

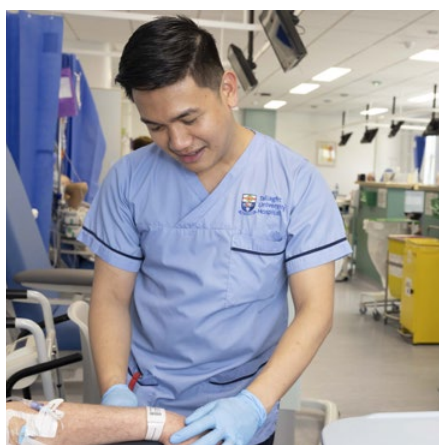


**Tallaght
University
Hospital**

Ospidéal
Ollscoile
Thamhlachta

An Academic Partner of Trinity College Dublin

Annual Report and Accounts 2024



*People Caring
for People to
Live Better Lives*

TALLAGHT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

2024 at a glance

288,233

OPD VISITS



NUMBER OF STAFF

3,747

59,935

ED ATTENDANCES



58,650

DAYCASE PROCEDURES
(EXCLUDING DIALYSIS)

21,463

INPATIENT ADMISSIONS
(80.05% OF ADMISSIONS VIA ED)



1,167

PATIENTS TREATED
EVERY 24 HOURS



106,645

SURGERIES & PROCEDURES



32.91m

TESTS CARRIED OUT IN THE LAB

189,892

DIAGNOSTIC IMAGES TAKEN
(OF WHICH 15,180 WERE TAKEN
IN COMMUNITY RADIOLOGY)



THE AVERAGE AGE
OF ADMISSION



59

MALE

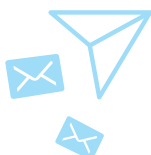


60

FEMALE

2,029,165

ELECTRONIC MESSAGES SENT TO
HEALTHLINK TO GPs & PRIMARY
CARE CENTRES



Contents

1.	Message from the Chair	2
2.	Hospital Board	3
3.	Message from the Interim CEO	8
4.	Access	9
5.	Integrated Care	17
6.	Enhanced Infrastructure	23
7.	Digital Enabled Care	28
8.	Research & Innovation	32
9.	People	46
10.	Awards	59
11.	Arts & Health	67
12.	Financial Management Performance	79
13.	Foundations	84
14.	Research & Publications	94



Message from the Chair



Professor Anne-Marie Brady
Chair

Welcome to the 2024 Annual Report of Tallaght University Hospital. It is an honour to continue serving as Chair of this hospital. This past year has been marked by continued progress, resilience, and a shared commitment to delivering excellence in patient care, even in the face of sustained and growing demands.

The vision, dedication, and service that has shaped TUH continues to inspire progress across the Hospital. From innovations in digital health and clinical care to meaningful strides in sustainability and workforce wellbeing, teams are working together to build a future that is both responsive and ambitious.

We continue to face challenges with capacity and access, but the resilience and dedication of our teams remain exceptional. Despite intense pressure from emergency and unscheduled care demands, our staff have worked tirelessly to support patients and improve services. Their commitment reflects the strength and spirit of our organisation, and we are deeply grateful.

A key development this year was the publication of the Health Assets & Needs Assessment (HANA) Report, which provides valuable insights into the health and community needs of the Tallaght area. This collaborative effort will help shape future services and ensure our care remains responsive and equitable. The Hospital's commitment to community engagement and evidence-based planning is reflected in its support for initiatives like HANA, which will guide strategic decisions in the years ahead.

The launch of our five-year Research & Innovation Strategy and the development of ground breaking projects such as GaitKeeper and Smart CP reflect our commitment to shaping the future of healthcare. Our partnerships with academic institutions, industry and community organisations continue to drive meaningful change and improve patient outcomes.

I extend my sincere thanks to my colleagues on the Board, the Executive Management Team led by the CEO Ms Lucy Nugent and interim CEO John Kelly, and every member of the TUH team. Your resilience, creativity, and compassion are the foundation of our success.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on expanding capacity, enhancing infrastructure, and fostering a culture of excellence and inclusion. Together, we will continue to deliver on our mission: **People Caring for People to Live Better Lives.**

Thank you for your continued support of TUH and its mission to provide exceptional care to the communities we serve.

Professor Anne-Marie Brady
Chair
Tallaght University Hospital

2

Hospital Board

Tallaght University Hospital is governed by a Charter approved by the Minister for Health in accordance with section 76 of the Health Act 1970 following enactment of the Health (Amendment) (no. 2) Act 1996.

The Hospital Charter has been reviewed and updated as a consequence of the transfer of paediatric care services to the New National Children's Hospital – established under the Children's Health Act 2018 and the revised Charter will be presented to both Houses of the Oireachtas for Ministerial Approval. The Children's Health Act was enacted on January 1st 2019 which saw the transfer of paediatric services at TUH to CHI.

The Hospital Board is made up of 11 Non-Executive Directors (NED's), each of whom are independent. The revised Charter, once approved, allows for the appointment of 12 NED's.

The term of NED's is determined within the Hospital Charter and a NED may hold office for a period of three years and shall not hold office for more than three consecutive terms or nine consecutive years, whichever is the longer.

In accordance with bye-laws made in November 2014 under the Tallaght Hospital Charter, the Board comprises 11 members appointed as follows:

- one member appointed by the Adelaide Health Foundation;
- one member appointed by the Meath Foundation;
- one member appointed by the National Children's Hospital;
- four members appointed by the Minister for Health on the nomination of the Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin/President of the Hospital;

- one member appointed by the Minister for Health on the nomination of Trinity College Dublin;
- one member appointed by the Minister for Health on the nomination of the HSE; and
- two members appointed by the Minister for Health on the nomination of the Hospital Board.

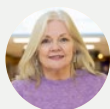
The Chairperson is elected from the Board from among the members appointed by the Minister. The Vice Chairperson is appointed by the Board from among its members.

No remuneration is paid in respect of Board Membership.

Board members may be recouped for reasonable expenses incurred in accordance with the standard public service travel and subsistence rates. Details of any such payments to Board members are provided in the Hospital's annual accounts.

No employee of the Hospital can be a member of the Board. However, the Chief Executive and appropriate members of the Executive Management Team generally attend and participate in Board meetings. This is designed to ensure that Board members are fully aware of the practical impact on the Hospital of their decisions, and on the other hand, that the Executive Management Team is fully aware of the governance and other requirements of the Board. The aim is to achieve a robust approach by all concerned. Decisions are taken by consensus involving both the Board members and the Executive Management Team but, should a vote be required, voting is confined to Board Members.

Board Members (11)



Professor Anne-Marie Brady
(Chair)



Mr Mark Varian
(Vice Chair)



Mr Edward Fleming
(Resigned December 31st 2024)



Dr Darach Ó Ciardha



Mr John Hennessy



Dr Vivienne Byers



Mr Mike Beary



Ms Darina Barrett



Mr Martin Lyes



Mr Tom Lane
(Appointed February 22nd 2024)



Reverend David Bowles
(Appointed February 23rd 2024)

Executive Management in attendance (10)

1. Ms Lucy Nugent, Chief Executive Officer
 2. Mr John Kelly, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
 3. Professor Tara Coughlan, Chair of the Medical Board (September 9th 2024)
 4. Dr Mary White, Chair of the Medical Board (September 9th 2024)
 5. Professor Catherine Wall, Director of Quality, Safety & Risk Management
 6. Ms Bridget Egan, Clinical Director, Peri-Operative Directorate
 7. Professor Peter Lavin, Clinical Director, Medical Directorate
 8. Mr Shane Russell, Chief Operations Officer
 9. Ms Sharon Larkin, Director of HR
 10. Ms Áine Lynch, Director of Nursing & Integrated Care
 11. Mr Dermot Carter, Director of Finance
- Ms Anne McKenna, Board Secretary

Board Committees

The Committees established by the Board to date are the Audit Committee; Finance Committee; Staff & Organisation Development Committee; Quality, Safety & Risk Management Committee (QSRM), Governance and Nominating Committee and the Research & Innovation Committee.

Each committee has specific functions in assisting the Hospital Board to fulfil its oversight responsibilities. Membership of the Board committees is as follows:

Audit Committee

- > Ms Darina Barrett Chair (Board Member) (from January 2024)
- > Mr Mike Beary (Board Member) (from January 2024)
- > Mr Peter Dennehy (External Member) (Retired October 2024)
- > Ms Laura Ryan (External Member)
- > Ms Aideen Goggin (External Member) (from October 21st 2024)
- > Mr Glen Byrne (External Member) (from October 21st 2024)

Staff & Organisation Development Committee

- Mr Mark Varian Chair (Board Member)
- Mr Martin Leavy (External Member)
- Ms Claire Cusack (External Member)
- Ms Karen Maher (External Member)

Quality, Safety & Risk Management Committee

- Reverend David Bowles Chair (Board Member) (from May 2024)
- Dr Darach Ó Ciardha (Board Member)
- Mr Declan Daly (External Member)
- Dr Mary Davin Power (External Member) (Interim Chair January 2024 to May 2024)
- Ms Helen Strapp (External Member)

Governance & Nominating Committee

- Professor Anne-Marie Brady, Chair (Board Member)
- Mr John Hennessy (Board Member)
- Mr Sean McGlynn (External Member)
- Ms Gabrielle Ryan (External Member)
- Ms Caitriona Ryan (External Member)

Finance Committee

- Mr Edward Fleming Chair (Board Member) (Retired December 2024)
- Mr John Hennessy (Board Member)
- Mr Ray Ryder (External Member)
- Mr Robert Henderson (External Member)
- Ms Aoife Duggan (External Member) (Resigned September 2024)
- Ms Siobhan Donlevy (External Member)

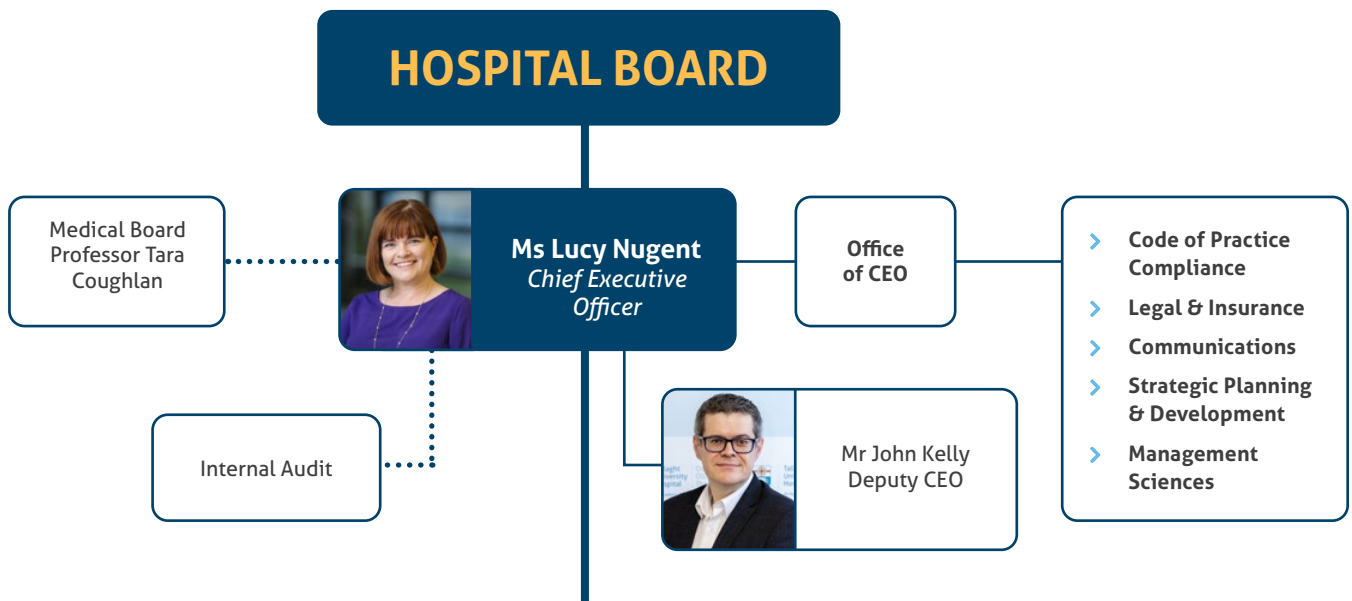
Research & Innovation Committee

- Dr Vivienne Byers Chair (Board Member)
- Dr Martin Lyes (Board Member)
- Professor Richard Reilly (External Member)
- Ms Lorna Ross (External Member)
- Mr Gavin O'Duffy (External Member)

Hospital Board Meetings Attended in 2024

Name	Expected no. of meetings to attend 2024	No. of meetings attended 2024
Professor Anne-Marie Brady, Chair	8	8
Mr Mark Varian, Vice-Chair	8	6
Mr Mike Beary	8	6
Mr John Hennessy	8	8
Dr Vivienne Byers	8	6
Mr Edward Fleming (resigned December 31st 2024)	8	8
Dr Darach Ó Ciardha	8	5
Ms Darina Barrett	8	7
Dr Martin Lyes	8	7
Mr Tom Lane	7	6
Reverend David Bowles	7	7

Executive Organisational Structure (December 2024)



Executive Management Team



Mr Dermot Carter
Chief Financial Officer



Ms Sharon Larkin
Director of Human Resources



Ms Áine Lynch
Director of Nursing & Integrated Care



Mr David Wall
Chief Information Officer



Mr Patrick Ryan
Director of Estates & Facility Management



Mr Shane Russell
Chief Operations Officer



Dr Emily Ward
Clinical Director
Radiology Directorate



Professor Peter Lavin
Clinical Director
Medical Directorate
Lead Clinical Director



Ms Bridget Egan
Clinical Director
Perioperative Directorate



Dr Ronan Desmond
Clinical Director
Laboratory Directorate



Professor Catherine Wall
Director of Quality Safety
& Risk Management

Executive Management Team

MR DERMOT CARTER

Chief Financial Officer

Financial Accounting | Management Accounting | Treasury | Payroll | Settlements Unit
| Procurement & Contracting | Finance Systems Policies & Procedures | Stores |
Financial Policy Compliance | HIPE | Accounts Receivable | ABF

MS SHARON LARKIN

Director of Human Resources

Recruitment | Staff Relations | Medical Admin & Management | Superannuation
| Personal & Organisational Development | Workforce Planning & Control |
Absenteeism | Policy Compliance | Workforce Systems, Policies & Procedures |
Credentialing | Post Graduate Medical Centre | Learning & Development | Ethics in
Public Office | Library | Occupational Health

PROFESSOR PETER LAVIN

*Clinical Director Medical Directorate
Lead Clinical Director*

Clinical Services Organisation and Delivery Assurance
Implementation on National Clinical Care Programmes
Management of all Staff in Directorate:

MS BRIDGET EGAN

Clinical Director Perioperative Directorate

- Medical
- Nursing/Healthcare Assistants
- Health & Social Care Professionals
- Clerical & Administration

DR EMILY WARD

Clinical Director Radiology Directorate

DR RONAN DESMOND

Clinical Director Laboratory Directorate

Management of Budget for Clinical Directorate
Quality, Patient Safety & Risk Management

MR DAVID WALL

Chief Information Officer

eHealth Delivery | Electronic Patient Record | Digital Innovation & Transformation
| Enterprise Resource Planning (Systems) | Unified Communications | Telephony |
Information Governance | Medical Records | ICT Programme Management Office | ICE
Infrastructure & Service Desk | Application Portfolio Manager & Business Intelligence

MR PATRICK RYAN

Director of Estates & Facility Management

Catering | Housekeeping | Estate Management | Logistics | Facilities Management
| Technical Services | Projects | Security Services | Car Parking | Mortuary
| Decontamination Services | MPCE

PROFESSOR CATHERINE WALL

Director of Quality Safety & Risk Management

Development of all Hospital QSRM Policies & Procedures | Risk Management
| Risk Register | Monitor/Assure Implementation of all QSRM Policies | Implement
National QSRM Policies | Licensing & Regulation | QSRM KPIs | Compliance &
Assurance | Clinical Audit | Health Promotion | Safety & Health at Work
| Ethics Programme

MS ÁINE LYNCH

Director of Nursing & Integrated Care

Graduate, Specialist & Advanced Nursing Practice | Professional Development |
End of Life Care | Patient Advice & Liaison Service | Volunteer Services | Pastoral
Care | Arts & Health | Patient Community Advisory Council | Integrated Care

MR SHANE RUSSELL

Chief Operations Officer

Operations Oversight/Responsibility & Assurance | Service Planning | Bed
Management | Operations Systems, Policies & Procedures | Production &
Performance Compliance | Health & Social Care Professionals Manager | Pharmacy |
Medical Photography

3

Message from the Interim CEO



John Kelly
Interim CEO

It is a privilege to present the 2024 Annual Report, as interim CEO following the departure of Ms Lucy Nugent in December 2024. I extend heartfelt thanks to Lucy for her leadership, unwavering commitment, and many achievements during her tenure.

This year marked the highest level of activity since the Hospital opened its doors. The rise was evident across both scheduled and emergency services, with outpatient attendances increasing to 288,233 and Emergency Department visits climbing by 8% on the previous year. Of particular note was the 16% increase in presentations from patients aged over 75. These results reflect an unwavering focus on dignity and timeliness in patient care.

There were significant improvements in urgent care delivery. The average number of patients on trolleys at 8am dropped by 20%, and ED performance enhanced markedly across key metrics. Time to treatment improved, compliance strengthened, and in patient experience and transfer times from ED to inpatient beds rose by 25% overall, with a 37% improvement for patients over 75. These results reflect not only operational efficiency, but an unwavering focus on dignity and timeliness in patient care.

We know that patient access remains a critical area for development. Progress has been made, yet further innovation and investment are needed to ensure timely treatment for all. Our strategy remains focused on expanding capacity wherever possible, modernising our infrastructure, and embracing digital health transformation to support our clinicians and empower our patients.

2024 marked a year of continuous progress, our teams continued to adapt, innovate, and respond to the growing healthcare needs of our patients. The advancement of our strategic goals, especially in access to care, research, and digital transformation has remained at the core of our collective efforts.

As we move forward into 2025, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Executive Management Team, Professor Anne-Marie Brady, Chair of the Board and Board Members for their commitment and leadership. Finally, my sincere thanks to the staff of TUH. Through your skill, commitment and compassion, you continue to deliver excellence and inspire hope in those who need it most. You are the beating heart of this hospital.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Kelly." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Kelly
Interim CEO
Tallaght University Hospital

4

Access

288,233
OPD Visits



59,935
ED Attendances



58,650
Daycase procedures
(excluding Dialysis)



19,985
Inpatient Admissions
(87% of admissions via ED)



189,892
Diagnostic images taken
(of which 15,180 were taken
in Community Radiology)



Chemotherapy **5,260**
Dialysis **21,128**
GI Scopes **5,930**

1,167
Patients treated
every 24 hours



32.91m
Samples
processed
in the lab



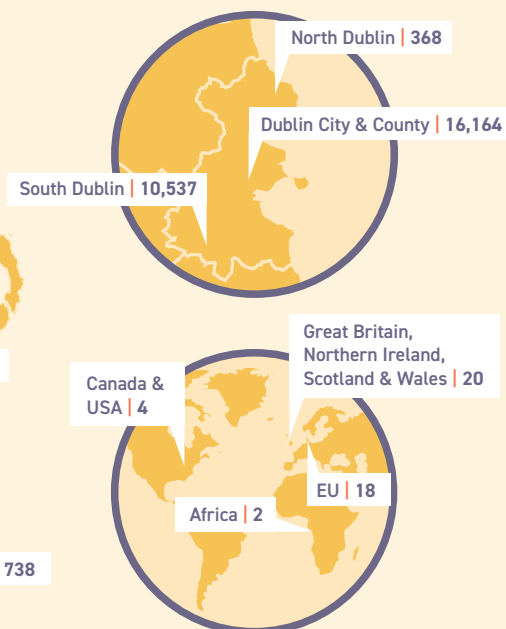
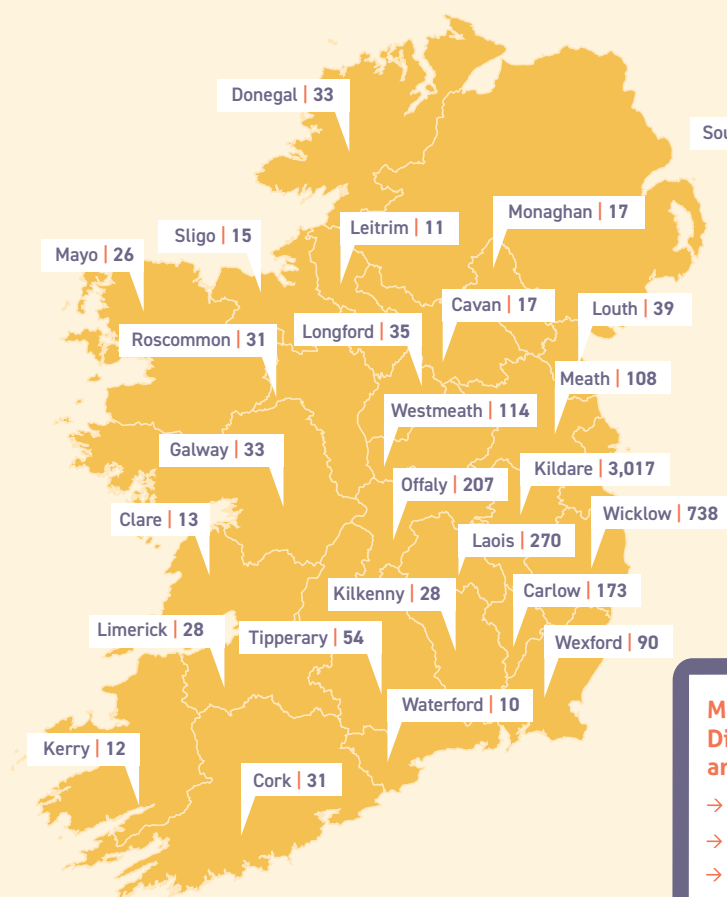
106,645
Surgeries &
Procedures



Average age of admission
59 Male
60 Female



Admission by Area / Country



Most Common Diagnosis Requiring an Inpatient Stay

- Pneumonia
- General collapse
- COPD
- UTI

Most Common Diagnosis Requiring a visit to ED

- Limb problems
- Abdominal Pain
- Chest Pain

ED in Numbers

164

Patients treated every 24 hours



59,935

Patient presentations to ED

44,463

Triage category 1,2,3



13,297

Ambulance arrivals



46

Patients arrived by air ambulance



711

Patients admitted to Critical Care from ED



407

RTA /Orthopaedic Presentations



22%

Referred by a GP



17,465

Admissions to Hospital via ED



4h 52 mins

Average time to be seen by a Doctor or ANP after Triage

8.11 hours

Hours in the ED for patients not admitted



28.87%

of patients go home within six hours

Patient presentations by age

16-74 51,567

75+ 8,368

Top three reasons for presentation to ED

① Limb Problems

② Abdominal Pain

③ Chest Pain

4,932

No of patients 75+ admitted (scheduled & unscheduled)

8,368

No of patients 75+ presenting to ED

ED in Numbers continued

Patients on trolleys

14,849 

PET Times

6hr PET **32.73%**

9hr PET **49.42%**

Medical average LOS

11.4 

Waiting Lists

Inpatient **1,817** 

Daycase **2,718**

Outpatients **28,889**

Endoscopy **874**

2024 saw the highest level of activity in TUH since the Hospital opened. This rise in activity was seen across both emergency and scheduled services. The work to improve patient access remains the highest priority for the Hospital and while a lot of positive work has been done which is improving both patient access and the patient experience, continual work is needed to improve access times.

