



MATER

Volume 5

No.4

NEWS

October 2009

UPDATE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE



Welcome to the October edition of the MaterNews.

It has been an eventful few months over the summer period since our last publication and outlined hereunder are the main events of significance.

The hospital continues to work towards a balanced budget position for the year; despite reduced funding in our allocation for 2009. Cost containment and income generation are the order of the day. Once again I ask for full co-operation in meeting budgetary and headcount targets, which are stringent but absolutely necessary to protect services and jobs in this hospital.

On 1st September 2009, Sisks moved onto the Mater site to commence construction of their compound and to allow commencement of the Mater Campus Hospital Development (MCHD). The advanced preparatory works are now completed and the site is ready for the construction stage. This has resulted in reduced onsite car parking for both the public and staff. The General Services Manager and the Mobility Management Committee continue to constantly monitor onsite car parking issues. I would like to thank staff for their co-operation during this phase of development.

We have commenced detailed discussions with the Children's Hospital Ireland (National Paediatric Hospital) on decanting issues required to allow them access to the site, ceded by the hospital for that development.

I would like to commend all staff involved in the successful and speedy recovery of services following flooding incidents on the night of the 2nd July 2009. Thanks also to our colleagues in the other DATHs, the community and the HSE for their assistance during the incident.

I would like to stress the absolute importance of maintaining confidentiality at all times in the course of carrying out our duties in this hospital. If you are unclear about the requirements around confidentiality and your obligations in this regard, please review the Confidentiality Policy WHP011 on MaterNet. Breaches of this policy will result in disciplinary action.

Due to a clash of dates with the Art Exhibition, Mission Awareness Week, this year has been rescheduled to take place the week of the 9th - 13th November 2009.

I would like to congratulate all members of staff in the Intensive Care Unit, High Dependency Unit and Information Management Services Department on the successful implementation of the new electronic patient recording and monitoring system.

In June 2009, the hospital hosted the Irish Heart and Lung Transplant Association commemorative event to honour and celebrate transplant recipients who were transplanted 15 years or more. Twenty-five recipients representing 441 years of extra life were honoured on the day.

The Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) will carry out unannounced random visits to monitor compliance with the National Hygiene Service Quality Standards in selected acute hospitals. In this regard, we must remain focussed on proper hygiene management and strive towards excellence in our management of hygiene services.

In early July, Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney, officially opened the Alton Clinical Skills Laboratory, Postgraduate Medical Centre.

On Thursday 30th July, Paul O'Connell, Captain of Ireland's Grand Slam winning team and Captain of the Lions, dropped in to see patients and staff and to launch the Myeloma Research Appeal, spearheaded by Dr. Peter O'Gorman, Consultant Haematologist.

During the summer, the following senior staff retired or left the employment of the Mater:

- Mr. Frank Kyne, Acting Top Grade Biochemist;
- Mr. Eddie Wright, Chief Medical Scientist;
- Mr. John Browne, Technical Services Manager; and
- Ms. Grace Cooke, Head of Clinical Services.

We wish them well for the future.

We welcome Fr. Vincent Xavier, Head Chaplain (Acting) and Mr. John Brennan, Head Medical Social Worker to the Mater.

In order to raise funding for the hospital, the Mater Foundation launched 'Raise a Million for the Mater' campaign. Your support in this regard would be most welcome. To find out more read Mary Moorhead's article.

Brian Conlan
Chief Executive



PAUL O'CONNELL - CHAMPION FOR MYELOMA

By Jacqui Round, Myeloma Research Nurse

Paul O'Connell, Captain of Munster, British and Irish Lions Captain and patron of the Mater Myeloma Cancer Research Appeal, delighted patients, visitors and staff, when he visited the Mater to launch our appeal.

Despite a hectic schedule, Paul was generous with his time as he signed autographs and posed for photos with supporters and fans that gathered excitedly to greet him. As I escorted the rugby hero around our hospital the elation and appreciation evident on patients and families faces was palpable. The day culminated with a visit by Paul to Dublin City University to see the work carried out by the Mater Myeloma Research Group, led by Dr Peter O'Gorman.

