Welcome to the December edition of the MaterNews.

From the outset I would like to thank you, the staff, for your individual contribution during 2012 and for your continued commitment to the ongoing provision of services to our patients. As you are well aware, we face very challenging times in our hospital and face a future full of uncertainty. It is highly unlikely that we will deliver a balanced budget this year and the fact that we will make 2013 and planning for services next year very challenging. Staff should be aware that the hospital has suffered a severe funding cut i.e. 20% since 2008. In that year the hospital’s budget was €250 million. At this point in time our budget for 2012 is €198 million. Over the same period our service levels have increased in some areas by 10%.

Our financial position is further exacerbated by an accompanying cashflow shortfall. Your continuing support for our cost containment and departments relocated. This new build is a perfect environment for the continued delivery of top class care to our patients provided by the best professionals in the business. Check out Dara’s article to find out more.

This publication includes inspiring and encouraging updates from some members of our senior management team, highlighting the hard work and ongoing dedication of Mater staff. In October, our annual Contemporary Issues Symposium, which was very well attended by a cross section of staff, was deemed a resounding success. An address from Jimmy McGuiness, Manager of All-Ireland winners Donegal, was an added bonus to an already innovative and informative programme. Congratulations to Dr Phelan, Regina Prenderville and organisers for hosting an event of this caliber. Read Dr Phelan’s engaging article to find out more.

In November, three Mater projects were shortlisted in the Irish HealthCare Awards 2012 (sponsored by the Irish Medical Times). At the award ceremony, on Thursday 1st November, we won the prestigious title of Hospice Friendly Hospital of the Year, for the continued delivery of top class care to our patients provided by the best professionals in the business. Check out Dara’s article to find out more.

Mr Seamus Morris, consultant orthopaedic surgeon, will join our National Spinal Injuries Centre team, in January 2013. Find out more in Mr Darragh Hynes’s informative article. The date of our next protected Clinical Audit Afternoon is Tuesday 11th December (2pm to 5pm) in the Catherine McAuley Education Centre. This event is an opportunity to appraise audits from across a number of sectors within the hospital. Most importantly the winning NCHD audit proposal will receive the inaugural ‘2012 Sr Margaretta Audit Prize’ in addition to a €500 bursary.

And finally, as most people now know I have decided to take early retirement from the Mater hospital, with effect from the 31st December. I have really enjoyed my nineteen years here at the Mater as Financial Controller, Deputy Chief Executive and the last seven and half years as CEO. I want to express my gratitude and praise for the support that everyone has provided me during my time here. Working with such talented and dedicated people has been a blessing and a pleasure and to be CEO has been an honour that I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I wish my successor every good wish in the job in the years ahead. Particularly I would like to thank Mary Day best wishes in her role as interim CEO. I know that you will give her the support she needs to carry out her new role in this very challenging environment.

In conclusion I would like to take this opportunity to wish every member of staff and your families a very happy Christmas and a joyful New Year. I am particularly mindful of those of you working over the Christmas period. Thank you for your efforts and I know you will continue to do all you can to deliver safe and quality services in the difficult times ahead.

With my warmest wishes,

Brian Conlan
Chief Executive
CHALLENGING BUT STIMULATING TIMES  
By Mary Day, Director of Nursing & Head of Operations

This is a challenging but stimulating time that requires critical thinking and creativity on the part of our nurses, who stand at the forefront of the significant changes facing our healthcare system. The quality and adaptability of our nurse managers is paramount in supporting the hospital to meet future challenges. However, our staff members continue to receive acclaim for initiatives such as the Synge Unit and the Hospice Friendly Hospital (HfH) Programme, both of which have received Irish Medical Times awards this year.

The formation of a rapid response multidisciplinary team, developed to enable rapid decision making and focused discharge planning, is another new initiative which is proving very effective and has secured an additional year’s funding to continue its operation.

I am delighted to welcome Suzanne Roy to the new appointment of Deputy Operations Manager. Suzanne plays a key strategic role in the delivery of our operational performance objectives. The outpatient’s nine-month waiting list target reduced from 6,000 to 70, thanks to her commendable effort and that of the waiting list team and surgical consultants. This is a significant achievement for our hospital.

Suites of clinical professional development programmes, some of which have been a first in the country (e.g. cardiothoracic transplantation nursing, intensive care nursing, diabetes nursing, endoscopy nursing, cardiology nursing and nursing the acute care medical patient) were implemented.

Accreditation for a further five years was confirmed for our undergraduate programme following a successful An Bord Altranais site visit.

Additional highlights for 2012 include:
- Roll out of nursing metrics / key performance indicators in mid November;
- Reconfiguration of service to provide a tissue viability nurse;
- Completion of a HfH Nursing Practice Development programme in conjunction with the End-of-Life Care Coordinator; and
- Completion of another successful CNM2 Leadership Programme.

In conclusion a special word of thanks to staff in areas under my remit for their professionalism, commitment, continued hard work and significant ongoing contribution to this hospital. Enjoy Christmas and every good wish for 2013!

