



OneTeam

CUH Group Staff eNewsletter



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 Extracts from **OneTeam** should not be published without the editor's permission.



Mr Bernard Gloster HSE CEO visits Mallow General Hospital



Dr Andy Phillips visit



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Welcome to our third edition of OneTeam Newsletter

As we reach the half way point in the year, it is timely to pause for a moment, to look back at what we have achieved so far and to look forward to what we will be working on together for the rest of the year. I continue to be so impressed and proud of our team across CUH Group. Thank you for everything you do. Each and every one of you have contributed to our continued journey to improve services for patients, and we've had some really fantastic successes so far in 2024.

As we go to print, we have centralised paediatric emergency and acute care in Cork at CUH, in partnership with our colleagues at the Mercy. This was recommended 30 years ago, and is an important step forward for patients, their families and our staff. We warmly welcome the staff who have joined us as part of this service reconfiguration. Looking forward, we have also commenced the enabling works to support the construction of the new dedicated 82 Bed and 4 Theatre, Paediatric Acute Care Centre, by 2027. In another area, we have now been granted full planning permission and HSE funding for our new CUH Surgical Hub, have completed the extensive enabling works and appointed the construction firm who will commence construction over the coming months, with the aim of having this facility open by the end of 2025. We have also completed our preparations for the imminent centralisation of ophthalmology services at the South Infirmary, and I was delighted to take some time this week to celebrate the staff who work in this service and wish them well in their move. The team will continue to support inpatients and emergencies at CUH in an integrated way as a city wide service.

Our long awaited Heli-Pad is nearing completion, and once operational will

support improved access to and from the CUH Wilton Campus for patients from across the southern 1/3rd of Ireland, including; PPCI, Stroke, Vascular, Cardiothoracic, Neurosurgery, Paediatric, Maternity, Critical Care and Trauma cases. Our new endoscopy unit at Bantry is also nearing completion. Looking forward, the Minister for Health recently announced that CUH will receive the largest allocation of government investment in additional adult inpatient bed capacity over the next 7 years. This includes funding for our new Cancer Acute Care Centre (2 new Cancer Wards above the current Glandore Unit) and the first phase of the Trauma Acute & Critical Care Tower. There is also further investment planned for Mallow & Bantry Hospitals. In the interim, we will be looking at what we can do more quickly to convert existing space at CUH to facilitate additional bed capacity ahead of next winter. Your tolerance of the disruption required to improve care is really appreciated.

I know that many of you are concerned about the impact of the current moratorium on our workforce, your services and colleagues. This is one of the most difficult issues the senior leadership team are working through. It is clearly right and proper that there are robust controls in place across the HSE to ensure that we deliver value for money and keep our headcount in line with acceptable limits. We do know that the baseline staffing at CUH in a number of areas is not in line with or equitable with our peers, and have escalated this nationally with regional support. It is important to say that we have continued to see an overall growth in the numbers of doctors and nurses employed by CUH Group. It is also important however to acknowledge that there has been a significant impact on and reduction in

other equally important members of the multi-disciplinary team, particularly HSCPs, administrative and support staff, with many of those services and teams now under real pressure as a result. We are so grateful to you all for the way in which you show up every day, support each other, and are completely focussed on our patients during this time.

As the perfect example of this, I'm thrilled to be able to celebrate our remarkable and sustained improvements in cancer performance, with the CUH / UCC Cancer Centre having achieved 4 of the 6 NCCP KPIs every month this year, and having achieved the 5th KPI for the last two months in a row. I know the whole team are working hard to ensure that we will complete the set, and achieve all 6 KPIs very soon. Looking forward, we have also been given the green light by the OECl to proceed to a full assessment in September for formal accreditation as a European Cancer Centre. I had the pleasure of celebrating with our CUH Endoscopy team, recognising over 12 months without a Priority 1 patient breach of this KPI. On elective care, our medical directorate are now fully compliant with current Slaintecare access targets for outpatients, and the respiratory service have led the way in expanding their clinics in the community from the Ballincollig Primary Care Centre.

Looking forward, huge efforts are underway across the region to plan for all specialities to achieve the much more ambitious Slaintecare targets outlined in government policy as soon as possible. On emergency care, in 2024 CUH has made the greatest improvement in trolley numbers of any Model 4. Despite now being the busiest ED in Ireland, and having had more than a 20% increase in demand, and having the largest inpatient and critical care bed deficit, we

returned zero trolleys on a number of days in May and June, and are performing much better than previous years. We continue to perform well on ambulance turnaround times, non-admitted patient experience time, and >75 admissions within 24 hours too. While we have much more work to do here as a system, it is a real achievement and testament to you all that we have improved so much already. Well done!

I hope you enjoy reading this latest edition of our newsletter. Thank you for being part of our OneTeam!



David Donegan
Chief Executive Officer
Cork University Hospitals Group





Above (l-r): Marie Watson, SSWHG; Dr David Mullane, Consultant Paediatrician; Gillian Kelleher, Paediatric Directorate Business Manager.



Historic Day for Paediatric Services in the South West

Transfer and centralisation of Acute Paediatric Care

On June 25th 2024, 30 years after it was first recommended, all Acute Paediatric Care in Cork was successfully transferred and centralised within CUH marking a monumental step forward for children’s healthcare in the HSE South West.

We have achieved this together as a team and with the support and collaboration of our incredible colleagues in the Mercy University Hospital (MUH). While paediatric out-patient clinics will continue at MUH for now, all emergency, day-case and in-patient paediatric care will be provided right here in CUH.

Increased capacity and services

One of the many benefits to emerge from this collaboration is the increase in capacity for paediatric haematology/oncology patients. These patients and their families will be able to avail of four private en-suite rooms complete with state-of-the-art air handling units which help to provide the best hygiene standards for patients, a specialised treatment room and access to the extensive range of sub-specialty paediatric services already available at CUH from paediatric respiratory to paediatric surgical services.

Another innovative and life-changing service which will now operate from CUH is the Paediatric Oncology Outreach Nursing Service (POONS). This allows paediatric oncology patients to receive some of their treatment and care from the comfort of their own homes saving them and their families from making countless trips to the hospital and helps to bring some normality back to an incredibly difficult time in their young lives.

David Donegan, CUH Group Chief Executive, said: “Now that we’ve consolidated services, we’ll focus on building our new, world-class, Regional Paediatric Acute Care Centre at CUH over the next 3 years (with 82 beds, dedicated children’s theatres, and state-of-the-art diagnostic facilities). Enabling works have already commenced. We’re incredibly proud of everyone involved in making this a reality for children, their families, and our staff.”

The capacity of our unified paediatric ward has also increased with the addition of 12 new beds allowing more children to be seen and given access to expert healthcare all in one location.

Building on recent achievements

This major advancement in paediatric healthcare in Cork comes just seven months after CUH proudly opened the doors of its state-of-the-art Paediatric Emergency Department in December 2023. The purpose built Emergency Department is complete with a bright, warm waiting area specially designed to help children feel more at ease and safe during a worrying time, access-controlled doors and nine isolation cubicles.

The Paediatric Emergency Department alone is expected to see up to 13,000 patients each year.

After beginning work on this revolutionary project over fifteen years ago, we are delighted to see it finally become a reality and look forward to witnessing the difference it will make for our youngest patients and their families over the coming years.

Ophthalmology Services transfer from CUH

Strengthening acute hospitals: Ophthalmology Services transfer from Cork University Hospital (CUH) to South Infirmity Victoria University Hospital (SIVUH).

On Monday, July 1st, all planned and emergency ophthalmology care for the Cork and Kerry region officially transferred from CUH to the South Infirmity Victoria University Hospital's (SIVUH) new Ophthalmology Outpatient and Emergency Care Unit.

This marks another major step forward in consolidating acute hospital services for the more than 700,000 people living in the South-West region. CUH are proud to have played a role in not only providing ophthalmic care over the last number of years but in helping to make this long-held ambition to establish a dedicated Ophthalmology Outpatient and Emergency Care Unit a reality.

Services have been transferring to SIVUH on a phased basis since 2014. The first step saw ophthalmology surgical services relocate from CUH to SIVUH in May 2014. This transfer required a capital development project, leading to the design and construction of a new, purpose-built ophthalmology outpatients department and ophthalmic theatre at SIVUH, enabling this final step of the transfer to be completed.

The transfer of these services will not only provide patients with greater, specialised care in one convenient location, but it will also enable us to significantly expand our cancer care services and department here at CUH. By consolidating these specialised services, we can offer more comprehensive

and efficient treatment options, ensuring that our patients receive the highest quality of care. Additionally, this move will allow us to allocate more resources towards developing and enhancing our cancer care facilities, ultimately benefiting the entire community.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all members of our incredible Ophthalmology team for their unwavering dedication and support throughout this journey. Your consistent hard work and commitment have been instrumental in making this transition possible. We deeply appreciate your tireless efforts and the exceptional care you provide to our patients. This accomplishment would not have been possible without your steadfast dedication and collaborative spirit. Thank you for being an essential part of our success.

While emergency ophthalmic care will still be available through our Emergency Department when necessary, all other elective and emergent ophthalmic needs will now be met at the state-of-the-art Ophthalmology Outpatient and Emergency Care Unit at SIVUH.

Top right (l-r): The Ophthalmology Team at CUH; Jane Heffernan, Amy Wilson, Marion Gaffney, Hannah Hughes, Mary Hourihane, Jennifer Murphy, Niamh Eardley, Emer Neau, Marzanna Lewandowska, David Donegan, Susan Crinion, Mairead O'Shea, Bernadine O'Riordan, Margaret Twohig, Helen Cahalane, Geraldine Barry Murphy, Eileen Healy, Mark Dolan.



Mr Bernard Gloster, HSE CEO Visits Cork University Hospital Wilton & Mallow General Hospital

Staff across Cork University Hospitals Group were delighted to welcome Mr Bernard Gloster, HSE CEO earlier this year. The visit provided a great opportunity to get an update from Mr Gloster on the ongoing restructuring within the HSE, including the implementation of new regional structures to facilitate the Programme for Government and the Sláintecare Policy Framework.

The visit was particularly timely with the recent announcement of the six Regional Executive Officers, including Dr Andy Phillips who will be taking up the role of REO for the South West Region. As outlined by Mr Gloster the target date for completion of the implementation of the primary changes to our structures is the 30th September 2024 and will be achieved through a number of progressive steps across the next six months.

The visit also provided staff at CUHG the opportunity to update the HSE CEO on how local transformational plans are progressing, the challenges we face, and hear direct from the senior managers and staff about some of the great innovations going on at a local level.

During the visit, Mr Gloster took the time to meet with and speak to staff across our services. He was keen to spend as much time as possible visiting our services and speaking to staff out on the frontline. Staff across the hospital were delighted to have the opportunity to be able to show him the work they do day in day out at CUHG.

Top right: Mr Bernard Gloster meeting with the CUHG Executive Management Team at his visit to CUH. **Right:** Mr Bernard Gloster meeting with the Staff in the Emergency Department at CUH.



Above (l-r): Mr Bernard Gloster HSE CEO with David Donegan CEO CUHG; Dr Emma Fauteux, Consultant & Clinical Lead for Paediatric Emergency Medicine with Mr Bernard Gloster at our newly opened Children's Emergency Department at CUH; Mr Bernard Gloster meeting with Theatre CNM3 Aisling Lehane and Dr Padraig Mahon; Helen Cahalane Director of Nursing CUH with Mr Bernard Gloster HSE CEO; Mr Bernard Gloster with Dr Oonagh Gilligan Consultant Haematologist and Dr Eoghan Molloy Consultant Haematologist.

Dr Andy Phillips REO South West visits Cork University Hospital, Wilton Campus



We are delighted to welcome our newly appointed Regional Executive Officer, Dr Andy Phillips. We would like to take this opportunity to wish him every success in his new role.

Dr Andy Phillips REO South West took some time out of his busy schedule to visit with the Senior Management Team at CUH and visit the wards and units across the hospital.

Originally from Wales, Dr Andy Phillips comes to the HSE from his role as Acting CEO of Safer Care Victoria, Australia. He has worked in clinical, operational and strategic executive leadership roles in healthcare for the past 37 years. Andy maintains his clinical qualification as a consultant clinical scientist.

Since 2009, Andy has been leading large scale health system transformation in Wales, New Zealand and Australia, with a passion for integrating health and social care. Andy has practised co-creating health and relationship centred healthcare for over 20 years, with recent work leading kindness and compassion in healthcare. Andy took up his role as Regional Executive Officer in HSE South West on 1st March 2024.



Above left and centre: Dr Andy Phillips meeting with the Executive Management Team at CUH. **Above right:** Dr Andy Phillips presenting at the Major Trauma Symposium held at CUH, pictured with Mr David Donegan CUH CEO. **Top left:** Dr Andy Phillips REO South West, Mr David Donegan CEO CUH, Professor John Higgins, SSWHG CEO. **Top right:** David Donegan CEO CUH presenting on the services delivered at CUH. **Top middle:** Dr Andy Phillips REO South West and Dr Gerry Wyse Clinical Director, Diagnostics and Therapeutics Directorate in the new blood sciences laboratory at CUH.