"The collaborative clinical and research activities at the Mater Myeloma Research Centre enhance the service to our patients through its international links. We are engaging in cutting edge research in new therapies and ultimately finding a cure for Myeloma," says Dr Peter O' Gorman, Consultant Haematologist.

We are all grateful for the support and time Paul is giving to the appeal. Myeloma is an incurable cancer similar to leukaemia and we urgently need to raise funds to continue research and to offer support to our patients.

We will keep you posted on all upcoming fundraising events. To become a champion for Myeloma email your details to myeloma@mater.ie

For further information contact Jacqui Round, Myeloma Research Nurse. Telephone: 716 6393 Email: jround@mater.ie



MERCY DAY

By Sister Margherita Rock, Director of Mission Effectiveness

On September 24th, we celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving in the hospital chapel. We recalled that on this day in 1861 the Mater Misericordiae Hospital, dedicated to Our Lady of Mercy, was officially opened. We remembered in prayer the founding members – pioneers who may have been short on finance but like Catherine McAuley, were strong in spirit, courage and hope. We noted that for three days following the opening and prior to the admission of the first patients, the Sisters prayed before the Blessed Sacrament.

On this foundation rests the tradition of compassionate care – the hallmark of this great hospital. On the 150th Anniversary in 2011, we will honour the generations of Sisters and staff who cared for the sick in the past. We will honour those who do so at present and will pray that the generations to come will carry the tradition, mission and ethos into the future.

MATER HOST ADVANCED BOBATH COURSE

By Mary O' Mahoney, Practice Tutor, Neurology & Physiotherapy Department

In May 2009, the Mater's Physiotherapy Department hosted an internationally recognised Advanced Bobath course.

The Bobath concept is method of treatment to rehabilitate people with neurological conditions primarily stroke, multiple sclerosis, traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury. The main aim of the treatment is to encourage and increase the person's ability to move and function by the expert handling skills of the physiotherapist.

A total of seventeen participants, from all over Europe, including 3 staff from our Physiotherapy Department, attended this prestigious course. Feedback from both clinicians and patients was very positive. Participants will take new knowledge and skills gained back to their patients and physiotherapy colleagues.

We were delighted to host another successful course, which should benefit the rehabilitation of the neurological patients in this hospital.



Front Row Left to Right: Elaine Harrington (Mater), Lesley Corcoran (NRH), Orla Fahy (NRH), Luis Barrio Ruiz (Spain), Tatiana McManus (Royal Hospital, Donnybrook), Mary O Mahoney (Mater) and Lynne Fletcher (Senior Bobath Tutor)
Back Row Left to Right: Debbie Strang (Bobath Tutor), Claire Prendergast (Mater), Karen Coleman (AMNCH), Judith Holzknacht (OLOL, Drogheda), Barbara Irgang-Buckley (St Marys), Des McKenny (Belfast), Fiona O'Reilly (Royal, Donnybrook), Ailish McGahey (CRC), Isabel Quintero (Spain), Jo Keen (Wales), Joanne O'Reilly (Sligo General) and Fiona Cromwell (Navan Community)



MY ATHENS IS NOT GREEK

By Angela Rice, Head of Library & Information Services

Everybody knows that Athens is the capital of Greece, but the Athens I want to introduce to you will allow access, to a world of electronic resources purchased by the Library and Information Service, no matter where you are.

My Athens is an authentication system which proves that you have the right to access certain electronic databases and journals. A personal Athens account provides you with a username and password that you use to access databases, journals and other electronic resources purchased by the Library and Information Service.

“But I can access this material already on MaterNet”, I hear you say. That’s true, but what’s great about an Athens account is that you can access Mater electronic resources when you are not in the hospital. So if you are at home, away on business or using a PC that is not part of the Mater network and you want to read an article from the Journal of Heart and Lung Transplantation for example or search Medline or PsycINFO or CINAHL, use your Athens username and password to log in.

