongst healthcare workers, as flu champions have additional opportunities to encourage busy staff to get vaccinated. This initiative will result in an increased awareness and myth-busting throughout the season.

The Saolta Group have created a range of resources to help flu champions to promote the flu vaccination programme to staff, which can be accessed via GMs office or Saolta Group flu lead [pamela.normoyle@hse.ie](mailto:pamela.normoyle@hse.ie)

The aim is to improve the vaccination uptake rate amongst healthcare workers from 39.2% during flu season 2018/2019, to meet the national target of 60% during flu season 2019/2020.

By working together and encouraging HSE staff to get vaccinated early, we can help stop the spread of flu this winter.

## Flu Vaccination Uptake How do we Compare?

Hospital Group	2017/2018	2018/2019
RCSI	58.8%	68.3%
CHI	60.3%	66.8%
Dublin Midlands	43.6%	57.7%
Ireland East	45.9%	55.4%
South/South West	36.1%	45.6%
UL	41.5%	41.6%
<b>Saolta</b>	<b>37.1%</b>	<b>39.2%</b>



## #FLUTOBER



GUH



RUH



PUH



MUH



SUH



LUH

## Focus on Galway University Hospitals

### Prostate Cancer Oral Therapy Community Clinic

Men with prostate cancer receiving treatment at GUH can now opt for a shared care programme which is delivered in a Primary Care Centre in Galway City, with oversight by a consultant oncologist.

This new model of care was conceptualised by Professor Donnellan, Consultant Oncologist together with Sheila Talbot, Clinic Nurse Specialist, who began work on this clinic in 2017. Once suitable patients are identified, they may choose to opt for the shared care programme and their pathway is coordinated through the Oncology Day Ward.

Since 2017 more than 35 patients have chosen this treatment option which takes a maximum of 35 minutes per visit compared with the Oncology Day Ward where it can take several hours to receive the equivalent therapy. Other benefits include free parking, no waiting as patients are seen by appointment, appointment reminders the day before and close monitoring of medication which increases medication compliance.

The therapies currently provided are abiraterone for prostate cancer and denosumab for bone metastases. Patients attend the clinic at allocated times for blood tests, new prescriptions and an injection for their bones to prevent the development of skeletal related events.

The shared care programme seeks to provide a less stressful, less time-consuming and more palatable option for men with metastatic prostate cancer. Consultant oversight is maintained at all times and all patients remain under the care of GUH. The patients' progress and bloods are monitored in GUH and in the event of any patient-related concerns, the patients are referred back to the Oncology Day Ward for necessary treatment.

With the support of our colleagues in the pharmaceutical industry Janssen, patients are now being treated as safely and as effectively within a community setting, as in the hospital.

In a patient preference survey, the patients unanimously preferred receiving their treatment in the community clinic, versus the hospital. In addition, an analysis of service benefits to the Oncology Day Ward showed that when 30 patients switched to the shared care programme, it resulted in a gain of 156 chair days.

The success of this community-based initiative is significant in light of the projected rise in prostate cancer nationally (99% increase by 2040, compared with 2010 levels) and the need to improve the model of care for cancer patients.



Sheila Talbot, Clinical Nurse Specialist and Professor Paul Donnellan, Consultant Oncologist at the Prostate Oral Therapy Community Clinic in Galway City East Primary Care Centre.

### MSc in Medical Physics at GUH and NUI Galway

Medical Physics and Clinical Engineering (MPCE) as a profession supports health care professionals in the application of the physical sciences and technology to patient care.

In 2002 the MSc in Medical Physics at NUI Galway and Galway University Hospitals was established by the late Prof Wil van der Putten.

The programme has International accreditation and in the past academic year had 26 students including a number of students from the USA, Canada and Saudia Arabia.



The 2018/19 class together with GUH/NUI Galway MPCE/Physics staff after their recent project presentations.



## Physiotherapy led Pilates and Mindful Movement Classes

Pamela Normoyle, Healthy Ireland and Anita Kerins, Musculoskeletal Physiotherapist have come together to deliver a physical activity programme of Pilates and Mindful movements for staff working in GUH.

The classes help promote physical and mental wellness in the workplace by supporting and motivating employees to get more active. Fostering employee health and well-being can help prevent stress and create a positive environment where individuals and organisations can minimise sick leave and absenteeism.

The classes, which first started in May, take place in the Physiotherapy Gym in UHG weekly and are a mixture of dynamic strengthening, stretching and controlled mindful movements. The first 45 minutes are made up of resistance training in functional positions which encourage being mindful of habitual tension patterns. The last quarter of the class is a mindfulness meditation and body scan. Attention to relaxed breathing is encouraged throughout the class.

The class promotes integrated health for mind and body and caters for all abilities and injuries. As a Physiotherapist, Anita can tailor and modify all exercises to suit the individual. The classes are a valuable resource for staff and feedback from participants has been hugely positive.

