



MATER

Volume 6

No.3

NEWS

December 2010

UPDATE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

Welcome to the December edition of MaterNews.

As yet another year draws to a close I think we would all agree that 2010 was a year which presented significant challenges. In this regard and on behalf of the Board of Directors, the Hospital Executive and myself I would like to thank you all for your work, commitment and continuing support during the year.

Despite these challenges and the financial restrictions 2010 was a busy year for the hospital with many opportunities and highlights for which we can be proud. Some important initiatives include but are not limited to:

- Our new adult hospital is taking shape on the north city skyline. Handover will happen in stages during the latter part of 2011 but the main commissioning date is still on target for the 1st quarter of 2012;
- In April, with the financial support of the HSE we piloted the Mater Smithfield Rapid Injuries Clinic. This clinic has treated in excess of 5000 patients to date. This is reflected in reduced throughput through our own Emergency Department and it is more patient friendly;
- Our smoke free campus initiative, launched on July 1st, sent a powerful and clear message that we are a health promoting hospital committed to the promotion of wellness and healthy living for our staff, patients and visitors;
- The opening of our Rapid Access Prostate and Rapid Access Lung Clinics, both funded by the National Cancer Control Programme with the aim of early diagnosis of cancer will benefit patients and their families for years to come; and
- Our signing up to the 'Patient Safety First' initiative ensures our ongoing commitment to according the highest level of priority to patient safety.

This publication includes brief updates from some members of our senior management team. The robots in our Pharmacy Department attracted the attention of Mary Harney T.D. Minister for Health & Children who came to view them. Read more about this visit in Ciaran Meegan's article.

Congratulations to our Catering Department winners of the National Q Mark award within the Hospital Sapphire Category (announced late September).

In October 2 Mater projects were shortlisted for the Irish Healthcare Awards 2010. The Mater Smithfield Rapid Injury Clinic was shortlisted within Best Public Health Initiative category. The 2nd innovative project shortlisted within Best Patient Lifestyle Education category is titled 'Life Skills Programme - Reparation For Adolescents With Autism For Life In The Community'. Aoife Martin's update provides a valuable insight for staff.

As you also aware 2 Mater applicants were among only 5 from the HSE Dublin North East shortlisted for the HSE Achievement Awards. Both authors have included updates for staff in this publication. Read Una Cunningham's article to find out more about their quality initiative and Mike



Power's article informs staff about the development of a school based youth mental health resource. These projects recognise and celebrate our outstanding work and in addition they highlight that an environment of innovation prevails within the Mater hospital.

On Sunday 21st November, as CEO of the Mater, national centre for cardiothoracic surgery and heart and lung transplantation, I was delighted to attend a commemorative ceremony (in the Royal College of Surgeons) to celebrate the 25th anniversary of heart transplantation in Ireland. Twenty-five years ago heart transplantation was still an emerging field of medicine.

Today the Professor Eoin O'Malley Cardiothoracic Surgery Unit is the national centre for adult cardiac and thoracic surgery specialising in all aspects of cardiothoracic surgery from bypass grafting to valve reconstruction / replacements, complex aortic surgery, adult congenital heart disease and heart and lung transplantation. This event was even more poignant due to the absence of Mr Maurice Neligan.

It was with great sadness that we received the news of the sudden death of our former esteemed colleague and surgeon Mr Maurice Neligan Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon, who passed away in October. Mr Neligan was a pioneer in the field of heart surgery in this country. He leaves behind a rich legacy having performed the first coronary artery bypass graft in Ireland in 1975. In 1985 the 1st heart transplant procedure ever undertaken in the state took place in the Mater performed by Mr Neligan and Prof A.E. Wood. Mr Neligan also pioneered the development of open-heart surgery in children. Many people are alive today thanks to his expertise and skill displayed during a lifetime of dedicated work. Our thoughts and sympathies are with his wife and family at this difficult time.

Coinciding with the 25th year of transplantation in Ireland I am delighted that this publication profiles our cardiothoracic and transplantation nursing course. Find out more in Mary Ryan and Amanda Bate's article.

Preparations have already begun for the Mater's 150th celebrations next year. This publication includes our special commemorative Mater logo celebrating and marking 150 years of our hospital's role in caring for the nation. This logo can be used on publications until December 2011. Commemorative paper is available from the Materials Management Department.

I look forward to working with you to face the challenges 2011 may pose. In closing I would like to take this opportunity of wishing all of you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas and every good wish for 2011.