A Mater Athens account does not allow access to material purchased by other organisations. So if you are working or studying in another organisation you may have different Athens access and you will need an Athens account supplied by that organisation.

To see what resources are available to you with your Mater Athens account:

- Go to <http://www.athensams.net/myathens/>
- Enter Mater in the “Search for organisation” box and click go
- Click on the link for Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and you will see a list of available resources

All current Mater staff are eligible for an Athens account. Access is free and your account lasts for the duration of your employment. To apply for an account, please complete an Athens application form, which is available from the library or on the library web page on MaterNet <http://maternet/Administration/LibraryInformationService/Help/Forms/>

For further information contact Angela Rice, Head of Library and Information Services. Telephone: 803 2241 Email: arice@mater.ie Phyl Nugent. Telephone: 803 2055 Email: library@mater.ie

MINISTER FOR HEALTH & CHILDREN, OPENS NEW EDUCATIONAL AND THERAPEUTIC FACILITY AT THE MATER

By Regina Prenderville,
Academic Programme Manager

On Thursday 2 July 2009 the Minister for Health & Children, Ms Mary Harney TD officially opened the Alton Clinical Skills Laboratory, which is situated within the Catherine McAuley Education Centre

The laboratory will function both as an educational facility for the training of doctors in the latest resuscitation techniques and also as a therapeutic resource allowing for discretion in the multidisciplinary review and management of patients with emotionally sensitive illnesses, including psychiatric and intersex disorders.

The laboratory is the result of funding and design collaboration between the HSE, UCD and the Mater.

Dr Brendan Keogh presented a memorable account of the late Dr Alton’s life. During his illustrious career Dr Bryan Alton was a prominent figure in national medicine and medical politics. He worked as a Consultant Physician in the Mater from the early 1940s to mid 1980s. He was one of four physicians in the hospital during the 1940s and was instrumental in working with the Sisters of Mercy in acquiring the houses on Eccles Street as they became available for purchase. Although the Sisters could not afford to maintain the houses, Dr Alton had a vision that one day the whole of Eccles Street would form a campus for the Mater.

Mrs Winnifred Alton, wife of the late Bryan, together with her family celebrated the opening of this excellent teaching facility in the Postgraduate Medical Centre.



Minister for Health & Children, opens new Educational and Therapeutic Facility at the Mater.



BUSINESS CONTINUITY MANAGEMENT IN THE MATER HOSPITAL

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

“Business Continuity Incident an internal incident requiring efforts to recover the site and ultimately continue services”

An internal incident occurred in the Mater Hospital from 2-5th July that resulted in an immediate and significant interruption of services and threatened to disrupt normal functioning in a few patient areas, some for a number of weeks.

Following extensive flooding to affected patient care areas the Mater Hospital Business Continuity Plan was activated.

An internal response team was set up to deal with both the immediate recovery of services including timely and effective internal and external communication and also the long-term affects of the incident such as reparatory works. Patient and staff safety remained the priority of all those involved in dealing with the incident.

The successful management of this incident in line with the Mater Whole Hospital BCM Plan was made possible by the commitment and hard work of Mater staff, the assistance of the HSE and other hospitals and the support of our service users.

Sr John of the Cross Award

We wish to congratulate the winners of the Sr John of the Cross Award. This award recognises new and effective quality initiatives that are talking place throughout the hospital. The winning teams are:

- **Internal Communications Pathway Committee, winner of December 2008 Award;**
- **Emergency Department Physiotherapy Team, winner of March 2009 Award; and the**
- **Drug Safety Committee, winner of June 2009 Award.**

For further information contact the Quality and Accreditation Department. Telephone: 803 4210 Email: bdoyle@mater.ie



Paula Comiskey accepts the award on behalf of the Internal Communications Pathway Committee



Anne Marie Keown accepts the award on behalf of the Emergency Department Physiotherapy Team



Michelle McGuirk accepts the award on behalf of the Drug Safety Committee

PHYSIOTHERAPY EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT INITIATIVE WINS AWARD

By Anne-Marie Keown, Physiotherapy Manager & Máire-Bríd Casey, Senior Physiotherapist

Research has shown that acute injuries benefit from early intervention with regards to pain relief and optimising function. Historically waiting times for physiotherapy referrals via our Emergency Department (ED) were high (approximately 5 months). In addition, the monthly percentage of patients failing to attend their first scheduled appointment was high (33%). The net affect was wasted appointments, long waiting lists and inefficient use of resources. As a significant percentage of referrals were for chronic conditions there was inappropriate use and over-reliance on acute hospital services.