If you are interested in hearing more or attending these classes, contact [anita.kerins@hse.ie](mailto:anita.kerins@hse.ie)



Catherine O'Sullivan, Physiotherapy Manager GUH, Anita Kerins, Physiotherapist and Pilates instructor, GUH and Pamela Normoyle, Flu Vaccine Lead.

## Aoife's Clown Doctors visit St Bernadette's Unit

Aoife's Clown Doctors started their first round at St Bernadette's Paediatric Department this summer. They visit every other week and while on their rounds prescribing smiles and laughter to patients throughout the unit.

Patients, their siblings and their parents all benefit from the spirit and fun the Clown Doctors bring to the department. Working across Ambulatory Care, Paediatrics Outpatient Department, Cystic Fibrosis Unit and St. Bernadette's Ward their pink wigs, red noses and much sought after stickers have brightened the rainiest of days.

Aoife's Clown Doctors are professional actors, trained to work in a hospital setting. They are solely funded by 'The Friends of Aoife Hendrick', set up in memory of Aoife Hendrick who was in Crumlin hospital in the summer of 2012 after being diagnosed with Leukaemia. She absolutely loved the Clown Doctors and her parents were delighted to see her so happy during these special visits.

Aoife's Clown Doctors are supported on site by the staff of St. Bernadette's Unit and by Saolta Arts who provide an Arts and Health programme to promote wellbeing and improve the hospital experience at the Saolta hospitals.

For further information on Aoife's Clown Doctors at UHG contact Bridget Cheasty at [bridget.cheasty@hse.ie](mailto:bridget.cheasty@hse.ie) or 091-893191



## DeviceInfo – Medical Device Use and Safety Information

The Medical Physics and Clinical Engineering Department at GUH has over 6,000 individual medical devices, from 400 manufacturers, used in over 180 clinical locations in UHG and Merlin Park with a replacement cost of €60m.

The safe and effective use of these devices requires that staff have on-demand access to relevant medical device use and safety information. From a ward manager's perspective managing all this documentation is a significant labour intensive and inefficient process.

To make the information more accessible, the clinical engineering team have developed a website to provide access to relevant medical device use and safety information at every networked PC and Intranet connected device. Categories of information include quick set-up guides, cleaning and disinfection instructions, equipment use safety notices, troubleshooting guidance and much more. All of this information is provided in easy to access, one click format. Thanks all the staff involved in developing the content and promoting the use of the new website!



## Research Day Award for Plastics/Hand Therapy Department

In 2016 Alisha Kelly, Clinical Specialist Occupational Therapist (RIP) introduced the concept of relative motion splinting along with her physiotherapy colleague Brian Ó Ceallaigh. This has resulted in consistently excellent patient outcomes with quicker return to work and a 50% reduction in attendances at physiotherapy, occupational therapy and consultant clinics. The resulting research has been presented at the Irish Society for Surgery of the Hand meeting, the Irish Association of Plastic Surgeons Conference and is due to be presented at the American Society of Plastic Surgeons conference.

At the GUH Research Day in June, Alisha and Brian were awarded the Wil van der Putten HSCP award in recognition of outstanding research by a HSCP. Alisha passed away on 9th June after working for almost 20 years in the HSE and her good work is continued on by Brian, Edel Siney and all of the plastic surgery team.



Brian Ó Ceallaigh, Physiotherapist at the GUH Research Day in June.

## Relocation of the Early Pregnancy Unit

The Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (EPAU) moved from the Maternity Outpatient Department at UHG to former day ward area off the Gynaecology Ward in July.

The EPAU first opened in 2009 to streamline the care of women presenting with problems associated with early pregnancy and to provide timely access to an early pregnancy ultrasound service. Due to space constraints it was initially set up adjacent to the Maternity Outpatient Department which was not ideal and the long term plan had been to relocate the service to provide a visual separation, once funding became available.

The former day ward area which closed in 2009 was earmarked to convert into an Ambulatory Gynaecology and Early Pregnancy Service. Work started in 2018 and was finished in March this year. The additional space will allow for the EPAU to run 5 mornings per week (currently 4) when fully staffed.

Funding for equipping the Ambulatory Gynaecology Service and an additional ultrasound machine was provided by the national women's and infant's health program. The Ambulatory Gynaecology Service will run in the afternoons from this unit, once the equipping has been finalised.



Tom O'Gorman, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist



## World Physiotherapy Day

In September, UHG celebrated World Physiotherapy Day under the theme of 'Physiotherapy and Chronic Pain'. The day began with an early morning yoga class led by yoga teacher and UHG physiotherapist Trudy Kelliher, followed by a mindfulness session facilitated by Eleanor Maher.

There was a stand in the main foyer of the hospital throughout the day with information on the role of physiotherapy in the management of chronic pain along with challenges and opportunities to win spot prizes.

The day concluded with a talk from guest speaker Dr Niamh Flynn, who is an experienced sports and performance psychologist, specialising in hypnotherapy at the Galway Clinic.



World Physio Day in UHG with staff providing information on the role of physiotherapy in the management of chronic pain.