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

A very warm hello to you all on behalf of the Medical Directorate team. Much has happened since our last newsletter and I want to thank you all for your continued hard work and dedication. Collectively as a team, we are continuing to struggle with the implications of the current HSE staffing moratorium. Rest assured as a directorate we continue to advocate for our critical posts and for critical derogations. That said, despite challenging times, our directorate continues to support healthcare in a very positive fashion. In this edition of our

newsletter we highlight a number of your stories for all to see.

As the nights are getting longer and days are getting warmer, it's never been more important for all of us to remember the importance of exercise. In this edition we feature the story of our Rheumatology team who are championing this and leading by example. There is also a really nice feature from our colleagues in Mallow General Hospital on their excellent initiative with a new frailty screening pathway.

May was Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Awareness Month and celebrated resilience. The CF patient association national conference was hosted in Cork this year. A big thank you to the adult and paediatric CUH CF services who participated in multiple different forums over the two day conference providing critical information and advice for all (one of our featured stories).

Also in this edition, we feature short biographies from a number of new permanent consultant physicians who have joined our directorate over the last 12-18 months. It is great

to see the addition of new people with new ideas joining us and we look forward to working with all of them into the future.

We want to acknowledge one of our medical consultants and a former Medical Clinical Director, Professor Liam Plant, who retired from his role as a consultant nephrologist at CUH recently. There is a nice feature summarising his immense contribution to our directorate and CUH for over 20 years. I know I may be accused of being biased, but he will be sadly missed by staff and patients alike. We have no doubt that he will continue to support healthcare locally, nationally, and internationally through other roles. Thank you Liam.

Anyway, summer is here. I hope you all get an opportunity to wear your sunglasses, put your sunblock on, and get a well deserved break over the coming weeks.

Warm Regards,
BP

Pulmonary Function Lung Fibrosis

Adult Cystic Fibrosis Updates:

Cystic Fibrosis Ireland National Conference

The national Cystic Fibrosis (CF) scientific conference for People with CF (PwCF) and their families/caregivers hosted by the national CF charity, Cystic Fibrosis Ireland, took place in the Kingsley hotel in Cork from the 8th-10th of March. This conference was supported by the CUH adult and paediatric CF services with:

- A plenary talk by Prof Barry Plant - director of the adult CF unit, titled: "Real world changes post ETI",
- An interactive session by Dr Nicola Lally - principal specialist clinical psychologist in paediatrics,
- A presentation followed by panel discussion from Andrew Tyrrell - PwCF currently attending Cork adults and studying Dietetics in Manchester,



Above left: Members from both Paediatric and adult CF care services at the CFI conference.
Above right: Professor Barry Plant delivering his plenary session.



- A presentation by Dr Tamara Vagg – postdoctoral digital health researcher with the CF adult unit, title: “Telehealth in CF care: what are the best practices?”
- And 6 research posters from the adult unit.

Importantly, during the national CF conference, senior CF physiotherapist Pat Shanahan received a lifetime achievement award for her work in Cystic Fibrosis. Grace Hughes a patient with CF attending the Cork adults service also organised and hosted a Christmas Day Swim fundraiser and presented the proceeds to Cystic Fibrosis Ireland during the conference.

Recent Departmental Awards

Dr Tamara Vagg and Prof Barry Plant both received an award from the UCC Public Patient Involvement (PPI) Ignite Seed Funding programme to establish a PPI panel to support research and service delivery in Cork adults. They also received the Vertex Research Innovation award to continue their research within Telehealth and Digital literacy at CUH/UCC.

Departmental Acknowledgement

The adult CF programme recently hosted a “Thank You” get together for Professor Liam Plant, consultant nephrologist CUH. Over the last 15 years Prof Liam Plant has done a monthly shared clinic with the adult CF team to ensure best kidney outcomes for patients with CF pre- and post- lung transplant. In addition to clinical care, he has also championed a number of research projects in this space for the department. The CF team wish him the very best in his retirement from CUH as a consultant nephrologist and hope that in his future endeavours the CF service will get opportunities to work with him again.

Friday the 15th of March marked the end of an era in the Department of Renal Medicine at CUH. Professor

Liam Plant retired from the Department having served as a Consultant Nephrologist and General Physician for over 20 years.

Professor Plant is a graduate from University College Cork in 1985. He completed his internship senior house officer and registrar training in CUH before moving to the Royal Infirmary Hospital in Edinburgh where he completed higher specialist training in Nephrology. Appointed as a consultant in Edinburgh in 1995 he joined Derry Murnaghan in CUH in 2001 as the region’s second Nephrologist. He has been at the forefront of improvements in service delivery locally and nationally over the last 20 years.

The arc of his career in CUH has seen major improvements in the provision of care for patients with kidney disease. Not least of these was the development of the Cardiac Renal Tower which opened in 2010. Professor Plant played a pivotal role in the design and delivery of this major infrastructural project which transformed patient care for those with kidney disease in the South-Southwest. He was the first Clinical Director of the National Renal Office and pioneered the centralised planning of Renal Services across the country.

A master clinician with abroad array of clinical interests he developed several sub-specialty clinics including a combined High-Risk Obstetric Clinic, Renal Transplant Clinic and Adolescent Transition Clinic. A wonderful (and colourful!) colleague he mentored many of the current cadre of Consultant Nephrologists appointed nationally over the last 10-15 years.

A brilliant educationalist Professor Plant is always in demand as a speaker at National and International Meetings. As he leaves full time clinical practice behind, we wish him well in his future endeavours in post-graduate training. We wish to thank him for the committed, excellent care he delivered to those with kidney disease in the region.



Top: Grace Hughes presenting her cheque at the CFI conference.
Middle: A thank you get together for Professor Liam Plant with the staff of the Cystic Fibrosis Centre. **Left:** Professor Liam Plant with the last new born baby which he delivered with our Obstetric Colleagues.

TEAM RHEUMATOLOGY

To demonstrate the importance of daily exercise Team Rheumatology did their first circuit training session in the fantastic outdoor gym on site facilitated by Clinical Physiotherapy Specialist in Rheumatology Karen Quinn. It's important for patients (and colleagues) to know team rheum practice what they preach!



Above (l-r): Back row: Professor Sinead Harney, Professor Grainne Murphy, Niamh Motherway (CNS), Karen Quinn (Physio), Julie Riordan (Admin), Arun Kuzhuppilly (CNS). Front Row: Davida Hehir (CNS), Dr Sherdya Worthy Tio, Louise Murphy (ANP), Roselin George (CNS).



Above (l-r): Louise Murphy (ANP), Professor Grainne Murphy, Niamh Motherway (CNS).



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

Update from the Emergency Medicine & Acute Care Directorate

Welcome to the summer edition of the CUH Newsletter. As nature bursts with colour and beauty, the Emergency and Acute Care Directorate wants to celebrate the beauty and colour of our diverse staff. In the emergency department, acute floor and across the hospital we are gifted to work with great human beings who have decided to dedicate their working lives to treating and supporting the treatment of the sick. There is nobility and honour in this pursuit. It can be complex, sometimes confronting and at times overwhelming, especially when demand is greater than our ability to supply the care we would want. But regularly reconnecting with why we do what we do, what made us decide to spend our lives in this way, working in health care, helps keep our beauty alive.

Major Trauma Centre at Cork University, Wilton Campus

EAC Directorate News

Urgent and Emergency Care Programme Board update

This winter has been very challenging for everyone working across the health system as we cope with the rising demand for Urgent and Emergency Care. Each week the number of patients attending CUH via the urgent and emergency care pathways rises. Our new all-time high was reached on Tuesday 19th February at 324 patients attending during a 24 hour period.

To put it in context, Cork University Hospital has had a 21% increase in all age attendances to our Emergency Department and a 31% increase in admissions year to date when compared to last year. These increases are the highest increases seen when compared to all equivalent sites in the country. Conversion rates, i.e the proportion of patients who attend who need admission is relatively low at 27%; indicating that we are working hard to avoid admission where possible. With such demand and a recognised shortage in bed capacity at CUH it is not surprising that trolley-counts are so high. Overcrowding

and risk to patients would be considerably worse at CUH were it not for the concerted efforts of teams to identify patients who can have their care needs met in the South Infirmary, Mallow, the Bons and the Mater Private hospitals and Riverstick Care Centre and support this transfer of care.

Despite these challenges, we have become one of the best performing hospitals in the country in terms of the time taken to off-load a patient from ambulance and release that ambulance back to our community and in our ability to treat patients who can be discharged from the emergency department within 6 hours (non-admitted Patient Experience Time).

Our Achievements

The project groups within the Programme Board continue to work hard to find solutions to capacity within the system through specific workstreams; for example on cohorting as an enabler of the SAFER process , on securing better ‘Operational Grip’ through rotation of current Senior Management Roles and on enabling improved egress pathways, particularly for those patients who require rehabilitation.

A key focus this winter, driven by acute operations nationally, has been that no older person (>75 years) should spend more than 24 hours in an emergency department. CUH has the second highest number of ED

Rank	Hospital	% Compliance – 6hrs W/E 17 Mar. (KPI >70%)	Rank	Hospital	% Compliance – 9hrs W/E 17 Mar. (KPI >85%)
1	Waterford	82%	1	Waterford	95%
2	Cork University Hospital	68%	2	Cork University Hospital	85%
3	Mater (DUB)	68%	3	St. Vincent’s	85%
4	St. Vincent’s	66%	4	St. James’	82%
5	University Hospital Limerick	60%	5	University Hospital Galway	82%
6	University Hospital Galway	59%	6	Mater (DUB)	80%
7	St. James’	56%	7	University Hospital Limerick	77%
8	Tallaght	48%	8	Tallaght	68%
9	Beaumont	39%	9	Beaumont	67%

attendances of patients over 75 years in the country. Testimony to our Acute Floor Teams is the fact that we have the second lowest conversion to hospital admission; Emergency Medicine, Acute Medicine, Geriatric Medicine and the Frailty at the Front Door Service work tirelessly to provide comprehensive assessments and alternative pathways of care to these patients to avoid admission to hospital. The National Team have devised a 5 year plan, called the 'UEC Plan for Older Persons' which we have adopted within the UEC Programme Board locally. This is a phased quality improvement program which aims to ultimately see improved pre Hospital services for acute care, a 6 hour maximum length of stay in the emergency department for older adults, improved bed base within the Hospital systems and improved egress options for home and/or residential care.

As a Programme Board we have been clear in stating that CUH urgently needs additional on-site beds to prevent the risk of long stays in the Emergency Department, an end to the moratorium and serious investment in staffing to support 7 day working for all. We welcome the new Regional Executive Officer Andy Philips and look forward to working together on improved and integrated patient care.

If you are interested in finding out more about our projects and/or want to get involved please email:
Aideen.oriordan@hse.ie

EAC Directorate News

This newsletter we are focusing on our phenomenal People. We are blessed to have an amazing array of Clinical and

non-clinical Staff who work shoulder to shoulder 24/7 to provide emergency and acute care. We were delighted to meet our new Regional Executive Officer Dr Andy Philips during his site visit, and to receive his observations of an innovative and integrated culture in Emergency and Acute Care. In this time of Ramadan we celebrate the diversity within our Team; this compliment from a patient says it all 'Finally, thanks to the heavens for immigration. Robert is being looked after by the United Nations of brilliant young professionals, all bright, kind and highly skilled. Where would we be without them.'

A core value of our Directorate is training and education. We believe this to be fundamental to good patient care and the cornerstone of an effective, sustainable, resilient staff. With regard to the Medical Staff CUH has become the no.1 place in Ireland to train in emergency

medicine; increased emergency medicine consultant numbers, modern evidence based practices, major trauma centre status, our new children's emergency department, a can-do excellent emergency nursing workforce, a dedicated frailty service, a robust education schedule and a breath of pathology coming through the doors means a trainee who has excelled at CUH is very valued on the national training program. This year we celebrate record success in our emergency medicine trainees being accepted onto the national emergency medicine run-through training program. Congratulations to Drs Tesna Haas, Ahmed Musa, Ben Fusco, Thabani 'T' Sithole and Deirdre Murphy.

Congratulations also to Dr Henrietta Sabbagha who came first at interview to proceed to the Advanced Emergency Medicine Training program against a very competitive national field.



Above: EAC Directorate Team.



Great news for our Clinical Admin Team

Job evaluation is a national process for re-grading administration roles. It is an opportunity to review the additional responsibilities that senior members of the clinical administration teams take on over time, and to evaluate what grade the role should be. It's a difficult process which involved job profiling and interviews. We are so proud to announce that 3 of our Team have secured promotion via the job evaluation process.