Brian Conlan, Chief Executive



REPARATION FOR ADOLESCENTS WITH AUTISM FOR LIFE IN THE COMMUNITY

By Aoife Martin, Educational Psychologist

This innovative project initiated in 2009 in St Paul's community house involves teaching, learning and accrediting functional and adaptive living skills for adolescents with autism and associated degrees of intellectual disability.

The uniqueness of the community house, in contrast to respite houses, is in its provision of meaningful opportunities to our adolescents to learn functional skills and to engage socially in a regular home environment within the community.

The target group (St Paul's adolescent students) required preparation for their forthcoming transition from adolescence to adulthood and adult services. The model approach adopted was an accredited series of programmes created by Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network (ASDAN). It is important to note that certain pathways of learning are appropriate to those with special needs. We utilised ASDAN towards independence programmes, as they provided a framework of activities through which personal, social and independent living skills could be developed and accredited. These include but are not limited to undertaking functional and adaptive skills in the community, independent living, use of public transport and managing money.

Staff in the community house act as tutors providing opportunities for the student to engage in the development and recording of a set of targeted skills at individual level. This generates a portfolio of evidence upon which the modules of work are ultimately examined. To date over twenty ASDAN module portfolios have been presented for external examination, from a group of approximately 12 adolescents who reside in small groups for 2 consecutive nights on a weekly rotational basis in the community house.

The parents of the adolescents, our partners in learning, were delighted to attend an awards ceremony and see their young adolescent receive an accredited certificate acknowledging skills and abilities in various areas.

As this experience was a resounding success a decision to expand our ASDAN portfolio across the service was made. By leading this programme we have demonstrated our commitment to fully implementing our mission by educating, developing and empowering children and adolescents with autism to integrate into the community and live happier more independent lives.

For further information contact Aoife Martin, Educational Psychologist. Telephone: 837 8260 Email: amartin@mater.ie



MATER CAMPUS HOSPITAL DEVELOPMENT

By Dara Carroll, Arts and Environment Manager

Good progress is being made on the construction of the new adult hospital development. Structural work for levels -2 to 8 are substantially complete with construction of the Phase 1A Level 8 building well underway. Block work, erection of partitions, mechanical and electrical works is ongoing and the façade of the building is almost complete. The contractor, John Sisk and Son, are maintaining their programme for handover of the building to the hospital in Spring 2012.

MCHD continues to hold regular meetings on quality control and submittal reviews with the JSS team and Mater user groups. The initial review of mock up rooms has commenced by the MCHD technical review team in advance of user inspection. There are 18 standard rooms, which will be repeated throughout the new development.

MCHD is also liaising with the Children's Hospital of Ireland design team and the Railway Procurement Agency on their respective programmes. An Bord Pleanála granted a railway order for the construction of the metro at the end of October. This is an important step in the development of a critical piece of infrastructure serving the Mater campus.

'SPRINGFIELD 2' INTRODUCED TO MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CHILDREN

By Ciaran Meegan, Head of Pharmacy Services.....



2010 has posed challenges and opportunities to our Pharmacy Department as we strive to ensure that the drug needs of all the hospital's patients are met despite a significantly curtailed budget. Financial savings through tendering have contributed significantly to this.

The introduction of 2 pharmacy robots named Homer & Marge in 2008 has meant that we have been able to soldier on despite reduced staff numbers. The robot project was shortlisted in the Patient Safety category at the Aramark Healthcare Awards, in April.

The fame of the robots attracted the attention of Mary Harney, T.D. Minister for Health and Children, who visited the Pharmacy Department on September 24th to both see the 'Springfield 2' and how our department functions. She was sufficiently impressed to refer to her visit when addressing the Irish Medication Safety Network (IMSN) conference at Farnleigh on October 1st.



From an educational perspective Mariosa Kieran gave a presentation titled 'Identification of Medicines With Specific Administration Times' at the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists conference in Nice. In April, Deirdre Lenehan our very own Roscommon Rose won the national hospital pharmacy poster award for 'Antifungal Prescribing in Haematology Patients'.

OUR CATERING DEPARTMENT - NATIONAL Q MARK WINNERS 2010

Congratulations to our Catering Department winners of the National Q Mark award within the Hospital Sapphire Category (announced in September).

Anita Brennan, Head of Catering Services, accepted the award on behalf of the hospital. This prestigious award is testament to the hard work of our catering team over the last 4 years. It once again highlights their dedication, work and commitment in providing high standards of hygiene and customer service. Congratulations and well done!