## Support for Parents of Children with Cystic Fibrosis

In May the Paediatric Service at GUH held three psychosocial education sessions for parents of children with Cystic Fibrosis (CF). The sessions aimed to meet the need for psychological support for parents adjusting to a diagnosis of CF by providing information, affirmation and social support.

A needs analysis of parents of children with CF, carried out during quarterly clinics in 2018, identified that the vast majority of parents wanted psychological support and education around their own feelings after receiving a diagnosis of CF for their child. It was also highlighted that they would like more parenting support around nutrition, and the challenges of feeding a young child. Many parents also said they felt isolated and would like to meet other parents in similar situations, particularly in the early years of their child's life - something which is difficult for parents to do with their children with CF, due to issues of cross-infection.

The needs analysis was carried out by Dr Joanne Byrne who was appointed as a senior clinical psychologist to the GUH CF Service (paediatrics and adult) in January 2018 as a temporary two year post funded by the Cystic Fibrosis Galway Hospital Project and Cystic Fibrosis Ireland.

Research has shown that parents of children with CF are at an increased risk of depression and anxiety and that this may affect disease management and health outcomes. Subsequently, the European Cystic Fibrosis Society (ECFS) Best Practice Guidelines advise that CF teams should actively support parental coping, psychosocial resilience and positive mental health.

The content of the sessions was informed by the needs assessment and research and each had a different focus:

**Session 1:** Adjusting to a diagnosis of a chronic health condition for your child, parental wellbeing, mental health and self-care.

**Session 2:** Developing routines and behavioural nutrition

**Session 3:** 'Talking about CF': to others, your child, and to the CF team.

The sessions were facilitated by Dr Joanne Byrne, Senior Clinical Psychologist, Cystic Fibrosis Service; Maeve Tonge, Senior Medical Social Worker, Paediatrics and Mary Connolly, Senior Dietitian, Cystic Fibrosis and Paediatrics along with a CF Parent Advisor, Frances Mannion, who provided valuable personal input to help support and advise the newer parents.

Based on the positive feedback from parents, who highlighted the importance of continuing the sessions, a follow-up session will be organised for this group in the Autumn. The sessions will be offered on an annual basis, or as needed, for parents new to the GUH Paediatric CF Service.



Dr Joanne Byrne, Senior Clinical Psychologist, Cystic Fibrosis Service; Mary Connolly, Senior Dietitian, Cystic Fibrosis and Paediatrics; Maeve Tonge, Senior Medical Social Worker, Paediatrics.



## Staff Recognition Awards

The GUH Staff Recognition Awards are presented each quarter to one staff member who has been nominated by colleagues for exceptional effort and contribution in the area they work. In August Mark Maloney became the fourth recipient of a Staff Recognition Awards.

All employees in Merlin Park University Hospital and University Hospital Galway are eligible and may be nominated by a colleague or manager for an award. The awards aim to acknowledge and celebrate staff who go the extra mile for patients, who give an outstanding level of support to patients and colleagues or who are providing leadership by motivating, mentoring and inspiring others.

The first full year of award recipients are below:



Mark Maloney receiving his Staff Recognition Award in August with Chris Kane, General Manager; Mary Lane Heneghan, Chairperson of Cystic Fibrosis Galway who represented the hospital's Patient Council; Noel Conway, Deputy Head Porter; and Mary Hynes, HR Manager.

### Winter 2018



The first quarterly Staff Recognition Award was presented to **Shaun Plower**, Clinical Engineering Technician with the Medical Physics Department in UHG. Shaun was nominated for his role in the modernisation of the Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) Outpatient Department. The project involved increasing the number of procedure rooms from one to five and introducing state of the art technology for data collection, examination and procedures. UHG now has one of the most modern and

technologically advanced ENT Outpatient Departments in Europe which has greatly improved the experience for patients using the service and improved the system within the department.

### Summer 2019



In May, the Staff Recognition Award was presented to **Anne Sloyan** who works in Major Theatres in UHG. Anne was nominated by her colleagues for her exceptional dedication to her role, for the support and mentorship she provides to her colleagues and for being an advocate for patient safety and dignity. In their nomination form, her colleagues stated that Anne is the first person in to work and the last one out at the end of the day, even staying back just to make sure everything is stable and in good order. She offers the best care to patients at their most vulnerable and equally supports colleagues by mentoring, inspiring and motivating them.

### Spring 2019



**Joe Kelly**, Regional Printing Service was the recipient of the second Staff Recognition Award. Joe had been providing the regional printing service for the hospital and other HSE services in the West for many years and was presented with his award in March, shortly before his retirement after 38 years of service. Joe was nominated for the award by Martin Molloy, Information Services Manager who described how Joe excelled at his job and

went to great lengths to meet the printing needs of the hospital. Joe ensured that the thousands of printed forms and leaflets needed by the hospital every day never ran out.

### Autumn 2019



**Mark Maloney**, Porter, Cardiac Investigations was nominated by the Cardiac Physiologists for his role on the Cardiology team and his contribution to the efficient running of a very busy area. His nomination referenced how proactive he is and how well he interacts with patients including small but important touches like getting blankets and making sure the patients are at ease while being transported to and from the department. He also supports the department by making sure the lists run efficiently and that patients are seen in a timely fashion.