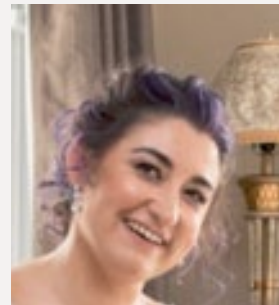
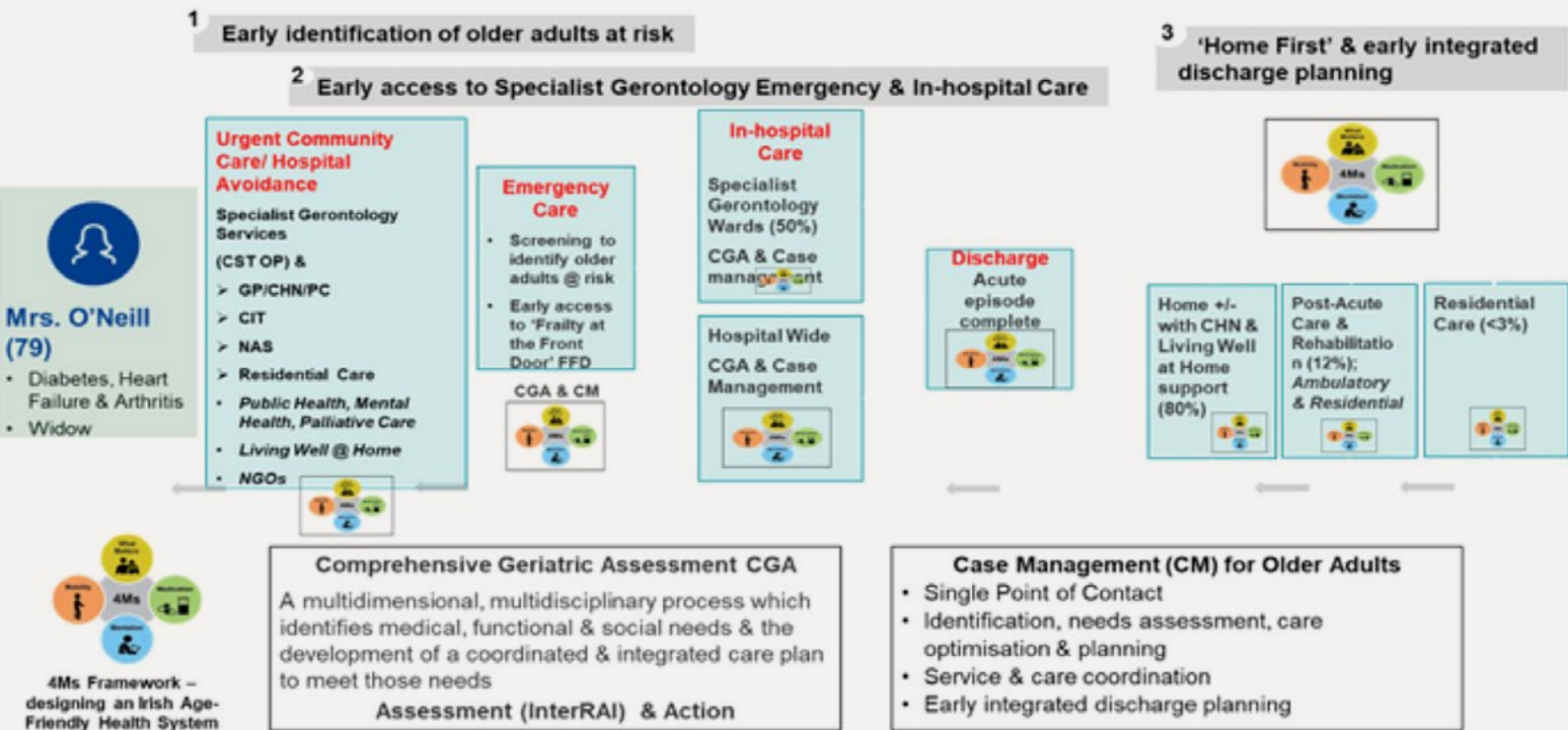
Tracey Sorenson has worked across the Acute Floor since 1995. Initially she started her career in the Emergency Department and progressed into the Acute Medicine Team where she has been working both as a secretary to the Consultants, as Clinic Co-ordinator for Acute Medicine and for Endoscopy, and as a tireless and passionate advocate for all of the service users and the Team; including a brilliant group of clinical administrators, nurses, HCAs,

Doctors, Porters and all visiting Disciplines into the AMAU and Medical Short Stay Units. Tracey has been upgraded from a Grade 4 to a Grade 5.

Avril Corcoran joined Medical Records in 2005, transferring to the Emergency Department in 2016. Avril has not only dedicated her professional life in the last 7 years to the smooth running of the Emergency Department but has also been an active member of the Children's Club in her free time, supporting children and families on many charitable events, including Disneyland trips. Avril has been upgraded from a Grade 3 to a Grade 4.

LesleyAnne Condon joined the Emergency Department in 2017. Additional to her role as a patient administrator Lesley Anne has a keen interest in professional development and education; including a focus on staff wellbeing. In her free time she supports the wellbeing group at CUH ED in organising social events. Lesley Anne has been upgraded from a Grade 3 to a Grade 4.

Urgent & Emergency Care for Older Adults





Above: Dr Dearbhaile Collins, Clinical Director of Cancer Services and Consultant Medical Oncologist.

Dr Dearbhaile Collins was appointed to the role of Clinical Director, Cancer Services at Cork University Hospital in January 2024. She has worked as a Medical Oncologist at CUH since 2017 and has been Clinical Lead for Medical Oncology for the past 2 years. She has a subspecialty interest in gynaecological and thoracic cancers as well as translational research and early phase trials. In addition to her medical degree (MBBCh BAO) from University College Dublin, Dr Collins has a PhD in translational oncology from the National University of Ireland, a Masters degree in Medical Ethics and Law from the University of Manchester and a postgraduate certificate in Clinical and Translational Medicine. Following Specialist Registration (SpR) Training in Medical Oncology in Ireland, she undertook a Fellowship at the Drug Development Unit, Royal Marsden Hospital and Institute of Cancer Research, London, UK, under the supervision of Regius Professor Johann de Bono, before returning to a consultant position at Cork University Hospital.

Update from the Directorate of Oncology

As regards her gynaecological cancer specialty, she is the President of the Irish Society of Gynaecological Oncology (ISGO), the Cancer Trials Ireland (CTI) Gynaecological cancer clinical trials co-chair and the CTI representative at European Network of Gynaecological Oncology Trials (ENGOT). She was also the CTI representative at the ENGOT Gynaecological Cancer Academy from 2019 to 2021. She is the Irish Principal Investigator (PI) of a number of past and ongoing international clinical trials in ovarian, endometrial and cervical cancer. She is also a member of a number of international Scientific Advisory Committees of gynaecological cancer clinical trials and has been invited on many international expert consensus groups in this cancer subtype. Her thoracic interest has resulted in her holding the CUH Lung Cancer Lead position from 2019-2022 and well as being Principal investigator on a number of lung cancer clinical trials. She is passionate about improving the experience of patients and involved in multiple initiatives to streamline the patient lung cancer journey. As regards other passions, Dr Collins is the national lead of the CTI Molecular Tumour Board. Her translational research has led to being awarded the Irish Cancer Society Clinician Research Leadership Award 2020. She is also a co-founder of the Women 4 Oncology Ireland. She is involved in many NCCP expert advisory groups including the TRC Committee and is involved in various groups striving for equitable access to cancer treatments. She is also a reviewer for the Clinical Research Ethics Committee, Cork.

Message from Dr Collins

I am delighted to be coming on board as Clinical Director of Cancer Services. The next few years will see a lot of positive change across the hospital, from the infrastructural developments that we see underway and many more in development; to the CUH/UCC Cancer Centre application for accreditation by the Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OECI). I urge all the disciplines and departments to engage with the OECI process – this is an accreditation that we absolutely deserve given the quality of patient care we deliver on a daily basis – but there is a great

deal of paperwork required to support the application and your help in developing the necessary documents is much appreciated. This year will also see the Cancer Centre formally develop a governance structure and the publication of our next Strategic Plan. We hope to circulate this soon. Finally, I would like to formally thank all the staff who have been critical in improving our performance in the national key performance indicators for cancer care access and treatment. Across the hospital, your dedication to improving patient care continues to be inspirational. Thank you for your hard work and consistent patient-focus.



Above: Ms Jane Shanahan, Assistant Director of Nursing Cancer Directorate leads a recent panel discussion at the National OECI networking day in Trinity College Dublin.



Top: Irish Examiner 1000 Women. **Middle left:** Kate O'Connell. **Middle right (l-r):** Mairead Lyons, Kate O'Connell & Maeve Cloherty with the winning OFL poster. **Bottom:** Professor Rosin Connolly chairing the panel discussion at the National OECl networking day held in Trinity College Dublin.

European Cancer Institute Accreditation Update

CUH/UCC Cancer Centre is on course to proceed to the next phase of accreditation to the Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OECl). Over the past six months, staff have undergone an extensive self-assessment process against OECl quality standards, and we are on track to meet our 30th April submission date. Some of the work undertaken in the past six months includes strategy development, documenting patient pathways and securing ACT funding for patient satisfaction kiosks.

Preparing for Peer Review

Approval by the OECl Accreditation and Designation Board will result in a two-day peer review visit scheduled for 10-11th September 2024. This will involve site visits by an independent panel of experts from OECl cancer institutes across Europe, who will validate the evidence submitted and assess all elements of the cancer centre. Recommendations for quality improvement will result from peer review and these will need to be implemented before a final decision is expected in early 2025.

Quality assurance of cancer care underlies our ambition to become a European accredited cancer centre. By participating in this prestigious accreditation process, the cancer centre has committed to ongoing quality improvement through research, innovation, partnership

and patient empowerment. The centre is a clinical academic partnership between Cork University Hospital and University College Cork and the pursuit of accreditation is aligned with the strategic priorities of the National Cancer Strategy (2017-2026).

National OECl networking day in Trinity College

On 25th January, Trinity St James's Cancer Institute hosted the first National OECl Networking Day. The OECl Board Chair, Jean-Benoit Burrión delivered the keynote address on 'Research in Comprehensive Cancer Centres'. Staff who attended from our cancer centre, had the opportunity to learn from other centres in Ireland who shared their experiences of OECl accreditation and the quality improvements resulting from the process.

Cancer centre staff train as OECl auditors

Michelle Coleman (Business Manager) and Jane Shanahan (ADON) recently attended a two-day OECl funded auditor training course in Milan, Italy. The course provides trainees with the knowledge and skills required to perform an audit of a centre participating in the OECl accreditation programme. Jane and Michelle gained valuable knowledge about the accreditation process which will inform our April submission and September peer review and drive high performance in the cancer centre into the future.

Staff News

Clinical Lead for Haematology/Haemato-Oncology

Congratulations to Consultant Haematologist Dr Eoghan Molloy as he takes on the role of Clinical Lead for Haematology & Haemato-Oncology. Dr Molloy has been a Consultant Haematologist in CUH since 2022. Many thanks to outgoing Clinical Lead Dr Maeve Crowley for her leadership.

New Staff

Welcome to Kate O'Connell who took up the role of Women's Health Initiative [Survivorship], Clinical Nurse Specialist in CUH in January. This role involves setting up a service for Women post Cancer Treatment in Medical Oncology in CUH.

Prior to this position, Kate was a Research Support Officer/CNM2 on a Women's Cancer Survivorship Research Project Titled LYSA (Linking You to Support and Advice). This was a University College Cork and Cork University Hospital contracted position. This project was a Randomised control trial looking at the feasibility of a nurse led cancer survivorship clinic. Analysis and findings are ongoing; however, Kate's current position, funded by the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), was established, as a direct result of this study.



Top: Oncology Nurses Learning Forum (ONLF) meeting in January 2024. **Middle:** The Team celebrating Joan O’Neill at her retirement party. **Bottom left:** Organisation of European Cancer Institute Cancer Centre Staff who attended National OEI day in Trinity College. **Bottom right:** Cancer Centre Staff.

Kate trained in CUH and UCC 1997-2000. She completed her Bsc Degree in Nursing Studies in UCC 2001/2002 prior to moving to London and clinically specialising in Oncology Nursing. Kate had various roles in the The Royalfree Hospital, the Marie Curie Cancer Care Hospice and Charing Cross Hospitals in London.

On returning to Ireland in 2005, Kate took up a position in the Bon Secours Hospital (BSH), Cork. Kate had various roles (CNM1/ CNM2) within Oncology in the BSH. Including establishing and running a New Oncology Day Unit, and she completed her Post Graduate Diploma in Oncology through UCD while in the BSH (2006/2007).

Kate returned to her training hospital, CUH in 2014, and has worked in Medical Oncology in CUH since. (Staff Nurse in DDU and Medical Oncology CNS/Liaison Nurse with many years) Kate has worked with many disease sites and at all stages of the patient journey in CUH.

Kate completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Health and Wellness Coaching from NUIG in 2022, and uses this in her work with women survivors post cancer treatment.