Scheduled Care

There are four major patient groups in scheduled care: inpatient services, daycare services, endoscopy services and outpatient services. Across three of the four previously mentioned groups the Hospital significantly improved access.

The net result was a reduction in the Outpatient Department (OPD) waiting list reducing from 31,290 on January 1st to 28,889 on December 31st. Significantly the number of patients waiting longer than a year to be seen reduced from 8,594 to 5,092, a 40% reduction in that patient group. The Hospital also met the HSE's end of year target of having 90% of the OPD waiting list under 15 months.

In endoscopy there was also significant improvement, with the number of patients on that waiting list from 1,694 on January 1st to 879 by December 31st. The Hospital has been working hard to clear the number of patients waiting over 13 weeks for a procedure and significant strides were made in 2024. By the end of the year there was only 124 patients waiting longer than 13 weeks. That equated to an 87% reduction in that endoscopy waiting group in the 12 month period.

“

That equated to an 87% reduction in that endoscopy waiting group in the 12 month period. ”

5,456

Volume of activity through the
Reeves Day Surgery Centre in 2024

17,745

Surgeries in the Centre since the
unit opened

The volume of activity through the Reeves Day Surgery Centre continued to increase in 2024 to 5,456. Since the unit opened 17,745 patients have had surgery in the Centre. The Hospital also reached the HSE target in 2024 of having 90% of the list waiting less than nine months.

The Hospital faces a number of challenges in single Consultant sub-specialities.

Orthopaedic Hand and ENT Rhinoplasty surgery remains areas that will need additional supports in order to increase capacity. This is challenging due to the low number of staff training in these sub-specialities. Outside of these two patient groups the waiting list is in very good shape with 92% of the patients waiting less than six months and 73% waiting less than three months.

The area of greatest challenge within scheduled care was the inpatient waiting lists. Demand for inpatient beds was exceptionally high in 2024 with the Hospital using an average of 21 beds extra at all times. There were only three months of 2024 where average bed occupancy came below 100%, March, June and July.

At all other times the Hospital operated above 100% occupancy as a result. This increased demand for beds resulted in a reduction in inpatient elective surgery for significant periods of time. The net result was a 72% rise in inpatient waiting lists. The Hospital also saw the number of patients waiting over nine months for surgery rise by 117%. The Hospital is fully committed to address the waiting list and is actively working with the region and the central HSE to progress the funding of extra beds as soon as possible.

Urgent and Emergency Care

By the end of 2024 the ED had 59,926 attendances, up 8% on the previous year. The Hospital saw a significant demand in the patients over 75 attending with that age group up 16%. Given the clinical complexities of that patient group and as a result the longer length of stay this put significant upward pressure on the bed base.

There were many positives for urgent care firstly, the average number of patients on trolleys at 8am was down 20% on the previous year. The average 8am count in 2024 was 18 patient versus 23 in 2023. Secondly, despite a rise in patients aged over 75, attending their treatment times in ED was significant improvement with PET compliance. In 2024 TUH accounted for only 2.7% of all national 24 PET breaches in this group. Patient transfer times into beds also improved with a 25% improvement for all age groups and a 37% improvement for older patients.

Despite the improvements within the ED it remains under significant pressure not only from a shortage of inpatient beds but also from the numbers attending. As the Hospital moved into 2025 that trend continues. The Hospital is fully committed to improving the flow through ED and to make the experience for patients in ED more pleasant. The Hospital is working with the region to ensure that as many urgent care options are available to the public as they are in other parts of the country.

ED Supports

When you put yourself in the patient's shoes, you can appreciate that attending the ED can be a very stressful time for patients and their loved ones/carers. They are entering, by necessity rather than choice into an unfamiliar world with medical language which they are not used to, at a time when they are unwell or have had an accident. It is a busy noisy place and patients and their families can easily be overwhelmed.

Following a successful trial, the Hospital permanently introduced the role of Patient Liaison Officers (PLO) in the ED. The PLO's ensure that patients in the waiting room understand the ED process i.e. triage/phlebotomy/x-ray/wait times. Their presence enables the Nursing Staff more time to attend to patients and their clinical needs. In the first full year of data, the number of compliments has doubled, and informal complaints have reduced by over 40%.

The PLO's ensure the patient's voice is heard either through the patient directly or via their partner or carer. They also try to resolve any issues they have, record any positive feedback, and make sure that patients waiting a long time are provided with something to eat and drink.

Feedback from patients in the ED

First I would like to say thanks for the support from the whole team including the patient liaison who were very kind to provide us with information and guidance. I understand the health system is in a crisis moment, but the whole team was very educated, caring, and respectful of my loved one. I would also like to acknowledge the cleaning staff as well, I could see that even in an overcrowded situation, they can keep the areas spotless.

I just wanted to let you know that the ED staff could not have been more helpful and were so kind to my mum, my brother and I who were with her. All doctors, nurses, radiographers, care staff, and catering staff were also wonderful. Thanks so much to everyone for making the experience as seamless as possible. It was very much appreciated.



Pictured from left to right Mark Daly and Yvette Hudson, our Patient Liaison Officers in the ED

Celebrating Tymon North

In November the Hospital were provided with an overdue opportunity to mark the opening of Tymon North and acknowledge the powerful impact the facility has had for our patients.

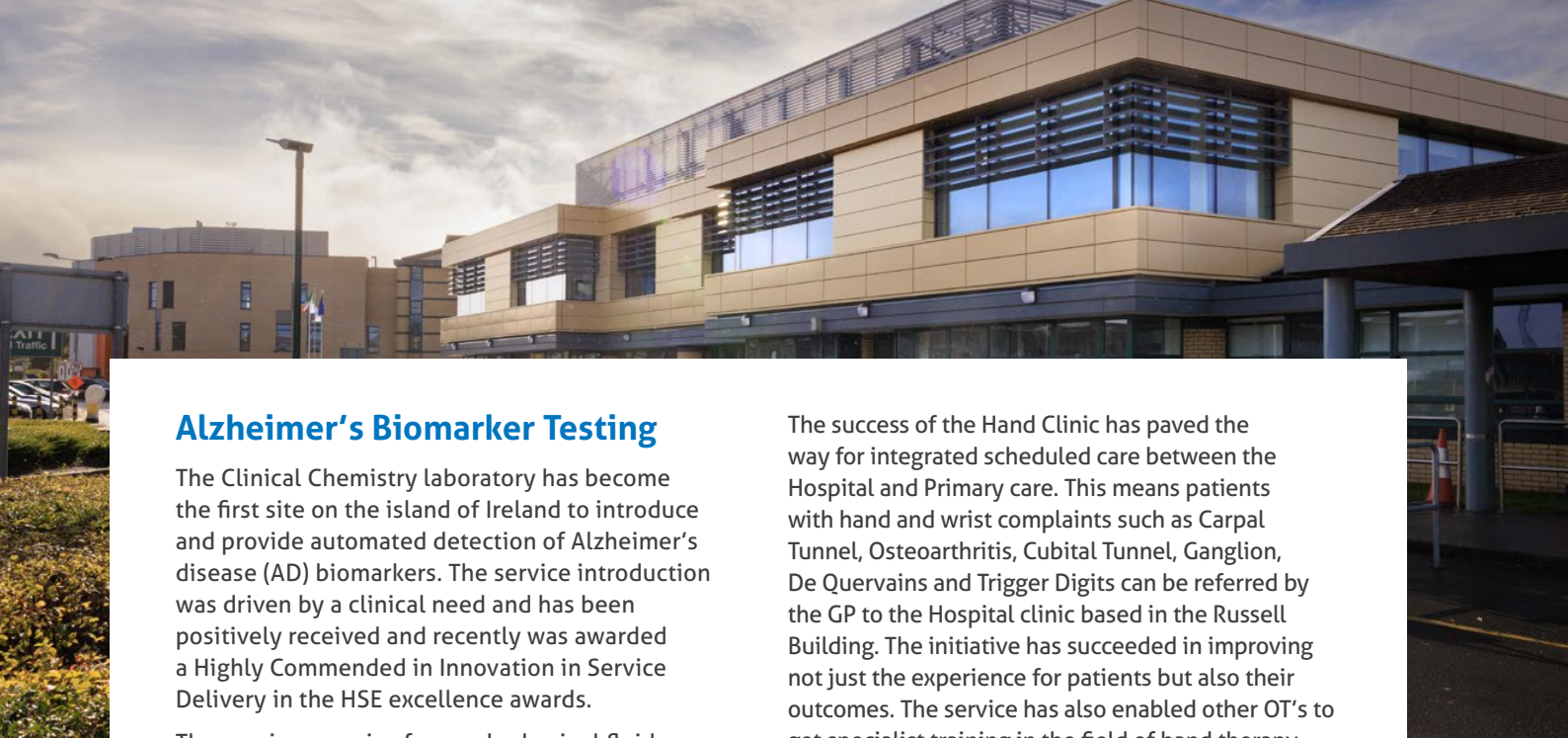
The 48-bed facility which is managed and staffed by TUH is located just a ten-minute drive from our main campus. It opened during the height of COVID and the facility cares for patients who need ongoing medical attention and rehabilitation before they can return home.

The unit in Tymon North provides unique specialist medical gerontology care, as well as addressing any social care and rehabilitation needs patients may have as they continue their recovery until they are well enough for discharge. There are two wards, Cherry Blossom and Bluebell. Each single room is en-suite with a television. The expected length of stay for patients is two to 12 weeks.

Since it opened in 2020, Tymon North has treated over 1,000 patients with an average age of 81 years. After their stay, the majority of patients (750) have been discharged home.



Left to right Consultant Geriatricians - Dr Sylvia Karpinski and Dr Aoife Fallon; Sandra Greville, Clinical Nurse Manager; John Kelly, Deputy CEO and Lucy Nugent, CEO of TUH



Alzheimer's Biomarker Testing

The Clinical Chemistry laboratory has become the first site on the island of Ireland to introduce and provide automated detection of Alzheimer's disease (AD) biomarkers. The service introduction was driven by a clinical need and has been positively received and recently was awarded a Highly Commended in Innovation in Service Delivery in the HSE excellence awards.

The previous service for cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) biomarker testing involved referral to an external site and was laborious for both medical and scientific staff. This was also associated with a turnaround time of several months which was having an impact on access to disease modifying treatments. The use of laboratory biomarkers enables clearer differentiation between various neurodegenerative conditions.

Along with the Tallaght Institute for Memory & Cognition (TIMC), the Neurochemistry section of the Clinical Chemistry laboratory set about validating novel technologies that have led to the development of the testing service within TUH and has offered this service to external hospitals.

This has reduced turnaround times to less than seven days for reporting of results for CSF Biomarkers. The TIMC and the Neurochemistry laboratory have recently begun a project to examine the feasibility of developing blood markers with the aim of establishing a National Centre of excellence for Alzheimer's testing for both CSF and blood samples.

New Hand Clinic

Olga Hill, an Occupational Therapist (OT) specialising in hands was one of the main drivers in setting up an outpatient OT-led Hand Therapy Clinic for patients at the Hospital. The Clinic which was established to help patients avoid lengthy wait times at busy fracture clinics. This meant many people with particular injuries were able to access treatment sooner and did not need to spend time waiting to see a Consultant.

The Clinic which runs from the Russell Building at Tallaght Cross West has to date seen 459 patients. It was set up with the support of HSE Spark Funding. Olga worked in partnership with St James's Hospital and her OT colleagues in Primary Care, to form this new service.

The success of the Hand Clinic has paved the way for integrated scheduled care between the Hospital and Primary care. This means patients with hand and wrist complaints such as Carpal Tunnel, Osteoarthritis, Cubital Tunnel, Ganglion, De Quervains and Trigger Digits can be referred by the GP to the Hospital clinic based in the Russell Building. The initiative has succeeded in improving not just the experience for patients but also their outcomes. The service has also enabled other OT's to get specialist training in the field of hand therapy.

Patients have traditionally gone to the GP who then refers them to a Consultant in Orthopaedics, Plastics or Rheumatology or to all three departments. The patient could then wait for up to 18 months in some instances to be seen by the Consultant or a Physiotherapist. At this point, their symptoms may have become worse.

Due to its success further HSE Spark funding has been provided to enable the existing service to continue while expanding the catchment area for GP referral. The further funding was split equally by our hospital, St. James's Hospital and community Occupational Therapy services. It is an excellent example of joint hospital working, navigating hospital systems and using inhouse designers to benefit a patient pathway. Further collaboration is also noted in training the senior community OT in the assessment and treatment of hand conditions.

From the cohort of patients seen, 60% are discharged, 14% are referred to the hand surgeon, 8% do not attend, and 10% are referred to the Advanced Practice Occupational Therapist for injection.



*Olga Hill,
Occupational
Therapist*



Pictured from left to right at the launch of the new room were JJ and Fran Kane who provided feedback to the team on the development of the room along with Dr Aileen McCabe, Consultant in Emergency Medicine at TUH

Neurodiversity Friendly Environment

A team in the ED led by Dr Aileen McCabe, Consultant in Emergency Medicine led out on a programme of change, pioneering efforts to address the challenges of navigating the high stress environment of an ED for neurodivergent individuals.

Recognising the diverse needs of neurodivergent patients, the team implemented innovative strategies to support their experience.

Central to this initiative is the development of comprehensive guidelines for staff, equipping them with the necessary tools to effectively communicate with patients who identify as neurodivergent. These guidelines encompass a range of communication strategies tailored to individual needs, fostering a supportive and understanding environment from the moment patients enter the ED.

Sensory challenges, such as sensitivity to light and noise, can exacerbate stress and anxiety for neurodivergent individuals in busy ED environments. The team have established a sensory room that provides a calming space, offering a respite from overwhelming stimuli and promoting relaxation. This innovative approach not only demonstrates a commitment to accommodating diverse sensory needs but also underscores the Hospital's dedication to enhancing the overall patient experience.

A recent survey conducted after the implementation revealed overwhelmingly positive feedback from patients, indicating a notable increase in satisfaction levels since the implementation of neurodiversity-friendly initiatives. Patients reported feeling more understood and supported during their time in the ED, highlighting the tangible impact of creating an inclusive environment.

The goal is to ensure that every patient receives the highest quality of care, tailored to their individual needs. By fostering a neurodiversity-friendly environment, the Hospital is not only improving patient outcomes but also promoting inclusivity and understanding within the healthcare system.

Fran Kane, a mother of a neurodivergent adult and member of the Hospital's Patient Community Advisory Council visited the room with her son and provided feedback saying "I think the Hospitals proactive approach is to be welcomed and I hope it will serve as a model for other healthcare institutions. This approach should be widespread to better serve the diverse patient populations across the country."

Satellite Laboratory Developed

In 2024 the Clinical Chemistry team led by Caroline Murray, Senior Medical Scientist have increased the capacity in the satellite laboratory in the Robert Graves Institute for endocrinology located within the SIMMS building.

This satellite laboratory now provides a five day service to support the outpatient endocrinology service.

This has led to benefits compared to previous traditional arrangement such as

- Faster one-stop service for patients, with no need for a prior visit to the Hospital Phlebotomy Department
- Test results available in time for consultation, thus improving clinical decision making and eliminating extra visits due to missing lab results

- Reduce the patient footfall to the main Outpatient Phlebotomy Department to support its reorganisation of Clinic Capacity post Covid Pandemic and potentially offer additional clinic capacity to other outpatient Clinics
- Ability to support additional one-stop clinics using the learnings developed in this project

The next piece of work to be undertaken in the satellite laboratory is to increase the repertoire of tests available in the OPD service and to support additional OPD specialities.



5

Integrated Care 2024

Introduction

Integrated care is central to how we operate as a healthcare system and this is reflected in our relationships with colleagues in primary care and HSE Dublin South West which continue to strengthen and evolve as we prepare to move to a regional structure.

Governance structures include the Tallaght Hub Steering Group which enables engagement between senior healthcare leaders from the community and hospital to progress implementation of integrated care. Collaboration has been improved through shared learning events, joint initiatives and projects such as leadership programmes with acute and community colleagues working on shared projects.

The Hospital and multidisciplinary colleagues across the Chronic Disease Management hubs and the Integrated Care Programme for Older Persons within the HSE continue to work closely, with a focus on including service delivery, maintaining health closer to home, enhanced care and hospital avoidance, support earlier discharges.

Chronic Disease Management (CDM) is part of a broader national strategy, Sláintecare, to manage the growing prevalence of chronic diseases, especially as the population ages. The hub model is designed to integrate services, ensuring that individuals with chronic conditions have access to continuous care within their communities, reducing the need for hospital visits and preventing exacerbations of chronic conditions that could lead to hospitalisations.

The goal is to create a seamless pathway for patients, where they can access multidisciplinary teams of healthcare professionals who collaborate on personalised care plans, provide self-management education programmes to help people manage their conditions safely at home, delivering the right care in the right place at the right time.

Since 2021 there are two hubs linked to TUH, one based in the Russell Centre nearby and one in Boot Road, Clondalkin. The hubs are delivering CDM services and demonstrate positive outcomes for people in our community.

Stronger for Surgery

Working together a multidisciplinary group produced a series of short videos with key advice for patients scheduled to have surgery.

Malnutrition, frailty, managing feelings about surgery, exercise and cigarette smoking are all risk factors for poor outcomes after surgery. The materials were developed as a way to educate and empower patients to reduce these very changeable risk factors, focussing on the most important ways patient can help themselves.

It is hoped that having access to the materials outlines actions they can take, turning waiting time into preparation time, giving patients better results during and after surgery.

The materials are accessible from the Department of Surgery page on the [Hospital website](#), the Hospital YouTube channel with QR codes included in letters to patients about their scheduled surgery.



Funding for the initiative was made available via the HSE Spark Ignite Program which is supported by the National Quality Improvement Team, the Nursing & Midwifery Services Director and the National Health & Social Care Professions Office.

Members of the Stronger for Surgery project team led by Siobhán Power from left to right: Joanne Coffey, Communications Manager; Dr Valerie Twomey, Head of Psychology; Siobhán Power, Clinical Specialist Dietitian for Perioperative Services; Ms Maria Whelan, Consultant General & Colorectal Surgeon; Laura Hammond, Senior Physiotherapist; Dr Natalie Cole, Head of Innovate Health



Showcasing Integrated Care

In April the Hospital hosted a series of presentations to an international delegation to explain how we work in close partnership with our colleagues in Community Health Services to provide integrated care for our patients. This event was co-hosted by Áine Lynch, Director of Nursing & Integrated Care and Margaret McQuillan, Head of Services, Health & Wellbeing, HSE Dublin South West.

The international delegation featuring healthcare professionals from three different countries was led by Professor Áine Carroll, Professor of Healthcare Integration & Improvement and Chair of the International Foundation for Integrated Care (IFIC.) Professor Carroll is also a Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine at the National Rehabilitation Hospital.

The series of presentations which took place in the Hospital and in the Russell Building were very successful with lots of interesting high-energy discussions throughout the day. The delegates were also shown some of our recent innovations at TUH.



Pictured Front Row: Professor Áine Carroll, - Chair IFIC; Tabitha Jones, Research Student The Menzies Centre Australia; Fiona Lyne, Director of Communications IFIC; Miho Takechi, Director of the Municipal Clinic, Japan; Meagan Bacciaglia, Strategy Associate Canada; Kate Traynor, IFIC Ireland Coordinator. Back Row; Margaret McQuillan, Head of Services Health & Wellbeing Dublin South Kildare and West Wicklow CHO; Dr Niamh Lennox-Chhugani, CEO IFIC; Dr John O'Keefe, General Practitioner; Áine Lynch, Director of Nursing & Integrated Care TUH and John Kelly, Deputy CEO TUH

John's Campaign

Launched in the UK in 2014, by the family of John Gerrard, a doctor and businessman who suffered from Alzheimer's disease. As part of his treatment, John was admitted to hospital. During his stay, no visiting was allowed due to a norovirus outbreak, and John physically and cognitively declined. His family started John's Campaign for carers to be welcomed to spend time with vulnerable people during a hospital stay, to prevent this happening to others.

The Hospital have practised the philosophy of John's Campaign informally, but following a trial on some wards officially introduced the Campaign throughout the Hospital. The primary carer of a patient with dementia, an intellectual disability, or special needs is welcome to visit their loved one daily, with the additional offer of flexible visiting.

It is important to note that a hospital admission can give the carer a break therefore they should never feel obliged to visit the patient outside of normal visiting hours.

The ward staff give the designated person a 'Carers Passport' which they will wear while in the Hospital. This will identify them as a Carer and enable them to visit freely and attend other departments such as physiotherapy or x-ray with their loved one.

Some of the benefits of the initiative include reduced patient agitation/distress, reduced falls, improved hydration and nutrition, reduced deconditioning, enhanced communication and improved discharge planning.



Pictured left to right; Professor Peter Lavin, Medical Clinical Director; Cesira McCrohan, CNM3; Sindhu Cheriyan, ADON ARHC; Lucy Nugent, CEO; Ananthu Jerina, CNM2 Burkitt Ward; Dr Aoife Fallon, Consultant ARHC; Susan O'Reilly, ADON Dementia Quality Improvement, HSE Dublin & Midlands; Áine Lynch, Director of Nursing & Integrated Care

Milestone for Memory & Cognition

The Hospital's Memory Service celebrated their 10th anniversary in September. Now known as the Institute of Memory & Cognition the team have grown and have over 20 permanent staff with expertise in neurology and geriatric medicine, as well as nursing, social work, occupational therapy, speech & language therapy, physiotherapy, neuropsychology, and dietetics providing a five day a week Interdisciplinary Geriatric Neurology Memory service. A true example of integrated, interdisciplinary care.