"I am so proud of the catering staff," Anita Brennan said. "This is a great award for our catering team and a great victory for hospital hygiene."



MATER FACILITATES BETTER MENTAL HEALTH

By Mike Power, Clinical Psychologist and Project Leader

'Cyber bullying leads to schoolgirl's suicide' - 'Dying to be Thin: When Size Equals Value' - 'High School Shootings Random Acts or Planned Revenge?'

These sensational, school related headlines portray an image of schooldays a far cry from our own memories. Our school experiences, good or bad, mould us into the adults we are today. The origins of many later mental health problems e.g. mood changes, anxiety, obsession and addictions often have their roots in school experiences.

It makes good sense to begin in schools to instruct a captive audience of youngsters about issues of wellbeing and of good mental health. Social, Personal & Health Education (SPHE) is the lifestyle and personal development part of the junior cycle curriculum.

What is Working Things Out Through SPHE?

With support and funding from HSE Health Promotion and the Health Research Board (HRB) our team (Professor Carol Fitzpatrick, Consultant Child Psychiatrist Mater Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), Eileen Brosnan Senior Social Worker and other members of Mater CAMHS with me in the role of project leader) developed a schools-based youth mental health resource, specifically designed to effectively address issues of positive mental health and wellbeing in secondary school pupils.

It consists of a DVD with 9 narrated stories of youngsters (former young clients of Mater CAMHS) who talk about how they successfully overcame their own life challenges, plus includes a teacher's resource book. This project aims to provide adolescents with practical youth mental health information, as well as supporting them to develop better coping skills. SPHE teachers are trained and become the youth mental health resource persons for their school.

This initiative won the Aramark Best Health Promotion award. In October Senator Joe O' Toole was present at our official launch. We were shortlisted for the HSE Achievement Awards. So Mater staff take a bow for your dedicated, unstinting and innovative work in promoting better mental health and wellbeing among all our youngsters.



ENHANCING DIGNITY AND RITUAL FOR THE DYING

By Diarmuid Ó Coimín, End-of-Life Care Co-ordinator

Did You Know?

We launched 2 exciting initiatives to support staff in delivering care to patients at End-of-Life (EOL).

Final Journeys - Communications Training: This 2 part programme is designed for all staff to enhance the quality of interactions between patients at EOL, their families and staff. The national audit on EOL care found that while training in EOL care positively affects the overall care outcome, only 13% of staff received training. On completion of training, staff reported feeling more confident and comfortable in working with patients at EOL. Check Maternet <http://maternet/> for more information about this 1-day training programme or notice boards.

'When you Experience a Bereavement':

We recently launched this information leaflet. This leaflet provides practical advice at an intensely personal and difficult time for relatives. Staff should give this leaflet to bereaved relatives. Additional leaflets are available from the chaplaincy department or you can download directly from MaterNet.



Staff That Participated In Training

If you have any comments, ideas, questions or issues in relation to EOL care please contact Diarmuid Ó Coimín, End-of-Life Care Co-ordinator. Telephone: 803 2117 Email: dcoimin@mater.ie



CARDIOTHORACIC / TRANSPLANTATION NURSING COURSE – HERE AT LAST!

By Mary Ryan, Staff Development Facilitator & Amanda Bates, Staff Development Facilitator

Coinciding with the 25th year of transplantation in Ireland, we are delighted to announce the arrival of a new professional development course in cardiac, thoracic and heart and lung transplantation nursing. This course is the 1st of its kind on the nursing curriculum with An Bord Altranais.

The ongoing advances in medical and surgical interventions here in the Mater for this cohort of patients, demand a highly specialised and competent nursing team. The content of the course facilitates the participant to gain a theoretical and clinical understanding, thus allowing the registered nurse to provide quality care for patients in this specialised environment.

We are delighted to announce that the 1st group successfully completed the course at the end of July 2010. We are currently preparing for the second enrolment, which will begin in January 2011. Watch out for updates!



Front Row Left to Right: Mary Ryan, Amanda Bates, Elaine Hanley and Jackie Moore
Back Row Left to Right: Sumithra Jeevaneson, Lethakumary Sreekumar and Alexia Tierney
Missing from photo Raji Melechirakkil and Jennifer Liston

ADULT CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE SERVICE

By Esther Doran, Clinical Nurse Specialist

The Adult Congenital Heart Disease (ACHD) service at our hospital is a national service providing specialist support to patients with complex congenital heart defects requiring lifelong care.

