

St. Vincent's Healthcäre

GROUP





Mission Statement

We strive for excellence in meeting the holistic needs of our patients

in a caring and healing environment in which the essential

contribution of each member of staff is valued.

The values of human dignity, compassion, justice, quality and
advocacy, rooted in the mission and philosophy of the Religious

Sisters of Charity, guide us in our work.

We will, within the foregoing context, make every effort to

maintain excellence in clinical care, teaching and research.

Comh mheas, comh bha, comh phártaíocht agus comh oibre

bunsraith ár gcuid saothar uile.

(Mutual respect, empathy, partnership and cooperation

are the foundation of all our work.)

Annual Review

St. Vincent's Healthcare Group Ltd.

incorporating

St. Vincent's University Hospital

St. Vincent's Private Hospital

and

St. Michael's Hospital





Departmental Review

Department of Anaesthesia, Intensive Care and Pain Medicine

Departmental Review

Staff

There are currently 19 Consultant Anaesthetists working in SVUH, 12 of these consultants have significant commitments to other hospitals. Consequently, there are only 12 whole time equivalents to staff services in the group. Among the services requiring cover are 15 operating theatres, including 1 in St. Michael's Annexe, 2 in St. Michael's Hospital and 2 in St. Vincent's Private Hospital. As was the case in 2003, staffing levels remain a problem for the department in 2004.

We would like to congratulate and welcome Dr Ingrid Browne and Dr Ola-Petter Rosaeg to the department. They have replaced Dr Edward Gallagher, who retired in 2004, and Dr Kevin McKeating, who was appointed to a new National Maternity post. The occasion of Dr Gallagher's retirement was marked by a departmental night out. We wish him and his wife Eileen, a happy retirement and thank him for his contribution over the years. We are currently waiting for approval from the HSE regarding the academic post and will be advertising as soon as possible.

Dr Slazenger also retired from St. Michael's Hospital at the end of 2004. Again we would like to thank him for his contribution to the department and extend our best wishes to him and Noreen during his retirement. We will shortly have interviews for a replacement post (2 posts) with an interest in ICU.

Service Development / Activities

The amalgamation of the two pools of NCHD for the purpose of staffing St. Michael's Hospital has worked well. Further issues, with respect to on-call cover at St. Michael's remain to be resolved.

A module of regional anaesthesia training has started under the supervision of Dr Gabrielle Iohom. This has been a great success and we look forward to the development of this much neglected aspect of anaesthesia in the future.

Activity Report – Operating Statistics 2004

Category	SVUH	St. Michael's Annexe	St. Michael's Public	St. Vincent's Private
Dental	42	118		
Dermatology	130			
E.N.T	290	161	136	
General	2928	520	1018	1583
G.U Endo	1623	585		
G.U Open	161	250	223	158
Gynaecology	271	69	78	351
Ophthalmology	296	419		
Orthopaedic	1837	270	171	
Pain	538	21		
Plastic	1041	156	157	
Thoracic	309			
Vascular	394			
Totals	9860	1177	1589	3678



Emergencies

A total of 2,339 emergencies were carried out in SVUH and 1,298 of these were performed outside the normal working day. In 2004, 45 liver transplants were carried out in SVUH.

Outstanding / Significant Achievements

Congratulations to the following individuals who obtained their exams in 2004.

Dr Brian Alyward	Fellowship
Dr Michelle Roets	Primary
Dr Mary White	Primary

A revised series of resident merit awards is to be introduced at the end of 2005.

Two former transplant/research fellows, Dr. D.M. Honan (2001-2) and Dr. C.L. McCaul (1999-2000), were appointed to consultant posts in 2004.

Dr. J.G. Laffey, a previous fellow (2001-2), received the 2004 JMS Anaesthesia award for research conducted while based at SVUH.

Dr. John Boylan was appointed as honorary lecturer in clinical physiology at the Department of Physiology, UCD.