A quarter of patients attending the specialist memory service are under the age of 65, and this has increased over the last 10 years. Before the establishment of this clinic, younger people with memory symptoms had great difficulty accessing a diagnosis, and it could take years. The average length of time between receiving the referral and seeing someone in the clinic is now four months, and this can be within the month for urgent referrals.

To mark the occasion the team moved out to Tallaght Library for a few hours on September 17th 2024 with information stands from the team and the services they work with in the community. This included the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland, HSE's Memory Technology Resource Room in Ballyfermot, the Integrated Care for Older Persons Team, the National Intellectual Disability Memory Service,

An Garda Síochána, the Social Prescribers, South Dublin County Partnership, Ex Well Medical and Citizens Information Tallaght. There was also a series of short talks by various members of the team for the general public on the roles each discipline has in patient care and the inroads that have been made in their particular areas in the last number of years. The day was an incredible success with engagement from over 200 members of the public and very positive feedback from the services the Hospital works with, in the community.




Some members of the Institute of Memory & Cognition in Tallaght Library celebrating their 10th anniversary with a community event

Pressure Ulcers Explained

Pressure ulcers are debilitating and painful and can have a significant impact on a person's life. Pressure ulcers are becoming more and more prevalent in the community and in the acute care setting which is not surprising given Ireland's aging population with increasingly complex healthcare needs. The prevention of pressure ulcer development means patients not enduring unnecessary pain, unnecessary admissions to hospital and prolonged lengths of stay for patients.

Unfortunately, patients, their family and carers do not always know what pressure ulcers are or understand their risk of pressure ulcer development until after an ulcer has already happened. The Wound Management team, public health nurses and the Communications team produced a powtoon aimed at informing and educating patients and their families of who is at risk of pressure ulcer development, how they can monitor their own pressure areas, what they can do themselves to try avoid pressure ulcer development and what to do if they find a pressure ulcer.

The aim of this powtoon is to empower patients and their families into taking control of their own pressure ulcer prevention as appropriate while also offering them resources and supports should they find they need them. Posters were designed and displayed in the Hospital, the Patient and Carers guide to Pressure Ulcers patient information leaflet was also updated to include the QR code.





Tallaght University Hospital
Ospidéal Ollscoile Thamhlachta
An Academic Partner of Trinity College Dublin

What are Pressure Ulcers and who is at Risk???

Pressure ulcers are also known as pressure sores or bed sores. Pressure ulcers are debilitating and painful and can have a significant impact on a person's life.

Knowing if you or a loved one is at risk of developing a pressure ulcer and what you can do to prevent one happening will result in avoiding unnecessary pain, unnecessary admissions to hospital and prolonged lengths of stay.

Click on the below link to see our video on Pressure Ulcers



Multidisciplinary Team Development Leadership Programme

Colleagues from the Hospital and community participated in a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Development Leadership Programme titled Embracing New Ways of Working Programme "Compassionate Leadership and Cultures" and completed a number of collaborative projects on integrated care.

The National MDT Development Programme was rolled out to support the development of an effective integrated team working across Acute Hospital, associated Community Health Networks and Clinical Specialist Teams in line with the New Regions and strategic SLáintecare objectives. The MDT Development programme was provided by the Clinical Directors Programme in collaboration with academic partners in the RCSI.

GEDI Achievements

The Gerontological Emergency Department Intervention (GEDI) team celebrated their fifth anniversary. Starting mid 2019 the team is made up of an Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Medical Social Worker, Speech & Language Therapist, Nutrition & Dietetics along with a Geriatrics Registrar and Consultant Geriatrician. At the time they were set up they were one of the first interdisciplinary initiatives, based within an ED in Ireland.

In the five years the team have reviewed over 9,800 patients, with the service adapting to support both staff and patients during the pandemic and beyond. The GEDI team have established pathways to support patients after discharge into the community with links to health and social care colleagues, voluntary and government agencies.

The GEDI team members proactively screen patients aged 75 years and older presenting to the ED. The GEDI team continually aims to meet the needs of a growing frail older population through identification of physical, social and cognitive issues through a Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment on the acute floor.

The role of GEDI team is to improve outcomes and experience for older adults living with frailty presenting to ED through risk stratification, promotion of a holistic model of care which, facilitates Interdisciplinary team working incorporating age-attuned education, expedited patient flow and infrastructural quality improvement. The development of the Age Related Assessment Unit (ARAU) and its dedicated MDT assessment space enabling functional assessments during an unscheduled hospital attendance have added to the positive impact the team can make to a patients care.

GEDI Team 2019-2024

Male patients

4,448



Female patients

5,433



Reviewed during
the week

8,446



Reviewed at
the weekend

1,435

Average Age

81 years old



GP Referral

2,150



Self-Referral

6,887

Admitted for
medical care

6,214



Discharged from
the ED

3,667



Arrived by
Ambulance

4,547

Women's Health Podcasts

The Hospital released a new six part podcast series on Women's Health. Each individual episode produced as part of the Hospital's Let Talk About series covers a different topic such as; Endometriosis, the Importance of Cervical Screening, Brain Health and Dealing with Brain Fog, Pelvic Prolapse and Incontinence, Good Heart & Bone Health and finally Menopause.

The guests on the podcast include Consultant Gynaecologists Dr Aoife O'Neil and Dr Alison DeMaio, Consultant Endocrinologist Dr Lucy-Ann Behan and Advanced Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health Sinead Cleary, Cheryl Gilmore and Colleen Byrne as well as Endometriosis Clinical Nurse Specialist Paula Earley.

They were joined by their colleagues Advanced Nurse Practitioners David Askin (Bone Health) Shirley Ingram (Heart) and Cathy McHale (Brain & Memory). The podcasts also featured Gráinne Wall a Specialist Urogynaecology Physiotherapist and the Hospital's Head of Psychology Neuropsychologist, Dr Valerie Twomey. The podcast project was funded by the South Dublin County Partnerships Health Project (Fettercairn), scheduled and organised by the Communications Department in the Hospital.

You can hear all of the podcasts on the Tallaght University Hospital YouTube channel. They are also available on the Apple Podcasts and Podbean platforms. This is a [link](#) to the series.



Down Syndrome Podcast Series

The Hospital also launched a Let's Talk About Podcast Series, focussing on Down syndrome. The series is targeted at individuals with Down syndrome, their families and carers, health and social care staff and anybody who has an interest in the health needs of adults with Down syndrome in Ireland. Over five episodes, the podcast series looks at what Down syndrome is, common health issues and the importance of health screening from age 35.

Hosted by Geraldine Kyle, a registered nurse tutor in TUH, throughout the five podcasts, she speaks to several health experts for people with intellectual disabilities and also speaks with Ross O'Neill, a young man with Down syndrome, a representative of Down syndrome Ireland and a mother of a young adult with Down syndrome.

All the Let's Talk about podcast series can be found on the Hospital's YouTube Channel, Facebook as well as on Spotify and Podbean.



Pictured from left to right at the launch of the third Let's talk about series were Shauna Ennis, Head of the Centre for Learning & Development at TUH; Professor Mary McCarron, founder and Principal Investigator for IDS-TILDA and Geraldine Kyle, Podcast host and registered Nurse Tutor at TUH



Enhanced Infrastructure

614,400

Patient meals



17,522

Regular maintenance
call-out projects



10,867



Medical Devices managed
by Clinical Engineering

11,700



Work orders completed
by Clinical Engineering



339,562 m3

Oxygen used

1,497,448

Items of bed linen /
changed / cleaned



ENERGY USED



29.73 GWh
Gas



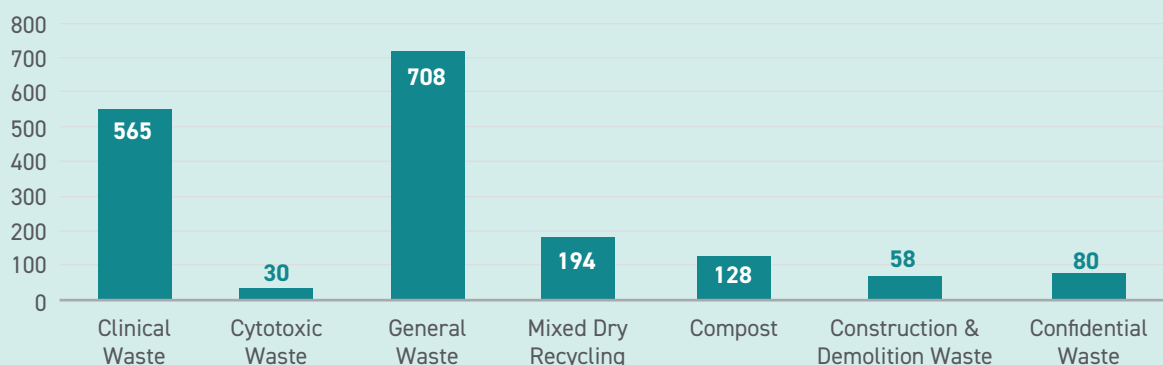
12.46 GWh
Electricity

295,192

Number of jobs
completed by porters



Types of Waste 2024 (tonnes)



2024 Enhanced Infrastructure summary

The Hospital welcomed the publication of the Department of Health's Hospital Inpatient Bed Capacity Expansion Plan 2024–2031. The plan outlines a commitment to deliver 196 additional inpatient beds for TUH over its duration, representing a transformative investment in improving access to care for the TUH community.

To support this expansion, TUH has initiated feasibility studies and started the procurement of a multidisciplinary design team. This team will collaborate with the Hospital Infrastructure Team to lead the delivery of the first tranche of 96 beds and develop a comprehensive Masterplan, outlining a visionary and sustainable approach to future hospital development that aligns with the evolving healthcare and access needs of the wider catchment area.

While planning for the execution of this significant development pipeline, TUH continues to invest in upgrading and enhancing existing infrastructure. In 2024, the Infrastructure Team supervised the development of a state-of-the-art Aseptic Compounding Unit, replacing the original facility that has been in operation since the Hospital's opening. This modern unit will provide a purpose-built, safe environment for the preparation of vital treatments, ensuring the highest standards of quality and patient safety.

As part of our ongoing multiyear investment program to upgrade and enhance existing ward infrastructure, the Infrastructure Team also delivered additional patient rooms, renovated rehabilitation spaces, upgraded the dirty utility area, and expanded the clinical base to support staff in delivering efficient, high-quality care across the Burkitt and Lynn wards.

Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory

Following a four month refurbishment programme the newly refurbished Cardiac Catheterisation Lab reopened in January. The refurbishment project was funded as part of the National Equipment Replacement Programme.

Funding covered a complete refurbishment and replacement of 12 year old equipment with a state of the art Philips Azurion 7 Cardiac Cath Lab. This new equipment has resulted in a significant reduction in radiation dose to the patient and at the same time giving clinicians a clearer image of the cardiac vessels.



Pictured from left to right Dr David Moore Consultant Cardiologist; Carmel O Callaghan CNM2; Dr Bryan Loo, Consultant Cardiologist; Laura Gannon, RSM3; Aishling Gallagher, CSR and Donal O Dea, Chief 1 Cardiac Physiologist

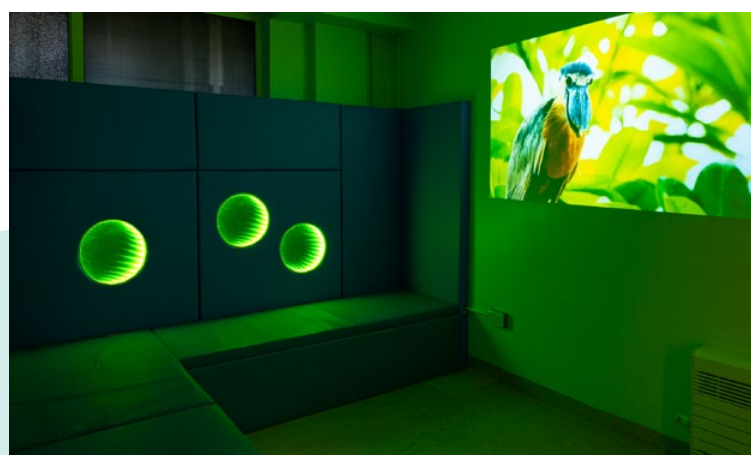


Makeover in ED

Working with a clinical team members of the Facilities & Estates project team were delighted to manage the makeover of a room in the ED. The patient focussed project was undertaken with the aim of reducing the stress experienced by patients that are neurodivergent attending the ED.

The light and noise in what is often a very busy environment can be extremely stressful for some patients this makes it harder for staff to examine and treat them. The room has been fitted out with soft seating, where patients can sit or lie down comfortably and be examined if necessary.

There is soft lighting, it has also been fitted with infinity pools to help patients relax, and there is also the opportunity to connect to Bluetooth and play music or content from their phones which is displayed on the wall, again an enormous help in distracting patients from where they are and keeping them calm.



The room as it looks with normal lighting and using the technology kitted out in the room



Lift Upgrade

Works started on the replacement of the 13 lifts in the Hospital. Early in 2024 and to date we have completed the installation of five lifts with another two in progress; most notable are some of the lifts in the main atrium for staff and public use. When complete in late 2025 we will have a suite of modern and energy efficient lifts (slightly larger in many cases) to see us well into the future.

We have taken this opportunity to extend one of the staff atrium lifts up to Level 5, the maintenance area for the Ward Block and other areas; this will greatly assist movement of materials and equipment for the maintenance staff and to facilitate other works in those areas.



Change by Degrees

All staff with an interest in Climate Action & Sustainability were offered the opportunity to complete an online training course. Participation in the '101 Sustainability E-Learning Programme' had 14 modules which provides an opportunity to build awareness and inspire people to make a change in their professional and personal lives.



Green Moments in Surgical Practice



In 2024 the Hospital's Urology Department introduced an environmental initiative aimed at improving waste management in theatres with the introduction of a cross-specialty "Green Moment."

The project, led by Consultant Urologist Ms Clíodhna Browne, aimed to encourage members of the urology teams and theatre staff to reduce waste production and correctly dispose of waste generated during procedures. As part of this initiative, current recycling habits in the urology theatres were recorded. At the end of each urology procedures, the general waste bin in the operating theatre was weighed twice; once as it was found at the end of the case and again after removing all recyclable waste that was disposed of incorrectly. This was done for 20 different cases in accordance with both the Hospital protocol and the Environmental Protection Agency guidelines.

The "Green Moment" was then introduced to staff and integrated into each case's "Time Out" process and also during the morning multidisciplinary planning meeting involving nursing, anaesthetic and surgical colleagues.

Before its introduction, 56% of recyclable waste in the urology operating theatres was incorrectly placed in general waste bins. Following the intervention, there was a significant decrease in mismanaged waste to 31%.

The "Green Moment" prompted the theatre team to be mindful of their recycling habits and emphasised the importance of correct waste segregation and disposal.

The data collection was repeated after this intervention and, encouragingly, the "Green Moment" was found to be significantly effective, there was a significant decrease in mismanaged waste to 31%. Before its introduction, 56% of recyclable waste in the urology operating theatres was incorrectly placed in general waste bins. The amount of recyclable waste that was initially incorrectly put into the general waste bin over the two weeks was about 12kg. After our Green Moment was introduced this was reduced to approx. 6.5kg over the same period.

This dramatic improvement in recycling habits demonstrates the substantial and positive effect that simple actions can have on our recycling behaviours. Undoubtedly, the "Green Moment" has helped mark a significant step towards a more environmentally friendly urology theatre in TUH and has become embedded in the urology department's daily practice. It is proposed to act as a springboard for future discussions and environmental initiatives and to encourage the adoption of more carbon-friendly practices by all surgical departments in TUH.

With the help of the Green Committee, more formal teaching regarding correct waste disposal will be provided to theatre staff of all specialties. It is hoped that the "Green Moment" will be adopted by all surgical teams in the Hospital and that sustainable practice will become the gold standard in TUH.

Before its introduction,

56%



of recyclable waste in the urology operating theatres was incorrectly placed in general waste bins.

Following the intervention, there was a significant decrease in mismanaged waste to

31%



Key players in the Green Moment L/R; Dr Dearbhla Treacy, NCHD and Consultant, Urologist Ms Clíodhna Browne

Making Waste Disposal Everyone's Business

Worldwide, the healthcare industry contributes about 5% of total greenhouse gas emissions and similar fractions of toxic air emissions. If national and global emission targets are to be reached, each and every person has a role to play. Correct segregation of waste is everyone's business.

With this in mind and keen to play our part in this global effort a new interactive eLearning programme, the first of its kind in Irish healthcare - **"Waste Management in TUH"** - was created for all staff, particularly staff who work in roles where they generate waste (Risk & Non-Risk).

The development of the programme builds upon previous waste initiatives that have been rolled out in the Hospital i.e. the Green Moment in Surgical Practice, Food wastage management and management of heat supplies.

The training programme takes approximately 15 minutes to complete and aims to support staff to dispose of all waste safely and in an environmentally responsible way. The project team included representatives from Facilities & Estates, Health & Safety, Infection Prevention & Control and the Centre for Learning & Development.



Pictured from left to right the team involved in developing the course, back row Tom Martin, CLD; Manon Van Alphen, CLD; Shauna Ennis, CLD; Anthony O Toole, Estates & Facilities, Mairead Holland Flynn, Health & Safety. In the front row left to right Shaini Paul Mathew, IPC and Geraldine Kyle, CLD

“

Worldwide, the healthcare industry contributes about 5% of total greenhouse gas emissions and similar fractions of toxic air emissions.

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7

Digital Enabled Care

Building on the work in 2023 planning continued throughout 2024 on the next phases of the Hospitals Digital Enabled Care programme, the Patient Flow Information System, Unified Clinical Communications and Electronic observations, are planned for introduction in 2025.

The Hospital also reached agreement with the HSE to replace our existing Emergency Department System with an Acute Floor Information System which complements and supports the planned Patient Flow Information System.

Tenders were completed under the Pharmacy Digitisation Programme for a Pharmacy Robot in the main pharmacy and Automated Dispensing Cabinets throughout the Hospital. Additionally the Hospital also agreed to implement the HSE Hospital Medicines Management System in 2025 replacing our aging existing pharmacy management system. A decision is planned in 2025 on Electronic Prescribing and Medicine Administration solution, the final component of the Pharmacy Digitisation Programme.

2,029,165

Electronic messages sent to Healthlink

176,087

Average messages per month



585,916 Lab Results

580,565 OPD Messages

17,466 Radiology Results

17,207 Discharge Summaries

67,778 ED Discharge Letters

83,880



e-Referrals received from Healthlink via GPS for TUH Services

74,287

Patients checked in for OPD via Information kiosks



67,245

Patients booked for OPD/GP blood tests via SwiftQueue



287,455

OPD Visits

48,243

Virtual OPD visits



35,430

Helpdesk calls received during the year





New AI Speech Recognition Digital Dictation Project

Extensive preparatory works were undertaken throughout the year to prepare for the introduction of a new AI Speech Recognition Digital Dictation Solution. The new technology which will replace the existing system has advanced speech recognition technology, enabling streamlined clinical documentation workflows and has an Integration with Healthlink and Evolve to enable electronic distribution of Clinical Letters internally and to GPs.

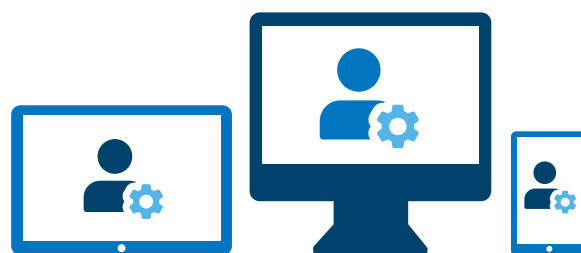
The new system will bring greater efficiency and reduce the workload for Clinical and clerical staff involved in the production of medical letters, without compromising on quality and accuracy, by removing some of the manual processes used previously.

It is also the aim to make digital dictation and speech recognition solutions available to clinical staff, with the aim of improving the efficiency with which clinical records are created and filed.

Another positive of the system is that it will significantly reduce the volume of paper used and costs involved in postage as correspondence will be distributed to GPs via Healthlink. Before its rollout there was extensive training for authors and transcribers provided by the Synergy Academy. The rollout of the new technology will be finalised in January 2025.

Data Protection Incident Reporting Platform Introduced

Data protection is important but particularly so in a healthcare setting given the sensitive nature of patients' information. To make the process of reporting data protection incidents easier and enable the tracking of the information centrally, a new online platform was introduced this year. Staff can now submit any suspected data protection incidents securely and conveniently.



Transforming Healthcare Innovation Challenge

Previously known as the Hackathon, the Hospital, TU Dublin and AWS have renamed the annual event to include students from different disciplines across the TU Dublin campuses making the event more inclusive, reflecting the changing needs of healthcare.

Students from disciplines including Computing, Social Care Practice, Health & Sports Science, across TU Dublin participated working on five different challenges that were set by healthcare professionals working in the Hospital and in the community.

For the first time, the event had a waiting list of students to enter with students, there was a total of 20 teams with 78 students that participated in the 24 hour challenge. There were five different challenges set that affect patient wellbeing

Monitoring home treatment of patients with bleeding disorders, the Development of a Medical Device Education e-library, Recognising Sepsis in the Community Preventing Pressure Ulcers and Way Finding for Integrated Services in the Hospital and across the Community. All the groups were one-on-one time with a clinician, where they could ask more detailed questions to develop a deeper understanding of the brief.

Following the briefings, there were a series of presentations from TUH and Amazon Web Services on Ethics, Data, Cyber Security and GDPR, all of which were very important elements when developing a technological solution to the challenges set.



The Best Overall Winner

This team responded to the Pressure Ulcer challenge. They demonstrated a very comprehensive understanding of the challenge, developing a prototype that could be cheap and easy to implement. Taking a holistic to developing a solution. The judges could not find an angle that they had not thought of!



From left to right Noor Isha Nadeem, Sayali Mote, Niamh Ferris, Healthcare Lead, AWS, Moyin Olusona and Irene Ogbevoen

The individual category winners of the 2024 Healthcare Hackathon were:

Best Future Solution

Pictured from left to right Mohamud Haroom; Ricardo Danganan Jnr.; Shauna Ennis, Head of Learning & Development at TUH; Joven Sagrado and Keneith Atillo



Most Innovative Solution

*Pictured from left to right
Lauren O'Brien Macauley, Dillon
Adamson, Dr Seán McHugh,
Head of Digital Transformation
at TU Dublin Campus, Collin
Adeyinka and Michael Murphy*



Best Use of Technology

*Pictured from left to right Antonin
Chafiol, James Doody, Head of
Information Systems TU Dublin
Tallaght Campus, Robert Lichota
and Krzysztof Szczurowski*



Best Patient Benefit

*Pictured from left to right Adrian
Donnelly, Grzegorz Maniak, Gillian
O'Loughlin, Operational Lead of the
Chronic Disease Hub Tallaght; David
Byrne and Thomas Lynch*



8

Research & Innovation 2024

In May 2024 following stakeholder engagement and extensive work conducted by the Research & Innovation sub-committee of the Board the five-year Research & Innovation strategy was published. This marked the formation of the Research & Innovation Department under the direction of the Deputy CEO, Mr John Kelly.