The nomination included details on how Mark's performance contributed to sustaining good performance in the department. Mark received his award in August.

## National Health Fusion Team Challenge GUH

Earlier this year the GUH Inter-professional Collaboration Group recruited a team of students on clinical placement in GUH or studying in NUI Galway (pre/post clinical placement), to take part in the National Health Fusion Challenge Competition in Limerick.

The annual competition is an opportunity for inter-disciplinary team based learning and included excellent projects from teams based in TCD, UCC and UL. Despite the stiff competition, the GUH/NUI Galway team were awarded first prize for demonstrating exceptional knowledge, presentation skills and teamwork in their multidisciplinary style presentation on the management of a patient with Parkinson's disease.

In the future, the GUH Inter-professional Collaboration Group hopes to work with the NUI Galway Student Healthcare Society to run a similar competition within the Saolta network with the finalists representing NUI Galway/Saolta at the National finals.

For information on the GUH Inter-professional Collaboration Group, contact: Orla Mongan, Medicine; Anne Marie Lydon, Physiotherapy; Fiona Melia, Physiotherapy; Marie Corry, OT; Anne Smyth, Nursing; Michelle Casserly, Nursing; Jenny Wren, Social Work; Elaine Murray, Social Work; Fiona Rodgers, Speech and Language Therapy.



From left: Sheryl O'Grady, Social Work student, NUI Galway; Máire Cooney, Nursing student, NUI Galway; Kate Flaherty, Speech and Language student, NUI Galway; Olwen Kennedy, Occupational Therapy student, UL and Noor Kassir, Medical student, NUI Galway.

## Clinical Audit Forum 2019 Sligo University Hospital

The 8th Clinical Audit Forum was held on 21 June and was chaired by the SUH Director of Nursing, Ms Marion Ryder. The keynote speaker was Mr Asim Sheikh, Practising Barrister and UCD lecturer in Medico-Legal, who gave a very interesting presentation on "Clinical Audit and Open Disclosure".

The Forum featured 8 oral presentations of audit findings with quality improvements initiatives resulting from audits completed throughout the hospital in the last year. 42 posters showing the findings of audits completed across all Directorates / Departments were displayed with prizes awarded to the best 4 posters. The NCHD awards went to: **First Medicine** - Audit of appropriate use of long-term Proton Pump Inhibitor (PPI) at SUH.

**Second Endocrinology** - Study of Nurse and Junior Doctor Satisfaction with the Guidelines for the Management of Diabetes in the perioperative period in Sligo University Hospital.

The awards for non-medical staff went to :

**First Surgical Urology** - Clinical Audit Report on the Education a Patient Receives on Caring for an Indwelling Urinary Catheter.

**Second Pharmacy/Nurse Practice Development** - Medication Errors on Discharge Prescriptions in SUH.



Dr Anna Dolan, Consultant Anaesthetist; Mr Asim Sheikh, Barrister/Assistant Prof in Legal Medicine UCD; Patricia Harte, Clinical Audit Coordinator.



Patricia Harte, Clinical Audit Coordinator. Marion Ryder, DON; Grainne McCann, General Manager ; Aileen Concannon, Research and Education; Dr Seamus Healy, retired Consultant and Mary Fitzpatrick Clerical Support, Clinical Audit.



Dr Grainne O'Malley, Consultant Medicine; Dr Anna Cleminson, Consultant Palliative Care; Dr Seamus Healy, retired Consultant; Mr John Kelly, Consultant Orthopaedics; Grainne McCann, General Manager; Mr Martin Caldwell, Surgeon and Patricia Harte, Clinical Audit Coordinator.



## Wound Management Programme at RUH



The Centres of Nurse and Midwifery Education Mayo/Roscommon and Galway started the second Adult Wound Management and Wound Closure Programme for Registered Nurses in Roscommon University Hospital in January 2019.

The fifteen candidates on the programme are currently working as Advanced Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Managers and Staff Nurses in SUH, MUH, GUH, PUH and RUH.

The objectives of the programme are to: meet the wound management and wound closure needs of patients in partnership and collaboration with inter and multidisciplinary teams and reduce waiting times and increased convenience for patients; and ensure the effective and efficient utilisation of registered nurses' competencies and skills and to increase awareness of risk issues associated with wound management and wound closure.

The programme runs over eight months and includes 3 days of face to face contact in RUH. The programme candidates will be assessed by MCQ examination and demonstration of suturing and wound management skills.

On successful completion of the theoretical and practical component of the programme and in order to achieve wound management and wound closure competence, candidates undertake a 16 week period of clinical supervision by an experienced Medical Practitioner or Advanced Nurse Practitioner in wound management and wound closure. The programme has received Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland Category 1 approval and is allocated 26 Continuing Education Units.

