



A Message from our Chief Executive Officer

I would like to wish you all a happy New Year on behalf of the Sisters of Mercy, Board of Governors and Executive Management Board of Mercy University Hospital.

Looking back over 2012, for everybody at Mercy University Hospital, it was a challenging year. But it was also a year of great achievements. Thanks to you all, over 100,000 patients were treated in our hospital this year. In addition, a number of initiatives that greatly boosted the hospital's services occurred.

These included our new Acute Medical Assessment Unit (AMAU); the new Mercy Urgent Care Centre in Gurrabraher for the treatment of minor injuries; the opening of the Clinical Research Facility with UCC; ongoing development of the COPD Outreach Programme; awarded the site for the national GP referral pilot project and the national patient advocacy programme, Laboratory Accreditation; the Pre-Operative Assessment Clinic was refurbished; infrastructural developments in radiology and a number of new consultant appointments.

Development of Mercy University Hospital's range of services is ongoing with a number of key innovations in the pipeline including the proposed expansion of the hospital's gastroenterology service.

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PRE-ASSESSMENT CLINIC - Official Opening



(L-R) Catherine Buttimer, Dr. Siun Burke, Celia Lane, Bernice Glavin, Caroline Walsh, Dr. Sean Minogue and Regina Sheehan

"Pre-operative assessment ensures optimum medical evaluation and appropriate investigations are performed prior to the date of surgery making certain that the patient is fit for surgery and anaesthesia. Pre operative Assessment also establishes that the patient is fully informed and wishes to undergo the procedure. It is an essential part of the patient's planned surgical journey and enhances the quality of care". (NHS, 2003)

The Surgical Pre-Assessment Clinic (PAC) was established in Mercy University Hospital in 2009 to enhance the utilisation of bed occupancy, theatre time and improve the surgical patient's journey. The clinic has progressively been expanded and developed with a recent move to a refurbished dedicated unit within the hospital.

The primary objective of the pre - assessment is to assess all elective surgical patients scheduled for surgery at MUH two to eight weeks prior to surgery. This allows sufficient time for investigations and treatment to be carried out in order to prevent unnecessary delays and cancellations. The clinic operates over a five day period and referrals are prioritised according to date of surgery.

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PRE-ASSESSMENT CLINIC - Official Opening

(Continued from page 1)

Pre operative assessment is carried out by nursing staff with medical case note review or/and consultation by Consultant anaesthetist. Patients identified with co morbidities e.g. diabetes, hypertension are reviewed by anaesthetist according to criteria. The clinic works in partnership with the Bed Management Unit and the Theatre Department to optimise the patient journey and patient outcomes.

Aims of PAC at MUH

The aims of the Pre Assessment Clinic are to

- Assess the patient's suitability to safely undergo surgery and anaesthesia.
- Optimise the health status to ensure the patient is fit for surgery and anaesthesia.
- Prepare the patient, through information and education, informed consent for surgery.
- Allaying fear and anxiety of patient by provision of information.
- Ensure that the patient's journey through our hospital is made as easy as possible
- Reduce cancellations due to patient ill health , reduce DNAs
- Facilitate day of surgery admission, reduce bed occupancy and length of hospital stay, thus reducing costs
- Increase the efficient use of operating theatre time.

The Clinic Visit

- Patients are asked to complete a questionnaire to facilitate health screening prior to their PAC visit.
- All patients are assessed according to criteria that have been agreed by the anaesthetic and surgical teams and derived from best practice guidelines.
- All necessary documentation completed for their hospital visit as well as bloods tests, X rays, ECG, blood grouping where appropriate. The clinic aims to minimise the number of hospital visits a patient may require so we try to coordinate pre-assessment reviews with other visits e.g. stoma therapist or nurse specialist.
- Patients are encouraged to ask questions or voice any concerns regarding their hospital admission and planned surgery. Relevant information is provided and discussed relating to patient's admission, surgery and subsequent discharge home. Instructions are given regarding pre-op fasting and regular medication use pre-op