Before the launch of the Strategy the Research Office and Innovation Office were operating independently. Now the two offices work together cohesively to maximise Research & Innovation capacity within TUH whilst also ensuring governance and compliance of these activities with the TUH hospital strategy and legislation. This structure being unique in the Irish Research & Innovation setting.

The strategy highlights the priority areas for the Research & Innovation Department over the next five years (2024-2029). These include infrastructure and enablers, strategic alliances and collaborative partnerships, Research & Innovation culture and awareness.



Pictured from left to right are: Deputy CEO & Executive Lead for Research & Innovation, John Kelly; Head of Research at TUH, Dr Sadhbh O'Neill Scanlon; TUH CEO, Lucy Nugent; Dr Vivienne Byers, Member of the TUH Board, Professor Anne-Marie Brady, Chair of TUH; Mr Martin Lyes, Member of the TUH Board and Head of Innovation at TUH, Dr Natalie Cole

Research

Following the publication of the strategy an implementation plan was drafted. The following details the implementation of the research plan. Followed in the next section by the details of the implementation of the Innovation plan.

Infrastructure & Enablers

Following the successful establishment of the Clinical Research Facility (CRF) in 2021 our first clinical trial and patient registry were initiated via the CRF. This has paved the way for several studies to receive approval to be conducted through the CRF in 2024.

Following a staff survey, it was noted that staff did not know what research was being conducted in TUH or how to become involved in research. The Research Office now publish a list of all Clinical Research and all Clinical Trials taking place in the Hospital. Staff interested in becoming involved in research can contact the Research Office to become part of a study team. This will lead to multidisciplinary teams conducting research together and a community of researchers.

The Research Office have trained a member of staff to become a Clinical Research Assistant. Our staff member, Ms Caoimhe Murphy, is available to assist on research studies being conducted within TUH. To date Caoimhe has worked on a number of studies in Respiratory, Age-Related Healthcare and Limb Reconstruction along with Innovation projects.



*Caoimhe Murphy;
Clinical Research
Assistant & Research
Office Administrator*

In 2024 the number of feasibility studies for commercial clinical trials increased and thus the demand for review of clinical trial and clinical study agreement by our Clinical Trials and Studies Contracts Officer, Ms Deirdre O'Brien increased. In order to meet the demands of the department the TUH Research Office built in a fee to all commercial clinical Trial budgets in order to fund additional hours for our Contracts Officer. Resulting in greater capacity for the office.



*Deirdre O'Brien;
Clinical Trial &
Studies Contracts
Officer*

The Intensive Care Unit, with the support of the Research Office, secured funding through the new consultant contracts, known as POCC Innovation funding, to employ a new ICU Clinical Research Nurse. Following approval this nurse will be in place in quarter one of 2025. ICU will now have a 1.5 WTE Clinical Research nurse dedicated to supporting and conducting research in the ICU which has grown exponentially and in complexity over the course of 2024.

The Research Office, in response to the staff survey, developed a number of staff training modules available on the Research Office Intranet page, HSEland and face-to-face.

In December 2024 the Research specific Data Protection eLearning programme was launched on HSEland. This training programme is now mandatory for all staff conducting research in TUH. The purpose of the training is to support staff completing Research Ethics applications and compiling study specific Patient Information Leaflets and Consent forms in order to ensure compliance with the legislation and to improve Research Ethics review timelines. In 2024 one of our librarians Ms Miriam Williams completed a post-graduate Certificate in Statistics funded by the Research Office.

In 2024 Miriam offered one-on-one advice and support to researchers regarding statistical analysis of their research data. In 2025 Miriam will offer classroom training and study specific support to TUH researchers.

Additionally, the Medical Board funded a second SPSS licence and the Research Office funded a second laptop for our Research staff to conduct their statistical analysis. The Research Office had previously supplied a laptop with SPSS and this resource was in constant demand. Laptops can be borrowed via the library.

Strategic Alliances/Collaborative Partnerships

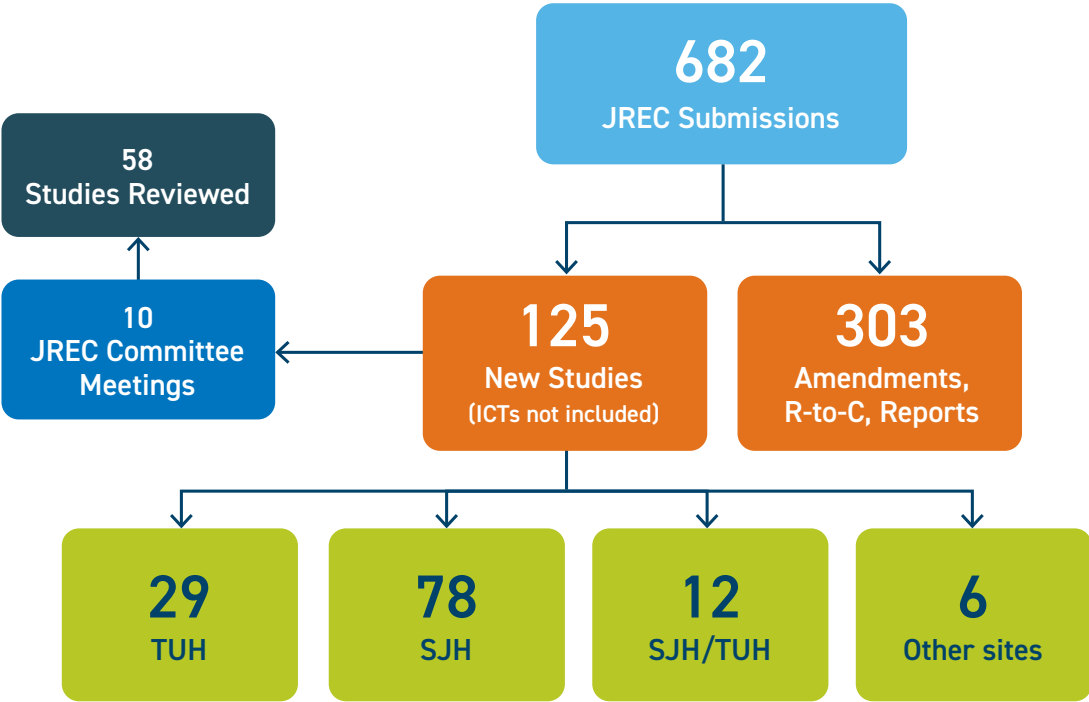
The TUH Research Office developed a collaborative partnership with Clinical Research Platform (CRP). CRP is an Irish Research Site Management Organisation and enabler of Research and Clinical Trials. In collaboration with the Research Office have enabled clinicians to become involved in Clinical Trials through providing a full-time Research co-ordinator assigned to the Hospital. The demand for whom grew through 2024 and thus they have hired another Clinical Research Nurse supported by funding for Rare Diseases from Professor Patrick Mitchell and Trinity College Dublin.

Culture & Awareness

In 2024 a priority area for the Research Office was to bring awareness to the Research Office. The Staff survey demonstrated that there is a lack of awareness of the Research Office. In this endeavour the Research Office held research forums for all staff. This involved a short presentation outlining the role of the Research Office followed by a Q&A. We also began publishing in TouchPoint each month highlighting the outputs of the office, training opportunities and funding calls. We established a Research Intranet page and populated this page with relevant information for research staff. We also attended and presented at departmental meetings. Finally we began presenting at Corporate Induction.

Tallaght University Hospital / St. James’s Hospital Joint Research Ethics Committee

In 2024 the TUH/SJH Joint Research Ethics Committee (JREC) officially began reviewing research studies for Peamount Hospital. A total of 125 new research studies were reviewed by the JREC divided between TUH, SJH and Peamount Hospital with some studies being conducted at TUH and SJH or TUH and Peamount. The figure below show the number of studies reviewed by the JREC in 2024 and the table displays the areas for the new studies.



Department

- > Age-Related Healthcare
 - > Cardiology
 - > Cardiothoracic Surgery
 - > Colorectal Surgery
 - > Department of Psychiatry
 - > Emergency Department
 - > Gastroenterology
 - > General Surgery
 - > Haematology
 - > Intensive Care Unit
 - > Palliative medicine
 - > Pharmacy
 - > Physiotherapy
 - > Psychology
- > Respiratory
 - > Speech & Language Therapy
 - > Stroke Service
 - > Surgery
 - > Trauma & Orthopaedics
 - > Urology
 - > Vascular Surgery

In addition to these Clinical Research studies a number of Clinical Trials began in TUH. Below is a table of the number of Clinical Trial Agreements signed in 2024. Additionally the type and number of other contracts are also included in the table. Along with a breakdown of Clinical Trials by department.

Type of Agreement	Signed 2024
CTA	9
Charity Partner Endorsement	0
CTA - Amendment	4
CTA - National Coordinator	0
Data Sharing Agreement	6
Material Transfer Agreement	1
Observational Study Agreement	4
Observational Study Agreement - Amendment	1
Research Funding Agreement	1
Confidentiality Agreement	9
Total	35

CTA Department Breakdown for 2024	9
Oncology	7
Respiratory	2

Research Achievements/Studies and Clinical Trial Activity in TUH

Funding for Unique Research Study

The Health Research Board has provided funding to Consultant Neurologist Dr Antoinette O'Connor under their Emerging Clinical Scientist Award.

This important new research will establish if blood tests can be used to diagnose Alzheimer's disease (AD) in people with Down syndrome. Dr O'Connor hopes this new study will also support future investigation into whether new medications to slow the progress of Alzheimer's could be effective for those with Down syndrome.



Consultant Neurologist
Dr Antoinette O'Connor

This new study is necessary as people with Down syndrome have a significant risk of developing AD. New drugs have become available which have been shown to slow the progression of Alzheimer's for those in the early stages of the disease. People with Down syndrome have been routinely excluded from AD drug trials, despite urgent clinical need in this population. Therefore, we do not know if these potentially life-altering treatments work in Down syndrome.

The challenge for doctors is to determine if individuals with Down syndrome can also benefit from these treatments. Robust clinical trials involving those with Down syndrome will need to be undertaken to track the changes in them caused by AD. These measures of change are called biomarkers. Blood tests represent an ideal AD biomarker as they are cheap, accessible and repeatable.

Miranda Study

At the end of 2024 the Hospital was announced as the first site in Ireland to successfully recruit patients for the MIRANDA study (A phase III study for patients with symptomatic chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)).

Enver Kejeradze the Clinical Research Coordinator working alongside Professor Patrick Mitchell recruited a number of patients. For our patients living with COPD having the opportunity to participate in this trial creates the possibility of accessing the latest therapeutic advances before they become widely available.

The Miranda study was the first Clinical Trial conducted through the CRF and with Clinical Research Platform. Through this partnership Professor Mitchell and TUH have achieved the top Irish Recruiter status on this study laying the ground to attract other interesting Clinical Studies to TUH and the CRF.

At the end of 2024 the Hospital was announced as the first site in Ireland to successfully recruit patients for the MIRANDA study.

Researcher Seed Funding

Dr Yvelynne Kelly, Consultant Intensivist, TCD Clinical Senior Lecturer & Research Lead for the Department of Critical Care was awarded an Irish Critical Care Clinical Trials Network Early Career Researcher Seed Funding Award. The Award is for performing a secondary analysis of the STARRT-AKI randomised controlled trial with Drs. Sean Bagshaw and Ron Wald, the original principal investigators for the trial. This work arises from Dr Kelly's participation in the Acute Disease Quality Initiative international research and evidence-based practice group.

The STARRT-AKI trial was an international multi-centre randomised controlled trial which assessed whether an accelerated renal replacement therapy (RRT) initiation strategy for acute kidney failure in the ICU resulted in improved 90-day mortality compared to a standard RRT initiation strategy for acute kidney failure. The trial did not find improved mortality for patients in the accelerated RRT initiation arm of the study but did note increased safety and adverse events for patients in this study arm.

Dr Kelly has a well-established interest in studying adverse events during RRT in the ICU and this formed the basis of her PhD awarded by Trinity College Dublin. She has designed a secondary analysis of the STARRT-AKI trial to investigate which factors are associated with increased haemodynamic adverse events (affecting patient blood pressure and/or heart rate) during RRT for patients with acute kidney failure in the ICU. She will also investigate the effect that these adverse events have on patient outcomes in the trial, with an ultimate aim of improving and standardising adverse event reporting in future clinical trials in the ICU.



Dr Yvelynne Kelly presenting at the Irish Critical Care Clinical Trials Network conference where the award was announced

Oncology/Haematology Clinical Trials

Clinical trials are an essential part of cancer care, helping to improve treatment options and offering patients access to the latest therapies. Our Cancer Clinical Trials Team is dedicated to advancing cancer research while ensuring patients receive high-quality, personalised care.

In 2024, the Oncology/Haematology Clinical Trials Unit remained highly active, assessing 110 patients for potential trials across various cancer types, including Bladder, Lung, Prostate, and Testicular Cancer. Of these, 52 patients consented to take part in a study.

Throughout the year:

- The team facilitated 887 patient visits, including those enrolled in clinical trials and those being assessed for eligibility.
- 19 feasibility studies were completed to explore new trial opportunities.
- Five new clinical trials were opened.
- 39 patients were enrolled in therapeutic and registry studies.
- Clinical trial participation generated an impressive €1,519,757.11 in pharmacy savings, highlighting the financial and clinical benefits of research-driven care.

One of the most exciting developments of the year was the enrolment of the first patient in Ireland and the UK to the V940-002 Phase 3 clinical trial. This landmark study, a randomised, double-blind, placebo- and active-comparator-controlled trial, is evaluating the use of adjuvant V940 (mRNA-4157) plus pembrolizumab versus adjuvant placebo plus pembrolizumab in patients with resected Stage II, IIIA, IIIB (N2) non-small cell lung cancer.

This achievement underscores TUH's leadership in cancer research and its commitment to offering patients early access to cutting-edge treatments.

In addition to our clinical trial work, the team was shortlisted for the MSD Excellence in Oncology Initiative for our Implementation of a Testicular Survivorship Clinic and National Registry. This recognition highlights our ongoing efforts to improve long-term care for testicular cancer survivors.

Furthermore, our research made an impact on the wider oncology community with the publication of our study, "Impact of Testicular Cancer on Socio-economic and Sexual Health of Survivors: A Questionnaire-based Survey," in ESMO OPEN. This important work sheds light on the challenges faced by survivors and reinforces the need for continued research and support services.

While trial enrolment numbers were slightly lower than in 2023, the unit remained focused on expanding opportunities for patients and ensuring they have access to the most promising new treatments. Strong collaborations with national and international research partners continue to enhance the scope of trials available at TUH.

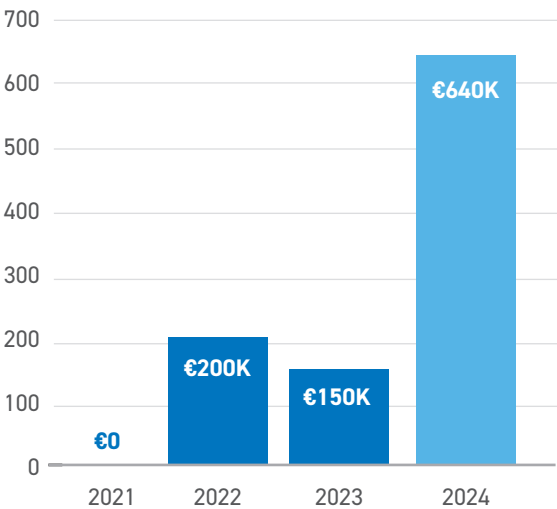
Innovation

One of the key objectives for the Innovation Office is to support staff to develop innovation ideas. To this end we have established an internal mechanism to help reduce the administrative burden on clinical staff and develop a streamlined agile approval process for innovation proposals that require data protection, ICT, Clinical engineering and financial/ procurement review ensuring compliance with appropriate regulations.

Median time to local approval in the Hospital has been reduced by 60%. In addition the establishment of the Innovation operations committee which consists of membership of the hospital management team support the translation of innovation projects that meet success criteria to sustain these projects into our normal way of working.

Another key objectives was to increase funding for innovation projects. Year on year we are increasing external funding for these projects and in fact 2024 saw over a 400% increase in funding for innovation projects compared to previous last two years.

Funding



2024 was very busy for the Innovation Team

The team had **over 231 staff engagements** to support innovation projects. Engagement with staff in MPCE, IPC, ICT, Facilities, Radiology, Occupational Therapy, Speech & Language, Physiotherapy, Psychology, CLD, Dietetics, Nursing, Consultants, Laboratory, Medical Photography, Pharmacy, QSRM and Operations.

Notably we worked on **26** different nursing and **74** different consultant engagements.

Supporting Innovators

231

Staff engaged

47

Departments engaged

4

Projects with IP

We were delighted to have Eoin Kieran join the Innovation Team at Tallaght University Hospital as part of a Trinity College Dublin (TCD) initiative to increase the resourcing and supports available to innovators at TCD's-affiliated hospitals. In his capacity at TUH, Eoin can provide support to hospital-based inventors who have identified an unmet need that may have commercial value, helping staff navigate the commercialisation process, manage intellectual property, and progress their projects. This may include support with invention disclosure, securing development funding (e.g. Enterprise Ireland Funding), market assessment and commercial feasibility, commercialisation strategy development and regulatory guidance.



Eoin Kieran, Innovation Case Officer

Design as an Enabler

This year our Designer in Residence Alexander Fives worked on several projects aimed at improving medical training, prescribing practices, and sustainability in healthcare.

One significant project has been the design of a new product for ultrasound-assisted dialysis, with progress being made toward a patent filing in partnership with Trinity College's Technology Transfer Office (TTO). He also focused on developing training models for ultrasound-assisted dialysis needling and flow measurement, providing healthcare professionals with tools to refine their skills in these critical procedures. In the field of dermatology, the team has worked on creating a digital aid to support the practice. This has involved interviews with dermatologists, nurses, and pharmacists, and multiple iterations of digital solutions, with continuous testing and feedback from staff guiding each new version. Collaboration with TU Dublin's Computer Science and Innovation Research Office has been an important part of this process, bringing in technical expertise to refine the design.

Sustainability remains a priority, and the team contributed to Dr Deirdre Fitzgerald's green inhaler prescribing program, which helped reduce CO₂ emissions significantly over the course of a year. The project received recognition winning the HealthTech Ireland Awards. We were joined by a HSE Spark-funded intern for the summer who assisted with interaction and service design projects, supporting further progress in design led innovation.



One significant project has been the design of a new product for ultrasound-assisted dialysis, with progress being made toward a patent filing in partnership with Trinity College's Technology Transfer Office (TTO).



Impact of Projects

Over the last three years over 200 projects have been supported through the innovation system. As a result, their benefits reach patients faster than they otherwise might have and TUH remains seen as a leader in Innovation.

Over the next five years we will embed this further as part of core business within TUH, providing a mechanism through which staff with ideas can be supported in scaling those ideas, and acting as a gateway for industrial and academic partners to work in partnership with hospital staff. Ensuring that innovative medical devices and diagnostics are developed in a way that is fit-for-purpose. There is an opportunity for TUH to go beyond its traditional role as a customer for innovative medical products and move to becoming a co-creator and willing collaborator to more proactively support their development and evaluation.

National HSE Programmes

Smart CP project is now funded by HSE National Telehealth Programme and the model has scaled to other conditions at other healthcare sites.

HSE Spark Innovation Funding

In June 2024 Innovate Health was awarded funding of over €300,000 from the HSE Spark Innovation Programme, Smart Impact. The monies will be split between four separate cutting-edge innovation projects as the Hospital remains committed to introducing the latest innovations in healthcare to benefit patients.

Projects that have been awarded funding include:

Advanced Practice Occupational Therapy Led Integrated Hand & Wrist Clinic

This new specialist clinic led by Occupational Therapists (OT) will help patients with illnesses such as carpal tunnel receive treatment during a period they may be waiting to see a Consultant. OTs in this Clinic can offer non-surgical treatment and if needed can order x-rays and administer injections. As a result of some of these treatments, certain patients may make a full recovery avoiding a later need for surgery.



Front row left to right: Sinéad Gill – Clinical Innovation Specialist, Dr Natalie Cole – Head of Innovation, Olga Hill – Clinical Specialist Occupational Therapist, Siobhan Power - Clinical Specialist Dietitian for Perioperative Services. Back row: John Kelly – Deputy CEO, Alexander Fives – Designer in Residence, Professor Dominick McCabe - Consultant Neurologist. (Missing Professor Paul Ridgway, Niamh Wilke and Maria Whelan)



Personalised Medicine for Patients at Risk of Stroke

This project called Rapid Pharmacogenetics and Platelet Reactivity Profiling to Facilitate Personalised Antiplatelet Therapy in Patients with Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA) of Ischemic Stroke is led by Consultant Neurologist Professor Dominick McCabe. As part of this innovation, he will forensically examine the composition of blood platelets in patients who have suffered a TIA. Professor McCabe will use these precision results to create a personalised treatment plan for the patient to try to prevent a regular stroke from occurring. (A TIA causes stroke-like symptoms but no permanent disability but can act as an early warning for regular stroke.)

Evolution of our Smart CP App for Patients

Funding has been secured to carry out a digitally enabled Patient Initiated Review (PIR) of our Chronic Pancreatitis App. This will enable the further development of our Smart CP app for patients with Chronic Pancreatitis. The Smart CP app enables patients to react more quickly if their health begins to deteriorate, as they use the app to communicate any changes directly with their medical team. TUH runs the only Chronic Pancreatitis Multidisciplinary Service in Ireland and many patients live outside of Dublin.

A New Programme to Support Patient Preparing for Surgery

This innovation project will explore how a special “prehabilitation” programme could be introduced to support patients ahead of surgery. This could involve (among other supports) patients working with a dietitian and a physiotherapist to improve their diet and fitness ahead of an operation.

With the support of the Spark Impact funding and our own Innovate Health team at THU, staff involved in these four projects will successfully design, develop and deploy novel solutions to complex challenges for their patients, their colleagues and the health service at large.