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF INNOVATION IN CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH

By Dr Stephen McLearie, Clinical Director CAMHS & Marie Lambe, Senior Administrator

2012 saw the Department of Child and Adolescent Mental Health service (CAMHS) celebrate 50 years of service in the provision of an outpatient community child and adolescent mental health service for children across most of north Dublin, city and county. The primary role of this service is to address the specialist mental health needs of children and adolescents. We deliver specialist services centered on the interests of children and their carers in order to develop and extend effective partnerships for a cross agency approach to mental health and wellbeing. Our key partners in paediatrics, social services, education, primary care and adult mental health services aid our successful delivery of an initiative of this caliber. As well as two teams based at James Joyce Street we also run clinics for local populations in Ballymun, Darndale and Swords. When it was launched in 1962 this clinical service for children was the second service of its kind in the country.

Mater CAMHS (formerly Mater Child Guidance) is a constituent part of the Department of Child and Adolescent Mental Health of the Mater hospital. In June, we were thrilled that Frances Fitzgerald Minister for Children and Youth Affairs (and former employee of the service) addressed a cross section of staff and invited guests at our 50th anniversary celebratory event, in the Freeman auditorium.

Since our inception a number of pioneering programmes e.g. Parents Plus and Working Things Out For Adolescents have evolved. Clinicians working within our service continuously carry out active and inspiring research. We won a bursary (kindly funded through the Mater Foundation Grant Programme) for our up-to-date department web content on www.mater.ie

The caring cradle to grave ethos of this hospital is a tremendous support to our service. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support, particularly Sr Margherita Rock Director of Mission, board members and staff.

I hope that my recent Clinical Director appointment will serve to facilitate the service’s ongoing clinical development. I look forward to working collaboratively with colleagues across the organisation. In conclusion we look forward to expanding and growing our service in the next 50 years. Watch out for updates!
MAKING “IT” WORK FOR YOU
By Deirdre Hyland, Head of Information Management Services

Each year brings new developments, new necessities and new deadlines, which our innovative and hardworking Information Management Services (IMS) team rise up and meet head on - 2012 was no different!

If I were to mention only one major project it would have to be NIMIS (National Integrated Medical Imaging System). The successful adoption of NIMIS in our hospital was and continues to be a terrific achievement and hugely beneficial for patients. Well done and congratulations to all involved.

Additional beneficial projects undertaken and prioritised in collaboration with hospital colleagues included:

- Upgrading the laboratory system;
- Improving the outpatient referral management system;
- Issuing of text reminders to patients;
- Vascular reporting within PatientCentre;
- Recording of predictive discharges electronically; and
- Commencing a managed print service.

Throughout 2012 we continued to work with the Mater Campus Hospital Development team providing information, communication and technology – all essential for the phased moves into the Whitty Building. In addition we commissioned a new Data Centre. This landmark build with state-of-the-art facilities will enjoy the benefits of a wireless network next year.

In June, following an Equality Tribunal recommendation, a staff awareness session, sponsored by Mission Effectiveness, highlighting transgender issues was held in our hospital.

Transgender or trans is an umbrella term for people whose gender identity or gender expression differs from the sex assigned to them at birth.

Vanessa Lacey a development worker with Transgender Equality Network Ireland (TENI) addressed a cross section of Mater staff in the Freeman Auditorium. Vanessa’s informative talk gave staff an insight into TENI (what they do and future challenges) and the diverse issues faced by transgender people in Ireland. In addition the importance of ongoing research, dealing with specific health needs, gender recognition and legislation to improve conditions and advance the rights and equality of transgender people and their families were all highlighted.

We would like to express our gratitude to Vanessa for her time and contribution and to our colleagues for their assistance in organising this event.

Check out http://www.teni.ie/ for further information.

HIGHLIGHTING TRANSGENDER ISSUES
By Cora Herbert, Patient Liaison Officer

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So What Can You Expect Next Year?
Next year sees the opening of a number of areas in the Whitty Building so IMS staff will be very busy providing IMS services to your departments as they move. Ever mindful of cost containment and with our continued focus on doing more with less our department will play a significant role in supporting clinical care programmes, continuing the roll out of a managed print service, advancing developments in PatientCentre and supporting Dublin Academic Medical Centre (DAMC) initiatives.

In conclusion I would like to take the opportunity in this article to acknowledge two additional areas that come under my remit. Firstly our colleagues in the Health Records Department who continue to work closely with the IMS team on all patient related developments. Secondly in this time of diminishing resources, the focus in 2012 for our Library and Information Service has been on increasing awareness of and access to library materials. To this end, the library has further developed its current awareness services. There is increased demand for journal tables of contents reminders and these are emailed regularly to staff members who have requested them. More staff than ever are accessing library resources from home via the Athens link on the Mater website.

Sincere thanks to my all my wonderful team for their continued hard work and support.

From Left To Right: Nuala King (Clinical Governance and Standards Manager), Vanessa Lacey and Paul Burke (Director of Human Resources).
A MOTHER’S EXPERIENCE ‘MATERS’!

Elaine Guinee gave birth to her beautiful baby daughter Kimberly Lilly at 7pm on July 3rd in our emergency department. There to assist Elaine and welcome baby Kimberly to the world and initially the Mater’s emergency department, prior to her transfer to the Rotunda hospital, were Geraldine Reynolds (staff nurse), Fiona McDaid (staff nurse) and Dr Syed Waqar Ahmed Shah (specialist registrar).