Positive Outcomes for MUH and the Patient

Since implementation of the PAC at MUH the measurable outcomes include:

- Cancellations: There has been a reduction in preoperative cancellations to zero percent as all potential problems are addressed at preassessment and patients are admitted to hospital fit for surgery.
- Same Day Surgery: The percentage of patients admitted on the day of surgery has increased and since January 2012 this number has reached almost 70% contributing to a reduction in surgical length of stay.
- Patient Satisfaction: Patient feedback indicates that this service is patient centred meeting the diverse and individual needs of patients.
- Cost Efficiency: Criteria developed to streamline investigations therefore only necessary investigations are now performed. The development of the clinic has enabled more services to avail of pre operative assessment thereby having a positive impact on hospital efficiencies.

Benefits of the Pre-assessment Process

The benefits of the pre-assessment process are numerous. Patients report that they have much less anxiety regarding their surgery and appreciate the personal one-to-one involvement at the PAC. Patients are now more informed, consequently, better prepared for their surgery. Potential medical problems are identified, allowing for referral to other specialities, i.e. Respiratory, Medicine, Cardiology, and Neurology. A referral back to GP for adjustment of medication etc may also be necessary prior to surgery. Most patients are deemed suitable for day of surgery admission to either the day ward or directly to the Theatre Reception/Admission Lounge therefore avoiding an overnight stay prior to surgery. The pre-assessment route also gives the possibility of assisting the surgical teams in deciding which operation procedure is best suited to the patient and based on the assessment carried out at the Clinic.

We aim to sustain and further develop this level of service and, in doing so, to provide the best possible care for our patients and to make their Mercy University Hospital stay a very positive experience overall.

Jerry Buttmer, TD performed the official opening of the Pre Assessment Clinic on December 10th, 2012. The Clinic is now settled in its new home in the Sheare's Street Block within the hospital. Congratulations to all staff, past and present, involved in the successful development of this beneficial initiative to MUH.

Foundation Focus



Evening Echo Women's Mini Marathon!

A big **THANK YOU** to all the Mercy Ladies who took part in the Evening Echo Women's Mini Marathon recently. A special thank you to our very own Liz O'Brien and Anne Wall who completed the marathon and raised a fantastic **€2,180** for the Mercy Hospital.

(Liz O'Brien and Anne Wall present and Micheál Sheridan with the cheque)

Sell raffle tickets in aid of the Mercy Hospital and be in with a chance to win our top prize of €2,000!

Every ticket you sell will help us provide world class care here at the Mercy University Hospital. We also have amazing cash prizes to give away!

Funds raised will be used to help areas of need in the hospital such as the purchase of a Portable Holter Monitor that will enable the medical team to monitor a patient over a 24 hour period to identify warning signs of a future stroke. This equipment could eliminate the current waiting time of 8-12 weeks for Mercy patients.

One Mercy patient took the time to tell us about her experience as a stroke victim on the day she was being discharged. She mentioned the great care she got here in the Mercy.....

"The staff were brilliant, I couldn't fault them. They all work very much as a team. I would like to give my sincere thanks to the doctors and nurses in the stroke unit. Please support this worthy cause as it could mean the difference between life and death. "



(Emer Quirke, Stroke CNS and Nan Kearney, Stroke Occupational Therapist).

If you would like to order tickets please ring our raffle hotline on 1850 927808 or email info@mercyfundraising.ie

The draw will take place on Friday the 8th March 2012.

MUH Library and Information Service on the move ...



The Library and Information Service relocated to the Centre of Nurse Education in the autumn of 2012 and our Librarian Joe Murphy told Mercy Times all about the new facility and what it means for staff

"While we were a little sad to be leaving our beautiful room in the Mansion House, which was our home for almost ten years, we are delighted with our new modern and spacious location at CNE.