Significant Publications / Academic Activity

Peer-Reviewed Publications

J.G. Laffey, D. Honan, N. Hopkins, J-M. Hyvelin, J.F. Boylan, P. McLoughlin.
Hypercapnic acidosis attenuates endotoxin-induced acute lung injury.
 American Journal of Respiratory & Critical Care Medicine 2004; 169: 46-56.
 (This article was the subject of an accompanying editorial - Erik R. Swenson:
 Therapeutic hypercapnic acidosis: pushing the envelope.
 American Journal of Respiratory & Critical Care Medicine 2004; 169: 8-9.)

Academic Activity

Labour Analgesia – What's New?

College of Anaesthetists Obstetric Anaesthesia Study Day - December 2004

Anaesthesia for Liver Disease

Final Fellowship Course, College of Anaesthetists - January 2004

Influence of the introduction of guidelines for the prescribing of medications pre-operatively

I. Brady, I. Browne, J. Boylan

College of Anaesthetists Annual Scientific Meeting, Dublin - May 2004

Current practice patterns in teaching hospitals for the discontinuation of OCP/HRT prior to surgery

F. Naughton, I. Browne, T. Owens

College of Anaesthetists Annual Scientific Meeting, Dublin - May 2004

Pre-operative herbal medicine uses and the anaesthetist's opinion

K. Tan, D. Harmon, I. Browne

College of Anaesthetists Annual Scientific Meeting, Dublin - May 2004

Resuscitation Training/ Developments

In 2004, education and training was provided to 1,046 staff members in the form of in-service, lectures, ward-based training and formal workshops and courses. 687 of the staff were nurses, 177 were doctors, 60 were paramedical staff, 68 were non-clinical staff and the remainder were students.

87 staff trained as ACLS Providers.

471 staff trained as Basic Life Support Providers.

An Intern Orientation Programme was presented for the second time and included Adult HeartSaver AED training. This is one of the pre-requisites for ACLS training.

Other courses include Basic Rhythm Recognition workshop, Cardiac Arrest Management workshop. Numerous lectures and in-service were presented on a variety of topics associated with resuscitation.

Ward-based training proved most popular and it is hoped to increase the number of sessions provided in 2005.

In addition:

- SVUH renewed its status as a training site with the Irish Heart Foundation.
- A database of those trained was maintained.
- A database of cardiac arrests was maintained.

- Obsolete defibrillators continue to be replaced.
- Contents of the cardiac arrest trolleys were reviewed and significant improvements made relating to equipment and drugs.
- A new cardiac arrest trolley content check list was piloted and introduced to the wards.
- Additional Laerdal pocket masks were placed in strategic locations around the hospital.
- SVUH collaborated with St Michael's Hospital to provide both ACLS and BLS Instructor training.
- Training equipment was purchased through the ACLS Account.
- Resuscitation guidelines have been reviewed and are being updated.
- Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (DNACPR) draft guidelines are in the final stages of review.
- Cardiac arrest trolleys and defibrillators were assessed for the tender for the new building.
- A Resuscitation web page has been developed by the IT Department.
- Ongoing risk assessment and 'trouble shooting' takes place.

Cardiac Arrests

In 2004, 283 cardiac arrest calls were received by switch. Of these calls, 111 were to the Emergency Department. From these 283 cardiac arrest calls, 94 audit forms were received. The breakdown of the cardiac arrest calls detailed on the audit forms was as follows: -

- Asystole (59 cases)
- Pulseless Electrical Activity (18 cases)
- Ventricular Fibrillation / Pulseless Ventricular Tachycardia (13 cases)

Risk Management

Dr Richard Assaf has been appointed for an initial period as Clinical Risk Facilitator. He is involved in liaising with the Medical Board and Hospital Management on Clinical Risk Management issues, and teaching the NCDH staff. His role also includes reviewing all adverse drug reactions submitted to the Ethics Committee.

Vascular Access

Director Dr Alan McShane
Consultant Dr Neil McDonald

2004 was another busy year for the Vascular Access Service, with procedure numbers increasing to 421, an increase of 59 cases. Despite the huge numbers being processed, there has been little progress in the provision of dedicated theatre sessions for the service. This is far from satisfactory from a patient and doctor point of view. It can lead to anxiety, unnecessary fasting, interference with drug administration and sometimes cancellation of cases. The service needs a dedicated slot each day to continue to provide consultant delivered care.