Kimberly Returns To Say Thank You...

EMBRACING CHANGE AND UNCERTAINTY

By Paul Burke, Director Of Human Resources

This year was one of the most challenging years for all of us working at the Mater. Yet despite on-going reductions in resources, increasing demands and workload pressures we continue to deliver quality patient care.

Looking forward, be under no illusion, 2013 will present a new set of challenges and opportunities. We will be expected to deliver our services with fewer resources and to utilise the Croke Park agreement to its fullest extent. From an organisational perspective we will be required to put in place the changes required to ensure that the hospital continues to be a leading healthcare provider, to implement more effective patient management processes, to revise working practices and arrangements and to maximise operational efficiencies on the hospital campus. Our initial focus will be on the implementation of new internal clinical support administrative clusters and the migration of hospital services to the Whitty Building.

Significant change is now a fact of hospital life and it is undoubtedly increasing in intensity and pace. It impacts on each of us to varying degrees. The hospital for its part will maximise consultation with our staff and representatives, strive to minimise personal impact of change whenever possible and will seek further improvements to its staff support mechanisms.

In conclusion, I should like to thank you for your support in all that we have achieved this past year at our hospital. I also take this opportunity to acknowledge your continuing co-operation in the implementation of further hospital initiatives. Finally I would like to acknowledge the contribution of the human resources team and to thank them most sincerely for their key role in the delivery of services to the hospital.
The Irish Heart and Lung Transplant Association (IHLTA), founded in 1985 the year the first heart transplant operation in Ireland was carried out in the Mater Hospital, is a voluntary organisation which includes heart and lung transplant recipients, families and supporters.

The IHLTA is a member of the Irish Donor Network and is affiliated to the European Heart & Lung Transplant Federation. IHLTA primary objectives include providing support, help and information to all heart and lung transplant recipients and their families, identifying and maintaining donor awareness initiatives and working with the Irish Donor Network in promoting and improving all areas of organ donation and transplantation.

European Day for Organ Donation and Transplantation, which was held on Saturday 13th October, was organised by the Council of Europe to raise awareness about the increasing demand for organ donation for transplantation throughout Europe. In the Mater we marked this important day by hosting an IHLTA information stand in the concourse area, on Friday 12th October. Donor cards were a popular feature of the stand and the uptake and interest shown by the general public and staff was very encouraging.

Do you carry an organ donor card? Organ Donor cards are available at the Heart and Lung Unit reception area and / or at the main hospital reception.

On behalf of the IHLTA I would like to thank Mater staff for their ongoing support of IHLTA initiatives and wish you an enjoyable Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.
MISSION EFFECTIVENESS…. AWARENESS PROGRAMME CONTINUES

By Sister Margherita Rock, Director of Mission

In September, a conference titled ‘Ethical Issues in Healthcare’ (sponsored by the Health Research Board and Mission Effectiveness) was held with participants from across the healthcare spectrum in attendance. The feedback from this event was overwhelmingly positive. An added value for attendees was CNE certification. A big ‘thank you’ to all of you that helped make this event such a phenomenal success. To view presentations check out http://maternet/Administration/MissionEffectiveness/Conferences/

The Mission Effectiveness Office in collaboration with Ruth Buckley Health Promotion Coordinator and Martin Igone Head of Non Clinical Services supported Phizzfest (a local Phibsborough festival) by providing facilities for four of its events. It is hoped that the festival organisers will again achieve the overall prize with which Dublin Living Awards awarded them last year. The festival provides opportunities for the Mater to link in a special way with the local community and environment.

We hosted ‘A Cup of Tea’ fundraising initiative for Mercy International Ministries in September, which raised €1,500. Thank you for contributing to this fundraising event. During our Mission Awareness Week we held a Mass of Thanksgiving on our Foundation day (September 24th). In December, Members of the Mission Effectiveness Committee and our Senior Management Group will attend a session facilitated by Sister Mary Reynolds Director, Mercy International Centre.

In 2013 you can look forward to a programme of inspiring mission related sessions, open to all staff, with highlights including:

- An eight week series of talks heightening awareness of ethical issues as they arise in the workplace, facilitated by Dr Alan Kearns;
- Talks about developing an insight into catholic social teaching, issues of social justice and ecology in conjunction with staff from the Jesuit Centre for Peace and Justice;
- Sessions on how to support colleagues following critical illness, critical incidents and / or bereavement;
- A session titled ‘The influence of staff’s mood on colleagues and patients’ by Maureen Gaffney;
- A workshop pertaining to Mater specific findings from an ISQSH Survey ‘Measuring the Patient’s Experience of Hospital Services’; and
- A two day conference titled ‘Humanising Healthcare.

Look out for updates! Finally, we wish to thank all our staff that promote the mission of the hospital on a daily basis and wish all the blessings of a happy and peaceful Christmas.

CONTINUING TO ENHANCE PATIENT FACILITIES

By Martin Igone, Head Of Non Clinical Support

In one respect 2012 was another year of containment, cutbacks and consolidation and in another it was a time to look forward to occupying our wonderful new facilities in the Whitty Building.