Congenital heart disease accounts for the largest number of birth defects in Ireland, accounting for 1% of all live births per year. With improvements in surgery and intervention techniques, 95% of these children survive into adulthood. The adult service at the Mater was set up in response to this need with 1,400 patients currently availing of the service and approximately 250 new patients transferring each year.

Our service provides a comprehensive programme of care for this complex group of patients, most of who will need support and medical attention throughout their adult life.

The service incorporates management of these patients for:

- Cardiac intervention;
- Further cardiac surgery;
- Heart failure;
- Arrhythmias;
- Transplantation;
- Pregnancy care:
- Risk stratification;
- Lifestyle advice; and
- Education.

In addition, the service is a resource for other health professionals caring for these patients in other health settings nationwide.

Our ACHD team comprises of Dr. Kevin Walsh, Consultant Congenital Cardiologist, Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeons Professor Mark Redmond and Mr Lars Nolke, Rhona Savage CNS and Esther Doran CNS Congenital Heart Disease and a wide variety of support staff.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Heart Children Ireland for their fundraising efforts, enabling the refurbishment of a new congenital heart clinic here at the Mater (located off the Sacred Heart Ward on the 7th floor).

Check out <http://www.heartchildren.ie/> for further information.



Left to Right: Rhona Savage (CNS), Dr Kevin Walsh (Consultant Congenital Cardiologist) and Esther Doran (CNS)

MANAGERS 2010 UPDATES

FINANCE STRAIGHTFORWARD BUT NEVER SIMPLE

By Kevin Finnan, Acting Head of Finance



At a time when there is less money around the demands upon the department become more onerous. Throughout 2010 cost containment and income generation were the order of the day. Though at the same time we have managed to bring in new innovations, for example the Claimsure system which will help with our cash collection. The hospital continues to work towards a balanced budget position for the year. Mater staff in collaboration with our finance team have faced and dealt with increased pressures in 2010. I would like to thank all my colleagues in finance for their hard work, dedication and support throughout 2010. It is clear that 2011 and beyond will offer new challenges but I am sure we will meet and deal with them effectively. Finally, I would like to take a moment to wish Caroline (Director of Finance), Paul and new baby son Stanley all our best wishes.



INNOVATION PREVAILS WITHIN CLINICAL SUPPORT

.....By Phil O' Neill, Head of Operations and Clinical Support

Despite 2010 being a tumultuous period for the hospital, Mater staff have demonstrated their customary determination and tenacity to confront any emergent challenges. We are striving to maintain standards and services with reduced resources, yet an environment of innovation prevails.

The Mater Smithfield Rapid Injury Clinic is one such innovation (shortlisted for 2010 Irish Healthcare Awards). I would like to thank everyone involved.

Other less prominent but no less important initiatives are being developed, for example:

- Appointment of an End-of-Life (EOL) Co-ordinator to support the ongoing integration of high quality EOL care into daily practice;
- Restructuring of the Patient Information Booklet;
- Plans to establish a patient-partnership forum in early 2011; and
- OPD and waiting list initiatives.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to staff for their resilience and support during these troubling times.

MAKING IT WORK FOR YOU....

By Deirdre Hyland, Head of Information Management Services

Most areas have access to Information Technology (IT) in some shape or form. Hopefully the introduction of IT has had a positive impact for you e.g. increased efficiency, improved information flow, provision of safer patient care or reduction of repetitiveness. Life without IT would be difficult to imagine.



Healthcare delivery has become more complex and information needs are intensive. Heading into 2011, we are more technically advanced than ever. It takes more than 'techies' to make this happen. The introduction of IT involves not only technical competence but also people skills; an aptitude for change management, a keen awareness of our hospital's culture and above all a 'can do' attitude is paramount. Such qualities abound in our department. I would like to thank all the team, those you meet everyday as well as those behind the scenes, for their hard work and enthusiasm in 'Making IT Work For You'.