The facilitators of the education programme include Ms Deirdre Jones, Consultant in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Galway and Roscommon University Hospitals and four Registered Advanced Nurse Practitioners currently working in Roscommon and Galway: Amanda O' Halloran (RUH), Bernie Finneran (RUH), Maggie Mew (RUH) and Deirdre Conlon RUH and GUH. The commitment and leadership demonstrated by all of the facilitators is to be commended and the hospitality shown to all involved in the programme by Ms Ursula Morgan, Director of Nursing RUH and her team.

## New Home First Team at MUH

The new Home First Team at Mayo University Hospital was officially launched in July. This specialist team supports patients over the age of 75 who are treated in the Emergency Department and the Acute Medical Assessment Unit. The team meet and assess patients to identify any needs that would delay them from leaving hospital after treatment. The team includes a Physiotherapist, an Occupational Therapist, a Medical Social Worker, a Clinical Pharmacist and a Clinical Nurse Manager. For more, [click here](#).



At the launch day for the Home First Team, from left: Victoria McGuinness, Social Worker; Mairead O'Boyle, CNM 2; Denise Carthy, Occupational Therapist; Grainne Cafferty, Clinical Pharmacist and Aisling Bell, Physiotherapist.

## LUH at the 48th World Congress of Surgery

Letterkenny University Hospital is making an important contribution to research internationally in conjunction with Donegal Clinical Research Academy and the Centre for Personalised Medicine, supported by INTERREG/SEUBP funding. In August, three medical students from Donegal - Cherian Mathew (Letterkenny), Eoin Donnellan (Ballybofey) and Deirdre Foley (Carndonagh) - had the unique opportunity of presenting their research undertaken at Letterkenny University Hospital at the 48<sup>th</sup> World Congress Surgery in Krakow, Poland.

Their presentations looked at new techniques in surgical site infection control in emergency surgery, the role of x-rays in determining the importance of stones in the common bile duct and the natural history of common bile duct stones. Their presentations were extremely well received at the meeting which was attended by almost 2,000 surgeons from around the world.



Cherian Mathew, Eoin Donnellan and Deirdre Foley.

## New Director of Midwifery appointed at PUH

Deirdre Naughton (RN, RGM, BMS, MSc, PDip Clinical Ed) commenced her new role as Director of Midwifery in Portiuncula University Hospital in July 2019. Most recently Deirdre worked as Practice Development Co-ordinator in Portiuncula, having previously worked in Galway University Hospitals and PUH in various roles.

Deirdre is also a midwifery member of the Preliminary Proceedings Committee of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland, a role she has held since February 2018. She also enjoys an educational role as an adjunct lecturer in NUI Galway.

Speaking of her appointment, Deirdre said, "I feel privileged to work alongside all the staff in Portiuncula University Hospital. Every day they provide care to women and babies with great compassion and professionalism. I believe that the ethos of 'people caring for people' is strong in our hospital.

I am passionate about midwifery and ensuring better and safer maternity services. I look forward to the challenges ahead, working with women and the team, to lead out on the implementation of the national maternity strategy locally."



## 'Attend Anywhere' at Sligo University Hospital Pain Clinic

Sligo University Hospital Pain clinic has implemented the use of 'Attend Anywhere', a validated telecommunications platform which allows consultation with patients located remotely from the hospital.

The Pain Clinic Team see this initiative as a significant improvement for their patients and believe that it has potential for other outpatient services in reaching patients for whom physical attendance at a clinic may be difficult for any reason.

In July, Jim Daly TD, Minister of State with special responsibility for Mental Health and Older People, visited SUH to view the 'Attend Anywhere' Pain Clinic in action.

For more information including details on Minister Daly's visit, [click here](#).



Dr Therese O'Connor, Pain Clinic SUH and Dr Richard Skelly, SpR Anesthesiology, SUH demonstrating live remote consultation via laptop.

## Scheduled Theatre Flow Project at PUH

A scheduled theatre flow rapid improvement project commenced in Portiuncula University Hospital in June under the governance of the Perioperative Directorate Integrated Governance Taskforce Project and facilitated by the Patient Flow Improvement Project team.

The aim of the project is to optimise theatre flow to benefit patients, service users and staff. Progress to date demonstrates significant reduction in delayed theatre starts with associated cost savings and improved collaboration between all multidisciplinary staff.

PUH staff held the 30 day report out on 20 September.



Members of the Scheduled Theatre Flow Rapid Improvement Project.





## COPD Awareness Day at LUH

Letterkenny University Hospital recently held their first COPD patient information event in the Mount Errigal Hotel.

The event was organised to support people with COPD or people who may have symptoms such as increasing breathlessness, a constant cough with mucus production, frequent chest infections and chest tightness.

Doctors, nurses and physiotherapists from the hospital who specialise in lung disease were there on the day to talk about COPD and answer questions.

The event ran 10.30am to 3.30pm and was very well attended.

## Memory and Dementia Awareness Day at SUH

September was World Alzheimer's Month and to mark this, Sligo University Hospital and CHO1 held a Memory and Dementia Awareness Day on 10 September. This successful event was aimed at individuals, carers or staff working together to help those living with memory problems.