Retirement News

We are both happy and sad to announce the retirement of Joan O’Neill CNM2 Dunmanway Day Unit. She has been an outstanding team member for more than 20 years.

Joan joined the team in CUH from the cancer trials unit in the Mercy and brought her knowledge and experience with her as she took on the role of ward manager of the chemotherapy day unit. She has guided the unit through many changes and expansions over the years and has been an integral member of the cancer services team. She will be remembered for her hardworking attitude and commitment to providing quality patient care. We wish Joan all the best on her retirement!

Research, Education & Training

Oncology Nurses Learning Forum

In 2023 a group of CUH Oncology nurses established the Oncology Nurses Learning Forum (ONLF). The forum aimed to:

- Facilitate shared knowledge and expertise
- Build awareness of services/resources and developments within CUH and the wider community
- Enable improvement in patient care through evidence based best practice
- Celebrate Oncology Nursing in CUH
- Develop collaboration and team cohesiveness for the benefit of our patients
- Improve communication within Cancer Services in CUH
- Facilitate networking and meeting with colleagues.

Launched on European Cancer Nursing Day in May 2023, the forum has gone from strength to strength since, winning best poster at the recent CUH Nursing Conference. The ONLF is held every second Thursday at 8am in Glandore Seminar Room 2. All are welcome to attend. Follow @wcancernurseuh on Twitter to keep up to date on what Oncology Nursing is doing in CUH.

Awards & Recognition

Congratulations to our Clinical Director of Cancer Services Dr Dearbhaile Collins who was recently recognised in the Irish Examiner’s 100 Women of 2024. This accolade celebrates Irish women making positive waves across the country and globally. Dr Collins was nominated in the category of Leadership, Campaigning and Community. Dr Collins is a tireless advocate for patients and the improvement of cancer care in Ireland. Outside of her clinical and managerial roles in CUH, she is the Lead of the National Molecular Tumour Board in Cancer Trials Ireland and President of the Irish Society

of Gynaecological Oncology. We are incredibly lucky to have her leading our services and serving our patients.

ANP Grand Rounds

ANP grand rounds offers a platform for colleagues with clinical expertise to present on a variety of topics, with the aim of providing further learning opportunities and continuing education credits for ANPs and CNSs.

We envisage ANP grand rounds will become a forum whereby clinical nurse leaders will share evidenced-based best nursing practice,that recognises ANPs unique contribution to patient care.

We will hold rounds monthly from January to May, break for the summer months, and resume again from September to December.

Our first meeting on the 16th was held in the Glandore Suite and Mags Allen (Acute Oncology) presented a case study on immunotherapy toxicity which was a huge success.

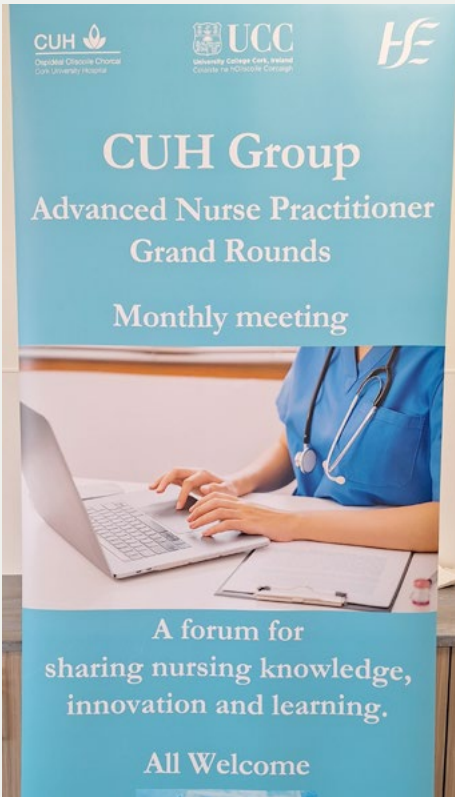
There was notable representation from the group hospitals also with colleagues from Mallow General Hospital and Bantry General Hospital dialling in virtually.



Top: ANP Grand Rounds Presenter Mags Allen. **Middle:** ANP Grand Rounds Room. **Bottom (l-r):** ANP Grand rounds, Committee Members, Louise Murphy, Catriona O’Leary, Speaker Mags Allen, Claire Costigan and Mary Davey.



Top: Professor Dara Byrne, HSE National Clinical Lead for Simulation with Professor Helen Whelton, Head of UCC College of Medicine and Health, following Professor Byrne’s visit to CUH. **Bottom left:** ONLF Launch on European Cancer Nursing Day 18.05.2023. **Bottom right:** ANP Grand Rounds Pull Up Poster.



PATIENT SATISFACTION KIOSKS LAUNCHED

David Donegan CEO CUHG, together with Dr Dearbhaile Collins Clinical Director Cancer Services, Yvonne Davidson Aid Cancer Treatment (ACT) launched the Patient Satisfaction Kiosks to support the delivery of patient centred cancer care.



Above: Dr Dearbhaile Collins, David Donegan CEO, Yvonne Davidson ACT.



Above: David Donegan CEO CUHG launching the new Patient Satisfaction Kiosks at CUH with the Cancer Directorate Team.





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

Update from the Diagnostics & Therapeutics Directorate

Automated Urine Microscopy - Introduction of Sysmex UF5000



Above: SysmexUF5000 Analysser in the Microbiology Department.

The Department of Clinical Microbiology is currently transitioning from manual urine microscopy to automated microscopy on the Sysmex UF5000 system. This instrumentation uses fluorescent flow cytometry technology to identify the cellular/bacterial components in the urine sample. The addition of automation to this highly skilled

labour intensive activity will reduce TAT for microscopy due to the introduction of LEAN principles.

The Department processed in excess of 120,000 urines for urinalysis in 2023, with an annual increase of 9% in the same period, so automation is a hugely welcome addition to this busy manual area of the laboratory.

However, this move over to automation requires significant assistance from our service users as the urine collection container must change in tandem, as the traditional universal container is unsuitable for automation. The introduction of the new urine container, which is suitable for automated processing, will enable faster and accurate specimen handling and analysis in the Microbiology Department. With the added advantage of boric acid preservative, ensuring specimen stability, which is so important in the accurate diagnosis of UTI.

The roll out of new urine collection container was successfully piloted, in the Emergency Department at the end of November/December 2023. Due to the cooperation of our Emergency Department colleagues with the pilot project, the automated system was successfully accredited by INAB at the end of December 2023, as part of our annual scheduled visit.

Locally within the CUH campus the infection control nursing team are continuing to assist the Microbiology Department, with the transition to the new urine collection container, with ward based educational session, for which we are extremely grateful. The Microbiology Department is committed

to providing high-quality diagnostic services, and automated urine microscopy aims to improve efficiency and reporting accuracy for appropriate patient care.

Regulatory changes affecting the laboratory in 2024

There are two major regulatory changes that will affect the laboratory in 2024 - ISO 15818 and IVDR.

New medical laboratory accreditation standard ISO15189:2022, the laboratory is required to transition to the updated version of the ISO standards over the course of 2024. The main objectives of the new standards are:

- To increase focus on patient welfare by planning and implementing actions to address risks and opportunities
- To be less prescriptive
- To incorporate the Point of Care (POCT) requirements
- To align with ISO17015:2017 (calibration standards)





The new standards have an increased emphasis on risk management, impartiality, confidentiality, metrological traceability and measurement uncertainty. There are also requirements for POCT governance to ensure that processes are in place to monitor the accuracy and quality of POCT tests as well as service agreements in place with POCT areas.

The laboratory quality team is currently updating our procedures and processes to meet the requirements of the new standards and have begun an extensive audit schedule to demonstrate that these changes are effective. We will undergo external assessment by the Irish National Accreditation Body in September 2024 and February 2025 for compliance with the ISO 15189: 2022 standard.

The IVDR regulations (In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices Regulations) are a set of EU regulations that control the reagents, products and equipment that can be used in the laboratory. Most reagents or devices used are CE marked and are used for their intended purposes only, however in some specialised areas where there are not CE marked options available alternatives are used, these are classed as in-house IVDs. The IVDR regulation means that by May 2024 there are additional requirements for areas such as Flow Cytometry and Molecular Pathology to provide evidence that in-house IVDs comply with the IVDR Regulations to ensure a minimum level of safety and performance.

Performance Achievement: Zero P1 Breaches Endoscopy CUH

David Donegan, CEO CUHG recently visited the Endoscopy Unit in CUH to congratulate the staff on their 100% compliance for zero P1 Endoscopy Breaches for urgent patients awaiting a colonoscopy.

This target has been maintained since December 2022 and is a great achievement for the unit.

The target is for all urgent colonoscopy referrals to be offered an appointment within 28 days and the KPI target for this is 100% compliance (zero breaching).

This is a KPI measured nationally throughout the HSE and the staff have worked very hard to achieve and maintain this compliance.

In addition, there has been significant improvements made for our P2 semi-urgent patients.

The service is 95% compliant in line with the Slainte Care waiting list target for patients waiting over 9 months for a semi-urgent appointment and expects to be 100% very soon.

This achievement is credited to the dedicated administration team who coordinate the waiting list and scheduling and monitor the KPI each week.

In addition the achievement would not be possible without the Consultant, Nursing and Operative team who work in the Endoscopy Unit in CUH providing an excellent service in our JAG accredited unit.



Above (l-r): David Donegan (CEO, CUHG), Mairead McCarthy (Clerical Officer, Endoscopy), Shauna O'Keefe (Admin Officer, Endoscopy), Beth Hackett (Business Manager, Diagnostics Directorate).



Above (l-r): Consultant/Nursing/HCA Team. Katarina Cindric (Nursing), Emily Espanola, (Nursing), David Donegan (CEO CUHG), Dr Syed Zulquernain (Consultant), Dr John O'Grady (Consultant), Alfons Scannell (CNM2), Eric Manipon (CNM1), Stephanie Riordan (Nursing), Edwina Murphy (Nursing), Adeyinka Adetayo (Endoscopy Operative) Dearbhla Pearse (Student Nurse), Rinu Kurian (Nursing), Jijo Varaghese (Nursing).



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

Update from the Directorate of Paediatrics

The Paediatric Neurosurgery Outreach Clinic

The Paediatric Neurosurgery Outreach Clinic recommenced in CUH on February 22nd 2024. A fantastic achievement and hugely beneficial to welcome Prof Crimmins and his neurosurgery team back to our outpatients service. The clinic will be held in our Seahorse Outpatients Unit four times a year. This follows on from previously successfully establishing outreach clinics in Metabolics and Nephrology here in our outpatients unit.

The CEOs of Cork University hospital (CUH) Mr David Donegan, Mercy University Hospital (MUH) Ms. Anne Coyle, and South/South West Hospital Group (SSWHG) Prof. John Higgins have continued work to reconfigure the Paediatric Services in Cork City. The aim of this work is to unify children's services from MUH and CUH on the CUH Campus. As of the 1st of April Paediatric staff will have transferred employment from MUH to the HSE and CUH, as an initial step to the entire transfer and amalgamation of emergency and inpatient services for children.

To accommodate the children and their families in CUH work has begun on 1C/Ladybird to create 4 single en-suite rooms with air handling units and a treatment area specifically for children with haematology oncology illnesses. The general paediatric service will have an up-lift of 12 beds. Works are to be completed early June. The transfer of services will follow. A huge amount of work has been done by a variety of workstreams for which the department is very grateful.

In tandem with this, enabling works have begun on the grounds which signals the beginnings of the new build for the Paediatric department.

There are still a lot of "foundation" works to be completed before bricks are put in place but it is very exciting to see this start.

The Paediatric Division commenced a Paediatric morning Huddle recently. This takes place every morning @09.00hrs for 10 minutes in CNM 3 Office and is attended by ADON Paediatrics, CNM3 Paediatrics, Paediatric Clinical Skills Facilitator, CNM2 from Ladybird, Puffin, Sea Horse, & Paediatric ED.

As Paediatrics are located in different areas of the hospital, these morning huddles are a chance for all Paediatric staff to connect. These Paediatric huddles have increased patient safety and facilitate problem identification and solving efficiency by giving staff a chance to voice any concerns. There is improved patient flow & communication between PED & Paediatric wards, an awareness of patient acuity & a sharing of staff resources across all Paediatric areas.

Our Paediatric QPS lead joins the morning huddle once a week to meet & brief staff and go through recent updates & goals and create actionable plans for achieving goals. Extremely positive feedback has been received from all members of staff regarding the positive impact of these morning Huddles.'

Study Day

On 21st of February 2024 IPATS held a study day for CUH staff. There was 26 staff who attended across the disciplines of Anaesthetics, Emergency medicine, Paediatric Nursing & Medical staff. It is an interactive day with workshops and open discussions on ensuring the delivery of timely, effective care to ensure a safe transfer for our Paediatric patients. We host this study day yearly in CUH.