Projects 2010	Patient Centre Developments 2010
National Integrated Medical Imaging System (NIMIS)	Elimination of printed laboratory
Evaluation of systems for new hospital development	'Clinical Inbox' - endorsement of results
Sláinte - Claimsure	Mater Smithfield Rapid Injury Clinic
Complete redesign of Mater website	External lab orders result scanning
MicroSoft Exchange email set up	Neurophysiology
Data Protection section on MaterNet http://maternet/StaffResources/DataProtection/	Clinical Register (Haemovigilance)
	Nurse specialist referrals

STAFF AT FOREFRONT OF HEALTHCARE DELIVERY

By Paul Burke, HR Manager



This past year presented many challenges for all of us here at the Mater. Not least amongst these were the almost total restriction on replacing staff leaving the hospital due to the government moratorium on recruitment and the demands placed on us to deliver additional and / or expand our services with a reducing workforce. Yet the climate here at the hospital, our unique culture and commitment and in particular our patient care focus has ensured that we are equal to these challenges. It is these attributes that will ensure the Mater and all our staff will continue to be at the forefront of acute healthcare delivery. Well done to one and all!

Finally, I should like to take this opportunity to thank all of the HR team most sincerely for their valued contribution in maintaining our services at the optimal level despite our own staffing issues.

NURSING PROMOTING QUALITY PATIENT CARE



By Mary Day, Director of Nursing

Firstly, I would like to thank all our nursing staff for their hard work and dedication in what has proved to be a very challenging year. Despite these challenges you have successfully delivered an excellent standard of patient-centred care with a continual focus on improving the patient's journey.

We have undertaken several key projects in nursing, as highlighted in the July issue.

Since then we have also introduced:

Nursing Key Performance Indicators Project:

Aims to develop a framework for the identification, measurement and implementation of key performance indicators in nursing practice specific to our hospital.

>50 Day Length Of Stay Project:

The community liaison nurse is the project lead on this project currently being implemented in the Mater. The primary purpose of this project is to develop a plan to expedite the discharge of patients who are:

- Deemed medically fit for discharge; and
- Have a length of stay greater than 50 days.

There have been several retirements throughout the year in nursing, and I wish them all the best on their future endeavours.

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

MISSION EFFECTIVENESS

By Sister Margherita Rock, Director of Mission



Looking back on 2010, it has been a very successful year for the Office of Mission Effectiveness due in no small part to the participation of staff in the various initiatives organised by the office. From the Bioethics Course at the start of the year to the lunchtime talks and focus groups held throughout the year, staff have been enthusiastic and positive participants.

Our Ethics workshops in autumn were well attended and enjoyed by all. Mission Awareness Week, focusing on Cultural Diversity in the Workplace, was on a smaller scale this year but nonetheless was most enjoyable and informative. My thanks to all who participated including the 3 organisations who exhibited at the launch (WordPerfect, Cairde and Crosscare).

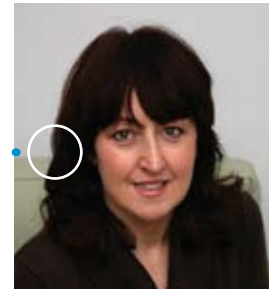
As we look forward to 2011 and the 150th Anniversary of the Mater, one of the highlights of the year for Mission Effectiveness will be the Conference on Compassion which will be held in Catherine McAuley Centre on May 12th and 13th. Keep an eye out for programme updates.

Work on the anniversary book 'Mater Misericordiae University Hospital – Conservation of Eccles Street' is ongoing in conjunction with Roisin Hanley architect. I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.



CLINICAL SERVICES PUTTING PATIENTS 1ST

By Ann-Marie Keown, Acting Clinical Services Manager



2010 has seen a rapidly changing healthcare environment.

This has undoubtedly been challenging but the creative minds and passion of the clinical services professions to drive innovation in service delivery has resulted in the delivery of patient-centered quality care. For the hard work and dedication a sincere thank you is extended to all.

Clements Complex Discharge Unit

Following allocation of HSE innovation funding a joint project between St Mary's hospital, St Francis hospice and the Mater was initiated. To date this highly successful initiative has facilitated the discharge of 235 patients (aged over 65 years), whose discharge was determined to be complex.

Nursing Home Support Scheme 'Fair Deal'

In excess of 200 patients have been successfully discharged under this scheme (on average 4-5 per week).

Musculoskeletal Assessment Clinic (MAC) Development

Funded by the HSE and supported by consultant mentors (orthopaedics, emergency department and rheumatology) 3 physiotherapists were selected to undertake advanced musculoskeletal triage training.

Clinical Photography

Consolidated a fully integrated Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Programme.