Information was available on delirium, assistive technology, life story work, driving, environmental approaches, memory strategies, pharmacology, future planning and local services available to persons living with or supporting someone who has a diagnosis of dementia.



From left Dr Grainne O'Malley, Consultant Gerontologist; Maura Heffernan, Project Manager, HSE Integrated Care of the Older Person; Aoife Kelly, c/ANP Older Person Services and Mary Casey, Older Person Services.

## PUH and the National Medication Safety Campaign

The *Know, Check, Ask* campaign introduced by the National Patient Safety Programme to increase medication safety is being supported by the Pharmacy Team at Portiuncula University Hospital.

The campaign aims to increase medicines safety by encouraging patients to **KNOW** their medicines by keeping an up to date list, **CHECK** that they are taking them correctly by reading the labels and patient information leaflets and **ASK** healthcare professionals if they are unsure. Chief Pharmacist at PUH, Richard Sykes explains, "For patients to get the best out of their medicines it is vital that they are taken correctly."

"Patients need to be sure about their medicines prescribed and purchased over the counter from pharmacies. The *Know, Check, Ask* campaign encourages patients to get to know their own medicines and talk to healthcare professionals if they are not sure about anything."

"It is important for us to know about the medicines people take when they come in to hospital as either an inpatient or outpatient. The 'My Medicines List' is a simple sheet that can be completed detailing information about the medicines you take which can be shown to healthcare professionals during any consultation which is a useful reminder of what you take, how you take it and what it is for."

For more information see [www.safermeds.ie](http://www.safermeds.ie)



Sinead Doyle, Senior Pharmacist explaining the 'My Medicines List'.

## Emergency Airway Study Day - LUH

Bridgene McGlynn who is a Senior Staff Nurse working in the ENT Outpatient Clinic at Letterkenny University Hospital attended the Emergency Airway and Front of Neck Access study day at the Royal College of Surgeons of England in London earlier this year.

Bridgene joined a group of ENT Registrars and SHOs, Anaesthetists and Speech and Language Therapists for a day long course which included presentations by expert speakers on topics such as the anatomy/physiology of the upper airway; indications for a tracheostomy; the SHOUT airway risk tool; emergency tracheostomy; insertion of tracheostomy tubes via percutaneous and open routes; and tracheostomy management and communication with different tubes and speaking valves.

The day also included an opportunity to perform surgery and Bridgene practised an elective surgical tracheostomy, a percutaneous tracheostomy, fiberoptic intubation, insertion of an LMA, and an emergency cricothyroidotomy and tracheostomy. These new skills could be put into practice at LUH where it is hoped that appropriately trained nurses would be performing tracheostomy tube changes under supervision, thus freeing up doctors' time for on-going patient care. It is also possible that such nurses would compile a database of such patients and liaise with the community for their efficient management.



Prof David Howard who presented at the study day with Bridgene McGlynn, Senior Staff Nurse from Letterkenny University Hospital.



## LUH at the Urology Model of Care for Ireland Launch



Staff from Letterkenny University Hospital who were involved in supporting the pilot Rapid Access Haematuria Service at Roscommon University Hospital attended the launch of the new urology model of care for Ireland in Roscommon on 06 September.

The new model of care for urology is the latest model of care for surgical specialities developed the HSE's national clinical programme for surgery.

### Photo Caption

From left: Mr Asadullah Aslam, Consultant Urologist; Ann Gorman, Waiting List Dept; Mr Eamonn Rogers, Consultant Urologist and the national clinical lead for Urology; Breedha Sandilands, Scheduled Care Lead; and Sean Diver, Advanced Nurse Practitioner.

## MUH Sepsis Awareness Day

Staff at Mayo University Hospital held a sepsis awareness event in the main foyer of the hospital on Friday 13 September.

Liz Casey, Sepsis Lead at Mayo University Hospital said, "Sepsis awareness is not just about September 13, it's about an ongoing effort to increase awareness and continuously improve the quality of care that we provide for our patients. Public awareness is important given that 70% of sepsis cases originate in the community."

There was huge interest in the awareness event.



## PUH welcomes its first Women's and Children's Pharmacist

Portlincula University Hospital has welcomed Senior Pharmacist, Kathy Harkins, as its first dedicated Women's and Children's Directorate Pharmacist.

Kathy has a wealth of experience as a Hospital Pharmacist and is currently working along with Senior Nursing, Midwifery and Medical staff at the hospital to further improve medicines safety, pathways and prescribing for patients.

Kathy is linking with colleagues in the National Children's Hospital Network to facilitate further shared care of paediatric patients allowing them to receive high quality care closer to home.