It was a great honour and achievement that our new catering production unit (on Level 0) was the first department to transfer to this new hospital. Well done and sincere thanks to Anita Brennan, Maeve Phillips and their whole team for planning and executing this major logistical move so successfully. Congratulations to all of you involved in the smooth transfer of the outpatient clinics from the Dorset Clinic. At the end of January 2013 we can look forward to the opening of the new emergency department with the opening of radiology, operating theatres, intensive care unit and the remaining eighty single ensuite rooms to follow.

Audits and monitoring of hygiene services continued throughout the year. As a result of a number of hygiene programmes we are seeing real and noticeable improvement in the cleanliness of the whole hospital. In February, departments that scored an ‘A’ rating in management hygiene and environmental audits (27 in total) were presented with certificates of recognition. Thanks to the energy, hard work and dedication of a wonderful team the Synge Interim Care unit received a supreme runner up Irish Accommodation Services Institute award (with a score of 98%). It is important for the safety and protection of patients and staff that good hygiene practice continues throughout the hospital.

It is mandatory that all departments (clinical and non clinical) conduct their own internal hygiene audits monthly. Protect Your Patient! Protect Yourself! Play Your Part!

The Health and Safety Committee and the Safety Representative Committee met four times respectively with newsletters circulated quarterly. The main focus under health and safety continues to be fire safety and awareness, safety in the handling and disposal of sharps, the wearing of appropriate personal protective equipment and the implementation of the antisocial behaviour policy.

Condolences to the Mulvey family, including Simon (porter in ECG department) and Ken (porter in x-ray department) on the sudden death of their dad and our former colleague Michael Mulvey and to the family of Gerry Doyle former painting staff member who died earlier in the year. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.

I would like to thank all non clinical support staff for their flexibility and dedicated work throughout the year, in circumstances where staff numbers were reduced but the level of service continued. I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.
This year the idea of the annual Mater Contemporary Issues in Hospital Practice meeting (Thursday 25th October) was to focus on the new hospital and its associated new and innovative services. It featured evolving areas such as the acute stroke and heart attack (STEMI) services and the new collaborative surgical / interventional radiological operating theatre. It addressed cancer care including robotic and palliative surgical advances and the campus clinical oncology trials unit. Innovations in acute medicine / hospital functionality, postgraduate training and the perspective of new doctors led into the hospital’s inaugural Eoin O’Malley (distinguished visitor) lecture. The afternoon, when all hospital staff were encouraged to attend, culminated in a session on new realities and thinking in healthcare funding including the concept of funding tracking activity and the potential of the newly arrived Clinical Directors.

The morning had started with Leo Lawler chairing the contributions of Sean Murphy, Gavin Blake, Ciaran McDonnell, Georgina Flood and the Johns Hopkins visiting speaker, James Black III to a cardiovascular session, which set the scene for an exceptional day. Next was the cancer session featuring Karen Redmond, Kiaran O’Malley, Michael Maher and John McCaffrey which was chaired by Cathy Kelly and emphasised the scale and depth of the Eccles Street multidisciplinary cancer care resource. Paul Connell was the Mater representative at the third session which addressed frontiers in clinical training and practice and which included the national figures, Eilis McGovern and Gary Courtney, as contributors. Then the inaugural Eoin O’Malley Lecture, given by the Johns Hopkins distinguished visitor, James Black III was introduced by Kevin O’Malley. The day finished with Laura Magahy on the new hospital and Jimmy Tolan (Price Waterhouse), Fergus Clancy (Mater Private) and Colm Henry (Mercy, Cork) giving exceptionally informative insights, chaired by Brian Conlan, into how healthcare and its funding are evolving. The coup de gras was the unique and extremely popular Jimmy McGuinness on team building and motivation.

This is the hospital’s major continuing professional development meeting of the year. It is central to the role of the Mater as major, third level, tertiary / quaternary institution with a cutting edge service, educational and research role but there is still work to be done in improving staff awareness of this unique annual staff resource on our doorstep.

Overall it was an exceptional continuing education day and the hospital is deeply indebted to Regina Prenderville, the organisers and speakers / chairpersons for making it happen. The day was a wonderful and educational summation of what the hospital brings to Irish and international healthcare and was certainly an occasion indicative of the standard of contribution that we have enjoyed for many years, thanks to the creativity and relentless attention to detail to which we have become accustomed over the years while Regina has been running these events. The positivity of the feedback forms and ‘buzz around the campus’ are a testament to what she brings to the hospital.
I am delighted to announce that our eminent colleague Mr Seamus Morris, consultant orthopaedic surgeon, will join the National Spinal Injuries Centre team, in January 2013.