On a positive note, an ultrasound device was purchased in 2004 to aid line placement. This should make the procedures safer and will greatly aid in the teaching of the technique.

At the request of the College of Anaesthetists, Dr McShane organised a Vascular Access workshop. This was well attended and proved to be very popular. Dr Neil McDonald was part of the faculty. A study was also undertaken to evaluate the safest and most useful methods of identifying correct venous line placement. This should be published in 2005.

South East Dublin Department of Anaesthesia (SEDDA) Report

Co-ordinator Dr Alan McShane

The South East Dublin Department of Anaesthesia was delighted to welcome the appointment of two new consultant colleagues, who will work between St. Vincent's University Hospital and the National Maternity Hospital. Dr Ingrid Browne took up her post in November 2004 and Dr Ola-Petter Rosaeg is due to commence in April 2005. A new consultant locum position was also filled by Dr Gabrielle Iohom, working between St. Vincent's University Hospital and St. Michael's Hospital Annexe. This appointment has greatly aided and increased the throughput of elective surgical patients from St. Vincent's University Hospital. The popular rotation of anaesthesia trainees has continued between the constituent hospitals. Attendance at the organised teaching sessions has improved.

Looking to the future of SEDDA, serious effort is to be expanded on rationalising the multiple night duty rosters. The busy areas will have to be better staffed and in light of recent proposals, the less busy locations will probably be best closed at night.

Finally, I would like to thank Dr Edward Gallagher for his professionalism and collegiality over the years. I wish him many happy years of retirement.

Intensive Care Unit

Medical Director	Dr Kieran Crowley
Consultant	Dr Pat Benson
Clinical Nurse Manager II	Ms Geraldine Carey

Service workload

516 patients were admitted to the ICU in 2004, an increase on recent years. 45% of patients stayed 1 day, while 39% stayed 3 days or more, similar to recent years. Average length of stay was unchanged at 6 days. Bed occupancy of 92.7% remains above internationally recommended levels.

Severity of illness has plateaued over recent years: average APACHE II score was 19, similar to last year. Similarly organ failure rates and organ support rates seem to have stabilized: for example, 69% of patients received mechanical ventilation. Overall ICU survival was 78.5%, with hospital survival of 75%.

St. Vincent's supplied an ICU nurse and registrar to staff the transfer of critically ill patients by MICAS (mobile intensive care ambulance service) on a 1:4 roster.

Staffing

Nursing staffing remained at or near to its full complement during 2004, allowing utilisation of all beds for almost all of the year.

There are two care attendants; one shared orderly, one shared technician and a shared ICU secretary. A registrar or specialist registrar rotating from the Department of Anaesthesia, available 24 hours a day staffs the ICU.

During 2004 Dr. Cathal Nolan joined the consultant staff in a locum position.

Developments

The structure of the new ICU is now completed and planning is at the phase of preparing tenders for equipment. There will be 16 beds in the new development.

During 2004, the ICU team successfully underwent peer review as part of the process of hospital accreditation.

For the majority of 2004, the ICU provided the critical care component of the Liver Transplant Programme. The year saw a record 45 transplants, with a 100% 60-day survival for elective transplants.

ICU Activity

	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
Admissions	516	450	471	421	469	556	551	537
Average length of stay (days)	6	6	6	5	5	3.4	3.9	4.8
Average occupancy	93%	90%	85%	89%	85%	64%	75%	92%
Elective surgical	36%	27%	30%	32%	35%	36%	43%	43%
Emergency surgical	30%	39%	31%	31%	35%	31%	30%	30%
Medical	34%	34%	39%	37%	30%	33%	27%	28%
Mechanical ventilation	69%	70%	75%	68%	67%	58%	57%	69%
Central venous access	64%	73%	81%	69%	78%	75%	65%	74%
Vasoactive infusions	20%	18%	25%	33%	33%	26%	22%	27%
Acute renal failure	10%	17%	25%	23%	24%	14%	13%	16%
Contin. renal repl. therapy	10%	16%	21%	16%	14%	10%	8%	12%
Tracheostomy	6%	13%	11%	13%	6%	6%	9%	9%
Unplanned ICU discharges	21%	25%	1.5%	11.4%	6%	5%	4%	5%
Readmissions	8.3%	2.9%	0.9%			6.3%		9.6%
APACHE II score (mean)	19	20	19	20	18	14	15	16
ICU survival	79%	82%	75%	73%	75%	81%	82%	83%
Hospital survival	75%	78%	70%	68%	70%	71%	75%	73%