## Other News from across the Saolta Group

### Standards for Safer Better Healthcare – Self-Assessment is Underway!

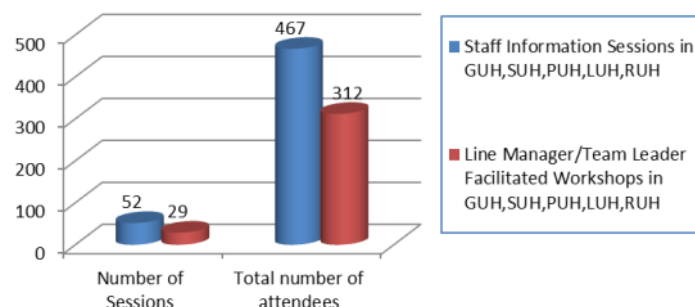
We are rolling out self-assessment against the National Standards for Safer Better Healthcare on a phased basis across the Saolta Group. This involves using the HSE QA+I Tool to gather all evidence of compliance and details of the quality improvement plans in the hospitals.

To support the roll out, Tess Fogarty the Saolta Quality and Safety Manager for National Standards, is delivering information sessions for staff and workshops for line managers and team leaders which she developed to meet the needs of staff in the Group. Tess is also providing Self-Assessment staff support packs, reference information and guidance on readiness for the HIQA 2019 Thematic Inspections 2019. All support resources are available on Q Pulse.

Self-assessment is seen as an opportunity to demonstrate what we are doing well! The process also helps make the National Standards real and relevant to frontline staff and the delivery of quality care.

This year staff information sessions and line manager/team leader workshops have taken place in Galway, Sligo, Portlincula, Letterkenny and Roscommon.

#### Self-Assessment Information and Support Sessions provided by Tess to date



If you have any questions on the self-assessment or the information sessions and workshops, please contact Tess Fogarty directly by email [tess.fogarty@hse.ie](mailto:tess.fogarty@hse.ie) or mobile 087 600 2214.

### National Urology Strategy launched at RUH



Roscommon University Hospital hosted the launch of the new urology model of care for Ireland on Friday 06 September. RUH played an important role in the development of the new model of care by being the pilot site for a Rapid Access Haematuria Service, which is one of the key initiatives under the new model of care. For more details [click here](#).



## Launch of Health Innovation Hub Ireland



Minister of Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection, Pat Breen TD and Minister of State with special responsibility for Mental Health and Older People, Jim Daly TD officially launched the third national Health Innovation Hub Ireland (HIHI), based in the Lambe Institute on the UHG campus on 16 September. HIHI aims to connect innovation and healthcare in the West of Ireland. For more [click here](#)

### Are you at the front line of healthcare delivery?

Do you see problems and obstacles in your daily activities? Do you have an idea that will improve healthcare... but don't know what to do next?

Contact us at [www.hihi.ie](http://www.hihi.ie)

## 13th National Critical Care Nursing Conference

The 13<sup>th</sup> National Critical Care Nursing Conference took place in the Clayton Hotel Galway on September 26, organised by Anita McGlynn, Fiona Corbett and the Critical Care nursing team. Geraldine Murray DON at GUH provided the opening address as Geraldine spearheaded the first conference many years ago. The event was attended by 140 critical care nurses from across Ireland.

The guest speaker Geraldine Lavelle delivered a truly inspirational talk on her own experiences after sustaining a spinal cord injury following a cycling accident.

Presentations covered advances in cardiology, management of acute renal failure and wound management in the ICU.

This year the inclusion of interactive teaching sessions delivered by medical and nursing staff from the critical care department in UHG was an excellent addition and warmly received by participants.

The poster competition judged by Frances Farrelly and Brona Mooney, from the Nursing Faculty in NUI Galway, was won by Niamh Joyce CNM2 HDU with her poster 'Advance care planning in the Adult ICU'.

Anne Marie Jones, Head Social Worker in Temple Street Childrens Hospital and member of the steering committee of the Irish childhood bereavement network delivered a very thought-provoking presentation on dealing with children and death in the ICU.

Muiriosa Ryan social media manager for the HSE discussed social media in healthcare.

Edel Kelly, ADON at UHG gave the closing remarks and thanked the Critical Care team and nurses for their continued great work and congratulated them for organising another very successful conference.



From left: Fiona Corbett, CNM2; Anita McGlynn, ICU Audit Co-ordinator; Ann Conroy CNM3; Geraldine Murray, DON, GUH and front row: guest speaker, Geraldine Lavelle.

## #OurPeople

### How did you get interested in the role of an Occupational Therapist?

When I was in secondary school I was unsure as to whether I would go down the path of a career in music, teaching or healthcare. I was confused to say the least! What drew me to OT in the end was how it just seemed so varied, it appealed to my interest in physiology and my creative side.

I have also always been someone who loves to fix things and try to solve problems rationally and my interpretation of the role of an OT is a type of fixer of problems/issues, be it in relation to physical, social or mental health status. My Dad's motto "Always do what you're best at" rang in my ear as I filled out my CAO form and I have luckily never regretted my career choice since.

### What is a typical day?

Working in Portiuncula University Hospital as part of a small OT team means that you work with a hugely diverse cohort of patients. Our service predominantly treats older persons but we also treat anyone from their late teens and upwards in this setting. I see patients on our four main wards and also the more complex ICU admissions.