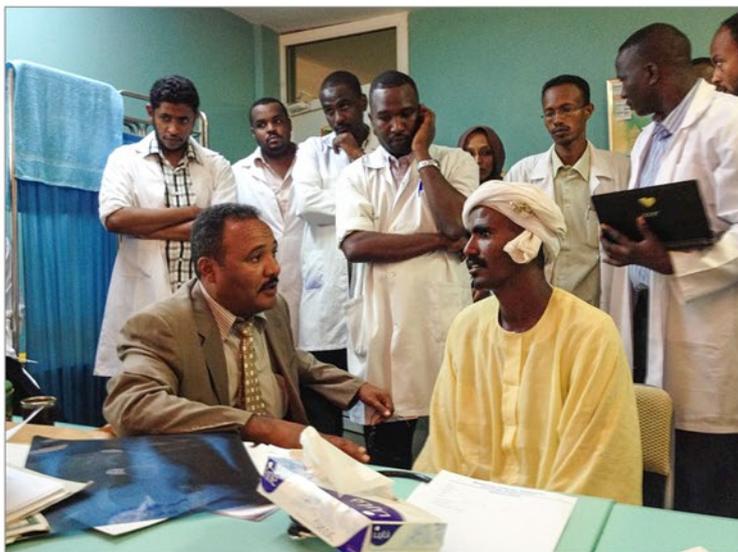
It makes sense to have the Library in a dedicated education centre and we can offer a superior service to our users from here. For example, we have more reader spaces and, because the computers are in an adjacent room, the reading room is quieter and much more conducive to study. We also have much improved IT facilities providing access to a wealth of health sciences information resources. We have a group study/meeting room with Internet access that can be booked by students or staff to carry out project work.

For those who find it difficult to visit the Library we would encourage you to contact us with your queries by email, as a vast amount of information exchange and document delivery can now be carried out online. We look forward to continuing our support for Education, Research and Evidence-based Clinical Practice at MUH from our new facility and we look forward to seeing you in our new home."

“How much for your fastest camel?”

Consultant Urologist at MUH, Mr. Paul Sweeney had the privilege of visiting and working in Sudan for two weeks in October 2012 and found the experience both an enriching and exhausting one. He performed surgeries in two centres: Soba University Hospital in Khartoum and Gezira University Hospital for Renal Diseases and Surgery in Wad Medani and also visited a number of other hospitals and clinics.

Here he shares that experience with Mercy Times



MDT Meeting, Wad Medani

Wad Medani

Wad Medani is Sudan's second city. The Urology Hospital is a stand-alone hospital that has been developed and supported by the Societe Internationale d'Urologie. It is very well equipped with on-site lithotripsy, dialysis and modern diagnostic imaging (US,CT, MRI, nuclear medicine). Whilst there, I performed a penectomy for penile cancer and two radical cystectomies for bladder cancer. The operating facilities are basic but adequate. The reliability of the power supply is dubious and there were several power outages during the surgeries. Complex kidney stones (related to climate and dehydration) are very common as is renal failure.

I visited a number of other hospitals in Wad Medani. I was greatly impressed by the cardiac centre where, state of the art diagnostic and interventional cardiology and a full range of cardiac surgeries are facilitated. I was moved by a visit to the paediatric hospital which is a very new facility catering for an extensive range of paediatric needs with everything from typhoid to congenital abnormalities. However, this modern facility starkly contrasts with the general hospital where cats roamed the surgical wards, patients supplied their own bed linen and relatives paid a fee to visit.

The area around Wad Medani is part of the Gezira Nile Irrigation system that was developed by the British about 100 years ago to facilitate horticultural projects in the region. However as a result of water stagnation Bilharzia (schistosomiasis) and Malaria are endemic in the area. This gives rise to significant health problems and I met the minister for Health for the Gezira region who outlined how his budget of \$13 million was being used amongst his population of 3 million. Part of this funding was used in a bilharzia eradication scheme. Health funding is extremely limited in Sudan and a considerable amount of federal funds have been diverted to war efforts and suppression of resistance.