Prior to his appointment to the Mater, Mr Morris worked as a consultant orthopaedic surgeon in the Adelaide and Meath Hospital, Tallaght (from 2007). His higher orthopaedic training was on the Irish Specialist Training Programme in Orthopaedic Surgery. He completed a specialist fellowship training in spine and scoliosis surgery at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York, and pelvic and acetabular and trauma surgery in the UK. Mr Morris’s clinical interests include the treatment of all spinal conditions including degenerative spinal conditions, deformity correction, and minimally invasive spine surgery. He also has a major clinical interest in the management of all trauma including osteoporotic spine fractures. He currently serves as a postgraduate trainer in orthopaedic trauma for the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. He has presented and published numerous clinical papers internationally in orthopaedic surgery. He is a member of numerous academic societies including the Irish Institute of Orthopaedic Surgery, the Irish Orthopaedic Association, the Irish Spine Society, the North American Spine Society, American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgery, AO Spine, AO Alumni Society.

Mr Morris’s appointment will contribute significantly to the centre’s ongoing evolution to meet our patients’ needs. His experience and areas of clinical interest will benefit and contribute significantly to the expertise already provided by our innovative spinal injuries team. It ensures, going forward, that we can continue to undertake complex orthopaedic procedures and meet international best practice standards.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr Morris to the Mater and to our wonderful team and wish him every success in his new and challenging role. I know you will make him feel very welcome indeed.

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**RACQUETS AT THE READY!**

By Yours In Sport David Boyne, Retired Porter

Another highlight in our hospitals event’s calendar is the Mater’s annual squash competition.

There was a lot of anticipation, in advance of this year’s 2012 competition, after a very tense final last year, which Liam Daly eventually won.

It was great to see so many new players playing in this year’s competition. A highlight this year was an exhibition match. We would like to express our gratitude to Aidan Sharkey for showing us all how the game should really be played!

Now back to the competition itself, the main competition was played out between the ‘young guns’ Brendan Tobin and Peter McMahon. Over the years we have seen a lot of great shots and plenty of exciting and thrilling finishes but this year’s tense battle topped the bill with Brendan taking the prize. The second competition for ‘The Plate’ was between Pat Faherty and Paul Cadd and was just as exhilarating with Pat coming through as the winner.

The Mater Squash Club would like to thank everyone for their ongoing support. We would like to express our gratitude to Tom McKeown (Aurora) for his provision of great food and hospitality throughout the whole season.

Looking to keep active and increase your fitness level? Well just join the Mater’s Squash Club. **Contact Pat Faherty (carpenter) Telephone: 803 2675**
In early 2012 reconfiguration of the management structures saw three areas (patient services, risk management and quality) realigned under the governance of the office of the Clinical Director.

Our key focus continues to be to drive quality within the hospital through promoting and supporting a safe, efficient and effective patient focused service.

In June 2012, as you are aware, HIQA’s National Standards For Safer Better Healthcare were launched. Healthcare delivery has become more complex and implementation of these standards will only serve to enhance our capabilities to maintain a quality focus leading to safer and effective patient care. We are now actively working through the planning phase and regular information sessions will be held in advance of a HIQA audit in the Mater in 2013 - watch out for updates! We look forward to working proactively with you in implementing the standards throughout our hospital. We appreciate your continued support and input. Check out http://www.hiqa.ie/publications to gain further awareness and understanding.

Quality and risk management are complementary and together are key components of healthcare governance. Effective risk management underpins healthcare quality management activity and can result in better patient care, improved public perception and confidence, reduction in errors, reduction in staff turnover, fewer complaints, improved reputation, a more open culture, a more proactive approach to managing risk, systematic identification of organisational weaknesses, improved communication with stakeholders, improved performance and effectiveness, reduced likelihood of unexpected events, better decision making at all levels and improved project management.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank all of my team most sincerely for their valued contribution and wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

INSPIRING, ENABLING AND DRIVING QUALITY
By Professor Conor O’Keane, Clinical Director

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I should like to take this opportunity to thank all of my team most sincerely for their valued contribution and wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

BALLYMUN SATELLITE TEAM FORGE AHEAD
By Sarah Crehan, Speech & Language Therapist

This year, as you are aware, the Mater’s Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) celebrated 50 years in the provision of a community child and adolescent mental health service for young people across most of north Dublin, city and county. As well as the teams based at James Joyce Street, the service has satellite clinics for local populations in Ballymun, Darndale, and Swords.

As a speech and language therapist working in the satellite clinic in Ballymun, my role involves working with children and adolescents up to sixteen years. The young people we work with have severe and pervasive mental health difficulties, including anxiety, low mood, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

Communication is very important to our overall emotional well-being. It is my role to support these young people with their communication skills, to augment other interventions, and to equip them with the day-to-day communication skills required to achieve success in their interactions at home, school, and socially. We must be able to understand and express our feelings and ideas in order to achieve social success.

In October, we were delighted to welcome two new nurses to our hardworking and committed multidisciplinary team (occupational therapy, psychology, psychiatry and social work).

2013 will not be without its challenges but on a pilot basis, the Ballymun team plans to increase the age band to include sixteen and seventeen year olds.

Thanks to the ongoing support and collegial style of the team, any future challenges will be surmounted. Watch out for updates!

For further information contact Sarah Crehan, Speech & Language Therapist.
Telephone: 846 7219
Email: screhan@mater.ie
In November the Mater won the Hospice Friendly Hospital of the Year in the Irish HealthCare Awards 2012 (sponsored by the Irish Medical Times) for our Hospital Friendly Hospital’s programme. This award is a tribute to the hard work and commitment all staff play in improving end-of-life care for patients and families that attend our hospital. Congratulations and thank you!