I feel so lucky to work with a group of people here that I can call my friends and that makes working and dealing with the tougher days here so much easier when you know you have that support behind you. Portiuncula has something special about it - a way of supporting its staff in their hardest times in a sensitive and kind way from my own experience.

### If you had to describe your job in three words... or one sentence... what would it be?

It is a diverse, creative, challenging and rewarding job.

### What is the most rewarding part of your job?

Hearing the stories of our patients. I love having the opportunity to learn from the generations who lived in an Ireland that we will never know. I really feel as though working with older adults gives you great perspective on your own life and the way you live it.



Roisin Jackman, Acting Senior Occupational Therapist, PUH.

## Saolta Surgical Nursing Programme

Course participants in the second round of the Saolta Surgical Nursing Programme presented their service improvement initiatives on 20 September, the last day of the course.

Also in attendance were Marita Fogarty, DON and Mary Barrett, Surgical ADON from PUH; Pdraig O'Luanaigh, DON and Mona Curry, Surgical ADON from MUH; Edel Kelly, Surgical ADON, GUH; Marcella Kelly from the CNME, Galway and Lynda Doyle, the Clinical Educational Coordinator of the programme.

Marie Corbett, ADON for the Saolta Group introduced the day and Mary Frances O'Reilly, Director NMPDU West/Midwest presented certificates to the 20 course participants. The participants work in surgical wards in every hospital in the Saolta Group and their QI projects included:

- Lap Chole Information Leaflet
- MaxFax Package and Information Leaflet on Dental Hygiene
- Discharge Preparation Leaflet for Short Stay Cases
- Drain Observation Sheet
- Stoma Output Information Leaflet
- Improving Accuracy on Fluid Balance Measurement

There was a very positive response for both the programme and the service improvement initiatives. A third course is now in progress with a fourth planned in Spring and plans are also underway for a Surgical Saolta Nursing Conference in Spring.





# Update from the Saolta Project Management Office

## Sláintecare Integration Fund

Once off funding of €20million was made available through the Sláintecare Integration Fund earlier this year for innovative projects that would meet the objectives of Sláintecare. There was a huge response from individual services resulting in 35 submissions from Saolta Hospitals alone. 477 projects were considered nationally and we are delighted to receive approval for the 7 Saolta /CHO projects with Saolta as the lead partner. This funding exceeds €1.5m and includes:

- Telemedicine for Cystic Fibrosis Patients - GUH/CH West
- Urology Proof of Concept - Saolta /CHO 1 and CH West
- Heart Failure - PUH/CH West
- Pain Management Programme - SUH/CHO 1
- Electronic Recording for GP lab tests - GUH/Saolta/CH West
- Community Cardiac Diagnostics – GUH/CH West
- Older Persons Project - Establishing an Ambulatory Hub - GUH/CH West

Further projects were approved by CHO1 (12 projects) and CH West (6 projects) which as integrated projects will all impact across Saolta Hospitals and will require joint working across hospital and community services. These projects also include, ophthalmology, heart failure, respiratory, falls service, mental health and self care. The key objective across all projects is improving services for patients providing care close to home where safe and appropriate. Further details of the Sláintecare Programme / Integration Fund Projects are available from the PMO.

## Saolta Integrated Governance Project

Detailed design continues to support the introduction of Cancer and Women's and Children's Managed Clinical and Academic Networks (MCANs) set for January 2020. Look out for a separate newsletter / further information on this over the coming weeks.

## Urology Pathway Implementation Project

The Urology Model of Care was launched in RUH by the RCSI in September 2019. This sets out the future blueprint for the delivery of best practice Urology Services. Within Saolta, the clinical validation for long waiting patients is almost complete and we are working with all sites and the NTPF to implement an action plan. Sláintecare funding has approved three Advanced Nurse Practitioners across Saolta Hospitals which is hugely positive and will be key in further developing Urology services across the Saolta Hospitals.

## Options Appraisal Project

The Options Appraisal Project was established to set out the future development of hospital services in GUH (as the Saolta model 4 hospital). This study was completed by KPMG, AECOM and Scott Tallon Walker, and involved analysis of current infrastructure, current and future demand (based on population health going forward) and what GUH will require to provide a high quality service to patients from the West and North West Region.

The study concluded that the preferred longer term option is the development of an acute hospital on the Merlin Park University Hospital site.

As part of this process, Saolta also commissioned a Regional Elective Hospital Scoping Study to develop an elective hospital which will serve the wider region. This is one of the key health projects approved by Government in their Project Ireland 2040 plan published last year. This will allow for a phased approach to achieve the long term vision of a single site hospital in Merlin Park University Hospital and also will enable, in the interim, for release of valuable space on the University Hospital Galway site.

Given the likely long lead in time required for the development of health infrastructure there are a number of critical projects that should to be undertaken on the UHG site. These include projects already identified including the new Emergency Department development, the Radiation and Oncology facility and the Blood and Tissue Laboratory.

The study also identified a number of further critical developments including Women's and Children's unit, laboratory facilities and new cancer ambulatory facilities.





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