Dietetics

Developed in collaboration with our Catering and Household Departments new hospital menu cards incorporating the new national guidelines for the prevention of under nutrition in acute hospitals

Speech and Language Therapy

Hosted a successful international symposium titled 'Diagnosis and Rehabilitation of Communication Following Stroke'.

Research, Education Training and Development

We continue in our delivery of practice education to students. Research relating to the implementation of a new undergraduate clinical placement framework has been undertaken, in partnership with the HSE. Research continues across a number of areas e.g. vocal tremor in Parkinson's disease, anti-fungal prescribing in haematology, non-specific lower back pain and stress urinary incontinence.

PATHOLOGY FACES CHALLENGES HEAD ON

By Pauline McGrath, Laboratory Manager



In 2010 we maintained and in some cases expanded our service thanks to the dedication, creativeness and hard work of our team.

Did you know?

- Our Pathology Departments had CPA or INAB accreditation inspections and maintained their accreditation status, a very important quality mark;
- To support patients on ECMO haematology introduced serum free haemoglobin;
- A point of care (small analysers or strip lab tests used near to the patient or at the bed side) was set up in our Mater Smithfield Rapid Injury Clinic;
- We completed a paper light project in conjunction with IMS (highlighted in MaterNews July publication);
- We are upgrading our laboratory information system. To date blood transfusion is complete, in collaboration with IMS, with roll out to remaining departments in 2011;
- The mass spectrometer was fully commissioned and immunosuppressant drugs to be performed on this platform are validated; and
- We are just completing a tender process to allow consolidation of diagnostic endocrinology and clinical biochemistry plus introduction of an integrated specimen reception. Watch out for updates!

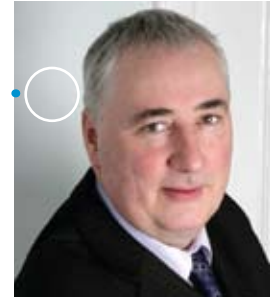
Last year we bade a fond farewell to a number of colleagues that retired. We also welcomed a number of new colleagues i.e. Barbara Cassidy (Quality Manager), Ursula Fox (Chief Medical Scientist in Microbiology), Jennifer Brady (Principal Biochemist and Senior Biochemist in Endocrinology / Biochemistry) and Graham Lee (Principal Biochemist and Senior Biochemist in Endocrinology / Biochemistry).





NON-CLINICAL SUPPORT

By Martin Igoe, Head of Non-clinical Support



Minor Capital Works

Our Projects Office / Technical Services Department continued with a range of projects to enhance patients facilities in 2010. These include but are not limited to:

- Completion of the Breast Health unit refurbishment (additional mammography suite and ultrasound room plus a total upgrade of the entire facility). Acclaimed broadcaster, Miriam O'Callaghan officially opened the facility in May 2010;
- Provision of a new radiology day unit to support the Mater rapid access prostate service;
- Continuation of upgrade works in St. Aloysius's ward including a retro fit of the dining / recreational area;
- Provision of refurbished facilities for the palliative care unit;
- Completion of phlebotomy upgrade; and
- Additional minor works.

Hygiene

Prominent on all our agendas in 2010, key developments included:

- Issuing of hygiene and infection control questionnaires and results actioned;
- Delivery to wards of updated environment / hygiene folders;
- Holding of a 2nd hygiene awareness day in April;
- Increasing hygiene awareness communication;
- Circulating waste management information leaflets;
- Introducing drip trays for hand gel units;
- Improving curtain changing processes;
- Housekeeper post was given a trial run in a ward area. This post was initiated to improve the clarity of the cleaning operative and healthcare assistant roles and is cost neutral;
- Actioning QIPs in infection control and hygiene;
- Revising the hygiene services corporate strategic plan;
- Completing the 2009 hospital hygiene annual report;
- Undertaking a hygiene review in St. Paul's, Beaumont; and
- Awarding by the Irish Accommodation Services Institute (IASI) of a Gold Standard in hygiene to staff from Noonan services and St. Bernard's ward - equated to a scoring of 98%.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff for their dedication, flexibility and hard work throughout the year and wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.



CORPORATE AFFAIRS

BACK TO THE FUTURE...



.....By Breda Doyle, Quality & Accreditation Manager

National Standards for Safer Better Healthcare National Standards = Patient Safety

We have all been involved in the accreditation process over the years, but in recent times, the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) has commenced a process of national consultation on the draft National Standards for Safer Better Healthcare. The finalised standards will be published in January 2011. The new standards will ultimately provide the basis of a new statutory licensing system.