Operating Theatre, General Hospital, Wad Medani

Khartoum

The journey between Wad Medani and Khartoum was exhilarating. It is a paved road but does not have road markings for a lot of the way. A multitude of transport systems are used including donkey and cart, camel, rickshaw, small and large buses, pick-up trucks etc. It is not surprising that road traffic accidents are the 9th most common cause of death in Sudan, (war being the 11th). Khartoum is a busy place, populated for millennia, the site of the merging of the Blue and White Niles. There are a small number of large government-run hospitals which were funded originally by the Russians and Chinese and a plethora of private clinics and small hospitals. I performed 2 cystectomies and 2 nephrectomies for malignancy in Soba University Hospital. It has the biggest urology department in the state.



Surgical Ward – General Hospital, Wad Medani

Sudan in the 21st Century

Sudan is a very poor country and this is more so now following succession of oil-rich South Sudan. The US government has imposed sanctions and the availability of medical supplies is limited. I had to bribe the customs at the airport allow me to enter with a selection of out of date medical equipment and a surgical retractor. Life expectancy of about 60 is about 20 years shorter than Ireland and infant mortality runs around 60-70/1000 compared to 3 in Ireland.

I had one day off during my trip and I took the opportunity to visit the Royal Cemeteries (pyramids) and the Royal Village in Meroe about 300kms north of Khartoum. There are more pyramids in Sudan than Egypt and they are older than the Egyptian ones. The tops of many of them were lopped off in 1834 by the Italian explorer Giuseppe Ferlini in the mistaken belief that riches were buried inside. The pyramid complex at Meroe represents a huge untapped tourism resource. We saw no other visitors to the site during the few hours we spent there – it is surely a wonder of the world. A much more professional account of Sudanese Tourism can be found here:

www.nytimes.com/2012/10/07/travel/pyramids-by-the-nile-egypt-no-sudan.html

I also had an outing to the busy eclectic Omdurman Souk (market) in Khartoum North where it is possible to purchase anything from a tailored silk suit (made while you wait) to a camel or crocodile. Then I was whisked off to the Whirling Dervishes spiritual celebration before returning to the airport and home.

I must extend a huge thanks to Saif (Urology Registrar - MUH) and Rashid (ex Locum vascular surgeon – MUH) for their unfailing support and local organization during my trip. A few people have asked me about safety and security whilst in Sudan but I can state that at no time did I feel in any way uncomfortable. This flies in the face of the advice on the Department of Foreign Affairs website “We advise Irish citizens thinking of travelling to Sudan to reconsider their need to do so”.

My lasting impression of Sudan is that it is a country of huge untapped potential but it’s greatest asset are it’s people and it was a privilege to have made this trip and interact with the Sudanese people. I look forward to my return.



Camel Racing – Rasheed Osman vs Paul Sweeny (Royal Cemetery, Meroe, Sudan)

Briefings: Mercy Urgent Care Centre



James Reilly, Minister of Health, John Buttimer, Lord Mayor, Kathleen Lynch, TD at the official opening of the M-UCC on Friday 1st of February 2013.

The M-UCC, an Urgent Minor Injury Unit for non life and limb threatening conditions has been open now for 8 months, since March 20th 2012, and Nuala Coughlan, CNM3 keeps us posted on what has been happening to date

“As with all new undertakings the Unit started out with a slow but steady flow of patients. However, through the medium of media communication and positive word of mouth reports, our patient numbers began to grow fast and rise steadily. I am delighted to report that as of November 30th, 2012 our unit has seen **7,180** patients and the average time for our patient’s journey through the unit is **65 minutes**.

In addition to the total number of patient presentations seen, **645 patients** have presented to our unit that would be considered outside the remit of our care. These patients, although considered unsuitable for treatment in the M-UCC, are still individually seen and assessed by a Qualified Practitioner (Nurse/Doctor) and their safe management /referral is planned, e.g. referral to an appropriate Open ED.

Patient Services here include access to a Consultant in Emergency Medicine (EM), a Physiotherapist, and an on site Social Worker.