In May 2008, using a Team Based Performance Management model our ED Physiotherapy service was re-structured. Restructuring included but was not limited to:

- Introducing patient choice, with additional new patient slots allocated each week to facilitate avoidance of a waiting list. Waiting list reduced from 5 months (February 2008) to nil (June 2008);
- Refining the criteria for referral with only acute conditions accepted to the ED service; and
- Introduction of a new appointment booking system to reduce the rate of non-attendances at the clinic, placing the onus on the patient to make their own appointment. The patient is advised that the doctor or advanced nurse practitioner recommends physiotherapy and an information leaflet with contact details is provided. The patient contacts the physiotherapy department within 1 week and an appointment is scheduled. Over a 3-month period the non-attendance monthly percentage rate was reduced (9%). Reduction of the non-attendance rate has ensured efficient management of the waiting list thus allowing improvements to be sustained. Productivity has increased with optimal utilisation of time and resources.

Referrals to the ED service increased substantially over the period of the project, due to increased efficiency of the running of the service, ensuring patients have early access to physiotherapy. 100% of patients followed up reported receiving appropriate instruction and the written advice sheet on discharge. This finding illustrates the commitment to the initiative by all referring practitioners.

This project is yet another example of effective Mater teamwork enhancing patient care and improving productivity within current resources.

In August this quality initiative won Sr John of the Cross Award. The success of this initiative would not have been possible without the dedication, hard work and commitment of everyone involved. This project was highly dependent upon active participation, co-operation and timely and effective communication from all team members. The level of flexibility exhibited by administrative staff aided the smooth transition significantly. Thanks to all!

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELL DONE!

The Dublin Academic Medical Centre (DAMC) and the Mater, in partnership with Executive Education at UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School, has developed a Professional Certificate in Healthcare Management (awarded at Level 9NFQ) for clinicians (Consultants and NCHDs at Specialist and Senior Registrar level).

The Autumn Management Course will be held during September, October and November. Limited number of places available.

For application forms and further information contact Rita Marron, Course Co-ordinator, Department of Postgraduate Medical Education. Telephone: 803 4383 Email: rmarron@mater.ie



The Director of Postgraduate Medical Education in the Mater Professor Dermot Power and the Director of Executive Education in the Smurfit Graduate Business School congratulate clinicians awarded the Professional Certificate in Healthcare Management, held in the Postgraduate Medical Centre, Mater Hospital.



STAFF WORKSHOPS GET THE THUMBS UP

..... By Dr Jonathan Egan, Principal Clinical Psychologist

In October 2008, I joined the Mater as a Principal Clinical Psychologist working between Liaison Psychiatry and Cardiac Rehabilitation. I worked with the HSE for the previous fourteen years. I was only too aware that staff are always looking for ways to make positive lifestyle changes.

In response to the needs of staff and in collaboration with the Training, Education and Development Department, Mission Effectiveness and my line managers, I rolled out a series of staff workshops from the end of April until mid June 2009. Due to their resounding success (80 –100 staff attending) the workshops recommenced in September 2009.

The workshops are titled, 'Exploring the Mind-Body Connection'. Different forms of relaxation, mindfulness and visualisation are demonstrated in the auditorium twice weekly at lunchtimes (Tuesdays and Thursdays). Doors shut at 1.10pm to protect staff's relaxation time.

Staff feedback after the workshops cited feelings of renewed energy, improved coping mechanisms and improved concentration at work. Staff using the techniques at home reported reduced stress levels and an improved sleep pattern.