Our project won this award by our staff setting up and acting on a number of key performance indicators (KPIs) based on the findings from the 2010 National Audit Of End-Of-Life Care in Hospitals in Ireland. The KPIs we set included but are not limited to:

• Improving Single Room Usage: We set ourselves a target of achieving 50% of all deaths occurring in single rooms in 2011 and 55% in 2012. In 2012 we exceeded our KPI expectation, by achieving 57% compliance (compared to 45 % in 2010). In reality we achieved 68% to date this year when deaths that occur in our intensive therapy unit (multi occupancy) are excluded; and

• Providing End-of-Life Care Training: In 2012 a target of 500 staff members to participate in training was set. From January to October 2012, 595 people attended and / or participated in various levels of education, training and / or other forms of awareness in relation to improving end-of-life care. Consequently we achieved and exceeded our target.

Another piece of good news is that the renovation of a Family Room in St Joseph’s ward (kindly sponsored by the Mater Foundation) is well underway. The Project Office continues to work closely with relevant staff and Hospice Friendly Hospital Programme personnel to progress this renovation. In November the construction phase of the Family Room commenced. Your ongoing support and cooperation is appreciated.

For further information contact
Diarmuid Ó Coimín End-of-Life Care Coordinator Hospice Friendly Hospitals Programme Telephone: 803 2117 Email: docoimin@mater.ie

PROVISION OF A VALUE ADDED SERVICE

By Barbara Cassidy, Laboratory Manager

Within the pathology department our guiding principle, as a highly motivated team of professionals, is using our knowledge and experience to provide an efficient and high quality service to clinicians and patients. In another year of challenging resources we have seen a 17% increase in activity.

Against this backdrop there are a number of milestones, in 2012, which I would like to draw to your attention:

• Establishing our department as a reference site for the evaluation of certain biomarkers. Developing new assays and test methods and repatriating tests previously carried out in external sites;
• Upgrading old equipment improving reliability and turnaround times at no extra cost;
• Redesigning processes to maximize resources and efficiency;
• Developing guidelines for the treatment of Vitamin D deficiency and for the performance of Endocrine Function Tests in collaboration with our clinical endocrinology and pharmacy colleagues. Implementing selected patient self testing (Coaguchek) using a multidisciplinary team approach (haematology, warfarin and congenital cardiac care teams);
• Introducing Point of Care Testing (100 new glucose / ketone meters in use with 1000 users trained). Ongoing development of blood gas services for our new emergency department and theatres;
• Integrating pre analytic processes into a centralized specimen reception area in cooperation with cross discipline staff members;
• Establishing governance networks with Cavan / Monaghan and Midland Regional hospitals. Planning further provision of specialist testing to these and other sites on an income generating basis; and
• Maintaining accreditation status (Clinical Pathology Accreditation and Irish National Accreditation Board) in addition to complying with legislation for the provision of a blood transfusion service.

In 2012 Dr. Peter O’Gorman was appointed Pathology Director, we welcomed new appointments and wished well to those moving on. We applauded the academic success of many staff and we will continue, in 2013, to foster and encourage continuous education and development. Watch out for updates!
Extracorporeal Life Support (ECLS) offers temporary comprehensive life support to patients with severe potentially reversible heart or lung failure who have continued to deteriorate despite optimal conventional therapy.

The Dublin ECLS 2012 meeting took place in the Catherine McAuley Postgraduate Centre on November 8th, and was opened by Brian Conlon CEO. This was the third and very successful joint meeting between the extracorporeal services in Our Lady’s Children’s Hospital, Crumlin and our hospital.

The innovative programme included excellent presentations on extracorporeal cardiopulmonary resuscitation, renal replacement therapy during ECLS, heparin induced thrombocytopenia, ECLS for congenital diaphragmatic hernia and extracorporeal carbon dioxide removal. Local and international speakers included Dr Fionnuala Ní Áinle, Mr Lars Nölke, Mr Carl Davis (Yorkhill, Glasgow) and Dr Thomas Müller, (Regensburg, Germany). The extended application and potential complications of extracorporeal practice in both hospitals was reviewed. Clinicians attended this seminar, from both the north and south of Ireland, that care for critically ill adult or paediatric patients who could potentially benefit from extracorporeal support.

The success of this Dublin ECLS 2012 meeting reflects the growing confidence in extracorporeal support in Ireland and the close working relationship that continues to develop between the ECLS services in both hospitals. Thank you to everyone involved.

LET’S GO GREEN AND THINKGREEN

By Barry McKenna, Sustainability Officer

ThinkGreen is a new initiative, led by me, that will focus on driving the environmental performance of this hospital. Energy, waste and water are major hospitals costs with significant potential for environmental impacts.

The ThinkGreen initiative will drive environmental performance through proven practical measures to reduce waste, water, energy and resource consumption.

As with any initiative in the hospital the key to success is the active participation and support of the staff. Turning off the lights, printing less, disposing of waste in the appropriate bin are simple examples of every days actions that collectively can and do have a significant impact.