Pain Medicine

Director	Dr Declan O'Keeffe
Consultants	Dr Ray Victory Dr Hugh Gallagher
Clinical Psychologist	Dr Rosemary Walsh
0.5 wte Physiotherapist	Mrs Martine Darcy (Mat Leave March 2004) Miss Jane Dawson
0.5 wte Occ. Therapist	Miss Katie Robinson (to August 2004) Miss Amanda Wallace (from Nov 2004)
Pain Management Programme	Ms Judy Kelly (to May 2004)
Co-ordinator/PA to Director	Ms Laura Hamilton (from July 2004)
Clinical Secretary and PA to Clinical Psychologist	Ms Laura Hamilton (to July 2004) Ms Sarah Brady (from July 2004)

Activity

Outpatient Clinics

Day	Consultant	Number of Sessions	New Patients	Return Patients	Total
Tuesday	Dr O'Keeffe	48	192	1,956	2,148
Tuesday	Dr Victory	4	4	5	9
Wednesday	Dr O'Keeffe	61	61	808	869
Total		113	257	2,769	3,026

Inpatients

Admissions	101
Discharges	106

Day Care

St. Mark's Day Centre	106
Extra Mural Theatre	256
Total	362

Pain Management Programmes

Type Programme	No of courses in 2004	Total Number of Patients on course
3 Week	6	57
1 Day	4	39
Pain School	1	9

Education and Training

The first chronic pain service information day for staff was held at St. Vincent's University Hospital on Global Pain Day, October 11th 2004. Lunch was provided and the Pain Team made a series of very informative presentations. Dr O'Keeffe chaired this meeting. Dr Declan O'Keeffe was President of the Irish Pain Society in 2004.

Meetings Attended by Members of the Department

(Dr Declan O'Keeffe, Dr Hugh Gallagher, Dr Rosemary Walsh)

- Site visit to Refractory Angina Clinic in Liverpool.
- Site visit to the Integrated Pain Centre in Denver, Colorado in December 2004.
- Attendance at a one-day workshop on PASHA CATH in Hamburg.
- Attendance at 'Basic Science Meeting in Pain Management', Haifa, Israel July 2004.
- EFIC Barcelona September 2004.

- Irish Pain Society Meeting, Croke Park, Dublin October 2004.
- Implantation Workshop, Brussels, November 2004.
- British Pain Society Meeting in Glasgow March 2004.
- Pan European Pain Specialists (PEPS) Sweden May 2004.

Papers from the Pain Service were presented at:

- The Irish Pain Society.
- The Greek Pain Society.
- Association of Anaesthetists of United Kingdom and Ireland.
- Lecture to Marrison ICGP Faculty March 2004 on Opioid Management of Chronic Pain.
- Lecture to Higher Diploma Peri-anaesthesia Nursing, UCD, December 2004.
- Annual Research Conference for the Psychology Society of Ireland (November 2004).

Publications

O'Connor TM, Swords R, O'Keeffe D, McNicholas WT.

Improved ventilatory function associated with relief of chest pain in a patient with Kartagener's syndrome treated by subcutaneous analgesia

Future Plans

The new building is expected to open at the end of 2005. Following decanting to the new ICU and theatres (8), phase 1A will begin. This will result in a new day surgery ward and 2 day theatres (12 theatres in total). Additional staff are required to facilitate these developments. The day ward is expected to have a new pre-operative assessment clinic, with 2 assessment areas side by side. Again, additional appointments will be required to staff the assessment clinic and day theatres. Finally, it is hoped to have an acute pain nurse appointed in the coming six months. This development will represent a huge step forward for SVUH, in its dealing with acute pain in the hospital.