I am delighted with the success of the workshops. I would like to thank all involved in this innovative project and for their kind words of support.

Don't forget to come along to October's workshops!

For further information contact the Training Department. Telephone: 803 2657 Email: training@mater.ie

MATER CAMPUS CYCLING CLUB

By Barry McKenna, Travelways Commuter Centre Manager

As we all know riding a bike can be great fun and a very enjoyable way to keep fit! A cycling club makes for an even better way to enjoy cycling and it would also help those who perhaps need a bit of encouragement to take the "first steps" and to go for it. Hence the Mater Campus Cycling Club has been established. The club is affiliated to the Irish Cycling Federation, which means that members can avail of insurance cover.

The benefits of becoming a member are:

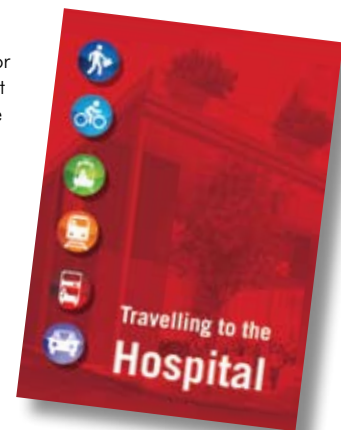
- **Personal accident cover;**
- **Cover in the event of theft; and**
- **Public liability and access to events organised by the club**

The club is actively seeking new members, if interested please contact the Travelways office.

Hospital Access Map

Travelways has designed a number of maps to increase the uptake of public transport, walking and cycling amongst staff, patients and visitors of the Mater. The maps are available on the web, in poster format around the hospital and in pocket format from the Travelways office.

Check out <http://www.mater.ie/travellingtothehospital/> or contact Barry McKenna, Travelways Commuter Centre Manager. Telephone: 803 2607 Email: travelways@mater.ie



MATER WELCOMES INTERNATIONAL NURSE VISITORS

By Ciara Dowling,
Clinical Placement Co-ordinator

Throughout this summer, the Nursing Practice Development Unit (NPDU) welcomed international nursing students and academic staff from St. Xavier College, Chicago, The School of Nursing, Western Kentucky University USA and registered nurses from the Italian Nursing Board of Piacenza, to the Mater.

Visiting nursing students and academic staff were given a presentation on the history and demographics of the Mater and an overview of the nurse education programmes. The history of the Mater was of particular interest to participants from St. Xavier College, Chicago, as the Sisters of Mercy founded their college creating a strong bond with our hospital. Each group was given the opportunity to meet some of our nursing students, to share their experiences of the programmes, which proved to be very interesting.

Seventeen Italian nurses visited as part of their continuing professional development programme for nurse registration in Italy. This involved an English language programme focusing on healthcare terminology. A plaque was presented from the Italian Nursing Board to show their appreciation for our hospitality.

All of the international visitors spent time with nursing staff in clinical areas to experience Irish healthcare. The NPDU would like to thank all involved for their support.



Student nurses and academic staff from the School of Nursing , Western Kentucky University, USA pictured with Mater staff Ciara Dowling, Melanie McNiece, Elena Bordei, Caroline Mariadoss, Geraldine Jordan, Arlene Diaz, Catheline Guihen and Jacqui Byne



Angela Chadwick, Prescribing Site Co-ordinator accepts a plaque from representatives of the Italian Nursing board of Piacenza. Also pictured are Mater staff Arlene Diaz, Caroline Mariadoss, Bridget Murray & Comfort O Chima



Participants from ICU who completed a Clinical Professional Development Course in Intensive Care Nursing. This course was developed, supported and facilitated by Pat O Leary, Martha Hanlon, M. Connolly and Elaine Hanley



Participants from St Vincent's Ward who completed a Clinical Professional Development Course in Oncology and Haematology Nursing. This course was developed, supported and facilitated by O. Merrigan, Sr Joan Duddy, E. McNamara and Elaine Hanley



Participants from theatre who completed a Clinical Professional Development Course in Peri Operative Nursing. This course was developed, supported and facilitated by Eithne Hallinan, Louise Creighan, Therese Cummins and Elaine Hanley