Mary Harney, T.D. Minister for Health and Children and other key stakeholders launched the Patient Safety First initiative in September 2010. The Mater is a signatory to Patient Safety First, which is an awareness raising initiative through which healthcare organisations proclaim their commitment to patient safety.



HEALTH AND SAFETY IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!

By Phil Lewis Farrell, Health and Safety / Fire Safety Co-ordinator

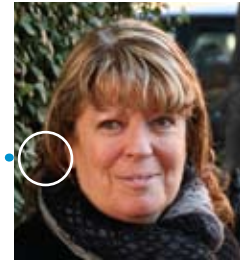
The safety of patients, staff and / or visitors remains a priority. With input from our multi-disciplinary teams and Dublin Fire Brigade pre-fire plans were developed. Posters about 'evac sheets' and evacuation were developed in collaboration with our national spinal unit (2011 roll out).

Training provided included but was not limited to risk assessment, spill training, fire safety (general, evacuation and fire warden).

Hot Topic!

With the assistance of Dublin Fire Brigade we hosted fire safety awareness days. Recognition from the European agency for Safety, Health and Welfare at Work was received for our participation in their risk assessment campaign. This agency's theme for 2010-11 is safe maintenance and our participation includes holding an eye and ear safety awareness day plus a joint conference with colleagues from the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health.

In conclusion thank you for maintaining a 'safe place of work / safe place of care!'



ARE YOU TAKING RISK ISSUES SERIOUSLY?

By Catherine Holland, Risk Manager

2010 saw the development and approval of risk related whole hospital policies, which include:

- Revised Consent & New Consent Form Policy;
- Correct Site Surgery Policy; and
- Anti-Social Behaviour Policy.

In 2011 staff will also see the introduction of a new whole hospital Incident Management & Reporting Policy.

Staff must read and adhere to all policies that are available on MaterNet <http://maternet/>

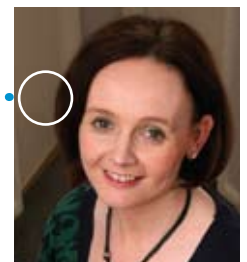
A training DVD to prepare clinical staff for coroner's inquests is being produced. Exciting drug safety committee initiatives include the introduction of an outpatient / day case drug chart and a nutritional chart. Plus we are finalising a medication safety e-learning programme designed to highlight high-risk drugs and processes to all clinical staff.

We appreciate your continued reporting of clinical and non-clinical incidents within the hospital. Use of the electronic incident report form has proven to be of huge benefit. Thanks to my own colleagues for their continued support and work throughout the year. Watch out for updates in 2011!

LOOKING AFTER YOUR HEALTH

By Ruth Buckley, Health Promotion Co-ordinator

2010 saw the Mater engaging in a number of initiatives to promote better health. These included the introduction of a smoke free campus, staff wellness event covering a multitude of health issues, live music and numerous health awareness days. In 2011, we intend to work more closely with patients and staff to promote better health. Watch out for updates!



INTERNATIONAL NURSING PAIN MINDS MEET IN OUR PAIN MEDICINE DEPARTMENT!

In September, our Department of Pain Medicine, facilitated a multidisciplinary education session on procedural and legal pain issues, chaired by Dr Frank Chambers. This meeting of scientific pain minds was seen as a precursor to the up and coming 'IASP Global Year Against Acute Pain'.

Left to Right: Professor Kathleen Puntillo (University of California), Dr Frank Chambers (Director Department Pain Medicine), Aileen Hassett (CNM2), Dr Maureen Cooney (Westchester Hospital New York) and Laserina O Connor (PhD RNP)

BRENDAN MARTIN CUP VISITS PILLAR ROOM!

Karen Kennedy (staff nurse in theatre) and a member of the winning Dublin All Ireland Senior Ladies' Football team celebrates with colleagues! Congratulations and well done!



TRACHEOSTOMY CARE BEYOND INTENSIVE CARE

By Una Cunningham, Speech and Language Therapy Manager.

This initiative involved a multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach i.e. speech and language therapy, intensive care medicine / nursing, physiotherapy and otolaryngology.

In 2009, 101 patients underwent tracheostomy procedures in our hospital. An increase in tracheostomy procedures is in keeping with international trends especially since the advent of percutaneous tracheostomy. Tracheostomy procedures are also being done earlier in a patient's hospital course resulting in a cohort of complex high acuity patients being discharged from ICU and HDU to hospital wards with a tracheostomy in situ. A variable level of expertise was noted with regard to tracheostomy management across the hospital wards.