Top: BSc 2019 Children & General Integrated Nurse Graduates. **Middle:** The Paediatric Staff & Patients were delighted to have the Munster Rugby Team pay them a Xmas visit with the URC Cup they won earlier in the year. **Bottom left:** Congratulations to Michaela Holland SN on Ladybird Ward who recently graduated from the Nursing & Midwifery Challenge Programme in Dublin. **Bottom right:** New Paediatric Centre build underway.



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

Update from the Peri-Operative Directorate

Transforming Theatre CUH

Theatre CNM's acknowledged for their involvement in being part of the Transforming Theatre winning project in the HSE Excellence awards.

2. Aisling Lehane CNM3 Theatre Department CUH presented at Charter Day in RCSI on 7th February on their department initiative - Upskilling Theatre Recovery Nurses into Anaesthetic nursing.

Impact:

- Allows for better use of staff resources in the mornings.
- Allows for transfer of nurses between different roles.
- Lists can start on time-impact on theatre flow.
- Continuity of Care for the Patient
- Encourages and supports nurses in career progression.
- Creates cohesion amongst Theatre staff and Recovery staff.
- Cost neutral initiative.

This initiative has been well received to date, with positive feedback from Theatre Nurses, Recovery Nurses & Anaesthetic Department.

3. Theatre Recovery Project Recognising the importance of data capture to support

the visualisation of patient flow through the theatre department, with the support of Sarah Dwan Perioperative Data Manager theatre recovery staff have engaged with the electronic capture of key time stamps for each patient in this phase of their perioperative journey. Analysis of this data will support further QI initiatives improving patient flow. Congratulations to all involved.

4. CUHG's Predictive Genetic Testing Program - After a year of successful cancer genetics diagnostics, CUHG is now offering predictive genetic testing to family members of patients with identified cancer-related genetic mutations. This new service is noteworthy being the first of its kind outside Dublin, aimed at identifying individuals who, although asymptomatic, carry high-risk cancer genes. The goal is to offer these members of our community preventative surgical options to reduce their risk of ever developing cancer.

5. National Surgical Onco-Preventative Centre Initiative - Facing the challenge of an expected doubling in cancer rates over the next 20 years, CUHG and its academic partner, UCC, are planning to establish a National Surgical

Onco-Preventative Centre. This initiative is driven by the understanding that up to 50% of these future cancer cases could be preventable. The centre aims to lead the country in efforts to identify cancer early or prevent it entirely, with plans to get the project underway within the next 12 months.

6. Breast Cancer Care Enhanced by Evidence-Based Practice. For the first time in Ireland, CUHG's breast cancer multidisciplinary team, in collaboration with Dr Patrice James and Dr Elaine Lehane from UCC's School of Nursing and Midwifery, is piloting a programme to integrate healthcare practices with the very latest international research findings. This initiative, supported by a 12-month pilot funded by the HSE and through the support of Prof. Helen Whelton (Head of the College of Medicine & Health UCC), has already led to significant improvements in the breast service patient pathways. The successful implementation of this evidence-based practice model is seen as a pilot that could be expanded to support other multidisciplinary teams across CUHG and potentially rolled out nationally.



Top (l-r): Back row, Laura O'Donovan, Marguerite Kearney, Louise Murphy, Michelle Karreman, Marie O'Donovan, Emma Hoey, Lavinia McCarthy, Noreen O'Gorman, Toni Howard, Patrick Baseleres. **Front row,** Connie Cruz, Anna Marie Kenny, Sarah Dwan, Aisling Lehane. **Bottom:** Professor Seamus O'Reilly, Professor Mark Corrigan, Marie Duff, David Donegan, Dr Anand Saggarr, Gillian O'Farrell, Professor Max Ryan.



Left: Aisling Lehane, CNM3 Theatre Department.



Update from Pharmacy

March 27th was the 1st European Hospital Pharmacy Day, a day to celebrate the contribution of hospital pharmacy staff to patients and healthcare teams. At CUH, the hospital pharmacy team consists of pharmacists, pharmaceutical technicians, porters and administration staff working together to ensure the safe, timely and cost-effective pharmaceutical care of our service users across the campus.

Here's a little of what we do...

1. Medication Management

Through a network of ward-based pharmacists and technicians, supported by the dispensary and Portering teams, we supply medication to all wards and departments, perform admission medication reconciliation, advise on therapy optimisation, ensure continuity of medication supply, drive antimicrobial stewardship and provide patient education on their medication management. Almost all inpatient clinical areas now have a pharmacist as part of the team, with remote support offered to other areas by the dispensary team.

2. Medication Safety

Our Medication Safety pharmacist in collaboration with nursing, medical and the wider pharmacy team leads a rigorous programme of quality improvement and education to reduce harm from medication errors. Quarterly bulletins can be found on the Staff Directory and detail common errors and initiatives to overcome.

3. Drug Procurement

The Pharmacy department purchases medicines to a value of ~€70Million annually. These are sourced and ordered by our Purchasing Technicians, received and checked off by the Pharmacy porters and processed for payment by the Pharmacy clerical team.

In an era of drug shortages, our Purchasing Technicians constantly have to source supply alternatives for out of stock drugs, many of which are in common use at CUH and CUMH. Several of these alternatives have to be sourced from abroad. The HPRA currently lists over 300 drug shortages on the website but in reality, there are many more!

4. Research & Education

Pharmacists and technicians support our nursing and medical colleagues by providing medicine information, administration guidance and induction teaching.

We have an annual audit programme – 2023 focussed on peri-operative opioid prescribing, insulin prescribing & storage, VTE prophylaxis, ITU stepdown and administration of parenteral amiodarone.

Several staff successfully acquired masters and diploma qualifications in the last 12 months.

Caroline Foster and Audrey Regan graduating with a diploma in Procurement & Supply Chain Excellence. Lydia Zavadska, Ciara Murphy and Sophie O'Brien (not



Above: Caroline Foster and Audrey Regan.



Above: Lydia Zavadska and Ciara Murphy.

pictured) graduating from MTU with a diploma in Pharmaceutical Science. We support our pharmacists to undertake an MSc in Clinical Pharmacy and our pharmaceutical technicians to undertake a Medicines Management qualification or the Pharmacy Management and Practice module at MTU.

Raymy O’Flynn, Emer O’Mahony, Eimear Kennedy and Lucy O’Callaghan graduating with an MSc in Clinical Pharmacy at UCC. Emily Byrne & Virginia Silviri completed the SSWHG Leaders in Management programme 2023. Aoife Delaney, Sarah Twohig, Sarah Fenton and Paula Fuller are currently completing work-based PhDs.

5. Charity initiatives

Each year, the Pharmacy dept. works with local charities to provide much-needed support. In 2023, €2000 was raised for Marymount Hospice by the department’s very own “Bake-off”.

At Christmas, a hugely successful Pharmacy Dept. toy appeal provide toys, games and books to paediatric units across the campus for our junior service users.

6. Future work

We are excited by future projects at the Pharmacy dept. such as the construction of a purpose built, state-of-the-art aseptic compounding unit, roll-out of the National Cancer Information System to cancer services, development of the CUH Medicines Information Service and more!



Above: Pharmacy Department Bake-Off for Marymount Hospice.



Top left: Raymy O’Flynn. Top right: Emer O’Mahony, Eimear Kennedy and Judy O’Callaghan. Above: Pharmacy Department Toy Appeal.

Update from End-of-Life Care Team



Dear all,

If you are interested in improving the delivery of end-of-life care for patients and their families then this Final Journeys Workshop is for you.

So what is Final Journeys?

Final Journeys is a one-day training workshop that aims to improve the delivery of end-of-life care amongst all hospital staff.

This workshop aims to improve end of life care through promoting a culture of awareness and personal empowerment across all disciplines in the hospital. It focuses on enhancing the communication skills of participants to enable them to be more competent delivering end-of-life care and supporting patients who are dying, and their families. Final Journeys is about the person’s final journey through the hospital.

Who is Final Journeys for?

It is for all hospital staff, regardless of their role. As end-of-life care is everyone’s business, everyone is invited to attend this workshop.

What end-of-life care skills are covered in the programme?

On completion of the programme, participants will be able to:

- Contribute to safer, better end-of-life care in your hospital
- Deliver a person-centred approach to end-of-life care
- Provide supportive care after death
- Use effective communication skills during end-of-life care
- Look after yourself by developing self-care practices

Delivery

This workshop will be delivered at Brú Columbanus House, Wilton by acute hospital staff trained as Final Journeys facilitators. Each workshop is facilitated by two trained facilitators. It is a full-day workshop (from 8.30am to 4pm). Light breakfast and lunch will be provided. There is no cost to attending this day. CPD credits available.

Dates for 2024 are:

- Tuesday 23rd January - completed
- Tuesday 20th February - completed
- Wednesday 20th March -full
- Tuesday 23rd April
- Tuesday 28th May
- Tuesday 25th June

To register or for further information please email:
Mairead.Lyons5@hse.ie

Please bring this to the attention of staff who may not have access to email.

Best Wishes,

Máiréad Lyons
End-of-Life Care Co-ordinator.

A GAA medic has helped bring increased comfort to cancer patients in their final days through a major hospital ward renovation project.

Dr Con Murphy spearheaded a series of fundraisers which raised more than €300,000 enabling an overhaul of the oncology unit at Cork University Hospital.

The funds, channelled through the hospital's fundraising arm, CUH Charity, have created a comfort care suite for end-of-life patients with a separate sleeping area and kitchen for relatives, a family room and a youth room.

Mairead Lyons, the end-of-life care co-ordinator at CUH, said the initiative involved “vision, commitment and a shared goal” to enhance end-of-life care.

It is the first of its kind at CUH, borne out of a commitment to improve the hospital environment, ensuring increased comfort for patients who are in their final days and weeks of life, and also for their loved ones,” she said.

We need to continue to allow families every opportunity to be together as they navigate their end-of-life care journey and we hope the comfort care suite will provide this for many years to come,” said Ms Lyons.



Above: Dr Con Murphy with Mairead Lyons (centre), end-of-life care co-ordinator at CUH, and Aimee O'Donovan, Regional Visual Merchandising Manager with EZ Living Interiors. GAA medic Dr Con Murphy has helped bring increased comfort to cancer patients in their final days.



Above: One of three new patient-focused spaces that have been created on Ward GB at Cork University Hospital.



Above: EOL Work Shop Attendees.

Developments at Bantry General Hospital

Our New Endoscopy Unit at Bantry General Hospital is due to open soon. Construction of the endoscopy unit in Bantry General Hospital is currently underway and works are scheduled to be complete in quarter three of this year.



Staff Events at Bantry General Hospital



Staff at Bantry General Hospital mark World Donors Day. Thanks to all the donors of platelets, bone marrow and blood. You make such a difference to patients lives.



Nursing staff and colleagues celebrating International Nurse's Day at Bantry General Hospital.

Quality Improvement Champion Award

Bantry General Hospital wins Quality Improvement Champion Award at the NOCA Annual Conference on Tuesday 6th February 2024. The Team at Bantry General Hospital was Highly Recommended for their work on 'Reducing rates of hospital acquired venous thromboembolism in 'Bantry General Hospital' at the NOCA Conference in 2024.



Let's Talk Clots

Thrombosis event hosted at Bantry General Hospital titled 'Let's Talk Clots'.



Above: Patient education day held in the training room supported by Physio, Pharmacy, Nursing and QPS.



Bantry Dementia Inclusive Project

In the last 2 years, the community of Bantry, along with service providers such as The Carer and Older Person's initiative at LocalLink, HSE, Bantry General Hospital, Alzheimer's Society of Ireland, National Dementia Office have been working towards making Bantry a dementia inclusive town. In May, a meeting was held with individuals invited from a wide section of Bantry life- sports, businesses, healthcare providers, cultural and community groups to hear from the dementia sub-committee group vision for Bantry and how a dementia inclusive alliance in Bantry can work. Over the next few weeks, the ideas discussed at the meeting will be formed into a plan to create a dementia inclusive community. The Dementia Alliance will include people and groups from across all parts of the community in Bantry to share ideas and learning.

Mallow General Hospital

- The Clinical Frailty Scale (CFS) was developed in 2005 and is now in use across more than 20 countries in both clinical care and research.
- The idea behind the CFS is that as people age the likelihood of complexities is more prevalent.
- The aim of the CFS is that following assessment the health care professional can use this tool to grade the level of frailty.

The CFS is a nine point scale based on clinical evaluation of patient’s mobility, energy, physical activity levels and functions.

On 25/01/24 Mallow General launched our new Frailty screening pathway which targets older adults ages 75+ with a CFS of greater then or equal to 6. All adults over 75 who present to MGH are screened for frailty and given a frailty score ranging between 1 and 9.



Top (l-r): Bernard Gloster CEO HSE, Ann Higgins ADON, Alan Casey RGN, Siobhan Daly CNM2, Dr Anne Marie O’Flynn Clinical Lead, David Donegan CEO, Dr Daniel Schmidt Consultant, Patricia Moloney Director of Nursing.