I would ask staff to consider the waste they produce, the resources and energy consumed and strive to make those few simple adjustments that make the difference. Together we can take this hospital to the forefront of environmental management in the healthcare sector in this country and beyond.

If you have any ideas or feedback that would improve the environmental performance of this hospital contact Barry McKenna, Sustainability Officer Manager

Telephone: 803 2607 Email: travelways@mater.ie

MATER CONTINUES A GOOD AND GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH CRUMLIN

By Dr Ed Carton, Medical Director of Mater ECLS Programme & Serena O’ Brien, CNM3 ECLS Coordinator

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The success of this Dublin ECLS 2012 meeting reflects the growing confidence in extracorporeal support in Ireland and the close working relationship that continues to develop between the ECLS services in both hospitals. Thank you to everyone involved.
Following the opening of the outpatients department, catering department, and gastrointestinal outpatients earlier in the year, the first of the new wards opened at the end of November.

The new St. Vincent’s haematology / oncology ward on level 7 is the first ward in the Mater Hospital with 100% single room provision. These rooms are designed in line with SARI guidelines and provide enhanced facilities for infection control as well as increased patient comfort, dignity and privacy. Each room has an ensuite wet room and each patient has their own individual television. The new nurse call system provides direct contact between patients and nursing staff. Design of the rooms incorporates the principles inherent in the design and dignity guidelines of the Irish Cancer Society ‘Hospital Friendly Hospitals’ and relatives have their own waiting area and relatives’ rooms.

With the conclusion of the Railroad Procurement Agency metro enabling works on site, the emergency department and 444-space basement car park will open at the end of January 2013. The opening of radiology, operating theatres, intensive care unit and the remaining eighty single en suite rooms will follow this.

MCHD Ltd has been working with the Mater Hospital on a countdown plan for staff, patients, visitors and hospital suppliers prior to handover. A ‘Soft Landing’ steering group is leading a series of initiatives to ensure the smooth transfer of patients, staff and assets to the new hospital. The move to the new hospital provides an exciting opportunity to look at a new systems model for the whole hospital, in accordance with wider HSE plans and objectives. The five lean work streams are integrated discharge planning, theatres and diagnostics, campus-wide issues, wards and ambulatory care. The first cohort of ‘Green Belts’ will be awarded to staff that have successfully completed their lean training by the end of the year.

In November at the 14th annual Institute of Designers in Ireland awards the excellent standard of design of the contemplation pod, in the Whitty Building, was acknowledged and appreciated with the bestowing of a highly commended award from the Institute of Designers in Ireland. We are absolutely delighted that this innovative design received such an accolade in the furniture category. MCO Projects commissioned and designed the pod with Garvan de Bruir and Sisk trainees built it.
The Mater hospital’s stroke service runs a weekly multi-disciplinary ‘Stroke Information Talk’ every Thursday, at 3pm, in the physiotherapy gym on St Brigid’s ward. The talk provides information to staff, stroke patients and families and is an open forum for discussion. There is no need to sign up or book in advance - just come along! It is an informal presentation regarding causes of stroke, difficulties following stroke, rehabilitation principles and discharge options.

This innovative initiative is an excellent example of the benefits of a collaborative multidisciplinary team working together on a specialised unit. Furthermore via this programme we addressed some of the education needs identified in the Irish National Audit of Stroke Care (2007) in addition to improving our adherence to Clinical Guidelines on Stroke at a time when resources are limited. We look forward to seeing you there!

For further information contact Elaine Reynolds, Acting Senior Physiotherapist in Stroke
Telephone: 803 2260 Email: ereynolds@mater.ie

A small representation of the multidisciplinary group involved. Back Row Left To Right: Libby Cunningham (Clinical Specialist Occupational Therapist) and Ciara Finlay (Senior Occupational Therapist). Front Row Left To Right: Leona Higgins (CNM1), Claire Prendergast (Senior Physiotherapist), Bridget Flanagan (Senior Speech and Language Therapist) and Elaine Reynolds (Acting Senior Physiotherapist).
DONOR’S GENEROSITY PREVAILS DESPITE A TOUGH YEAR
By Mary Moorhead, Chief Executive the Mater Foundation

As one year ends and another begins I would like to express a huge thanks to our many supporters who gave so generously throughout 2012. Thousands supported our annual campaigns and held various community fundraising events. It was our most challenging year to date for fundraising, however as always, our supporters were there to help us fund projects and services enhancing patient care within the Mater hospital.

It was a busy year for the Mater Foundation team with the launch of our new Tribute Funds Appeal along with our annual fundraising campaigns (Heart Appeal, Breast Cancer Appeal and for the second year running, the Blue September Campaign which built on the success of its inaugural year in 2011). The Cancer Research Appeal was relaunched successfully in September. Check out www.materfoundation.ie to find out more!

Also a big thank you to everyone who took part in this year’s Flora’s Mini Marathon in June, fundraising for wards and departments throughout the hospital.