Department of Cardiology

Departmental Review

Overview

2004 was a busy year for the Cardiology Unit. The long awaited Catheterisation Laboratory development was started at the end of the year and should be completed by April 2005. The clinical service continues to make significant demands on facilities. The ongoing problem with shortage of Coronary Care Nurses resulted in continuous closure of three beds within the Unit. Fortunately, these are being very efficiently used as day care beds for transfer of patients from St. Columcille's and St. Michael's Hospital.

Service Developments/Activities

Heart Failure Unit

3417 patients visited the outpatient department based in St. Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire. The service provides structured out-patient follow up of patients discharged from hospital. In addition, a new patient clinic is run weekly to allow for immediate assessment of new patients diagnosed in the community. There is also a continued expansion of a community direct access programme where patients can be seen immediately if clinical deterioration is suspected. This now comprises approximately 20% of the unit workload.

GP Open Access Clinic

The Open Access service continues to be a success. This is an out-of-hours non-invasive diagnostic service for GPs. Statistics for this service are as follows:

	No of Procedures
Echocardiogram	118
Exercise Stress Test	110
Blood Pressure	72
Holter Monitor	101
Event	1

The development for chest pain evaluation is ongoing. Protocols for chest pain evaluation have been developed in conjunction with the Emergency Department.

The non-invasive service continues to work at 110%. The acquisition of a new Echo machine at the end of 2004 has improved diagnostic abilities. Thanks and recognition must be given to Siobhan Toomey, Department Secretary and Liz O'Reilly, Cardiac Technician who left this year. Statistics for the Cardiac Department are as follows:

	No of Procedures
ECG	8093
Exercise Stress Test	1273
Echocardiogram	3144
Pacemaker Check	1479
Event Monitors	59
Holter Monitors	1525
Transoesophageal Echocardiogram	357

Cardiac Catheterisation

Laboratory

	No of Procedures
Angiography	
Coronary and left ventricular (including grafts)	1565
Coronary Angioplasty	412
Pacemakers	201
ICD and biventricular pacemakers	36
Other Procedures*	53
Total Procedures	2267

*includes 37 right heart catheters for Liver Transplant Service.

Plans for 2005

Plans for 2005 will see the opening of the new Catheterisation Laboratory. The Chest Pain Evaluation Unit should be fully functional. The further development and integration of information technology in the Department will also proceed and plans are in development for the introduction of a full audit of the clinical duties within cardiology. Direct angioplasty service for in-patients with acute myocardial infarction is operating on a limited basis within normal working hours and it is hoped to provide a 24 hour service by the end of the year.

Publications

Aspirin dose and six-month outcome after an acute coronary syndrome.

Quinn MJ, Aronow HD, Califf RM, Bhatt DL, Sapp S, Kleiman NS, Harrington RA, Kong DF, Kandzara DE, Topol EJ. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2004;43(6):972-8.



Effect of clopidogrel pretreatment on inflammatory marker expression in patients undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention.

Quinn MJ, Bhatt DL, Zidar F, Vivekananthan D, Chew DP, Ellis SG, Plow E, Topol EJ. *Am J Cardiol.* 2004;93 (6):679-84.

Molecular and functional differences induced in thrombospondin –1 by the single nucleotide polymorphism associated with the risk of premature, familial myocardial infarction.

Narizhneva NV, Byers-Ward VJ, Quinn MJ, Zidar FJ, Plow EF, Topol EJ, Byzova TV. *J. Biol Chem.* 2004;279(20):21651-7.

The prevalence and natural history of anaemia in an optimally treated heart failure population.

Enda Ryan, Maeve Develin, Terence Prendiville, Mark Ledwidge, Kenneth McDonald. *British Journal of Cardiology.* 2004, Vol. 11 (5), 369-375.

Poor sensitivity of weight and brain natriuretic peptide changes in pre-clinical deterioration of Heart Failure.

J. Lewin, C. O'Loughlin, M. Ledwidge, K. McDonald.

Telemonitoring in a Heart Failure Unit: the nature and value of patient-initiated contacts.