The unit is enhanced in its management of patient care by having X- ray facilities on site. It is anticipated that further ICT links will be developed in the future, which would allow, for example, radiology images at the M-UCC to be viewed in the CUH. To date 848 Patients have had a positive X ray diagnosis, requiring further intervention management. The M-UCC has also developed close links with our HSE colleagues facilitating a multidisciplinary holistic approach to patient management when required, e.g. Fracture Clinic follow up.

In conclusion, the multi disciplinary Staff in the M-UCC are honoured and proud to be a part of both this unit (M-UCC) and Mercy University Hospital (MUH). We will continue to progress and evolve, availing of the most updated research available to us in minor injury management which allow us to serve the local and wider communities of our city and county, in a safe and timely manner.”



Minister of Health, James Reilly, Kathleen Lynch T.D., with staff of M-UCC & HSE South.

MUH Manual/Patient Handling Trainers



The MUH Manual/Patient Handling Trainers recently completed an RPL (Recognised Prior Learning) course with training provider Qualtec. The purpose of the training was to up skill to comply with the new FETAC level 6 Manual/Patient Handlers instructor's requirements.

The training took place over three dates in April and May in the Centre for Nurse Education and was a huge success with all participants attaining certification.

Sean Kelleher, Managing Director of Qualtec, complimented the MUH trainers on their high level of competence in the areas of manual and patient handling and congratulated all participants on the successful completion of the course.

A Message from our Chief Executive Officer

(continued from page 1)

Other milestones during the year included the graduation of 40 support staff with FETAC Level 5 Skill Training certificates and the graduation of 26 student nurses with BSc (Nursing) degrees from UCC.

All of these achievements endorse our Strategic Plan and highlight the commitment from the Board of Governors to Mercy University Hospital's role as a teaching hospital and the hospital's dedication to its culture of unique patient-centred care.

I would again like to warmly welcome the staff who joined us during the year from the South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital and to acknowledge all our staff individually and collectively, working in all parts of the hospital, for your professionalism, care and compassion. Through you, our work ethic and delivery is solid. Our codes of business reflect our values, our strong traditions, our patient care, - something that is pivotal to all that we do. I would also like to personally acknowledge each of your individual roles in keeping the Mercy's values alive. This was evident during our Mercy Day celebrations of our core values handed down by the Sisters of Mercy.

I wish to acknowledge the very important relationship Mercy University Hospital has with GPs. On average approximately 1,500 referrals per month are received by the hospital from the GP community and we would like to thank them for their continuing support.

As we move into 2013, we will continue to build together a stronger more sustainable hospital that will continue to serve the people of Munster for many decades to come. I will be communicating in due course on the key deliverables for the hospital for 2013 which are near finalisation.

I would also like to sincerely thank Mr. Desmond Murphy, ex-chair and of the Board of Governors for all that he achieved for the hospital during his 12 year tenure. There was significant growth in the hospital during Mr. Murphy's term in office and he was instrumental in the strategic development of the hospital both from a capital and services perspective. On behalf of all in the hospital, I would like to wish him well for the future.

Finally, I would like extend a warm welcome to the new Chairman of the Board, Mr Michael O'Sullivan and the hospital looks forward to working with him.

Sandra Daly,
Chief Executive Officer,
Mercy University Hospital.



Nurse Graduation

Congratulations to the 26 Nurse Graduates of Mercy University Hospital, whose graduation ceremony was held on Thursday 22nd November, 2012. The class commenced their training in September 2008 and graduated after four years of study in the Catherine McAuley School of Nursing & Midwifery, UCC and fulfillment of clinical placements and internship year in Mercy University Hospital, Cork.

This special occasion, was marked with a celebratory mass for the BSc nursing graduates, who were accompanied by family and loved ones.

Mercy University Hospital has a long tradition and history of teaching students. The first School of Nursing opened, for religious sisters, here in 1911. Over the intervening years MUH has built a very strong and proud reputation not only for its status as a teaching hospital but also for the care and services delivered to patients. A solid relationship with our UCC colleagues has been forged and indeed MUH was delighted to welcome representatives from the School of Nursing & Midwifery to share in this day.