HSE Spark Productivity Boost

Later in 2024 five additional projects from TUH were successful in a very competitive call and received funding from the HSE Spark Productivity Call.

Wayfinding

TUH is undertaking a comprehensive review of its campus to develop a Wayfinding Strategy aimed at improving navigation for patients, staff and visitors. Effective wayfinding improves the patient / visitor user experience by providing clear, timely, and accessible information, reducing confusion and stress. The project aims to improve operational efficiency by minimising disruptions, ensuring inclusivity for all users, and ultimately enhancing how TUH communicates and is perceived as a facility.

Ultrasound in SLT

This project aims for the Hospital's Speech & Language Therapy Department to be the first in Ireland to use ultrasound in the assessment/management of disorders including swallowing and voice impairments.

Ultrasound is not as invasive as other procedures (e.g. endoscopy and radiology procedures which assess swallowing) and once the equipment is purchased there are minimal outgoing costs. This will lead to higher productivity, greater efficiency, better health and wellbeing for patients. Improving clinical practices will also help attract new team members and boost job satisfaction among current colleagues.

Calorimetry

Dietitians will use Indirect Calorimetry (IC) to accurately measure patients' energy expenditure, enabling individualised nutrition plans for patients that improve outcomes. This approach eliminates reliance on predictive equations in the ICU. Once training is complete, dietitians will implement standard procedures and begin data collection, comparing IC-derived energy needs with traditional methods.

Pre Assessment ECHO & ICU Service

Echo is essential for optimising patients pre-operatively, but surgical delays often occur while awaiting transthoracic echocardiograms. Additionally, ICU echo is crucial for diagnosing shock and guiding emergency treatment, yet access remains limited, especially out of hours. To address this, a new pre-operative assessment echo service led by anaesthesiologists will be introduced to shorten waiting lists and reduce cancellations. The Hospital is among the first hospitals in Ireland to develop a high-risk anaesthesia echo clinic.

Seizure Admission Avoidance Pilot

This project aims to improve the management of patients presenting with seizures by implementing a structured seizure pathway. Patients who recover without neurological deficits and do not have red flags will be assessed by ED/AMAU staff and, if suitable, discharged with rapid outpatient access to MRI, EEG and a consultant-led seizure clinic for timely follow-up.

This approach is expected to improve patient flow, reduce unnecessary admissions and costs, and align with the Epilepsy Model of Care.

DEPENDR Public Sector Innovation Fund 2024

Trial Respiratory Wearable Device

Professor Patrick Mitchell, Respiratory Consultant was successful in his application to the Public Service Innovation Fund. The funds provided will enable him and his team to begin testing wearable devices which can be integrated into a digital platform for patients with severe asthma.

This new venture will initially involve 50 patients that attend the Hospital and have a diagnosis of moderate to severe asthma. They will use a wearable device and a home spirometer (measuring lung function). The new wearable device will then harvest this information to provide the medical team with a retrospective and objective dataset of results to detail how the patient with asthma was doing over the preceding months. This will facilitate the detection of significant changes in their condition, which in the future will enable early intervention and treatment, if needed.



*Professor Patrick Mitchell,
Respiratory Consultant*

Strategic Alliances/Collaborative Partnerships

A key deliverable of the Innovation strategy is to develop strategic partnerships and alliances both nationally and internationally.



National Partners

Innovate Health @TUH partnered with TCD as the immersion site for DigiBio Healthtech Innovation Programme and Bioinnovate UCG. The partnership with Irish Healthcare entrepreneurs is crucial to ensure that products of the future are fit for purpose for our patients/service users and address an unmet need. In addition to supporting these programmes we also support the development of commercial projects from our staff and we are in the process of developing a roadmap for support of these projects which to date has not been available.

In addition we support the engagement of Enterprise Ireland funded start-up companies to a range of clinical and healthcare systems expertise provides invaluable feedback on the feasibility of their product or service. These broad range clinical touchpoints on the journey of the development of the product and/or service de-risks the journey significantly.



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin



Enterprise Ireland

International Partners

EU Horizon Consortium TechConnect

We were absolutely thrilled to be successful in a €3M Horizon Europe funded consortium of nine academic and hospital partners, including Trinity College Dublin, Spanish, Swedish, and Dutch collaborators. TechConnect programme of work explores the interplay between humans and healthcare technology. The TechConnect project aims to deepen the understanding of the impact of advanced digital technologies on human skills. As the advances of healthcare technology explodes on the sector learning from this programme of work will be very valuable.



Members of the consortium from across Europe during their recent meetings held in Trinity and TUH





Florida Innovation Academy

We were delighted to welcome the University of Florida Innovation Academy for the second year in a row to learn more about healthcare innovation in an Irish healthcare setting and we look forward to this becoming an annual event.

Awards Celebrating Success in Innovation

Recognising and rewarding innovators is crucial to creating a culture of innovation. The Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards on October 10th in the Mansion House celebrated the best digital innovations across all public sector bodies. The awards shine a light on those working tirelessly to spread innovation, for the benefit of patients and service users. This year we were very proud that Tallaght University Hospital won HealthTech Innovation of the Year with our innovation Smart CP.

National Health Tech Innovation Awards- Green Inhalers

Dr Deirdre Fitzgerald, Respiratory Consultant and Iarlaith Doherty, Senior Clinical Pharmacist were awarded the Best in Sustainability Award at the 12th annual National Health Tech Innovation Awards. The change from salbutamol MDI from Ventolin TM to SalamonTM resulted in reduction of over 10 tonnes of CO₂e.

Innovator Profiles

Over the course of the year over 20 innovator staff members who are going above and beyond and delivering innovative changes in their areas of expertise were profiled within the organisation and through our social media channels.

“ This year we were very proud that Tallaght University Hospital won HealthTech Innovation of the Year with our innovation Smart CP. ”



Innovation Week November 2024

This year, Innovation Week was bigger than ever, packed with a range of events. It kicked off with the Exhibition of Innovators, a chance to meet the people featured in our monthly profiles and learn more about their work. TU Dublin students also joined in, sharing the projects they developed for the hospital during their Hackathon event.

Throughout the week, lunchtime talks brought in speakers to share their innovation projects, and there were discussions about the hospital's new innovation strategy. There were also hands-on workshops, funding info sessions, and drop-in clinics providing colleagues with the opportunity to learn, ask questions and get inspired.

Overall, 2024's Innovation Week was full of energy, ideas, and conversations that will hopefully spark even more great projects in the future.

Pictured from left to right the speakers that presented to staff during Innovation Week, Dr Natalie Cole, Head of Innovation at Innovate Health; Siobhán Power, National HSCP Innovation Fellow; Alexander Fives, Innovate Health Designer in Residence; Sinéad Gill, Clinical Innovation Specialist, Innovate Health and Jared Gormly, Head of HSE Spark Innovation Programme



Innovation Week ²⁰²⁴

Tallaght University Hospital, November 25th–29th



Research & Innovation Working with Patient Care

Throughout the year the Research & Innovation Offices work closely together on those projects that are translating from Research into Innovation or the real world setting. An example of such a project would be GaitKeeper. A new AI-powered technology, driven by a smartphone app hailed a significant breakthrough launched in the Hospital in April.

This is an example of taking an invention, an unmet global need and working across partners in industry and academia through the cycle of research and innovation in order to bring a cutting edge technology to the real world.

GaitKeeper measures walking speed which is often referred to by doctors as the "sixth vital sign. This new software has been developed by Dublin City University principal investigator. The development of GaitKeeper was significantly funded by Enterprise Ireland through their Commercialisation Fund Programme, and supported by the Insight Centre for Data Analytics, DCU Invent and Innovate Health at TUH. Before the launch of GaitKeeper, gait analysis in clinical settings was very limited. This app represents a significant global breakthrough and means gait assessments can be conducted by anyone, anywhere, at any time.

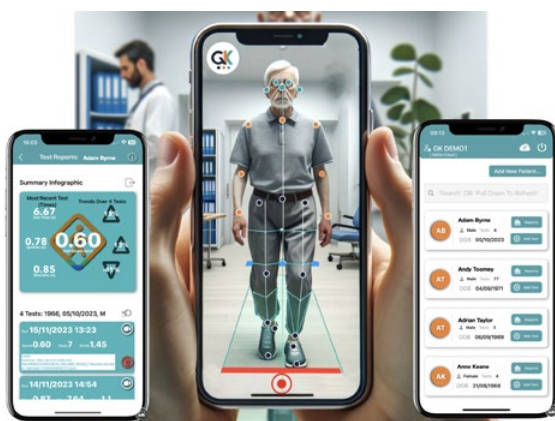


Image of GaitKeeper and how it functions



Professor Seán Kennelly, Consultant Geriatrician & Director of the Institute of Memory & Cognition; Dr Natalie Cole, Head of Innovation at Innovate Health; Dr Aidan Boran, Principal Investigator for GaitKeeper and Dr Paul McElwaine, Consultant Geriatrician & Director of the Falls Unit in TUH pictured at the launch of GaitKeeper

We, in the Innovation office, hope to foster and support staff on the journey of projects like this in the coming years ahead.

“

This is an example of taking an invention, an unmet global need and working across partners in industry and academia through the cycle of research and innovation in order to bring a cutting edge technology to the real world.

”



People

Introduction

2024 was the final year of the implementation of the HR Strategy. A total of 50 objectives were listed under the Strategy with an overall completion rate of 88% of the objectives set.

Collective Leadership

- > Leadership & Cultures
- > Service Design & Interaction
- > Performance Accountability

Exceptional Talent

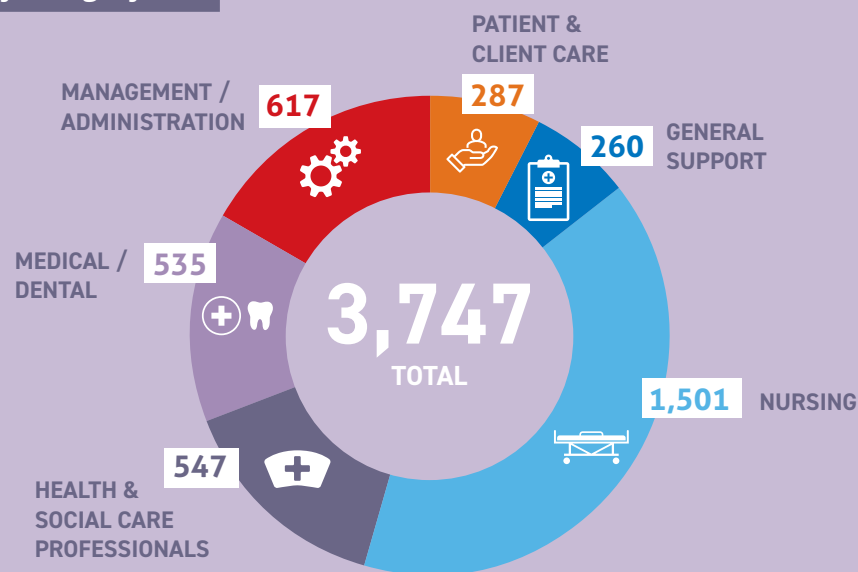
- > Employee Experience
- > Capability & Talent
- > Workforce Planning & Intelligence

Excellent Capability

- > Network & Partner
- > HR Digital Transformation
- > Professional HR Services



Staff by Category



Gender Breakdown



MALE
(26%)



FEMALE
(74%)

Nationalities Represented in TUH

 Albanian	 Finnish	 Namibian
 American	 French	 Nepalese
 Australian	 German	 Nigerian
 Austrian	 Ghanaian	 Nigerien
 Bangladeshi	 Greek	 Pakistani
 Belgian	 Guinean	 Panamanian
 Batswana	 Hong kong	 Polish
 Brazilian	 Hungarian	 Portugese
 British	 Indian	 Romanian
 British/Irish	 Iranian	 Russian
 Bruneian	 Iraqi	 Saudia Arabian
 Bulgarian	 Irish	 Slovak
 Canadian	 Italian	 Somalian
 Central African	 Jordanian	 South African
 Chinese	 Kenyan	 Spanish
 Chilean	 Korean	 Sudanese
 Congolese	 Latvian	 Thai
 Croatian	 Lithuanian	 Turkish
 Cuban	 Malawian	 Ugandan
 Czech	 Malaysian	 Venezuelan
 Danish	 Mauritian	 Zambian
 Dutch	 Mauritanian	 Zimbabwean
 Egyptian	 Moldovan	
 Filipino	 Morrocan	

Recruitment in 2024

Nursing

127



General

213



Medical Staff

20 Permanent

17 Temporary Consultant

21 Locum Consultant

58 Total

Centre for Learning & Development Education & Training Programmes

Non Clinical Face to Face

1,251

Clinical Face to Face

7,257



Podcasts & live, remote teaching

56,948



Attendees from region

93

Corporate Induction

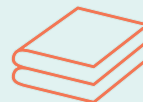
603



Library & Information Services Activity

Visits to Library

17,510



Training Sessions: LitSearch/EndNote/Library Introduction

123

Staff / Student Registrations

1,069



UpToDate diagnostic tool number of times accessed

55,445

Requests for articles staff unable to access

345

Book Borrowed

1,551



Occupational Health & Wellbeing 2024 Activity

Vaccinations / Screening

1,348



Consultation / Assessment

3,108

Injuries

80



Management Referrals / Reviews

1,080

Pre-employment Medicals

649



Occupational Blood Exposures

98

HR Highlights

Strategically and operationally a key focus was on the service and systems improvement. The HR Business Partners (HRBP's) developed bespoke workshops for Line Managers that would not only develop their HR knowledge but would enable them to gain a practical insight into the effective implementation and management of key HR policies, process and systems.

The workshops started in June 2024 and covered Attendance Management, Welfare Meetings, Performance Management, Performance Achievement, Probations, Grievances, Complaints, Disciplinary and Trust in Care and Dignity At work.

The HR Business Services Team worked with their colleagues in ICT to develop and deliver HR CORE & SAP training workshops for Managers which commenced in September 2024.

Our system improvements were also evident with the introduction of DocuSign in our recruitment processes and use of IPAD's eliminating paper records for Consultant recruitment, key steps towards a more efficient and greener work environment.

The WALKways Hospital Programme celebrated their sixth Graduation Ceremony on the July 11th 2024. The Tallaght University WALKways Programme is 10 month internship programme for young adults with intellectual disabilities combining practical work experience and education with the aim to preparing the graduate for future employment. The 11 WALKways Graduates of 2023-2024 were joined by family, friends and work colleagues from the Hospital departments they worked with during their training.



Pictured from left to right The WALKways TUH Staff and Trainees 2023-2024, Cathal Callaly, Leanne O' Callaghan, CEO Lucy Nugent, Evan McLoughlin, Aoife Canning, Hayley O' Neill, David Kerr, Morgan Jeffrey, Craig Sinnott, Emmanuel Ikponmwosa, Ryan Douglas, Mark Hart and Hassan Hamid

Employee Occupational Health & Wellbeing Highlights

Department activity continued to grow resulting in an 8% increase, with the exception of pre-employment medicals which were lower last year due to a reduction in recruitment.

Measles

In 2024, Measles became a worldwide concern due to an increase in cases. In preparation for any potential outbreaks in TUH, the Occupational Health Nurses began department reviews to assess staff's immunity status. A dedicated email address was established so that staff could request their immunity status, as guidelines have now changed and health care workers require documentation of two doses of the MMR vaccines or serological evidence of measles immunity to be deemed immune.

Violence & Aggression Campaign

OHWD staff assisted with the Workplace Violence & Aggression Prevention Campaign Stand.

Two staff from the Employee Assistance Programme - Inspire joined committee members to promote their services that are available to our staff.



Members of the Workplace & Aggression Prevention Committee with local members of An Garda Síochána at the information stand on Hospital Street

Annual Vaccination Campaign 2023/24

Although nationally the uptake of both the Annual Influenza vaccine and Covid booster was low amongst healthcare workers, amongst TUH staff 69% had their Flu Vaccine and 46% had their winter Covid-19 booster vaccine which was 15% above the national level for Covid vaccinations.

The vaccination team were recognised for their efforts with two awards from the HSE Dublin and Midlands - Regional Vaccination Celebration Event which acknowledged the ongoing efforts throughout the region. The Innovation award was for our approach to vaccinating staff and Ms Louise Power, Lead Vaccinator, was also recognised for administering the highest number of vaccines within the Group.

TRIM

There was a two day Trauma Risk Incident Management training session held on site that all Occupational Health nurses attended along with our staff psychologist and ED colleagues.

Wellbeing Recognition

It was announced in April that for the fourth year running, TUH was included in the Leading in Wellbeing Top 100 Companies 2023. The index, published by Ibec acknowledges companies in Ireland who are leading the way for employee wellbeing.



Focus on Men's Health

Men's Health was the big focus for June with Men's Health week from Monday 10th to Sunday June 16th. The theme for 2024 was "Know your Numbers" asking men to make themselves aware of the health numbers that matter for good health. There were a number of stands and events including: Information stands where Men could obtain a copy of the "Mans Manual" and a copy of the "Know your numbers" cards.

Throughout the week there was the opportunity to meet colleagues from the HSE community Health Promotion team to find out about what is available for men in the local community. The opportunity to speak to our two male inhouse dietitians about what a healthy diet may look like and an opportunity to meet Liz McEvoy our Urology Nurse Specialist to speak about prostate health. We also held a Men's Pilates Taster Pilates class, a quiz and some know your numbers themed fun and games to get our male colleagues involved throughout the week.





Promoting Active Travel

Two cycle clinics were held in August and November, both booked out in record time. Members of An Garda Síochána joined us on the same day as the cycle clinic in August and offered staff the opportunity to have their bike “marked” for recognition purposes should it be stolen.

Cycle clinics are always popular and more will be planned for 2025!

Our ongoing partnership with smarter travel saw staff get competitive during Marchathon and Walktober to win title of the most active group in the Hospital and to win some of the great prizes on offer.

The ready, set, cycle campaign saw staff bike to work for a free breakfast, whilst the autumn initiative of Light up your bike campaign saw staff ensure they were lit up ahead of the darker evenings.



Lisa O'Rourke, Health & Wellbeing Officer at one of the popular cycling promotion events in the staff canteen



Centre for Learning & Development

In 2024, TUH invested €770,000 in staff education and training across all Directorates, an increase of 4% in comparison to 2023. Similarly there was an increase of 23% in approved applications for funding and/or study leave to undertake further education, training and continuing professional development. In 2024, over 1,630 applications were approved in comparison to 1,330 in 2023. Of these, 111 staff were supported to undertake Post Graduate Certificate, Diploma or Master's Degree programmes across a variety of specialties.

The Centre for Learning & Development (CLD) continued the work of implementing the Learning & Development Strategy 2023 – 2025. The Strategy identifies a road map for the design and delivery of learning and development opportunities for TUH staff.



Pictured at the launch of the Prospectus were from left to right Marie Costello, Corporate Induction Co-ordinator & ICT Trainer; Theresa Tassara, Adult Resuscitation Officer; Sharon Larkin, Director of HR; Sinead Fagan, Programme Administration/ Manager; Eddie OforiAgyemang, CLD Facilities Officer; Lucy Nugent, Chief Executive; Tom Martin, Educational Technologist, Jennifer Boyle, Robert Graves Post-graduate Centre Administration Manager; Kathleen Dungca, Adult Resuscitation Officer; Shauna Ennis, Head of Learning & Development and Annie Shabu, Regional Nurse Tutor

The priorities include:

- Support staff in achieving their career goals
- Simulation Based Education
- Support for TUH Researchers
- Development of Technology Enhanced Learning

A number of new hospital based programmes were developed and delivered to support staff across all Directorates in their roles in line with the new strategy. The CLD also continued its work as a member of the Consortium of Centres of Nursing & Midwifery Education (CCNME).

The CCNME represents 13 HSE Centres of Nursing & Midwifery Education and 10 Section 38 Voluntary Centres, including the CLD, who have come together for the purpose of achieving Quality Assurance (QA) Agreement and subsequent QQI accreditation as a single approved provider of programmes of education at Level 5 to Level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

The CLD published the Learning & Development Prospectus 2024. The Prospectus detailed the learning and development opportunities available to all staff for the year. Several new education programmes, clinical and non-clinical, were added as part of the TUH Learning and Development Strategy 2023-2025 and the Human Resources Strategy 2020-2024. A bespoke Induction Programme was developed in collaboration with the Medical Human Resources Department and was rolled out from January 2024.

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The CCNME represents 13 HSE Centres of Nursing and Midwifery Education and 10 Section 38 Voluntary Centres.

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TUH Leadership Academy

The TUH Leadership Academy continued to expand in 2024. A new communication workshop was delivered to staff in addition to the leadership development programmes.

Four staff members, Phyllis Reilly, Brian Murray, Jun Cao and Sindhu Cheriyan were awarded the TUH/Meath Foundation Fellowships 2024. The four started their Master's Degree programmes in the Institute of Leadership, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in September.

The new ATHENA Mentoring programme continued to grow with the number of staff requesting a Mentor doubling on the previous year, 64 staff are now registered as Mentors on the ATHENA Mentoring database. While informal Mentoring is already an integral and valued aspect of TUH work practices the ATHENA Mentoring programme is a formal structured programme, supported and promoted with goals and objectives that are clearly defined in the Mentor/Mentee partnership. Programme objectives are to promote and support professional development, leadership and learning.

For the Mentee, Mentoring offers a safe space to think, to explore new ideas, to tease out complex work-related issues and to make decisions. Mentor training in TUH is supported by the Meath Foundation.

The SOAR Coaching Programme, also supported by the Meath Foundation, continued to expand with 66 staff engaging in Coaching. There are now 11 TUH staff providing Coaching with a further two staff in training.



Pictured from left to right Phyllis Reilly, Chief Medical Scientist NPT Manager; Brian Murray, Senior Medical Scientist; Clodagh McLoughlin, Deputy Head of Learning & Development; Martina Larkin, CEO Meath Foundation; Jun Cao, CNM3 Cancer Services and Sharon Larkin Human Resources Director. Absent from photo; Sindhu Cheriyan, CNM3 Gerontology Services (Interim)

Innovation in Teaching & Learning

The CLD continued to innovate in relation to ways of teaching and learning in particular in relation to Simulation Based Education. This approach is used to teach clinical and non-clinical skills, communication skills and emergency management skills such as team working, to maximise patient safety and improve quality of care.

2024 was an eventful year for Simulation, it saw the appointment of Cathy Mullen as Simulation Nursing Lead (CNM3), the first post of its kind in acute Hospital services.