MATER FOUNDATION

By Mary Moorhead, Chief Executive

In August, the Mater Foundation launched an urgent appeal to 'Raise a Million for the Mater'. The downturn in the economy has resulted in a significant reduction of the Mater's budget and we need to supplement our income to maintain patient services. People from across Ireland are being asked to take two books of raffle tickets to sell to family and friends between August and October and be in with a chance to win €5,000. As a special incentive for hospital staff to support this urgent appeal, any staff member who sells two books of raffle tickets will be entered into a special staff draw to win one week's additional annual leave or a cash prize of €1000 and a 2nd prize of two premium tickets for Ireland versus Australia in Croke Park. The draw will take place on **Wednesday 21st October**. For more information contact the Mater Foundation **01-803 2060** or email ekeeling@materfoundation.ie

Over €500,000 was raised in the first six months of the year through our Breast Cancer Raffle Appeal, a success we hope to mirror with the launch of our Neurological Appeal Raffle in the last six months of the year.

Our Midsummer Evening Garden Party hosted on the Mater campus on the 22nd June, was a great success. Over €80,000 was raised from the evening, which went to the Centre for Lung Health and the Dublin Neurological Institute, both at the Mater. All had a great night, as the gardens behind the Eccles Street buildings were transformed into a beautiful summer scene. The evening would not have been possible without the co-operation of the staff in the Centre for Nurse Education. Photographs from the evening of the gardens and all those who attended can be viewed at www.materfoundation.ie

We are delighted to announce we have once again teamed up with Powerade to raise much-needed funds for our Mater Heart Appeal. We are encouraging members of the public to get fit by signing up to any running event in Ireland over the next few months. Raise €500 in sponsorship online at the www.materfoundation.ie and receive a free pair of Adidas runners and singlet worth €135. All monies raised will go towards the Family Heart Screening Clinic based in Heart House who to date have screened over 600 family members who have lost a loved one to Sudden Adult Death Syndrome (SADS).

For more information contact the Mater Foundation.

Telephone: 830 3482

Website: www.materfoundation.ie



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VISITING NURSING SCHOLAR

By Laserina O' Connor, CNM2

On the 13th August 2009, the Department of Pain Medicine was delighted to welcome Professor Therese Richmond, University of Pennsylvania. As she was escorted through the departments and corridors of our hospital, nurses, consultants, administrators, educators and all the staff she encountered shared the ethos of the Mater with her in a gracious and generous way.

Her visit concluded with a 'research conversation' in the Pillar Room with nurses across all specialities clinical, educational, research and management in attendance.

Her comment at the end of her visit was **"the passion for care and cure is palpable in the Mater, it was my privilege to see this at first hand, I will return"**.

On behalf of the Department of Pain Medicine I would like to extend our gratitude to staff for making this visit so memorable.

FOND FAREWELL

By Martin Igoe, Head of Non-Clinical Support

In May 2009, John Browne, Technical Services Manager, moved from the Mater after 10 years of service to take up a new and challenging post as Estates Manager in the HSE. John promoted and accomplished many projects over that period in collaboration with the Project Office. His contribution to the modernisation of major utilities (electrical upgrades, water quality and plant, CSSD and medical gas installation etc) is a testament to his time here. His input into the new development, de-cant works and preparation for the new build was immense and invaluable, we thank him sincerely for that. Of course he had the day-to-day maintenance and operation of the hospital to consider and he did this with his team in Technical Services in a calm, structured and fair manner. We again thank him for his outstanding contribution to the Mater and wish him every success in his new position.



Father Vincent Xavier,
Head Chaplain (Acting)



John Brennan, Head
Medical Social Worker



Congratulations to David Costello one of the Mater's Medical Physics staff who recently graduated from Trinity College Dublin with an MSc Physical Sciences in Medicine degree. David is pictured following graduation with Dr Patrick Kenny, Chief Physicist.

YOUR VOICE

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 and the Photography Department.