Addressing the class, Director of Nursing, Bridie O'Sullivan congratulated the graduates, on their accomplishments and achievements and acknowledged that "transitioning from student status to the full professional role requires gaining clinical expertise and self-efficacy for practice within a work environment that supports both professional practice and individual development. Continuously, building on what you have learnt will ensure that patients will receive safe, quality care that is appropriate to their needs and recovery. This is essential to a trusting relationship".

A presentation of parchments was followed by a reception in the Drawing Room at MUH, to round off celebrations.



Public Health Employees Sponsorship Programme: Each year, the HSE, nationally, offer 10 placements to eligible employees in the Irish public health services who would like to become a Registered Nurse or Midwife. The sponsorship scheme is open to employees who are directly involved in the delivery of care to patients.



The scheme allows the successful candidate to retain their salary while undertaking the 4 year honours degree programme. Accordingly, the eligibility criteria are quite rigorous and a written assessment must also be undertaken by the applicant.

In 2008, Caroline Nolan, a Health Care Assistant here at Mercy University Hospital, took up this challenge and the Department of Nursing and MUH were delighted to support Caroline's application and professional development. Further to her successful application, she secured her placement and the rest is history Congratulations Caroline.

Ms. Bridie O'Sullivan, Director of Nursing, pictured with Caroline Nolan, RGN, on MUH Graduation Day, 2012.

“The Tassel is Worth the Hassle”



FETAC training was introduced to Mercy University Hospital as part of the HR Strategy for 2011. Further to a consultation process with MUH line managers and Ms. Caroline Reddington, HR, to ascertain its feasibility and interest to support staff, a justification document to “apply” to the VEC to become a “critical mass site” was forwarded. This was the first time that MUH was designated a critical mass site for FETAC Level 5 Skill (Securing Knowledge Intra Lifelong Learning) training and effectively turned us into the College of Commerce for the duration!

The Health Service Executive (HSE) went through a process of identifying the skills that it deemed necessary for its Support Staff. The aim of the SKILL Project is to “Educate, develop and train support staff in the health services to the optimum of their abilities in order to enhance their role in the quality of service to patients/clients”. This Level 5 programme was devised for Support Staff.

A total of 40 MUH staff/students were offered a core of mandatory modules with a number of varying elective modules to meet specific job requirements within the service. Each student had to pass 8 course modules (5 core and 3 roles specific). The core modules, i.e. compulsory, were:

- Communications
- Care Support
- Infection Prevention and Control
- Workplace Statutory Policies and Procedures
- Work Experience

Commencing in January 2011, the course finished in December of that year. Classes were divided into 2 groups of 20 students and were facilitated over a 2 day period in the MUH Centre of Nurse Education where trainers and tutors from the VEC lectured on the modules. The breakdown of MUH staff according to department was as follows:

- | | | | |
|-------------|----|-------------------------|----|
| • Stores | 2 | • Healthcare Assistants | 13 |
| • Porterage | 10 | • Catering | 15 |

All 40 Students successfully completed the entire programme and were issued with their Certificates from the Vocational Educational Committee. In recognition of this 100% pass rate achievement, Mercy University Hospital proudly hosted a Graduation Ceremony to honour the student’s accomplishments.

MUH CEO, Ms. Sandra Daly welcomed the Students and their families and friends and acknowledging their great success, said

“Through you, our work ethic and delivery is solid. Our codes of business reflect our values, our traditions still strong, our patients are pivotal to all we do. I would like to personally acknowledge each of your individual roles in keeping the spirit of Mercy alive. Today is a day to celebrate the staff of this hospital, for all that you have accomplished. We are extremely grateful and privileged to have employees of your calibre working here. I am absolutely confident that the future of this hospital is in capable hands!!”

Congratulations Graduates!