Right: Back row, Dr Emma Jennings Consultant Geriatrician, Cliona Woulfe CNS, Dr Tariq Patel SHO, Patricia Moloney Director of Nursing. Front row, Dr Ciara Costello Registrar, Dr Catherine Kinsella Registrar

Middle right (l-r): Dr Emma Jennings Consultant Geriatrician, Cliona Woulfe CNS, Siobhan Daly CNM2, AnneMarie Cronin Physiotherapy Manager, Shona Rochford CNM1.

Far right (l-r): Marie Ryan, Mallow General Hospital with Mr Bernard Gloster HSE CEO.





Update on Nursing

CUH Nursing Conference: ‘Educate, Innovate, Celebrate and Collaborate’

Ms Louise Murphy and Ms Fionnuala O’Brien

Cork University Hospital held a very successful nursing conference on the 27th February 2024 in the Main Auditorium. Up to 185 people attended on the day, which was one of the highest attendee numbers at a nursing conference in CUH. To date, the conference was the first of its kind at CUH to prioritise medical-surgical nurses with a study day, with over forty staff nurses from forty four different units, wards and departments in attendance. It was also the first CUH conference to include the general nursing interns as part of its ‘in person’ audience. The conference was spearheaded by the NPDU and supported by the CUH Nursing Conference organising committee which worked tirelessly to ensure a smooth running, welcoming and exciting conference. A special note of recognition to Mr Jack Karbowski, CUH AV Engineer, who provided outstanding audio-visual support prior and during the conference.

There was an excellent line-up of national and local speakers. Key note speakers included Dr Aoife Lane from the National Clinical Leadership Centre;

Ms Carolyn Donohoe, Director of Education NMBI; Mr Dermot Burke, National Innovation Fellow with the HSE Spark Programme; Dr Karen Weeks, Performance psychologist/Endurance Adventurer and Ms Vera Koehane, Professional Organiser. Local CUH speakers included Ms Yvonne O’Shea Allen Dementia CNS, Ms Jennifer Aherne Heart Failure CNS, Ms Grace O’Sullivan Respiratory CNS, Mr Stefano Bertolotti CNM2 Cardiology/Urology, Ms Clodagh Downey ANP Cardiothoracic and Ms Fiona Murphy Clinical Facilitator ED.

The theme of the conference was ‘Educate, Innovate, Celebrate and Collaborate’ and were comprehensively reflected in Ms Helen Cahalane’s welcome address. The chairs on the day put the speakers at ease and kept the audience engaged, and included Ms Bridie O’Sullivan SSWHG Chief Group Director of Nursing, Professor Jonathan Drennan from UCD, Ms Reema Antony CNM3 and Mr Diarmuid Nolan ADON. The conference benefited greatly from their contribution and it was greatly appreciated.

Top left: The CUH Nursing Conference Committee - Front row from left Yvonne O’Shea Allen, Katie Neville, Caroline Costello, Stefano Bertolotti, Ita O’Connell, Tracey Fraher, Kathy Healy, Louise Murphy, Fionnuala O’Brien and Ann Marie Galvin. **Middle left, right and bottom:** Attendees at the Nurses Conference.



The poster judges, Ms Vicki Baker Nurse Tutor CNE and Ms Michelle Howard CDC in MGH, had the very difficult task of choosing the four best posters. A very impressive fifty-two poster abstracts were submitted this year highlighting a real mix of nursing research, quality improvements drives and clinical initiatives. Congratulations to our poster winners Ms Kate O'Connell Oncology CNS, Ms Nihar Batcha CNM2, Ms Rosin Kelly Thrombectomy Co-ordinator and Ms Punitha Vairamani CANP Respiratory Integrated Hub.



The conference committee included Ms Fionnuala O'Brien (co-chair), Ms Louise Murphy (co-chair), Mr Stefano Bertoletti, Ms Caroline Costello, Ms Tracey Fraher, Ms Annmarie Galvin, Ms Kathy Healy, Ms Katie Neville, Ms Ita O'Connell and Ms Yvonne O'Shea Allen. The Committee wish to thank all those departments within the hospital that supported us to achieve a brilliant day for nurses – Director of Nursing Office, CEO's Office, Portering Department, Security Department, Catering Department, Chris in CUH Stationary, Housekeeping Department, Finance Department, Carpentry and Main Reception.



Top left: Kate O'Connell, 1st Prize winner for her poster 'Initiation of the Oncology Nurses Learning Forum at CUH'. **Top right:** Dermot Burke, Keynote Speaker. **Middle left:** Jennifer Aherne speaking at the Conference. **Middle right:** Posters submitted on display. **Bottom:** Carolyn Donohoe, NMBI Keynote Speaker.

Magnet4Europe

Our team at CUH celebrating and acknowledging our three and half year journey with Magnet4Europe.



Above: Magnet4Europe team.

Update from our Health & Social Care Professionals

Mentorship for the #OneTeam Newsletter

Are you interested in becoming a Mentor or Mentee?

The Mentorship Leads in CUH, Bébhinn O’Sullivan ALO, Punitha Vairamani ANP & Rose Hayes ALO have promoted nurse Mentorship across the month of March meeting staff at the Main reception and outside the canteen with information about what’s involved in becoming a Mentor and information for new staff on how to avail of a mentor in the Mentorship programme. They continue to visit all of the clinical areas with information about the Mentorship programme and hosted a quiz, twitter feeds each week with videos from a Mentor, Mentee and a Mentorship lead. Over the past year our Mentor numbers have grown but we would like to invite new staff to the hospital and new to their CNM/CNS roles to avail of a

Mentor for support. CUH are currently involved in a National Mentorship Survey exploring Mentors and Mentees’ experience with the mentorship programme. We look forward to seeing the results which should be completed in the coming months.

If you are interested in becoming a Mentor or Mentee we would love to hear from you.

Bebhinn.osullivan@hse.ie
086 0201712
Rosemary.Hayes@hse.ie
087 3150130
punitha.vairamani@hse.ie
087-4434858



Above: CUH Nursing Mentorship.



HSCP Career Information Day



Above: Ciara O’Connor, Dietician. **Top left (l-r):** Lara Doheny, Aoife Daly, Jane Prendergast, Ciara O’Connor, Ellen Cahill, Elaine Kiernan, Anna Nyhan, Sarah Dlnan, Denise Cronin, Roisin Guerin, Fiona Campbell. **Bottom left:** Attendees at TY Info Day.

CUH HSCPs welcomed 200 TY students, teachers & guidance counsellors from dozens of schools from across Cork City & county to the main auditorium in November for the 2nd HSCP career information day.

Presentations were given by 12 HSCP including Physiotherapy, Occupational therapy, Speech & language therapy, Dieticians, Medical social work, Podiatry, Radiation therapy, Clinical perfusionists, Pharmacy, medical science, Radiography & Psychology. Staff gave an overview of what their roles involve, subject choices & CAO points required.

There were many interesting questions on the day which was fully booked.

The event was organised by Fiona Campbell, CUH physiotherapy manager & we plan to rerun this again late this year for the next group of TY students.

As demand was so high, there are plans to record this to distribute to those who are unable to attend on the day.

Many thanks to all who got involved in what was a very positive day for all. Hopefully we’ll see some of them working here in CUH in a few years!

Update from our ICT Department

CUH HEALTHIRL MIGRATION

As and from February 12th Staff from MGH started their migration from the South Domain to the HealthIRL Domain, and was followed by BGH on February 26th. Both have now completed their migration journey.

At present the ICT Dept is in the process of supporting CUH Staff while they have their accounts migrated to the HealthIRL Domain.

Why HealthIRL?

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

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

- Must be on HealthIRL to access Microsoft Teams, Office 365 and Exchange Online
- Ability to access cloud-based systems such as HPVP, single sign-on (SSO), Trendcare, and others
- Locate any HSE staff member in a single email directory
- Share calendars with colleagues across all locations
- Login from any location, on any HSE device

- Keep the same login if you relocate between HSE regions
- Access national applications and shared folders from any location
- Reset expired and forgotten passwords using self-service
- A more connected and standardised user experience.

Preparing for migration

The HealthIRL migration Programme is technically challenging and complex, your ICT Dept is committed supporting you throughout the migration.

What we need from you

Every CUH building, department and staff member will move to HealthIRL. Users at every level of the organisation should participate with HealthIRL migration team when in your area. Moving your account and device to HealthIRL includes you:

1. You will receive an email from the Migration Team to fill in a template enabling the team to do pre-checks on your account and device.
2. Getting an email from Migration Team validating your information and scheduling your migration.
3. Agreeing a time and onsite location for an engineer to migrate you to HealthIRL.
4. Being off-line for about 1-2 hours during the migration, depending on account and device complexity.
5. Carrying out post-migration checks with the engineer to ensure you can access everything you need.

Pre Migration Check List

1. If you logon to Multiple Computer's - Please go to each one and upload your data to "My CUH Documents"
2. Chrome/Edge/Internet browser saved passwords will not transfer, make note of them in a secure location.

Post Migration Check List

Welcome to the Healthirl Domain!

Please find below, some important information regarding your recent / scheduled migration:

1. There will be no longer a DOT used in your User Name Logon.
2. Please note the CUH Green User and CUMH Green User account's will soon be discontinued, and will be replaced by healthirl\CUHGenUser and CUMHGenUser respectively - it will use the same password as the old green user.
3. Migrating your HSE Phone: Please call Vodafone on 1800855828 to have your account transferred. Note that Vodafone will require you to be on a non - HSE wifi network.
4. SafeQ Managed Printing Services: Please note: that it may take time for your new account to Sync as changes must take place on the Server overnight.
5. Migration engineers should always ensure that the following are working for you before they leave: Emails, File Access, Printing, and Display Name/Title.
6. If you're experiencing issues as a

result of the migration, please send us an email in a new email thread at cuhit.helpdesk@hse.ie or call us on 0214928000 ext. 28000.

7. Citrix Logon: Once Migrated please choose the Healthirl Option from the Dropdown Menu and Sign in with your domain User Name and Password.

The MCD (Mobile Communications Devices) team

The MCD (Mobile Communications Devices) team consists of James Cashman and Philip Morris, who oversee the Mobile Phone estate for CUH. The team processes requests for HSE Mobile Phones in the CUH, CUMH, MGH and BGH. When James and Philip receive order requests, they contact the HSE Support Teams in Vodafone and Three to have devices ordered and delivered in a timely and efficient manner. They also assist where they can in conducting national audits of the CUH mobile phone estate to try and combat the constant ongoing problem of phones being left in presses while they're still being paid for!



Above: IT Team James Cashman and Philip Morris.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF



Dr Rory Crotty

Dr Rory Crotty is a Consultant Histopathologist at Cork University Hospital and the BreastCheck division of the National Screening Service. He has been a member of the Department of Histopathology since September 2022.



Dr Farid Ahams Toor

A Cork native, Dr Crotty graduated from the 2014 class of the UCC School of Medicine with First Class Honours. After completing his internship at CUH and other Cork hospitals, Dr Crotty moved to the United States, where he spent several years working at the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) in Boston. During his time at MGH, Dr Crotty completed residency training in Anatomic and Clinical Pathology, serving on separate occasions as Chief Resident in both Anatomic Pathology and Clinical Pathology. After residency, Dr Crotty undertook the MGH fellowship in Gastrointestinal Pathology, and was subsequently recruited to join the MGH faculty. From 2020 to 2022, Dr Crotty was a member of the gastrointestinal and genitourinary pathology groups at MGH and an Instructor in Pathology at Harvard Medical School. In 2022, Dr Crotty returned home to Cork to start the next phase of his career at CUH.

Dr Crotty's research to date has focused primarily on haematologic diseases, especially where they interact with the gastrointestinal or hepatobiliary system, such as hepatic manifestations of chronic variable immunodeficiency syndrome. His work has been published in leading journals, including the New England Journal of Medicine.



Dr Swasthi Singh

In his clinical practice at CUH, Dr Crotty is a member of the gastrointestinal, breast, and genitourinary pathology groups, and looks forward to supporting the development of a subspecialised lymphoma group as the Department of Histopathology – already the largest such department in the country – continues to expand.

Consultant Gastroenterologist/Hepatologist

Dr Farid Ahmad Toor, MBBS, MSc, MRCP, graduated from the University of Health Sciences Lahore, Pakistan (2006) and completed training in Internal Medicine and Hepatology / Gastroenterology 2021 from Connolly, Beaumont, St James, and St Vincent University Hospital, Ireland. He completed a Liver transplant fellowship from Royal Free London before being appointed as a “consultant Transplant Hepatologist” at St James University Hospital Leeds, UK.

Dr Toor was appointed a Consultant Hepatologist at Cork University Hospital in September 2023 and, along with Kiat Clifford and Orla Crosbie, runs the Hepatology service at CUH.

Dr Toor completed his MSc clinical research at the National University of Galway in 2022. His current research interests include immune-mediated liver diseases and HCC.