During the year there were over 180 Simulation Based Education sessions were delivered to 1,875 staff in TUH and the region across a number of disciplines in collaboration with experts in the services. Annie Shabu, Regional Nurse Tutor and Kathleen Dungca – Lumanlan, Resuscitation Officer both completed 'Application of Simulation Practice in Healthcare' programmes in Trinity College Dublin.



Course Directors Dr Vicky Meighan and Professor Brendan O'Daly, CNM3 in Simulation and Course Administrator Ms Cathy Mullen, Deputy CEO John Kelly alongside the participants, nurse and paramedic observers

The Hospital also hosted Professor Dara Byrne, the HSE National Clinical Lead for Simulation at Grand Rounds. Professor Byrne is the Professor of Simulation at the University of Galway and has over 25 years' experience in delivering high quality simulation-based inter-professional education and training and conducting patient safety research.

The CLD were also awarded a grant by the National Simulation Office to establish a Simulated Participant Group and work started on this project in 2024 with a completion date of 2026.

The Hospital also hosted the first ever Advanced Trauma Life Support simulation course.

TUH acknowledges the support of the Adelaide Health Foundation, Nursing & Midwifery Planning and Development Unit Dublin South Kildare West Wicklow, the National Simulation Office and the National Doctors Training and Planning Group in expanding the scope and provision of high quality multidisciplinary Simulation Based Education in TUH and the region.

Let's Talk About Down syndrome

The third Let's Talk About Podcast Series reached the finals of the Irish Healthcare Awards 2024. Each episode was targeted at individuals with Down syndrome, their families, carers, health & social care staff and anybody who had an interest in the health needs of adults with Down syndrome in Ireland.

Hosted by Geraldine Kyle, a Registered Nurse Tutor in the Centre for Learning & Development, who throughout the five podcasts spoke to several health experts for people with intellectual disabilities and also speaks with Ross O'Neill, a young man with Down syndrome, a representative of Down syndrome Ireland and a mother of a young adult with Down syndrome.



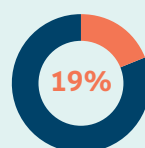
Digital Teaching & Learning

The completion of eLearning programmes by TUH staff continued to grow in 2024. The number of eLearning programmes undertaken increased by 19% to 56,498. The CLD continued to build on its expertise in providing high quality learning and development opportunities in the digital space. A new eLearning programme on 'Data Protection for Researchers' was developed collaboratively with the Head of Research and the 'TUH Data Protection' eLearning programme was updated with the Head of Information & Governance.

Library & Information Services

Online Resources & Digital Enablement Biomedical Databases

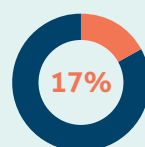
Biomedical Database Usage % increase from 2023-2024



Embase - up 19%

Excerpta Medica Database.

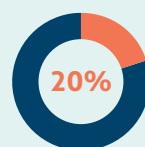
Embase is a biomedical database, also strong in pharmaceutical research, toxicology and medicinal devices. Over 40 million records published in 8,500+ journals.



Medline - up 17%

Database of the National Library of Medicine of the United States.

More than 23 million citations from over 5,600 peer-reviewed journals. Open access version known as PubMed.



CINAHL - up 20%

Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health Literature.

7.6 million records covering nursing, biomedicine, HSCP indexing over 5,500 journals.

2024 TUH Hero Awards

The calendar date enabled the Hospital to celebrate staff marking their 25th Anniversary on June 21st again this year. The day started with 60 staff from across the Hospital receiving their long service medal celebrating their 25th year of working in TUH.

Later that day we celebrated the 2024 TUH Heroes, nominated by patients, the wider community and their colleagues. There was a change this year to the Awards with the Mentoring Award renamed the Sean Tierney Mentoring Award. Professor Tierney was an incredible colleague, generous of his time and talents to students, colleagues, patients and their families. Sean was the very first recipient of the Mentoring Award, a very humble man so many around the world benefitted from his teaching, his wit and words of wisdom. We could not think of a better way of honouring his memory.

The recipients of the Awards were:



Cathy McHale

Advanced Nurse Practitioner in Age-Related Healthcare

"At every clinic, at least half of the patients presenting will remark on how understanding, empathetic and caring Cathy has been with them through their journey of assessment, diagnosis and treatment for Alzheimer's disease or other cognitive complaints. Cathy constantly goes the extra mile to ensure that patients and families are kept in the loop about pending investigations to help them at every stage of the process."



Unsung Hero Award

Pauline Harrison, Clinical Nurse Manager 3 in the Orthopaedic Department

"Pauline has acted tirelessly in organising clinics/admission/treatments at short notice for orthopaedic patients. She acts as a liaison between consultants and patients and between consultants and management. Pauline is a voice for individual patient concerns and always has their best interests at heart."



Service Excellence Award

Hannah Turner, Clinical Specialist Radiographer

"Hannah is a hero in the Radiology department and the Hospital at large. She has streamlined the CT service in TUH significantly, increasing our throughput while reducing waiting lists. She is continuously planning for the future expansion of our service. Hannah is dedicated to patient and staff radiation safety and exemplifies what excellence is, in providing a service."



Professor Sean Tierney Mentoring Award

Elizabeth O'Neill, Clinical Nurse Specialist in the Community Integrated Care Leg Ulcers & Vascular Disease Clinic

"In 2019, a Sláintecare project was funded to establish a Community Leg Ulcer Clinic. Elizabeth played a key role in the management of patients with severe chronic diseases by providing education to patients and their families, resulting in an improved experience. Elizabeth was also critical in providing ongoing education and support, to nursing staff enabling them to provide this vital community service. Glowing feedback testimonials from staff, patients and families are well deserved for a truly caring and compassionate expert."



Teamwork Award

Louise Lambe, Administrator in the Speech & Language Department

"Louise is extremely efficient in all of her work and always goes above and beyond to help out all members of our department. She is always very kind, caring and patient when dealing with staff and patients alike. Her calm, positive demeanour helps to keep our team morale high, at challenging times."



Team of the Year Award Cardiac Cath Lab

"The Cardiac Cath Lab Team performed admirably during extreme pressure while they had to operate offsite as their lab was being renovated. The Nurses, Physiologists and Radiographers all had to move from their usual working areas in TUH across to St. Vincent's University Hospital, while the administrative team had to ensure that all procedures performed were appropriately ordered, completed, reported and available for review on TUH computer systems - all massively increasing their workload. During this time, the team did an excellent job in continuing to provide the highest levels of patient care despite massive disruption to normal working practices."



Patient Experience Award

Declan Tyrrell, Portering

"Declan was always friendly and accommodating as he made sure I was in the right place at the right time to get the tests I needed, during my time staying in the Hospital. He was very easy to chat to, if I was anxious about going for a scan and this really helped me. Declan was a great comfort at a difficult time in my life and I won't forget his kindness."



Special CEO Recognition Awards

At the CEO's discretion there were two further awards nominated by Lucy Nugent, Chief Executive and the Executive Management Team. These awards recognise individuals who go above and beyond often behind the scenes which may not be evident to all staff.

The first recipient of the CEO Award in 2024 was Geraldine Gregg-Duke, Medical Records Manager. Announcing Geraldine as one of the recipients of this year's special CEO Awards Lucy Nugent, TUH CEO said, "Geraldine is receiving this award in recognition of the many years of dedication she has given to the Hospital in terms of her strong leadership in running the Medical Records Department. Many staff members commenced their careers in Medical Records and were subsequently promoted within the Organisation which is down to Geraldine's ability to manage and develop her staff to reach their potential."



The second CEO award went to Mr Mick Dunne, Environmental Services Manager

Presenting Mick with his Award, the TUH CEO said, "Mick is receiving this award in recognition of his commitment to the Hospital over many years and his ability to troubleshoot and resolve issues which have impacted the organisation. In doing so he has always put the patient and the Hospital first. He will be greatly missed as he begins a new chapter in his life, as he retires."

NCHD Awards

Now in their third year the Awards are a popular event in the calendar of our NCHDs. The awards are jointly sponsored by the Medical Board of the Hospital and Executive Management Team.

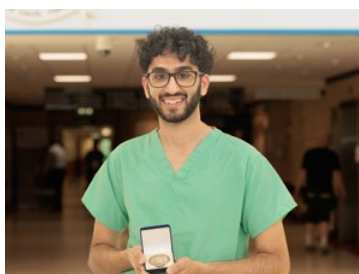
The recipients of the 2024 award who were deemed to best represent the values of the Hospital were:



Commenting on why they believed Dr Pereppadan should receive the Award a colleague said, 'He has been an exceptionally supportive SHO, always willing to learn, he is very enthusiastic and has good knowledge, skills and experience. He works well under pressure and with the team during a very tough rotation.'



Commenting on why they believed Dr Anderson should receive the Award a colleague said, "She is well known among the NCHDs as someone who shares her knowledge and experience in a manner which is both helpful, reassuring and generous."



Commenting on why they believed Dr Khan should receive the Award a colleague said "Kashif goes above and beyond in his role to provide exceptional care to patients and provides unparalleled support to his colleagues. He is diligent, efficient, kind and committed."



Pictured from left to right following the presentations were Professor Peter Lavin, Lead Clinical Director; Dr Britto Pereppadan; Dr Toni Anderson and Professor Tara Coughlan, Chair of the Medical Board

10

Awards

All Ireland Winners

The Trinity Medical Student Team also known as 'Big Time Resus' were winners of the All-Ireland Student SimWars competition held in UCD in March.

The Trinity medical students trained tirelessly at TUH over a six month period under the guidance and expertise of Dr Vicky Meighan, Consultant in Emergency Medicine with specialist interest in simulation based medical education.

The Trinity teams, who took part for the first time, faced fierce competition with 21 teams, from every medical school across Ireland competing, the standard was exceptionally high.

Students were assessed on their technical and non-technical skills including leadership, teamwork and communication in a series of increasingly complex emergency medicine cases. Judges were a panel of experts in Emergency Medicine with consultants from every major teaching hospital in attendance. The students, winners and competitors were delighted to take part and more importantly to benefit from such an incredible training opportunity at TUH which will definitely help them transition into their roles as interns and to improve patient safety.



Dr Vicky Meighan with members of Big Time Resus

Fittest Emergency Department

For the month of February 12 different Emergency Departments (ED) across the country competed in the increasingly competitive Ireland's Fittest ED challenge.

Staff from across the country clock the kilometres they walked, ran, cycled and swam. The 72 strong team from the TUH ED had representatives from the nursing, medical, healthcare assistants, administration, phlebotomy, physiotherapy, social work and occupational therapy disciplines taking part.

Having missed out narrowly in 2023 coming in second place, there was a collective determination to win this year. Working in such a busy department, the challenge was wonderful for staff morale. The competition created a great atmosphere and was a wonderful way to get to know colleagues. Every grade and discipline took part; it really was a team effort. February was not the best month weather wise but the perseverance and the commitment shown was phenomenal. The team battled wind, rain and snow each week to get the kilometres in to earn those precious points!

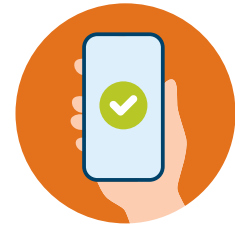


Some members of the Fittest Emergency Department team in the country, led by their captain Sara ODwyer, Advanced Nurse Practitioner in Emergency Medicine

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The Smart CP app empowers patients to take control of their condition and improves communication with their Hospital team.

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Major European Award

The talented team that developed the Smart CP mobile phone app, which is used by patients with chronic pancreatitis won the Best Innovation Award from the European Association of Hospital Managers.

The Smart CP app empowers patients to take control of their condition and improves communication with their Hospital team. It also streamlines and coordinates patient management, and enables TUH to care for patients in their homes and communities, aligning with TUH's vision of being 'a hospital without walls.'

The announcement of the Award was made in April at the official ceremony broadcast simultaneously in Marseille (France), Rabat (Morocco) and Da Nang (Vietnam), on the occasion of the "International Conference on Innovation and Connected Technology & the International Smart Healthcare Conference"



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION
OF HOSPITAL MANAGERS



Pictured from left to right in the front row: Dr Natalie Cole, Head of Innovation; Niamh Wilkes, Project Manager. Back row: Professor Paul Ridgway, Consultant Upper GI, HPB & General Surgeon, Una Kearns, My Patient Space; Sinéad Gill, Clinical Innovation Specialist and Marie Egan, Clinical Nurse Specialist

First Place

Dr Helena Dolphin, Specialist Registrar in Geriatric medicine, won first place in the Dublin Midlands Hospital Group annual NCHD research competition.

Helena won the award for completing a clinical trial in patients with amnesic Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI), and investigated a neuromodulation device called Transcutaneous Vagus Nerve Stimulation (tVNS) in 40 participants with MCI. Her study investigated the effects of the nerve stimulation device on their memory test scores, blood pressure and heart rate responses to standing, and blood samples of inflammation. Helena's research was funded via the Meath Foundation Annual Research Fellowship Award.



From left to right Dr Darragh Shields, SJH ED Consultant, Professor Martina Hennessy, Directory of the Wellcome HRB Clinical Research Facility in SJH and Dr Helena Dolphin SpR in Geriatric Medicine

Bright Spark Award

The Hospital's Integrated Community Chest Pain Clinic, led by Shirley Ingram, Advanced Nurse Practitioner and Maeve Kane, administrator were awarded a Bright Spark National Innovation Award in the Best Hospital Avoidance Project category.

The HSE Bright Spark Awards is an initiative that recognises innovative projects that have improved patient care or service delivery in Ireland. The unique TUH integrated community chest pain clinic provides GPs with direct access to an expert Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) in the community setting. Providing assessment for non-acute chest pain patients, shifting the focus of care from the Hospital ED and outpatient clinics, resulting in hospital avoidance as per the Sláintecare vision.

By the third year of operation, 259 GPs had referred 1,186 patients to the ICPPC instead of the Hospital. GP chest pain referrals to ED have decreased by 1% annually since 2020, even as chest pain presentations to ED have risen by 4%.



Shirley Ingram, Advanced Nurse Practitioner and her colleague Maeve Kane, Administrator for the Clinic with the Bright Spark Award

Silver Scalpel Award

Our colleague Professor Paul Ridgway, Consultant surgeon was presented with the Silver Scalpel Award from the Irish Surgical Training Group (ISTG). The ISTG is an independent entity run by surgical trainees.

The Silver Scalpel is awarded to a consultant trainer for their outstanding contributions to surgical training, as voted for by trainees. Each year, the prize winner is celebrated at a ceremony and dinner at the Royal College of Surgeons.



The presentation of the 2024 Silver Scalpel award for excellence in surgical training with some of the ISTG committee from left to right, incoming president Ms Megan Power Foley, outgoing Ms President Czara Kennedy, general surgery representative Ms Nicola Raftery and Professor Paul Ridgway, Consultant Surgeon at TUH



Humanitarian Award

Members of the TUH team were awarded the 2024 International Federation of Emergency Medicine Humanitarian Award for outstanding contribution to Emergency Medicine globally. The award was accepted by Professor Jean O'Sullivan on behalf of Global Emergency Care Skills (GECS), an Irish-based non-profit organisation on June 23rd in Taipei, at the International Conference on Emergency Medicine.

The GECS faculty of Irish & International Emergency Medicine Physicians work in partnership with leaders in the field of Emergency Medicine in Africa to provide high-quality skills training to doctors, nurses, clinical officers, and paramedics. GECS also delivers essential Hospital equipment to clinics and hospitals.

Since its foundation in 2009, GECS has trained over 600 healthcare practitioners in trauma care, major disaster management, and essential emergency resuscitation skills in Kenya, Zambia, Tanzania, Ghana, Malawi, and Ethiopia.



Pictured from left to right at the presentation in Taipei: Dr Roy McKenna, Dr Ffion Davies, President of the International Federation of Emergency Medicine, Professor Jean O'Sullivan, TUH; Dr Saleh Fares al-Ali, incoming President of IFEM, and Dr Anna O'Leary, a former TUH colleague

Women's Health

Members of the Women's Health Nursing team picked up prizes at the British Society of Colposcopy & Cervical Pathology in Edinburgh during the summer.

Advanced Nurse Practitioner Sinead Cleary, and trainee nurse colposcopist Caitlin McKean were representing the Women's Health Department at the three-day event. Sinead Cleary received an award for best social media post and Caitlin McKean won a nursing bursary for her abstract submission.

Poster Prize for Pastoral Care

Colleagues in Pastoral Care were awarded the Best Poster Prize at The Bon Secures Health System, Pastoral Care Symposium: The Caring Heart: Professional & Passionate which took place in The Gibson Hotel, Dublin.

The winning poster submitted featured the Ritual of the Identical Knitted Hearts, and the importance of rituals in end-of-life care and their importance to those that are grieving.

The project is supported by the Adelaide Health Foundation and the hearts are knitted by volunteers in the local community.



Pictured from left to right Chaplains Anne Marie Leahy, Anita Doyle and Intern Chaplain Barbara Fitzgerald with Director of Pastoral Care John Kelly

Stefani Maggi Award



'one of the best ratings' in the newly established category for Early Career Geriatricians.

In September Dr Adam Dyer was presented with the Stefania Maggi Award at the 20th European Geriatric Medicine Conference held in Valencia. The award was given on the quality of the abstract submitted to the conference, receiving

The abstract 'P-tau217 Demonstrates Excellent Diagnostic and Prognostic Performance as a Blood-Based Biomarker for Alzheimer Disease in Older Adults'. This study examines a new blood test (P-tau217) in people who are undergoing work-up for early memory symptoms.

At the moment, many of these people undergo a diagnostic procedure (a lumbar puncture, which is invasive and carries certain risks such as post-procedural headache). The research was funded by the Meath Foundation and the Irish Clinical Academic Teaching (ICAT) programme.

Pharmacy Technician Awards

In recognition of the increasingly important role that hospital pharmacy technicians play in supporting pharmacists, spending more time with patient consultations and engaging local stakeholders. The Hospital Professional Honours Awards organised by Hospital Professional News have a Pharmacy Technician Award, the 2024 recipient was Caroline Monahan from the Hospital Pharmacy Department.

Following on from this win at the National Association of Hospital Pharmacy Technicians Conference in October Pharmacy Technicians Monika Sofroni and Jean Mc Shane won the poster competition.

The title of their poster was entitled "The Road Map to the Implementation of a Medication Reconciliation Technician Service in an acute hospital setting."



Caroline Monahan following the presentation of her Award



Pictured from left to right Monika Sofroni and Jean Mc Shane beside their winning poster at the Conference



Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards

The Annual Public Sector Digital Transformation Awards celebrate innovation across the public sector. For the first time TUH won the HealthTech Innovation of the Year award for driving the development of the SmartCp app for patients in conjunction with the IT Company, My Patient Space.

The app makes it easier for patients with chronic pancreatitis to communicate with their healthcare team in the Hospital.

Pictured from left to right at the award presentation were Dr Natalie Cole, Head of Innovation TUH; Sinead Gill, Clinical Innovation Specialist; Marie Egan, Clinical Nurse Specialist for Pancreatitis; Marguerite Clarke, Customer Success Manager Public Sector and Una Kearns, My Patient Space

Irish Gerontological Society Annual Scientific Meeting

The Society held their 71st Annual Scientific Meeting in October in Athlone with a theme of 'Gerontology in a Dynamic World: Systems, Challenges & Innovations'.

The Hospital age related team were very well represented at the event and brought home a number of prizes including:



Evelyn Kimmage Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist, Regional Specialist Memory Clinic won the President's Award for best quick-fire presentation. Her presentation focused on how she had established a specialist physiotherapy service within the TUH

regional specialist memory clinic. Evelyn's lecture was an overview of the first six months of the clinic, which at that time it was set up, was the first of its kind in the country.



Dr Adam Dyer and Dr Naomi Davey were both presented with Presidents Awards for Best Platform Presentations.

Dr Dyer presented on his research published in 2024 which has implications for the diagnosis of early Alzheimer's disease.

Dr Naomi Davey presented on a study which looked at the outcomes of nursing home resident's medically admitted from ED. The study found that 61.72% of this patient cohort presented to the ED out of hours with most having multimorbidity and polypharmacy.



Pictured from left to right the Nursing Home Team Dr Angelina Farrelly, ARHC Consultant; Dr Naomi Davey, ARHC SpR; Dr Josephine Soh, ARHC Consultant and Ms Claire Noonan, ARHC Advanced Nurse Practitioner

Institute of Medical Illustrators

Our Senior Medical Photographer Tommy Walsh received a special recognition award from the Institute of Medical Illustrators.

The Institute of Medical Illustrators is the professional institute of choice for the medical illustrator. The leading body in Europe, it exists to promote the role of the medical illustrator as a professional member of a multi-skilled team who offer a range of core clinical illustrative and communication services as part of the healthcare team for the benefit of patients and clients.

The award recognises individuals for their dedicated service and contribution to the Institute and / or the profession throughout their career.



Senior Medical Photographer Tommy Walsh presented with his Special Recognition Award by Catherine Lamoon, Chair of the Institute of Medical Illustrators

HealthTech Award

It was another first for TUH at the National Health Tech Innovation Awards. This annual event highlights the many valuable contributions HealthTech has brought to healthcare in Ireland. For the first time the Hospital received an award in the Best in Sustainability Category. This category is for teams that have demonstrated how sustainability initiatives have been adopted and ingrained into an organisation's activities, or daily healthcare practise.

The TUH project was on the prescribing of low carbon inhalers, this change is proving extremely effective in reducing a patient's impact on the environment. The team have plans to extend this change of practice out into the Community via the GP network.



Pictured from left to right Iarlaith Doherty, Senior Clinical Pharmacist; Dr Deirdre Fitzgerald, Respiratory Consultant and Susan Murray from Boston Scientific and the HealthTech Ireland Board

Emerging Clinician Scientist Award

In December the Health Research Board announced the recipient of the Emerging Clinician Scientist Award. Dr Antoinette O'Connor, Consultant Neurologist will undertake a study to determine if blood tests can be used to diagnose Alzheimer's disease in people with Down syndrome.

The study is necessary as people with Down syndrome have a significant risk of developing Alzheimer's disease (AD). Recently new drugs have come on stream which have been shown to slow the progression of Alzheimer's for those in the early stages of the disease. The challenge for doctors is to determine if individuals with Down syndrome can also benefit from these treatments.



*Consultant Neurologist
Dr Antoinette O'Connor*



Adjunct Teaching Fellows

The recipients at the 2024 Teaching Fellow Awards were Bijees Balachandrapaniker, Staff Nurse on Lynn Ward; Sindhu Cheriyan, Clinical Nurse Manager William Stokes Unit; Lorna Yeates, Clinical Nurse Manager Gogarty Ward and Paula Czulnowska, Staff Nurse Frank's Ward. The awards are presented each year at the Nursing Graduation, recognising members of the Hospital nursing team who are deemed as outstanding teachers of the student nurses.