Following an interview with Mrs Pat Neligan and Maurice Neligan junior with Miriam O Callaghan, in July, a special request went to the people of Ireland to help the Mater Foundation purchase a core piece of equipment that will help bring the first Hybrid Theatre to a public hospital in Ireland. The Mater Foundation together with the Neligan family and consultants launched the Maurice Neligan Tribute Fund Appeal to help fund the purchase of a Zeego CArm, an intrinsic piece of equipment for the theatre. We are asking the public and Mater staff to share memories or stories about Mr Neligan by logging on to www.materfoundation.ie and adding them to the Maurice Neligan Tribute Fund. Maurice Neligan junior, on behalf of the family said “We were pleased that it was widely acknowledged at dad’s passing that medicine had lost a great pioneer and a leading thinker. As well as being an innovative thinker in medicine, Dad was very entrepreneurial in terms of fundraising. There are many initiatives in the Mater Hospital that wouldn’t have been realised without his fundraising abilities, as well as his medical bravery. We are honoured that this new theatre will be dedicated to his memory.” We are extremely grateful for the leadership shown by the Neligan family and hope that their example will encourage others and that Tribute Funds will generate continued investment in facilities and programmes that will benefit Mater patients for generations to come.

An inaugural summer rooftop cocktail party was hosted in the Whitty Building, in August, raising
funds for our Neurological Appeal. Proceeds raised go towards funding a new MRI scanner for neurology, stroke patients and those with a high family history of breast cancer.

In November, the Mater Foundation held the Cardiothoracic Masquerade Ball at the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin. The evening, hosted by John Healy, Maitre’D of RTE’s ‘The Restaurant’ and heart transplant recipient paid tribute to Mr Jim McCarthy, Director of National Centre For Cardiothoracic Surgery and his team.

In addition to the main services and projects we support e.g. Family Heart Screening Clinic, Dublin Neurological Institute and BreastHealth we also allocated grants to the hospital throughout the year e.g. a small assistance grant for a terminally ill cancer patient, a fellowship in pelvic surgery, funding for a new kryo surgery system and a research grant for prostate cancer.

Don’t forget! To direct all donations you receive through the Mater Foundation. We are the designated registered hospital charity responsible for all donations. We ensure compliance with legislation and that all donors are thanked and managed appropriately and in a timely fashion.

For more information contact the Mater Foundation
Telephone: 830 3482
Website: www.materfoundation.ie
Twitter: www.twitter.com/TheMaterFoundation
Facebook: www.facebook.com/materfoundation

TALE OF A HOSPICE 60 YEARS AGO
By Kevin Finnan, Acting Head of Finance

The late Leonard Cheshire was famous for setting up the Cheshire homes for children. He also established one of the first hospices in Britain in the 1950’s. Sadly the hospice ran into financial difficulties and deficits began to mount. His accountant advised him that his most serious problem was not having enough cash to continue to pay his debts. Cheshire realised that he needed to find cash within the next two weeks or the hospice would be forced to close. The Friday before the deadline a cheque arrived from an unknown benefactor and the outstanding debts were paid. The same happened the following week and following month. The hospice survived and thrived.

We in the finance department can empathise with the predicament faced by Cheshire’s accountant as we work hard to try and balance the books. Like everyone else we do not know how the saga of bailouts, troikas and property collapses, which afflict the national finances will eventually be resolved. However, what we can do is to continue to manage the resources‘ of our hospital in order to support the treatment of our patients in the same way as the staff of Cheshire’s hospice over 60 years ago.

Finally as you know Caroline is on maternity leave following the birth of her daughter and all of us in finance wish her and her family well. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank staff in the finance department for their hard work throughout 2012. I wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and I look forward to working with you in 2013.
RESTORING INDEPENDENCE... AIDED BY AN AWARD WINNING TEAM
By Ciara Dowling, CNM2

The Synge Interim Care Unit is a 25-bedded unit located off the main Mater campus in Fairview, Dublin 3. This innovative unit provides nurse led rehabilitation, recuperation and re-enablement type care to patients that are medically discharged from an acute hospital setting but are unable to return home.

The ethos of our staff is the delivery of individualised care helping the smooth transition for patients from a ‘sick dependent role’ to restoring their independence thereby ensuring a successful discharge. Our unit is exceptionally busy and to date we have treated in excess of 250 patients.

Congratulations to all our team members on winning ‘Nursing Project of the Year 2012’ at the Irish Healthcare Awards (sponsored by the Irish Medical Times), in November. Such an accolade acknowledges and recognises effective initiatives undertaken in our unit, which have clearly defined results and outcomes. This award highlights our provision of quality patient care away from the acute hospital setting and the energy, hard work and dedication of a wonderful team. In May this year our unit was also successfully shortlisted at the Healthcare Innovation Awards for innovation in quality of service delivery within the hospital based category.

To refer a patient to the Synge Interim Care Unit just simply download a referral form from Maternet. We hope to launch an online referral system soon. Watch out for updates!

A FOND FAREWELL...

On behalf of the Board, Executive and staff, I would like to acknowledge and extend our good wishes to colleagues 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

Margaret Brasier Ann Bernes Elisa Caleja
Joan Evans Brian Coffey

A special word of thanks to the amazing team in the Photography Department for their continued assistance.

YOUR VOICE...

Thank you to all our Mater News contributors in 2012. This is your newsletter therefore we endeavour to cover items of interest to you. Your comments and feedback are welcome yourvoice@mater.ie