Adrian O'Sullivan



As a general surgeon specialising in liver and pancreatic surgery, I never envisaged an opportunity would arise to return to Cork to strengthen the work already done by Mr. Criostoir O'Suilleabhain in establishing this type of surgery in Cork and in particularly the Mercy. Being originally from Douglas in Cork, I qualified in medicine from UCC in 1997, having also attained a Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Medical Sciences degrees. After my intern year in the then 'Cork Regional Hospital' I spent the next few years in

the Mater Hospital in Dublin completing my basic surgical training gaining an associate fellowship of the College of Surgeons in Ireland. After this I returned to Cork to work as a registrar in the Mercy with Mr Paul Harte and the late Professor Gerry O'Sullivan, a time I remember fondly and indeed there are still many familiar faces around. I then did my academic research in the department of surgery in the CUH leading to a medical doctorate from UCC. This investigated the role of intracellular signalling mechanisms in the pathogenesis of sepsis and tumouogenesis. I subsequently moved to London to under take my higher surgical training eventually specialising in Hepatobiliary, pancreatic and liver transplant surgery. After finishing my training in the hepatobiliary&pancreatic units at the Royal London and Royal Free Hospitals in London I was awarded my Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training after passing the intercollegiate specialty examination of the College of Surgeons and awarded my Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. I then completed a fellowship in the Institute of liver studies in Kings College Hospital London and was subsequently appointed as a consultant surgeon. The institute served a population of about 3.3 million people for hepatobiliary&pancreatic surgery and performed over 200 liver transplants a year including living donor transplantation, over 150 major pancreatic resections and over 200 major liver resections a year.

At Kings my specialist interest and expertise was in laparoscopic liver and pancreatic surgery including laparoscopic gallbladder surgery and laparoscopic surgery for liver cysts. I have performed all major liver surgery laparoscopically including right and left hepatectomy, as well as left pancreatectomy. My other commitments included involvement with the cancer networks in providing specialist care and how this care was organised and provided for patients. We were particularly interested in patient experience by streamlining the patient pathway through the service by means of dedicated patient pathways, integrated patient care and also establishment of standardised care across the care group. I believe now with two hepatobiliary&pancreatic surgeons in cork, one of only two such units in the country, we can work towards achieving these patterns of reproducible care and provide specialist care for rare and complex diseases for patients in the south of Ireland that is comparable to anywhere in the world.

Remember...

Teresa Cahill started work in MUH in 1973 as the Hospital Baker, preparing cakes, breads, scones and delicious biscuits. Originally from Co Wexford, Teresa "lived in" for many years before she purchased a property with her friend and colleague Noreen Buckley who was the seamstress in MUH. Teresa retired in June 2000 after 27 years service but even after her retirement she was a regular visitor to the hospital and kept in touch with all of her friends and colleagues.

Teresa recently passed away (RIP) and this prompted fond memories of her culinary skills and in particular her scone making. In March 1997 she shared her recipes with the Mercy Standard (a precursor to the Mercy Times) and as a small tribute to Teresa, we have decided to reproduce those recipes for you here

Plain White Scones (makes 14-16)

1lb plain white flour
2 eggs
4 ozs of margarine
2 flat teaspoons of baking powder
Pinch of salt
Fresh milk

Method

Sieve flour in bowl. Rub in margarine, add baking powder and salt and mix together. Beat eggs and add some milk to them, keeping a little back to brush scones over. Mix to a stiff consistency and roll out to about ½ inch thick. Cut into shapes with cutter and bake in a hot oven (175 or gas mark 8) for about 20 minutes. Leave to cool on a wire tray.

Brown Scones

¾ lb whole meal
¼ lb plain white flour
4 ozs of margarine
1 teaspoon of bread soda
Pinch of salt, 1 egg and sour milk.
Make as for Plain Scones.

Fruit Scones

Make as for plain scones, adding 4 ozs of sugar to flour before rubbing in margarine and add 6 ozs of sultanas.