Areas of Clinical Practice: Hepatology, Gastroenterology and Endoscopy.

Areas of Special Expertise:

- Immune-mediated liver diseases
- Pre-transplant assessment and post-transplant follow-up
- Metabolic associated dysfunction steatotic liver disease
- Alcoholic Liver disease
- Fibroscan.

New Consultant in Emergency Medicine

Dr Swasthi Singh is a South African trained emergency medicine consultant. She has worked in the field of emergency medicine for 19 years, is a passionate emergency care educator with an interest in global health, and has served as faculty in various educational projects affiliated to the African Federation for Emergency Medicine, the University of Cape Town and the WHO. Her recent role as a full-time consultant in a busy emergency department in Cape Town, South Africa has equipped her for a smooth transition into the fast-paced environment of Cork University Hospital emergency department, where among other areas of excellence, trauma care is seen as a priority.

Dr Peter Cuthbert is from Cork and was originally a medical scientist before deciding to study medicine in the UK. He undertook his higher specialist training in emergency medicine at the Royal Victoria, Belfast, Northern Ireland's Major Trauma Centre. Peter has a keen interest in clinical governance, trauma, research and human factors. Mostly he's just haunted to be home.



Dr Peter Cutbert



Dr Hisham Ibrahim



Dr Kevin Deasy



Dr Fernando Gomez

Respiratory and General Internal Medicine

Dr Hisham Ibrahim, MBBS, MRCP-UK, MRCPI, is a Consultant Respiratory and Cystic Fibrosis Physician who recently joined the Respiratory department in CUH and the multidisciplinary team caring for people with CF attending Cork Centre for Cystic Fibrosis. He attended University of Khartoum in Sudan for his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degree before completing his basic speciality training in Internal Medicine in Galway University Hospitals. He completed his Higher Specialty training in Respiratory and Internal Medicine in in Cork University Hospital, Mercy University Hospital and Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin. He was awarded accreditation in Respiratory and Internal Medicine from the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland in 2023.

Dr Ibrahim has over 10 years’ experience in respiratory & General Internal Medicine, with special interest in Cystic Fibrosis, and complex lung infections. He completed a fellowship training in Cystic Fibrosis at Cork Adult Cystic Fibrosis Centre, and he is an active member of the Cork Centre for CF research group since 2017, participated in multiple research studies and clinical trials in the area of CFTR modulation. He received multiple research grants including a research grant from the Irish Lung Foundation, and presented some of his research work in multiple national and international platforms including the ERS, ECSF and the ITS. He is currently completing a post graduate research degree/MD examining the real-world clinical outcomes of CFTR modulation in cystic fibrosis.

Dr Kevin Deasy, BSc, MB, MRCPI, is a Consultant Respiratory and Cystic Fibrosis Physician. He is from Cork and graduated from the College of Medicine at University College Cork in 2014. He completed his Medicine and Respiratory Specialist Training with the Royal College of Physicians Ireland in 2023, this included experience in Critical Care and Lung Transplant Medicine at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and a 1-year Adult Cystic Fibrosis Fellowship at 3CF, Cork University Hospital. His interests include bronchiectasis, airway infection and bronchoscopy. He is an active member of the 3CF research group supporting ongoing clinical trials in addition he has taken on a lead role in the postgraduate respiratory training or our junior medical staff. And is currently completing an MD examining microbiological airway sampling techniques and the approach to bronchoscopy in Adult CF in the era of highly effective CFTR modulation.

Dr Fernando Gomez is a consultant respiratory physician and the clinical lead for the Integrated Care Programme for the Prevention and Management of Chronic Disease (ICPCD) Respiratory Hub in CUH. He is originally from Spain where he graduated from Medical School in University of Navarra (Pamplona, Spain) in 1993.

He completed his speciality training in Internal Medicine in 2000 (Pamplona, Spain), and completed his higher speciality training in Pulmonary and Critical Care at Tufts University (Boston, USA) from 2000 to 2003. Since then, he worked in Mallorca (Spain) as a Respiratory Physician in a public hospital, and Critical Care in the private sector, with a special interest in COPD and Emergency Medicine. He also attended the School of Clinical Forensic and Legal Medicine in the University Complutense (Madrid, Spain) from 2010 to 2013, and subsequently worked as a Coroner in Mallorca, Spain in 2013-2014. Dr Gomez moved to Ireland in 2017 to work as a Respiratory Consultant, and joined the respiratory department in CUH in 2020.



Infection Prevention & Control
Education Programme
For all healthcare workers
ON
HAND HYGIENE
STANDARD PRECAUTIONS
TRANSMISSION BASED PRECAUTIONS

This is part of mandatory training to be updated every 2 years
Time: 15.00-16.00
Next Date: Wednesday 13th March
There will be a short Measles awareness session incorporated to this month's session

Name	Weeks	Day	Start	Finish	Location
CUH Infection Prevention Control monthly education programme	13/03/2024	Wednesday	15:00	16:00	CUH Auditorium
CUH Infection Prevention Control monthly education programme	17/04/2024	Wednesday	15:00	16:00	CUH Auditorium
CUH Infection Prevention Control monthly education programme	15/05/2024	Wednesday	15:00	16:00	CUH Auditorium
CUH Infection Prevention Control monthly education programme	12/06/2024	Wednesday	15:00	16:00	CUH Auditorium
CUH Infection Prevention Control monthly education programme	10/07/2024	Wednesday	15:00	16:00	CUH Auditorium

Where: CUH Main Auditorium
Line Managers: Please nominate appropriate staff to attend.



Above: BSc 2019 Children & General Integrated Nurse Graduates with CNMs and Paediatric NPDU Staff.

CUH Blessing of the Hands and
Hospital Badge Pinning Ceremony

On February 9th 2024, the class of BSc 2019 Children's & General Integrated nursing graduates celebrated their Ecumenical Blessing of Hands & Hospital Badge Pinning ceremony. This customary celebration marks the transition of undergraduate student to registered nurse. Ms. Helen Cahalane, Director of Nursing, presented the graduates with CUH hospital badges and warm congratulations. Invitees included UCC colleagues, preceptors and clinical Nurse Managers, all of whom play a significant role in teaching, guiding and supporting the graduates during their nurse training. The event is particularly significant as

undergraduate Children's & General Integrated nurse training is only available in Cork and Dublin. CUH has facilitated this unique Nursing programme since 2006, with first graduates registering in 2011. This year's uplifting event was coordinated by the 2019 Graduates in collaboration with Paediatric Nurse Practice Development unit staff, and the ecumenical ceremony was celebrated by Fr Kieran O'Driscoll and Julianna Crowley in CUH Chapel. The graduates' parents/family attended the event with invitation and expressed great pride and appreciation for a very special day for the graduates and their families.



Above: David Donegan CEO CUHG & Helen Cahalane Director of Nursing pictured with staff at the CUH Indian Culture Event.



Event

CUH Indian Culture Event

Our CUH OneTeam motto took on new life, as our wonderful Indian staff invited us to celebrate with them and learn more about their culture, dance and food. What an amazing day! Thanks to everyone who helped put this together and to everyone who took part. We'll be celebrating more of the diverse cultures that make up our HSE family over the rest of 2024

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you to all of the staff who took part in our Indian Cultural Fest Quiz. Congratulations to the 5 lucky winners of the prizes:

- 1st prize
Miriam Aitken (OT) – Gift Hamper & Apache Pizza voucher – Bishopstown
- 2nd prize
Ainé Connolly (IV Nurse) – Myxtiq (Indian Restaurant) Ballincollig
- 3rd prize
Christine Bergin (3C) – Indian Spice Kitchen (Takeaway) Douglas
- 4th prize
Amy McKenzie (2B) – Spice Town (Indian Shop) Bishopstown
- 5th Prize
Maria O'Mahony (Theatre) – Asian Mix (Indian Shop) Togher

The atmosphere was both electric and palpable at the Indian Culture event held in the Canteen March 7th. A feast for the senses! All who attended were transported to India via music, dance and the taste of exquisite Indian food. Colour was abundant as our Indian colleagues entertained us with an array of traditional dance and costume. For a while time stood still whilst on looking staff tuned into the entertainment and aroma of food that any restaurant would find hard to compete with! Once again our Catering Department came to the fore, paving the way for the finest of ingredients and tastiest of menu's. Our Indian community were absolutely spectacular in their display. We are a rich diverse community here in CUH so looking forward to celebrating more cultures in the near future.





Above: Honouring Hands & Hearts.

Honouring Hands and Hearts

The hands and hearts of each and every one of our staff across campus work tirelessly in their care for others. In acknowledgement, all staff were invited to one of a series of short non-denominational “Hands and Hearts Ceremonies” which spanned across the morning of Jan 18th. All roles, all beliefs, all faiths were welcomed from across campus, standing side by side as colleagues, as OneTeam, looking ahead with candle of hope lighting for 2024.

Each attendee received a small heart to hold, symbolising their own. Words of renowned poet John O'Donoghue were read out and staff were invited to sit in silent pause and reflection. Beautiful transcending live cello music concluded the event. The ceremony was experienced as “beautiful” and “moving” by those who attended.

SPIRITUAL WELLBEING

We have a large Muslim community in CUH who have a deep spiritual value in bowing to prayer a number of times daily. Thanks to the NDTP Fund for Education & Training SSWHG, a room on the second floor was re purposed as a Prayer Room. Dr Adeel who liaised with the project team was part of the refurb process throughout. Dr Adeel shared how strong the link was between having access to a prayer room and having a sense of spiritual wellbeing among the Muslim community. Wonderful work completed by our skilled estates/maintenance team.



Above: Theatre Staff create their own Indian culture event.
Far left: Dr Adeel, Consultant Nephrologist in the Muslim Prayer Room. Left: Aisling Lehane CNM3 Theatre Department CUH.

Theatre Establish Their Own Staff Wellbeing Committee



Above (l-r): Theatre Staff Wellbeing Committee: Aisling Lehane, Stephen Baker, Aimee O'Donovan, Marie O'Donovan, Sarah Dwan, JR Sheehan.

A huge shout out to the Theatre Staff Wellbeing Committee who had their inaugural meeting in January. Since coming together the group have rolled out a number of wellbeing activities including Wellbeing Information Screen, Staff Appreciation Lunch, Cheers for Peers, Indian Culture Lunch and Marchathon For Charity. Also introduced to Theatre is Time out Thursday where a purpose designed bell softly rings in a quiet 5 minute loving kindness meditation each Thursday morning, slowing the breath and grounding the body in preparation for the demanding day ahead. Lots more planned for the coming months. Watch this space!

CUH Culture of Wellbeing Supporting Nursing Students

New Mental Health & Wellbeing leaflet

Mental Health in young people has been described as a societal crisis in recent years, with reports of rising numbers and increasing complexity in student presentations. The Nurse Practice Development Unit in conjunction with CUH Staff Well-Being Unit developed a Mental Health and Wellbeing resource leaflet for nursing students. The information leaflet provides a number of resources offered through the Health Service Executive and University College Cork that may help students to better understand mental health and plan a self-care journey where the need may arise.

CUH nursing students receive this leaflet at the commencement of each academic year and it is available to them at any time from their Clinical Placement Coordinators and Allocations Liaison Officers. This resource signposts nursing students towards the promotion, prevention and early intervention of mental health as promoted in 'Sharing a Vision: A Mental Health Policy for Everyone'- Department of Health.



<https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/76770/b142b216-f2ca-48e6-a551-79c208f1a247.pdf#page=null>

Green Campus Updates



Above: Anne Power and Ruaidhri De Barra.

CUH Launches 2GoCup Initiative

The Sustainability Office is delighted to announce the official launch of 2GoCup at Cork University Hospital which commenced on December 26th. As a leading progressive hospital, CUH is tackling single-use cups head-on by rolling out the initiative across our Catering Department. Cork University Hospital has reduced its consumption of single use coffee cups by 15,000 cups per week since the introduction of the 2GoCups.

CUH BIKE SHED UPGRADES

As part of our commitment to encouraging sustainable and active travel, Cork University Hospital in conjunction with the HSE Climate Action office undertook a project to upgrade the existing bike parking sheds to secure locked units. Taking on board feedback from staff on how to improve cycling and active travel facilities across our campus, four enclosed 20 station bike swipe access bike sheds were provided with ancillary bike repair station located at each location.

To mark the opening of the upgraded secure Bike Sheds, the Sustainability Office facilitated a Bike Doctor session with our Active Travel partner Cork Community Bikes.

The Bike Doctor session was held on Thursday 25th January to provide staff with advice on bike maintenance as well as providing minor repairs.



Above: New Bike Shed.

Energy Awareness Day

Cork University Hospital provide an Energy Awareness day and Carbon Clinic on Thursday 14th March. The main purpose of the day was to assess staffs awareness of energy consumption, as well as to emphasise that simple changes in behaviour can quickly lead to a significant reduction in energy consumption and that by reducing energy consumption in the hospital and at home, it is possible to achieve the twin benefits of saving money and reducing environmental impact.