Pictured from left to right following the presentations of the Adjunct Teaching Fellows were Bijees Balachandrapaniker, Staff Nurse on Lynn Ward; Sindhu Cheriyan, Clinical Nurse Manager William Stokes Unit; Áine Lynch, Director of Nursing & Integrated Care; Lorna Yeates, Clinical Nurse Manager Gogarty Ward; Paula Czulnowska, Staff Nurse Frank's Ward and Helen Teague, Assistant Director of Nursing, Nurse Practice Development

11

Arts & Health

A year of firsts for TUH Arts & Health Department



A series of spectacular and unique performances were delivered by Ricciotti Ensemble on their Shamrock Shuffle Tour of Ireland. Highlighting their sense of fun and inclusion. Ricciotti invited TUH Volunteer Noel to conduct a tune during their atrium recital

Quotes from audience members:

"An amazing, beautiful and emotional community experience."

"So special to have quality live music in a healthcare setting. Brings excitement, community and atmosphere to the space."

Quotes from Patient & Staff:

"The music relaxed my mind. I could really enjoy and not worry about the art making. It was so enjoyable." Patient St. Luke's

"I noticed the distraction of art and music helped patients cope better with pain as a result there were less pain related complaints." St. Luke's Ward C Staff Member



The Arts & Health Programme was piloted for the first time in St Luke's Hospital, Ward C with sessions and workshops facilitated by Artist Olivia Hassett and Musician Mary Louise O'Donnell



A double first as 1) Tightrope Walker by Jenny MacDonald is debuted in a healthcare setting in Trinity Lecture Theatre and 2) TUH host their first theatre production in collaboration with The Civic Theatre

Quotes from audience members:

"Insightful, witty, very human. A prescription for navigating illness."

"So interesting to hear what real patients actually feel and think. WELL Done you. WELL Done us."



Quotes from audience members:

"Fantastic to hear the sound from such a beautiful instrument being showcased by the wonderful Ryan Molloy."

"I was delighted to have stumbled upon this recital in TUH with a visiting friend after being unexpectedly hospitalised. Although we missed our own choir concert together we shared a really special experience."



Launching the TUH Atrium Piano (Yamaha Trans Acoustic B3E) event coordinated by Arts & Health Department supported by our three Hospital Foundations, The Meath Foundation, Adelaide Health Foundation & TUHF

Integrated Care

The Art at the Bedside Programme continued in TUH and Tymon North while expanding further into a new setting in St. Luke's Ward C.

Sessions are delivered by professional artists Olivia Hassett and Lucia Barnes and funded by the Meath Foundation. In 2024 we welcomed new Artist in Residence Paola Invernizzi and the team also developed a new patient offering called Connections.

An average bedside engagement runs for 10-15 minutes, with a maximum session of 25 minutes during which patients are engaged in lively conversation and offered guidance on a range of activities, from watercolour and acrylic painting, to clay making, card making and paper crafting. The RENEW Group (the HSE, Healthy Ireland, the Arts Council & Creative Ireland) provided €10K additional funding which enabled the expansion of the arts & music programmes and inclusion of time for creative planning and collaborative sessions between our artists.



Patient's artworks & Artists in Residence Olivia Hassett and Paola Invernizzi (centre)

"I was reluctant to engage with the art service at the start, but when I joined in I kept doing it every week after that. I find it very stimulating!"

"When I'm making the lovely bird art pack, I will be making a dream. I will fly away like the bird!"

2024 TUH Campus Overall Art at the Bedside Numbers

January - December 2024 - Art at the Bedside Patient Numbers

Location	Session nos.	Total hrs.	Direct Patient nos.	Indirect Patient nos.	Indirect Staff nos.	Overall Patient & Staff nos.
TUH Total	247	603	1,966	2,920	1,295	6,181
Tymon North Total	48	144	458	268	230	956
St. Luke's Ward C Total	12	40	102	34	50	186
Totals	307	787	2,526	3,222	1,575	7,323

2024 TUH Campus Art4All Art Pack Numbers

Jan to Dec 2024 - Art4All Art Packs

TUH	1,464
Tymon North	373
St. Luke's Unit C	73
Totals	1,910

St. Luke's Ward C welcomed artist in residence Olivia Hassett as she introduced a three hour session of the Art at the Bedside programme for a 10 week term. Two paint-to-music workshops titled 'Oil and Water' were also delivered in collaboration with harpist Mary Louise O'Donnell, during which patients expressed themselves in response to the chosen music. We extend our thanks to Sandra Kingston and her team in St. Luke's for their enthusiasm and assistance, and to the RENEW Group (MOU between the HSE, Creative Ireland, The Arts Council and Healthy Ireland Department of Health) who funded this cross-site expansion of the Arts and Health programme in 2024.



A patient's creative artwork in response to the workshop



Service user Deborah enjoying 'Oil & Water' Workshop

"The art service is new in our ward and it has had a positive impact. Patients looked forward to participating in the art sessions, were happy to talk about the art they had created, and some displayed their work on the walls beside their bed."

St. Luke's Ward C Staff Member



Artist in Residence Olivia Hassett & Musician in Residence Mary Louise O'Donnell delivering an 'Oil and Water' Workshop in St. Luke's Ward C

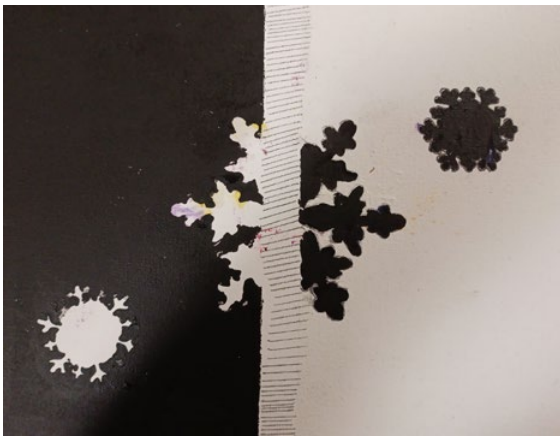
'Connections Project' is a new patient project designed by artists in residence Olivia Hassett and Paola Invernizzi for patients in the Hospital, Tymon North and St. Luke's Ward C. It aims to encourage a conversation between patient and artist about the many ways that humans connect both with each other and with the world around us. The artist explores connections that are important for each patient, before deciding together how best to capture the chosen Connection through the co-creation of a unique artwork. Paola Invernizzi reflects on the success of the Connections Project in bringing conversation exchanges with patients to a deeper level. Participants were very interested, and thrilled to contribute with some expressing a desire to continue their creative work at home. One patient commented "Art is essential to bring you back alive. You begin to develop hope. People are crying out for hope."



St. Luke's Patient Describes Connections Artwork - "Heart Garden: we are busy and disconnected from each other. The heart symbolises connection & sharing. The roots reach out to do this magic healing"



Tymon North Patient Describes Connections Artwork - "Joan & Madge: Twins going out on the town. We loved our shoes. They always had to be the same but a different colour"



TUH Patient Describes Connections Artwork - "I suffer from Epilepsy and Borderline Personality Disorder and cannot recognise the spectrum of emotions. It is black and white, but I always know there is light in darkness and darkness in light"

Art4All Art Packs have become a very popular tool of the Art at the Bedside service since their addition in 2020. These art packs vary from a simple Zen Colourings to Sewing, Weaving, Crafting, Painting or more intricate Cross stitch activities. All packs come with a step by step instruction booklet and materials to complete the activity making them accessible for patients of all ages and skills. The completed crafts often provide a conversation starting point with Hospital staff, visitors and fellow patients.

The State Man Arts Programme

This programme takes place in the Vartry Renal Unit, facilitated by Lucia Barnes for patients on dialysis, kindly funded by Marie & Joe Donnelly in collaboration with the PuncHESTOWN Kidney Research Fund (PKRF). Through chatting with patients, the artist discovers specific interests and guides patients towards how they might like to participate in a creative moment. Patients choose a) from the variety of Art4All packs or b) to engage in something more personalised. Concepts for creative work may be inspired through discussions with the artist around plays, theatre or their own writings, a -favourite place or something that evokes a treasured memory.



On April 17th 2024 **James Nolan** Chairman of the PKRF visited the Vartry Renal Unit along with six amateur Jockeys. James presented to Dialysis staff, the Arts Team and race Jockeys with first-hand information on the incredible difference organ donation can make to someone's life, emphasising the importance of 'Having the Conversation and saying YES to organ donation'. Both Lucia Barnes and Dr Sophie Lee TUH Artist & Musician in Residence shared presentations reflecting on the important benefits of arts in healthcare. Following refreshments CNM Robert Cox showed the group around the Vartry Unit. James and the Jockeys met with both staff and patients, witnessing for themselves how live music on the wards changes the hospital aesthetic for patients.



"Having dialysis treatment can be quite isolating. It's a novel idea, doing art and discussing art."

"Time goes by so slowly. It's really nice to do something different"

"Never thought I could do this. It's given me lots of ideas of what I can do to help pass the time."

State Man Arts Programme in the Vartry Renal Unit Art at the Bedside Numbers

State Man Art at the Bedside Numbers January - December 2024

Sessions	94
Direct Patient Numbers	319
Indirect Patient Numbers	260
Indirect Staff Numbers	283
Total Numbers	862

Live Music

The live music programme continues to energise the Hospital atrium, Tymon North Community Unit and the staff canteen with a variety of high quality music sessions from classical, folk and instrumental to choral and jazz for all to enjoy. 2024 was a particularly vibrant year, with the Department proudly delivering 48 music performances, adding new musicians, instruments and choirs to our programme and hosting Dutch youth orchestra the Ricciotti Ensemble. Thank you to our professional musicians and volunteer groups who provide such wonderful music. Specials thanks to the Meath Foundation for their continued support along with RENEW funding for increased engagement.



Collage of Musicians clockwise from top left: Folk Alley trio, Mary Barnecutt on Cello, the Ricciotti Ensemble, Mary Louise and Teresa O'Donnell harp duo, RAMS member during canteen performance and Clara Monahan leading a Culture Day singing circle

Soothing Sounds Live Music Programme

Developed by Arts & Health with Dr Sophie Lee to specifically deliver music to patients and staff at ward level. Facilitated by professional musicians in healthcare Dr Sophie Lee (pianist) and Dr Mary Louise O'Donnell (harpist) work in Amber Oncology Day Unit, Vartry Renal Unit and William Stokes. The programme expanded in 2024 and welcomed Justin McCann (pianist) to the team and piloted the programme in Burkitt and Webb wards. Gerry Claffey, Therapy Assistant on Burkitt Ward commented: "There is no persuasion needed - the music is what draws patients in. It is a destination for patients to mobilise to and from. We are delighted with the Soothing Sounds programme." In the last quarter of the year an evaluation of the programme was carried out using both quantitative and qualitative methods through the conduction of patient and staff surveys designed by Dr Sophie Lee. Initial findings are extremely positive, with a full report due in 2025 alongside a case study to be featured on artsandhealth.ie



Soothing Sounds team Justin McCann, Dr Mary Louise O'Donnell and Dr Sophie Lee

Soothing Sounds Engagement Numbers 2024	
Sessions	46
Direct Patient Numbers	1,142
Indirect Numbers	2,227
Total Numbers	3,415
Total Numbers	862

*Sophie reminds us the engagement numbers are estimated "as music floats down the corridors reaching more patients and staff than we can account for and include in numbers"

Music Therapy at TUH and Tymon North

This is an evidence based, allied health profession and can help to reduce stress, promote positive, meaningful engagement and purposeful interaction for patients during their Hospital stay. The two day Music Therapy Service is managed and delivered by Clara Monahan, Senior Music Therapist under the Arts & Health Programme.

The service is delivered to patients Hospital wide and includes age related, critical care and patients with intellectual disabilities. There is a weekly 'Music & Exercise Class' for outpatients in Charlie O' Toole Day Hospital and student internship programmes run throughout the year in collaboration with Music Therapy Masters Programmes in University of Limerick and SRH University Heidelberg.

Music Therapy Patient Numbers January - December 2024	No. Group Sessions	No. Individual sessions	Reach (Staff/visitors)	Direct Patient contacts	Total reach (Patients/staff & visitors)
Clara Monahan (Senior MT) X2 days per week	62	181	1,204	619	1,788
Student 1 (Tymon North & TUH) x3 days per week for 8 weeks	35	54	306	274	580
Student 2 & 3 (Tymon North & TUH) x3 days per week for 8 weeks	33	33	128	316	444
			Total	1,209	2,812



Music Therapy Service Highlights

A series of events celebrated **World Music Therapy Day** on April 15th including an information stand on Hospital Street and collaborating with the Arts Team to facilitate a 'Pop-Up Sing-Along' in the Hospital atrium highlighting the health benefits of singing and music-making for patients, staff and visitors.



Clara Monahan, Snr Music Therapist



Jerry Lynam (volunteer musician), Eithne, Aoileann & Ali from Heartbeats, Mary Louise O'Donnell on Harp with Music Therapists Rory Adams, Eun Mi Ko, Clara Monahan and (Heartbeats)

Music & Exercise Classes in Charlie O'Toole Day Hospital Patient Feedback

The 'Muscle Makers' class is a weekly class for older adults who are outpatients of the Hospital. They attend at Charlie O'Toole Day Hospital for a ten week strength and conditioning programme. Music Therapy collaborate with Physiotherapy to provide a 'Music and Exercise' class for outpatients on a Tuesday. It has grown to be the most subscribed class of the week for the department, everyone wants live music as they work out!

A survey of six patients carried out found:

- > 80% felt anxious before class
- > 100% felt happy after class
- > 100% felt supported by additional of live music during exercise class.



Fun at the Gathering Drum with patients and staff member Angela Smith, Healthcare Assistant and Clara Monahan, Senior Music Therapist

"I need the music cause it is the only way I can do [the class] I love what Clara brings to our class. It's her personality and she brings the craic"

"The music lifts my mood and with songs I know I find I enjoy doing exercises"

Clinical Internships

A key part of the music therapy programme is the training, education and supervision of music therapy students as they complete their clinical internship in TUH as part of their Music Therapy training. In 2024 Clara supervised three successful internship students from SRH Heidelberg University, Germany. These internships enable us to increase service level and patient reach.



Clara & Music Therapist students facilitate session on the William Stokes Ward Age related unit

Research

Music Therapy were proud to have a paper published in The Journal of Music and Medicine in June, "A community created through group singing: Examining the health benefits of engaging in a hospital community choir" (Cunningham et al., 2024). The paper outlines key findings of the Quality Initiative project "Our Voices TUH Community Choir" kindly funded by The Meath Foundation.

Enhanced Infrastructure

Atrium Piano Launch

We were delighted to launch our new atrium Trans Acoustic Piano with a celebratory event in December. The piano funding was raised entirely by TUH staff, their families and friends through our 25th Anniversary OsKaRs event. Composer and pianist Ryan Molloy delighted all, playing a range of classical, jazz and traditional Irish music and showcasing the capabilities of this beautiful instrument. Thank you to our colleagues in Library & Information services and catering for their contribution to the success of the event. Plans are underway for the integration of the piano into the wider hospital music programme and for creating opportunities for staff and patients to play the piano through an open timetable.



Composer and Pianist Ryan Molloy delivers a recital showcasing the special features on the new Atrium piano for staff, patients and visitors



Ryan Molloy with Arts & Health Manager Alison Baker Kerrigan, Head of Library & Information Services Jean McMahon, Senior Music Therapist Clara Monahan and Arts Admin Sharon Murphy

Hospital Street Exhibition: 'Empower Her' (June - Sept 2024)

We were very pleased to showcase work by photographer Linda Hanlon, featuring 54 stunning portraits celebrating extraordinary Irish women, while highlighting their achievements and journeys towards personal and professional empowerment. Coming from a broad range of career paths from a former Irish president to the first female tower crane operator in Ireland, each portrait had an accompanying quote offering advice to younger women and future generations.



Pictured from left to right Ali Baker Kerrigan, Teresa Quinn, Meath Foundation; Maria McGrane, Project Collaborator; Aine Lynch Director of Nursing & Integrated Care with Linda Hanlon Photographer & Creator of Empower Her

Hospital Street Exhibition 'Behold' (Nov 24 – April 25)

The 'Behold' exhibition features a selection of original artworks on loan from the AIB Art Collection. The exhibition provides a cultural access point within a healthcare setting for patients, staff and visitors to enjoy. There were artworks by Hughie O'Donoghue, Valerie Hamilton, David du Bose, William Crozier, Markey Robinson and Jane O'Malley to name but a few. Our thanks to Margaret Ruxton, AIB Art Archivist for her assistance and also to the Meath Foundation for their continued support for the TUH exhibition programme.



AIB Art Archivist Margaret Ruxton and TUH Arts & Health Manager Ali Baker Kerrigan admire a piece from Behold, Hospital Street art exhibition of selected artworks from the AIB collection

People - Arts & Health Team Engagements Patients, Staff and Community

- > **Ricciotti Orchestra** - Dutch ensemble visit TUH in August
- > **The Tightrope Walker** - A one-woman show performed for staff & community in the TLT in October
- > **Nature's Tapestry** - Photography exhibition by TUH Staff Members in RUA RED Café Wall, Dec 2024
- > **Heartbeats TUH Choir** - 2024 update

Ricciotti Orchestra Visit

In August, the TUH Arts and Health Department welcomed the wonderful Ricciotti Ensemble to the hospital. This Dutch symphonic street orchestra consisting of 43 young and talented musicians delivered two 45-minute performances, one in the atrium and one outside the canteen. They treated an enthusiastic audience to a varied programme of classical, pop and jazz arrangements. Breakaway duo and trio ensembles also visited the Vartry Dialysis, William Stokes and Amber Oncology units. Feedback from patients, staff and visitors was hugely positive. The event was captured on video available for viewing on the [TUH YouTube Channel](#).



A trio of musicians from Ricciotti Ensemble play for patients in Vartry Dialysis Unit



Director of Nursing & Integrated Care Áine Lynch with Arts & Health Manager Ali Baker Kerrigan celebrate with the Orchestra after their fantastic canteen performance

Comments and feedback from Staff experiencing Ricciotti Ensemble

"My first time listening to an orchestra and I loved it so much. Thank you!"

"Thank you for an incredible performance. I will never forget it!"

"I enjoyed it enormously. A fantastic surprise at lunchtime!"

"Lovely to see all of the young faces and hear the beautiful music. Well done to the orchestra and to the Hospital."

The Tightrope Walker

In collaboration with The Civic the Arts & Health Department hosted a one-woman show written and performed by renowned theatre-maker Jenny MacDonald. Its first performance in a healthcare setting, an audience of 60 were enthralled as Jenny shared her experience of navigating her way through the chaotic and profound territory of illness and recovery with both humour and humility. Audience participation was energetic and feedback was thoughtful, with a range of responses from emotional and challenging to warm and congratulatory.



Jenny MacDonald mid performance of the Tightrope Walker in Trinity Lecture Theatre

"It was amazing. It took me back to my journey and reminded me that I am a survivor."

"Unbelievably thought provoking. As a nurse, I didn't realise the impact my voice, words and touch have. Outstanding"



Ray Mullen & Tommy Walsh at the installation of Nature's Tapestry Exhibition in RUA RED

External Exhibition: 'Nature's Tapestry' (Dec 24 - Jan 25)

It was a pleasure to once again collaborate with the team at RUA RED South Dublin Arts Centre who welcomed the 'Nature's Tapestry' photography exhibition curated by Ali Baker Kerrigan. This body of work features photographs by two talented staff members, Tommy Walsh, Snr Medical Photographer and Ray Mullen, ICT Integrations Manager under a joint new venture 'Irish Landscape & Wildlife Photography'. Their breath-taking landscapes capture the diverse wildlife of Ireland, its vivid countryside, lush valleys, rolling hills and coastlines, each telling a story of resilience and tranquillity.



Heartbeats - TUH Choir at AIMS Choral Festival 2024

Heartbeats TUH Choir

Comprised of staff from across TUH (including retired staff and friends of TUH) directed by Michael Fay, Heartbeats simply Love to Sing! But more than that, the choir exudes a genuine sense of warmth and friendship, enjoying the fun and laughter that each rehearsal delivers. In spring of 2024 members dusted off their vocal cords with a Workshop by Ross Scanlon to improve their vocal technique and increase performance confidence. The choir performed at several events including Atrium lunchtime concerts, the AIMS Choral Festival, the TUH Nursing Graduation before ending the year with the ever-popular Carols on the Wards, a highlight for all.

12

Financial Management Performance 2024

HSE allocation in year

€422.9m



NET outturn

€422.9m



Surplus

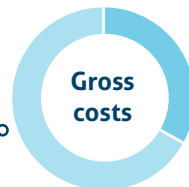
€27k



PAY

€338m

69% of gross costs



NON-PAY

€152.8m

31% of gross costs

Income

€68m



Patient income

€26.9m



€36.2m

Medical & surgical supplies



€37.8m

Medication





€4.8m

Equipment replacement

€6.3m Infrastructure developments

Includes:

- Aseptic unit
- Lift replacement



HIPE charts reviewed and coded

80,513

SCAN4SAFETY

28,137

Patients scanned

261,524

Products scanned

Value
€13.7m



Financial Review 2024

The below table summarises the financial outturn for 2024

Total	2024 Total €'000	2023 Total €'000	Movement €'000	%
HSE Allocation notified	422,928	366,727	56,201	15.3%
Net expenditure in year	422,901	375,079	47,822	12.7%
HSE Allocation	(422,928)	(366,727)	(56,201)	15.3%
Net (surplus)/deficit in year	(27)	8,352		
Cummulative deficit	25,385	25,412		

The financial performance of the Hospital in 2024 showed a surplus of €27k against the comparable HSE allocation, leading to an accumulated deficit of €25.4m at 31 December 2024.

In 2024, the Hospital received an allocation of €422.9 which was an increase of €56.2m (15.3%) on the final allocation for 2023 (€366.7m).

In 2024 the Hospital saw the net expenditure increase by €47.8m (12.7%) when compared with 2023.

The Hospital remains dependent on the ongoing support of the HSE to provide adequate funding to cover the cost of HSE approved funded service developments.

Expenditure

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000	Movement €'000	%
Pay	338,248	290,922	47,326	16.3%
Non-pay	152,783	146,320	6,463	4.4%
Gross expenditure	491,031	437,242	53,789	12.3%
Income	(68,130)	(62,163)	(5,967)	9.6%
Net expenditure	422,901	375,079	47,822	12.7%

Total pay costs in 2024 increased by €47m (16.3%) compared to 2023. An increase in whole time equivalents (WTE) of 187 staff for HSE approved service developments contributed to the increase in pay costs. Lump sum payments paid in 2024 increased by €3m year on year.