This initiative was implemented to:

- Improve patient care for individuals with tracheostomies;
- Engage patients in their own goal setting;
- Minimise delays in de-cannulation (removal of tracheostomy tubes);
- Standardise tracheostomy management;
- Provide an equitable service regardless of where the patient is being cared for; and
- Provide support and education for staff in tracheostomy care.

In March 2009, a weekly consultant intensivist led MDT ward round commenced to review all patients with tracheostomies discharged from ICU and HDU with a number of significant positive outcomes. Weekly patient review and goal setting for a safe de-cannulation process favours a reduction of morbidities associated with tracheostomy and there is preliminary evidence of reduced associated length of stay. A nurse led tracheostomy audit was undertaken (August 2009) to determine compliance of staff to care standards outlined in the tracheostomy guidelines. The audit highlighted overall staff compliance and recommended the introduction of a universal evidence based tracheostomy chart to document and monitor safe patient care.

In September this innovative initiative was shortlisted for the National HSE Achievement Awards. Sincere thanks to all involved.



MATER WELCOMES SWEDISH DELEGATION

By Professor Colm O'Brien, Consultant Ophthalmologist & Mary Fagan, Unit Manager

In September our Ophthalmology Department hosted a Swedish delegation of 28 people from St Erik's Eye Hospital in Stockholm. Helene Hamberg-Nystrom, Chairman of the Ophthalmology Department and Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, led this multidisciplinary party of doctors, nurses and administrative staff.

St Erik's is a leading eye hospital in Europe and is affiliated with the Karolinska Institute, Stockholm (one of Europe's largest medical universities).

Key statistics about this hospital include:

- 195,000 outpatient visits per year;
- 37,500 emergency visits per year;
- 90 physicians;
- 115 nurses; and
- 65 assistant nurses.

This insightful visit benefited all parties with our guests particularly interested in research projects within our department. They also specifically noted the warm reception by our colleagues in the Ophthalmology Department – thanks to all involved.



MATER FOUNDATION

By Mary Moorhead, Chief Executive

As always we have been astounded at the generosity of people who have given so much support. We are on target to meet our funding requirements for the year and look forward to announcing our grant allocations in the next edition. Our 3 raffle campaigns have once again proved a great success and have allowed us to ensure our 3 main projects have continued to be funded in these difficult times.

Going forward 2011 will be a very exciting time for the hospital and the Mater Foundation as we celebrate the 150th anniversary. With the uncertainty of what the year will bring, we will continue to strive to raise as much funds as possible for patient care and services within the hospital.



LAUNCH OF 150TH CELEBRATIONS

The Mater Foundation is delighted to be launching the 150th anniversary celebrations of the hospital with a concert in the Pro Cathedral on Saturday 18th December. The Messiah will take place in this amazing building with music from the Dublin Bach Singers. This will see the start of celebrations that will continue throughout 2011.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

18th December: The Messiah, Pro Cathedral, Dublin. Tickets €20. For more information contact the Mater Foundation. Telephone: 830 3482 Website: www.materfoundation.ie

Left to Right: Garda representative, Mary Moorehead, Brian Conlan, Stephen McGrath (Head of Internal Communications HSE) & Nóirín Bannon.



On behalf of the Board, Executive and staff, I would like to acknowledge and extend our good wishes to the following staff on their retirements. Thank you for your outstanding contributions to this hospital over the years. We wish you health and happiness in your retirement.

Brian Conlan, Chief Executive

- Mr David Ryan, Consultant Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon**
- Dr Denis O'Connell, Consultant Radiologist**
- Dr Eileen Clarke, Endoscopist**
- Geraldine Houlihan, Chief Medical Scientist**
- Sean Maguire, Principal Biochemist**
- Lynette O'Sullivan, Chief Cardiac Catheterisation Technician**

- Anne Farrell, Payroll Manager**
- Bridget Farrelly, CNM2**
- Helen Divilly, CNM2**
- Brenda Heffernan, Administration**
- Veronica Thornton, Administration**
- Tommy O'Neill, Porter**



If you have a question, suggestion or issue that you would like to put to Brian Conlan, CEO, please email yourvoice@mater.ie

When was the last time you checked the MaterNet 'Latest News' and 'This Month's Events' sections <http://maternet/>?

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this publication and the Photography Department.