The event was organised by the Sustainability office and HSE Climate Action Office with the OPW providing the awareness stand.



Above: Tom O'Connor (Aramark) and Niall Gibbons Estates Energy Officer at Energy Awareness Stand at CUH Canteen.

HOSPITAL WATCH

Hospital watch has recently been relaunched here in CUH. It's a crime prevention program based on the following principles.

- Partnership and problem solving
- Engagement
- Crime prevention

The aim is to reduce crime and fear of crime here in CUH. It's also a tool to promote crime prevention awareness among the team here in CUH, Patients and Visitors.

Here in CUH, we are lucky to have our own Liaison Garda Danielle Porter. Her roles is to maintain regular contact with members of the Hospital Watch Committee and being able to provide relevant advice to all through attendance of the Hospital Watch meetings.

The Hospital Watch Committee are there to have ongoing contact with the staff on CUH, support and encourage all to be vigilant and report anything suspicious, assist in all projects and initiatives undertaken as part of Hospital Watch.

For the relaunch of the Hospital Watch committee new members are being recruited throughout the campus.

Right: Inspector Martin Canny, Colm O'Riordan, Anne Bodley, Garda Danielle Porter, Conor McCarthy, Officer John McCullagh, Super Intendent Finbarr O'Sullivan.

- Regular meetings between all parties and the Gardai.
- Talks/ lectures from areas of the Gardai eg Drugs units, crime prevention officers
- Regular patrolling by local Gardai.
- Property marking if requested
- Distribution of crime prevention leaflets and advice.
- Use of CUH radio
- Garda Confidential telephone line 1800-666-111

If you are a rep for your department and can't attend always have some else replace you.

- In summary:
- Be Aware
 - Be Alert
 - Be Secure
 - Be Informed



CUH Charity



Three porters in CUH have started the ball rolling on what could be one of the biggest campus wide projects to date!

With the introduction of the new plastic bottle scheme, long serving staff saw an opportunity to go the extra mile. "The three Johnnies" began collecting the used plastic bottles from around the campus, and within only a few days, they had managed to collect over 2,000 bottles, which they converted to a donation for the charity.

Bringing their news to the CUH Charity office about how much they had achieved, and prompting the question, could this be a campus wide campaign? If this is something you think this is something you would like to support, please email info@cuhcharity.ie

Left: John Collins (Porter) and Claire Concannon (CUH Charity).

SCRUBS CHOIR

Scrubs choir were photographed at the Pontifical Irish College in Rome during a visit to attend the 10th Rome International Music and Orchestra festival from 7th to 11th March. They were honoured to be invited to sing at Mass in the Irish College.

64 people travelled to Rome (including spouses/ partners/friends) along with their Musical Director Patrick D’Alton and Accompanist Joseph Norton.

This was their second trip abroad. In 2018 they attended the Vienna Choral Festival. Prior to the trip to Rome, Scrubs hosted a very successful Interchoir night. Eight choirs came together to meet and sing.

In April they will record a CD of their repertoire and will take part again this year in the Cork International Choral Festival to defend their title of “Work Place choir of the year” which they won in 2022 and 2023.



Above: Scrubs Choir Trip.

Top: Soprano Scrubs. Middle: Altos Scrubs. Bottom: Bases, Tenor, Musical Director & Accompanist Scrubs.

Happy Heart Healthy Eating Awards

Cork University Hospital recently received top honours at the Happy Heart Healthy Eating Awards, which recognise the efforts hospital and healthcare settings make to provide nutritious meals to staff and visitors. The team achieved gold certification for the third time which occurs every two years for each group. “We were absolutely delighted when we received the Gold Happy Heart award. It’s an award for all the team in Catering as we all work so well together” Anne Bodley.

The awards, a joint initiative of the Irish Heart Foundation and the HSE, have been running for more than 25 years. The World Health Organization identifies the workplace as one of the best places to positively influence people’s cardiovascular risk through encouraging and promoting healthy eating and other healthy behaviours.

Creating a healthier food environment and providing healthier options throughout the day at CUH supported our staff to make the healthy choice the easy choice. A staff survey was completed with the majority requesting healthier options.

Cork University needed to enhance and improve their healthy options. There are strict criteria set

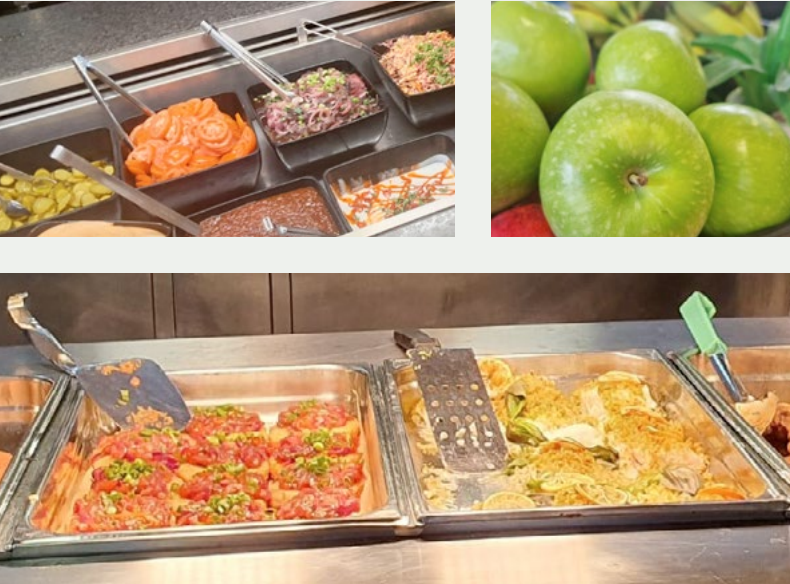
out for the team to follow in order to be able to apply for the award and the catering department was assessed by an Independent Dietician. The assessment looked at the overall food choice, service counter layout, food preparation practices, calorie posting, portion sizes and measures taken to reduce fat, sugar and salt and increase fibre fruit and vegetables. “We use fresh produce and all our sauces are served on the side” Carmel Deacy, Executive Head Chef.

“As people become more health conscious and mindful of what they eat; they are looking for these healthy options to be made available. We have an opportunity to engage our staff to show innovation and initiative to help produce food that is healthy and appetising at the same time.” Cianan O’Leary Catering Officer Staff Canteen and Events.

The team are not done yet. They hope to complete another Staff survey to all on Campus later on in the year. Feedback is so important to the team who continue to strive to improve change menus variety according to what staff want, seasonality and availability of ingredients. But don’t worry Chicken Curry Tuesday will always remain.



Above (l-r): Carmel Deacy Exec Chef, Tracey Twomey Catering Assistant, Cianan O’Leary Catering Officer Grade 2, Jennifer Crowley Acting Catering Supervisor.



Camino de Santiago

The Chaplaincy Department were delighted to accompany a new group of staff from Cork University Hospital and Cork University Maternity Hospital to embark on the Camino de Santiago. The Camino de Santiago was led this year by our Hospital Chaplains Julianna Crowley and Fr. Kieron O’Driscoll. A group of 18 pilgrims from across the campus took up the task of completing a journey of 120km from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela. This trip offered staff the wonderful opportunity to take a break from the intensity of a hospital setting to enjoy scenic views of the Galician countryside as they made their way through historical towns, villages, farms and woodlands scented with eucalyptus forests. The Camino de Santiago has been historically marked as the Way of St. James and each year the Camino attracts millions of visitors worldwide. This year’s group

embraced each day as a new opportunity to nurture the soul, to reflect and to ponder, and to walk alongside those from other parts of the world who were there for their own personal reasons. Despite the rain, the group completed their journey in five days to only arrive at the Cathedral de Santiago which displayed the Botafumeiro, a large incense pendulum, to bless the “peregrinos” who had completed the long journey on foot and their heartfelt intentions along the way. Buen Camino everyone!





Event

Cork University Hospital Lunch & Learn

Cork University Hospital has been running monthly Lunch & Learn sessions for nurses over the past number of years. This year, the Lunch & Learn Committee has been extended to include all the Health and Social Care Professional (HSCP) Groups.

Lunch & Learn sets out to create a relaxed environment, conducive to learning, where healthcare professionals share their research, experience and expertise with attendees over lunch. The Lunch & Learn Committee’s role under its Terms of Reference is to work together to oversee the organisation, planning and communication of Lunch & Learn sessions to ensure a rich and diverse range of speakers and topics. Members of the committee are listed below and include nursing, HSCP and staff wellbeing groups. Speakers invited to our Lunch & Learn sessions include healthcare providers and wellbeing enablers from all clinical backgrounds and professions.

In April, we have a presentation titled “Sneezers & Wheezers: testing and caring for patients with viral respiratory illness” presented by Catherine Dempsey, Specialist Medical Scientist, Denise Cronin, Senior Medical Scientist

and Aaron Doherty, Consultant Clinical Microbiologist from the Microbiology Department. We are delighted to have Christine Keane from CCU presenting on Acute Coronary Syndrome in May. We are also looking forward to a presentation in June from Louise Murphy, ANP Rheumatology and Adjunct Clinical Lecturer at the School of Nursing and Midwifery UCC, on the Scoping Review Methodology and its application to healthcare research: Cardiovascular Disease Risk Assessment in patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis.

All members of staff and students are welcome to attend our Lunch and Learn events. Further information on upcoming Lunch & Learn sessions will be circulated on email and advertised on the wards. Sandwiches will be provided at the sessions.

Lunch & Learn Committee members: Fionnuala O’Brien Clinical Placement Co-ordinator (Chair), Anne Power Staff Wellbeing Co-ordinator, Dawn O’Leary CNM1, Denise Cronin Senior Medical Scientist, Eilish Hawe Clinical Placement Co-ordinator, Lara Doheny Senior Podiatrist, Miriam Cronin Clinical Skills Facilitator, Vicky Baker Nurse Tutor.

BECOME A PEER VACCINATOR TO KEEP YOUR COLLEAGUES HEALTHY THIS WINTER

Becoming a Peer Vaccinator offer’s you development opportunities to enhance your skills and experience.

You will be offered training and support.

For further information please contact Stephanie or myself on emails below:

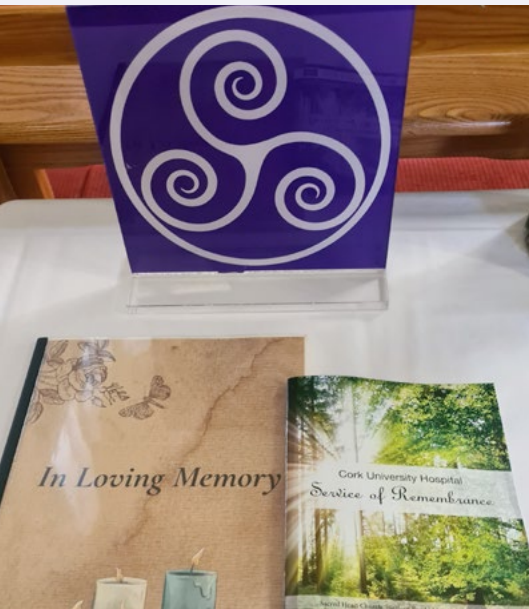
Stephanie.Mulcair@hse.ie or maria.oriordan@hse.ie

“Overtime will be available”



Service of Remembrance

First CUH Service of Remembrance took place on 16th May organised by Pastoral Care Team.



Gloves Off Awareness Campaign

A new “Gloves off” poster resource was launched in March 2024. This poster promotes best practice around hand hygiene, encouraging responsible and appropriate PPE use, and empowers users to make informed decisions in relation to glove use.

GLOVES OFF

ALWAYS REMEMBER HAND HYGIENE AND POINT OF CARE RISK ASSESSMENT*

Gloves are **not** needed when:

Touching, comforting or mobilising a person we care for

When entering the home of a person we care for

Pushing a wheelchair or trolley/bed

Checking a temperature, pulse or blood pressure

Giving medication*

*Gloves are only needed for any medication where you could be in contact with a bodily fluid, e.g. eye drops, nose drops or when handling cytotoxic or other irritant medications

Giving an intramuscular injection or for the routine preparation & administration of IV medication as indicated*

*Specific indications may apply during drug preparation and administration, such as cytotoxic or other irritant medications

Handing out or collecting meal trays
Assisting a person with eating
Making and providing drinks

Using a computer, phone or other electronic devices

Use this poster with

PATIENT SAFETY MESSAGES



Orange Blankets and bracelets are used to assist all staff in CUH to identify and support patients at risk of falls.

Above: Staff from endoscopy Unit, 4C Renal ward, household staff, surgical facilitators and staff from main reception.



GET YOUR WORKPLACE ACTIVE

A GUIDE TO PROMOTING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AT WORK

Online Workshop
for CKCH sites to create a more active work environment for staff
Tuesday September 10th
12- 1pm

REGISTER NOW



*Support resources available to all participants

Submissions to the next edition of our OneTeam eNewsletter

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

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