Non-pay expenditure increased by €6.5m (4.4%) in 2024. Direct patient costs increased by €1.3m in 2024 which includes Medical costs and Drug spend coupled with an increase in Laboratory consumables/external testing of €2.6m due to increased hospital activity. There was also increases of €0.6m in external scans and €0.5m in bedding costs associated with increased activity. In addition to the listed non-pay increases, Inflation has had a significant impact across all non-pay areas in 2024 which is a primary driver of the expenditure increase year on year.

Patient Income in 2024 increased by €0.7m, due to less isolation requirements in 2024 versus 2023, which resulted in more private billable rooms leading to an increase in income. Superannuation and Pension Levy is increasing due to increased WTE year on year. There was also an increase in the Primary Care Reimbursement Service (PCRS) income received in 2024.

Income

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000	Movement €'000	%
Patient income	26,361	25,699	622	2.6%
Superannuation and Pension Levy	13,674	11,863	1,811	15.3%
Income from external agencies	10,335	9,675	660	6.8%
Miscellaneous Income	17,760	14,926	2,834	19.0%
	<u>68,130</u>	<u>62,163</u>	<u>5,967</u>	9.6%

Capital projects in 2024 reflect campus developments including the Pharmacy Aseptic Unit. We also replaced Hospital lifts in 2024. During the year the Hospital continued to acquire additional equipment through medical equipment replacement (€4.8m in 2024).

Throughout 2024, the Hospital continued the extension of our 'Scan4Safety' project. At the end of the year TUH had complete traceability of items used during surgical procedures in all 16 theatres. Interventional Radiology (IR) went live in March 2024. IR was the final procedure based area to go-live under Scan4Safety. Scan4Safety is a quality and safety led project with the added focus of value improvement in the areas of supply chain which has improved patient safety and operational efficiency and reduced costs.

The Hospital continues to work with St. James's Hospital in relation to the shared development and enhancement of the SAP financial management system.

Financial Statements

Income and Expenditure Account

For the reporting period January 1st to December 31st 2024

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Pay Expenditure	338,016	290,922
Non Pay Expenditure	153,015	146,320
Gross Expenditure	491,031	437,242
Income	(68,130)	(62,163)
Net Expenditure for the year	422,901	375,079
Allocation in year before once-off allocation	(422,928)	(366,727)
Deficit in year before once-off allocation	(27)	8,352
Retrospective once-off allocation		
Deficit in year after once-off allocation	(27)	8,352
Cumulative deficit brought forward from previous year	25,413	17,060
Cumulative deficit carried forward to following year	25,386	25,143

Balance Sheet

as at December 31st

	2024 €'000	2023 €'000
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets	114,692	104,725
Current Assets		
Debtors	70,622	64,185
Stocks	5,954	6,815
Bank and Cash balances	17,275	18,314
	93,850	89,313
Creditors – less than one year		
Creditors	(98,600)	(93,002)
Bank Overdraft	(10,899)	(7,881)
Obligations under finance leases	(2,389)	(2,389)
	(111,889)	(103,272)
Net Current Liabilities	(18,039)	(13,959)
Total Assets less current liabilities	96,654	90,766
Creditors – more than one year		
Obligations under finance leases	(2,978)	(5,367)
	93,676	85,400
Capital and Reserves		
Non Capital Income & Expenditure Account Deficit	(25,385)	(25,412)
Capital Income & Expenditure Account	4,368	6,088
Capitalisation Account	114,692	104,725
	93,676	85,400

Tallaght University Hospital Foundation

Transforming Healthcare Through Innovation & Collaboration

A Vision for the Future

At Tallaght University Hospital Foundation (TUHF), we are dedicated to driving innovation, enhancing patient care, and shaping the future of healthcare. Since our establishment in 2018 as an independent registered charity, we have worked hand in hand with the Hospital to deliver ground breaking initiatives that elevate healthcare standards. With a strong focus on strategic investments and partnerships, our mission is clear: to make TUH the partner of choice for pioneering medical advancements and large-scale healthcare projects.

Delivering Real Impact

To date, TUHF has raised and invested over €8 million, significantly improving patient outcomes and experiences. Thanks to the generosity of our community, grants from trusts and foundations, our lotto, and investments through the Immigrant Investor Programme, we have:

- Funded cutting-edge equipment for operating theatres and clinics.
- Introduced advanced methods for diagnosing and monitoring medical conditions.
- Upgraded and modernised hospital rooms and wards.
- Supported staff-led projects to enhance patient care.

This work would not be possible without our dedicated supporters. A special thank you to our Easter Chick Ladies, whose annual fundraising efforts have made a remarkable impact on age-related healthcare. In 2024, they raised an incredible €31,685. Additionally, we celebrate the Laurels Cycle Crew, who joined forces in 2024 to raise funds for the upcoming Aging Well Centre in Clondalkin, generating €29,904, including €17,434 in 2024 alone.

Our heartfelt appreciation also goes to Newlands Golf Club, whose Golf Day raised €6,087 for the Aging Well Centre. We are equally grateful to the Dublin City Marathon participants, who collectively raised €14,849.09, and the Med Day students, who contributed an incredible €20,000. Your unwavering support continues to transform healthcare for the better.

Leading Healthcare Innovation

The landscape of medicine is evolving at an unprecedented pace, and TUHF is committed to leading that change. By actively seeking high-impact projects and strategic investment partners, we are creating lasting, meaningful advancements in patient care. One of our most transformative projects, announced in February 2024, is the €7.6 million Aging Well Centre in Clondalkin village. This initiative aligns with TUH's vision of extending care beyond hospital walls to meet the growing needs of an aging population.

Equally ground breaking is our progress in Innovate Health. In December 2024, TUHF reached a significant milestone when we secured planning approval for Innovate Health – a €60 million investment that will build on the reputation of the Hospital as a leading site both nationally and internationally for research in a complex clinical environment. This facility, strategically located near the Hospital, underscores our commitment to fostering world-class innovation in healthcare.

Expanding Our Reach

In 2024, we made significant strides in enhancing our digital presence, upgrading our website, and expanding our reach across social media. These efforts have brought our message to a wider audience, strengthening awareness of TUHF's mission and impact.

Our collaborative approach continues to drive long-term success. By forging partnerships with other investors and stakeholders, we amplify our resources, extend our network, and unlock greater opportunities to shape the future of healthcare.

Strengthening Leadership & Honouring Contributions

TUHF is proud to welcome three new Board members: Tony Carey, John Collins, and Liam Dowdall, whose expertise and leadership will further propel our mission. We extend our deepest gratitude to Ron Grainger for his dedicated service as a long-standing Board Director; while he steps down from this role, we are honoured that he will continue as a TUHF Trustee.

Sadly, in December 2024, we lost a cherished Board Member, Lillian McGovern. Her dedication, passion, and invaluable contributions to TUHF will always be remembered.

Looking Ahead with Purpose and Passion

TUHF's work is made possible by the extraordinary support from TUH, our Board, our community, and our generous donors. Together, we are creating a future where innovative healthcare solutions, state-of-the-art facilities, and compassionate patient care define our legacy.

As we continue our journey, we remain steadfast in our mission - to build a healthier tomorrow, powered by vision, innovation, and collaboration.

Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey.

Adelaide Health Foundation (AHF)

2024 was an extremely productive year for the Adelaide Health Foundation who successfully delivered a range of impactful programs across all three pillars of AHF strategy.

Community



In 2024, the scope of AHF's Community Grant scheme was expanded to include 'Wellbeing'.

Once again, there was an overwhelming response to call for applications and €65,000 was awarded across 15 local organisations serving the Dublin 24 area. Aisling Doherty, from the HSE's Health and Wellbeing Program participated on the Evaluation panel and provided valuable input into the assessment process. Two of the funded projects are outlined below.

Jobstown School Completion Project

The Jobstown School Completion Programme applied for funding to develop a health and fitness programme for teens who have been identified as potentially at risk of leaving school early, or who are out of school and have not successfully transferred to alternative learning. The funds allowed the team to establish a gym in Mount Seskin Community College, which will have ongoing use for the Community and school student body.

The gym is currently available to 137 senior cycle students. In early 2025, the team plan to extend the use of the gym to junior cycle students and also to open it up to local community organisations.

New Hope Residential Centre – Crack Cocaine Recovery Course

Crack Cocaine use is a serious public health concern and drug services are working hard to address the issue, raise awareness and mitigate against the effects.

New Hope Residential Centre was awarded AHF funding to support the roll out of two Crack Cocaine Recovery Courses, with each course ending with an outing to promote a healthy and drug free lifestyle.

The Rugby House course is an evidenced base course which is hard hitting and effective at addressing Crack Cocaine use. Not only is the course effective in addressing public health issues, but it also produces a secondary outcome in that it gives each client a sense of achievement and accomplishment in finishing what they started, with successful participants receiving a completion certificate.

Two outings celebrated the completion of the course - a one-day hike to Glendalough and a two-day camping trip to Drestown House in Meath.



€100,000 Investment in Innovation Projects for the Hospital

In November 2024 we collaborated with TUH Innovate Health on our 'New Initiatives' funding scheme, which provides seed funding for projects that will improve the TUH patient experience.

11 projects were funded including:

- One stop Pelvic Floor Clinic **Gynaecology** (€19,600)
- Development of a 'Virtual ICU Tour' for survivors of critical illness to see the critical care environment, a short video where staff members will essentially 'show the patient around' the unit. **ICU/Psychology** (€2,500)
- Virtual COPD Exacerbation Follow Up to Empower Patients in COPD Self-Management **Respiratory Medicine** (€20,000)

Research



Since 2022, the AHF Research pillar has focused on producing healthcare research that leads to real action. This means we make sure any funded research is top quality and fits with our mission. We also work to put project recommendations into practice, so the final reports don't just get ignored, sitting on shelves.

November 2024 saw the launch of AHF's UCD delivered report into Genetic Testing and Counselling in Ireland, which was accompanied by our next steps announcement - €1.5m investment in the improvement of Ireland's genetic counselling and testing services.

Through a three-year multi-phase project (2025-2027), and working in conjunction with national, academic and healthcare partners, the Adelaide Health Foundation will support projects which improve the patient experience, commencing with an initial focus on education. The first deliverable will be the development of a pilot "Introduction to Genetics" project, which will be offered to TUH HSCP staff.

HANA Research Project

The report on the 2024 Health Assets and Needs Assessment [HANA] survey in Tallaght was delivered by TCD Associate Professor Catherine Darker. The report gives valuable insight into current experiences of both health and community assets in Tallaght and will be invaluable in helping predict and shape the future needs of the Tallaght community.

The Adelaide Health Foundation co-funded the project with the HSE Primary Care Community Healthcare Organisation 7 (CHO7). Tallaght University Hospital, the Childhood Development Initiative, South Dublin County Council and South Dublin County Partnership all actively supported the project, demonstrating a fine example of co-operation towards a common purpose.

A collaborative has been formed to study the project recommendations, and the Adelaide Health Foundation will consider how best to engage to support improved services for the Tallaght community.



Education



The Adelaide Health Foundation offer a range of Scholarships and Awards to hospital staff including:

- The Mansfield Scholarship - €10k funding ring fenced for frontline nurses to attend conference and specialist short courses. In 2024, a total of 25 staff including Staff Nurses, Clinical Nurse Managers, Clinical Nurse Specialists and Advanced Nurse Practitioners had 100% of their costs covered.
- The new Seville Award, a 4th year Student nurse award recognising Care, Compassion & Commitment.

We undertook a full review of AHF Scholarships and Awards in 2024 and plan to extend funding to include HSCPs and HCAs.

Having enhanced communications to build awareness of AHF Nursing Bursary scheme, an overwhelming number of applications were received in 2024 and funding of €336,500 was provided to 101 applicants.

During 2024, we surveyed all 2023 bursary recipients to gain fuller understanding of the impact the Bursary has in supporting their studies. A full evaluation of the nursing bursary scheme will be undertaken early 2025.

The bursary has helped me immensely from a financial standpoint. It alleviated financial stress and allowed me to focus more on my studies.

Relieved financial pressure off me. Allowed me to pay for placement accommodation, transport, groceries etc

It has helped my financially with college fees and childcare costs as they went up and I no longer work full time.

AHF BOARD 2024

Chair Catherine Mac Daid is supported by her board and AHF Staff.



Board members from left to right, Niamh Gavin, AHF CEO; Marie Louise Delahunty; Stephen Franck and Bernie Conolly. Back row from left to right, Dr Eleanor Galvin; Tadhg Ó'Cróinín; Dr David Moore; Catherine Mac Daid, Chair of the Foundation; Rory Brownlee; Sinéad Keavey and Peter Fitzpatrick



CEO Niamh Gavin supports the Board and Esther Nyambura and Victoria Boughton support both the Board, Board Sub-Groups and the CEO to deliver a range of programmes across the pillars of Community, Research and Education

The Meath Foundation

The Meath Foundation's mission is to honour the traditions of the past through the continuous support of research, education, quality improvement, innovation and the arts. The Foundation is a charity that was established in 1998 following the opening of Tallaght University Hospital (TUH).

The Meath Foundation values its role in supporting the work of TUH, its staff, patients and the wider community through its strategic themes

1. Advancing Healthcare Research
2. Recognising and Promoting Excellence
3. Educating Future Healthcare Leaders
4. Promoting and Improving Quality of Care and Delivery
5. Promoting Better Health through the Arts

Governance

The Meath Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors who are collectively responsible for the management of the organisation. They are volunteers who give their time to improve, protect and support the Foundation's charitable activities through strategic development and good governance. They are guided by the Charities Regulator Governance Code. Some Directors are drawn from the membership of the Foundation, while others are co-opted so that the Board has a wide range of skills and experience to support the needs of the organisation.

The Foundation has four committees which support the Board:

- The Finance, Audit & Risk Committee focusses on the efficient financial management of the Foundation, including the management of income, expenditure and investments.
- The Governance & Nominating Committee supports the Board in fulfilling its responsibilities in relation to best governance practice.
- The Research, Education, Quality Improvement and Innovation Committee has oversight of the first four strategic themes of the Foundation.

- The Arts & Health Committee has oversight of the Foundation's strategic theme Promoting Better Health through the Arts.

The Meath Foundation would not be the organisation it is today without the commitment of its Directors. In 2024 a number of Directors retired from the Board. We acknowledge and appreciate the invaluable expertise and contributions that they made through their significant service to the Foundation and the Healthcare sector.

Sibéal reflects that "2024 was a busy year for the Foundation particularly in the area of Governance. Good Governance continues to be a central element of The Meath Foundation's strategic approach and we have already started the preparation for our new Strategic Plan 2026-2031".



Sibéal Carolan, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Meath Foundation

Chief Executive Officer

Martina Larkin leads the Foundation's operational team to deliver the strategic objectives of the organisation on behalf of the Board of Directors.

The Meath Foundation delivers its strategic themes through the provision of funding in partnership and collaboration with key stakeholders and the wider community. Here are some of the ways The Meath Foundation has made an impact in 2024.



Martina Larkin, CEO Meath Foundation, with her operational team colleagues Siobhán Glynn and Jessica Peel-Yates

Advancing Healthcare Research

The Meath Foundation continued its commitment to support Healthcare research in 2024 by awarding two Research Grants:

- Dr Shane O'Brien for his research entitled: 'Non-invasive Anti-inflammatory Neuromodulation using Splenic Ultrasound in Sarcoidosis'
- Professor Mark Little for his research entitled: 'Characterisation and Inhibition of Monocyte-Driven Inflammation in AAV'

The Foundation continues to support the Meath Foundation Research Laboratory which has a vibrant group of researchers with the number increasing year on year. The Laboratory provides facilities for TUH staff who wish to develop their areas of research and require dedicated space and technical support.

The Meath Foundation Research Symposium

The Meath Foundation Research Symposium is a well-established event in the calendar, aimed at promoting and celebrating the projects supported by Foundation research funds, and was held on Friday, November 29th 2024. This year the Research Symposium departed from its traditional

format. While it looked at the Foundation's research story so far, it particularly focussed on Psychiatry and Endocrinology and the benefits and impact of researching these areas within a hospital setting. The Symposium also included a presentation on the Meath Foundation Research Laboratory.

The keynote speaker, Professor Colm O'Móráin, Emeritus Professor of Medicine at TCD and TUH presented and spoke to his experience of research and the impact that funding from organisations like the Meath Foundation can have for patients. He showed how observations from direct interaction with patients can lead to the development of hypotheses on the causes and impact of diseases, which themselves can be elucidated by focussed research. He also spoke of the value of international collaboration in building communities of researchers across Europe and the United States aimed at bringing new ideas and techniques to specific medical conditions, leading to better treatment.

The panel format of the event worked very well generating a lively discussion and sought to demonstrate the research journey for the Principal Investigator and/or the research team. The Symposium highlighted the significant impact of the support from the Meath Foundation, particularly in terms of additional funding accessed by the research teams and the consequent improved outcomes for patients.

Presenters for the Psychiatry Research Panel were: Dr Catherine Darker, Health Psychologist and Associate Professor of Health Services Research in the Department of Public Health & Primary Care at TCD and Dr Daniela Tropea, Associate Professor of Molecular Psychiatry in TCD.

Presenters for the Endocrinology Research Panel were: Dr Lucy Ann Behan, Consultant Endocrinologist in TUH and the Coombe Fertility Hub and Professor James Gibney, Consultant Endocrinologist at TUH & Clinical Professor at TCD.



Presenters at the Meath Foundation Research Symposium: left to right – Psychiatry Research Panel: Dr Daniela Tropea and Dr Catherine Darker, Professor Kevin Conlon, Chair of Symposium, Sibéal Carolan, Chair of Meath Foundation, Keynote speaker Professor Colm O'Móráin, Endocrinology Research Panel: Dr Lucy Ann Behan, Professor James Gibney and Dr TJ Butler, Meath Foundation Research Laboratory Manager

Recognising and Promoting Excellence

It is important for The Meath Foundation that we celebrate excellence in Healthcare. A key way this is achieved is through a series of awards which provide an enhanced profile for researchers and their work both in the hospital and the public domain.

In 2024, Dr Conor Costigan received the Colm O'Móráin Award while the Gerry Fitzpatrick Award for the work of a Non Consultant Hospital Doctor was awarded to Dr Lushavia Govender.

The Roisin Boland Medal was awarded for the best overall project at the CA&QI Symposium to Lynn Casey while the Elizabeth O'Dwyer Medal & Travel Bursary for Innovation in Nursing was awarded to Helen Teague, Nurse Practice Development Co-ordinator and the Nurse Practice Development Department.

Sandra Hartigan, Emma Caldbeck and Jonathan Joaquin were joint recipients of the Mary O'Connor Medal & Travel Bursary for excellence in Emergency Medicine Nursing.



Martina Larkin, CEO - Meath Foundation, presenting the Roisin Boland Award for best overall project to Lynn Casey and the Gerry Fitzpatrick Award for the best NCHD project to Dr Lushavia Govender

Educating Future Healthcare Leaders

The Meath Foundation continues the legacy of the Meath Hospital in recognising the importance of education and professional development for those working in the Healthcare sector. We provide funding to the TUH Centre for Learning and Development to assist staff development and education with a key focus on developing leadership. Some of the initiatives that The Meath Foundation supported in 2024 were:

- The SOAR coaching programme that focusses on self-awareness, ownership, action and results.

- The Athena Mentoring Programme which provides a structured mentoring programme to hospital colleagues under the umbrella of the TUH Leadership Academy.
- Meath Foundation/TUH MSc Fellowships to enable four staff members to pursue Masters degree programmes at the Graduate School of Healthcare Management of Leadership in RCSI which are aligned with the strategic priorities of the hospital.

Brian Murray Senior Medical Scientist Laboratory Directorate, Jun Cao CNM3 for Cancer services, Phyllis Reilly, Chief Medical Scientist and Near Patient Testing (NPT) Manager Laboratory Medicine Department and Sindhu Cheriyan CNM3 Older Persons Service were selected to undertake Meath Foundation/TUH MSc Fellowship programme 2024-2026.

Promoting and Improving Quality of Care and Delivery

Quality Improvement and Innovation are critical techniques in drawing out ideas from staff at all levels in TUH which can be developed to create practical solutions to everyday problems. In collaboration with the senior management team in the hospital, funding can be provided for materials and small pieces of equipment, as well as sufficient time to allow progress to be made.

The Meath Foundation sponsored the annual Clinical Audit & Quality Improvement Symposium which was held on June 7th 2024. The event celebrated quality improvement and innovation initiatives across TUH and also has a central role in facilitating ongoing education, training and professional development within the Hospital. The guest speakers for the event were Captain Niall Downey and Lucy Richards who focussed on how we can enhance the experience of those we serve through challenging staff to work in a truly patient centred and intentional way.

The Meath Foundation was delighted to announce the inaugural Martin Feeley Award and for it to be awarded to the best surgical audit or project at the CA & QI Symposium.

Mr Martin Feeley's contribution to healthcare was immeasurable and he left a tremendous legacy in TUH, the Foundation is honoured to make the award in his memory which recognised his close ties with the Meath Hospital.



Martina Larkin, CEO - Meath Foundation, presenting the inaugural Martin Feeley Award for best surgical presentation to Dr Jessica Ryan

Promoting Better Health through the Arts

Since its inception the Foundation has recognised that while the key focus is on the medical needs of patients, there are still many benefits for them, their families, as well as the staff and the wider community of visitors to the Hospital.

Here are some highlights showing the impact of our funding to support Arts & Health in 2024:

- Art at the Bedside programme
- Art4All Art Packs
- Music Therapy
- Live music in the Hospital including the Soothing Sounds programme.
- Artists Residency
- Piano in the Atrium



Ali Baker Kerrigan Arts & Health Manager, TUH; Martina Larkin, CEO Meath Foundation; Lucy Nugent, CEO of TUH and Sibéal Carolan, Chairperson, Meath Foundation at the Piano Launch

On Reflection

CEO Martina Larkin reflects “since joining The Meath Foundation in early 2023 I have been hugely impressed by TUH in terms of its commitment to its values and the people it serves and how this is demonstrated at every level of the organisation. I am delighted, together with the Board of Directors and my colleagues in The Meath Foundation, to be able to support and encourage TUH and its staff to best serve its community. We look forward to continuing to promote the objectives of the Meath Foundation into 2025 and beyond.”

www.meathfoundation.com

meathfoundation@tuh.ie

ANAESTHESIOLOGY & ICU

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Tallaght University Hospital
Tallaght, Dublin 24
D24 NR0A Ireland

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