HOSPITAL OF CHOICE - Pilot launch of GP Electronic Referral



Dr. Joe Clark, National Lead, Primary Care Programme and Project Lead visited MUH in November and met our team

Hospital of Choice

Mercy University Hospital has been successful in being selected the hospital of choice for the first pilot of the National Electronic General GP Referral system. The aim of the new system is to eliminate the use of GP letters and faxes for the purpose of referring patients, thereby increasing efficiency and improving the experience for the patient. The benefits of the Electronic General GP Referral include safer, streamlined referrals with the ability to track referrals from the patient's point of entry on the system to the day of appointment.

This project forms part of the HSE Clinical Care Programmes and the nomination as the first pilot site acknowledges the commitment of the entire OPD team and, in particular, our state of readiness from an IT perspective. During the past four years, the Outpatient Department at Mercy University Hospital has undergone significant change and had made huge strides in promoting its endeavours in improving patient access. Our selection is an acknowledgement of our strong relationship with local GPs and the willingness to forge and enhance this link further. The new system will also greatly enhance the quality of information and communication with our colleagues in the primary care setting.

Our dedicated OPD team comprises OPD staff, IT, Medical Records, Administrative Manager, Clinical Director and Assistant Director of Nursing. This team works from a multidisciplinary perspective with a dedicated focus on implementing change to improve our services.

The initial 4 week Pilot will involve Cardiology, Respiratory and Vascular services and 14 Cork based GP's. It is anticipated that the pilot will be rolled out to further specialities and increased number of GP's, over the coming months. MUH participated in this pilot project, together with 5 other acute hospitals in Cork, Kerry and Dublin, so we are particularly proud of this achievement.

Welcome



Dr Orna O'Toole, Consultant Neurologist who has replaced Dr Hugh Harrington, Consultant Neurologist who retired in July 2012.

MUH welcomes our SIVUH colleagues



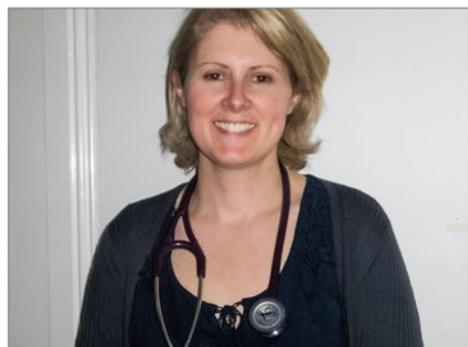
Dr. Michael Regan
Consultant Rheumatologist



Dr. Matthew Murphy
Consultant Endocrinologist



Prof. Willie Molloy
Consultant Geriatrician



Dr. Suzanne Timmons
Consultant Geriatrician



Dr. Mark Phelan
Consultant Rheumatologist

Children's Trip to Fota House

The annual Christmas trip to Fota House is organized by the Cork City Children's Hospital Club. This is a voluntary organization consisting of staff from Cork University Hospital, St Gabriel's Autistic School, Gardai, Pharmacists, GP and Mercy University Hospital staff. Fundraising occurs all year long to enable children to visit Santa and have a wonderful day.

A total of 30 children from Mercy University Hospital and Edel House (accommodation for homeless women and children) went to Fota on Friday, December 7th. The children are selected for a number of reasons including medical diagnosis, social circumstances, and bereavement of a close family member.

Vintage cars were provided free of charge by vintage car owners to transport the children to Santa and Red FM provided the music with 2 DJ's in attendance. Face painting is mandatory and Clowns, Disney characters etc are all present on the day to entertain the children and refreshments of the sweetest variety are also provided!!!

Just for fun: Spot 8 Differences



Each child gets a substantial gift and a selection box in a Santa sack and each family receives a framed photograph of their visit to Santa. The families are transported back to Mercy University Hospital courtesy of Bus Eireann.

If you would like to contribute to the organization you can do so by contacting Mr. John Looney at **087 2949235** or donating to Bank of Ireland, Wilton, Cork. Sort code 90-28-05. AC NO: 34653800.

We wish to express our thanks to everyone who submitted articles, information and / or photos for this edition. If you have something to submit for a subsequent issue, please contact any member of the Editorial Committee.

Current and previous issues of the Mercy Times can be found online at www.muh.ie and within the Hospital on the MUH Intranet – Sharepoint.

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