C. Conlon, C. O'Loughlin, M. Ledwidge, K. McDonald.

Abstracts and Presentations

- Poor sensitivity of weight and BNP changes in predicting clinical deterioration of Heart Failure. J. Lewin, C. McNally, C. O'Loughlin, M. Ledwidge, K. McDonald.
- Fluid restriction does not alter time to clinical stability following emergency admission for NYHA class IV heart failure. B. Travers, C. O'Loughlin, M. Ledwidge, K. McDonald.
- BNP and ECG are essential tools for General Practitioners to enable more effective triage in the assessment of potential new diagnosis of Heart Failure. B. Boilson, P. Chakravarthi, C. O'Loughlin, M. Ledwidge, K. McDonald.
- Emerging trends in patients profile in a hospital – Based Heart Failure Unit: Increasing Burden of Unscheduled Clinical Review. P Chakravarthi, C O'Loughlin, M Ledwidge, K McDonald.
- The Practice of 2 hours observation following escalation of beta blocker therapy is not necessary: a review of 198 titration. B. Travers, C O'Loughlin, C, Conlon, M Ledwidge, K. McDonald.

Department of Dermatology

Departmental Review

The Department of Dermatology at St Vincent's University Hospital together with Hume Street and St Michael's Hospitals provide dermatology services for patients living in Dublin South-East and Wicklow.

Staff

Consultants	Dr Paul Collins and Dr Sarah Rogers.
Specialist Registrar	Dr Sinead Langan (SpR3/4) January-December (St Vincent's/St Michael's)
Registrar	Dr Rupert Barry January-April (Hume St/St Vincent's) Dr Khasif Ahmed July-December
Senior House Officer	Dr Debbie Fitzgerald May-June (locum)
Clinical Nurse Specialist	Ms Sheila Ryan
Administrative Assistants	Mrs Eileen Cusack, Mrs Brenda Harte (both half time)

Clinical Service

Inpatients

Eleven patients were admitted as urgent cases. Twenty patients with severe dermatoses remained under the care of the admitting physician but required significant dermatology care. Patients with chronic stable skin conditions, including psoriasis and atopic eczema, requiring five day elective inpatient dermatology nursing, were admitted to Hume St Hospital (250 patients).

288 patients at St Vincent's University Hospital and 50 patients at St Michael's Hospital had inpatient dermatology consultation.

Day-Care

Extramural theatre

Day case surgery, predominantly for non-melanoma skin cancer and atypical melanocytic naevi, was performed for 129 patients at extramural theatre.

St Mark's Ward

There were 59 patient episodes for infusions of infliximab and immunoglobulin as day case patients.

Dermatology day-care unit

Narrowband UVB phototherapy, PUVA therapy, patient education, cryotherapy, dressings including scalp therapy were provided by Ms Sheila Ryan and 2,672 episodes were recorded.

Outpatient Clinics

There were 99 St Vincent's dermatology clinics at which 2,333 patients (751 new referrals) were treated. There were 49 St Michael's dermatology clinics at which 782 patients (310 new referrals) were treated. Outpatient investigation and therapy including cryotherapy, diagnostic punch biopsy, four layer bandaging, wart

dressings/treatments, wound care and light cautery for macrocomedones was provided for 492 patients at SVUH and 224 patients at SMH.

Patients were referred to Hume St Hospital for photodynamic therapy, patch testing and phototherapy/PUVA and there were 10,760 patient episodes. There were 461 new and 2,723 return patients seen at clinics in the outpatients and in daycare.

Postgraduate and Undergraduate Education

Higher Specialist training for specialist registrars in dermatology and General Professional training for senior house officers was provided at St Vincent's and Hume St hospitals. There was a weekly postgraduate dermatology session with dermatologists from St James's and Adelaide/Meath hospitals comprising journal club and combined clinical case meeting at Hume Street on Wednesday mornings. The fortnightly histopathology meeting took place at St Vincent's University Hospital.

Fifth year medical students joined the Dermatology team for two-week rotations between St Vincent's and Hume St Hospitals. Ms Sheila Ryan taught third year student nurses on atopic eczema, psoriasis and skin cancer.

Conferences/Courses attended

Dr Rogers

British Association of Dermatologists
Annual Meeting, Belfast.

Irish Association of Dermatologists
meetings, Craigavon and Cavan.

American Academy of Dermatology,
Washington.



Dr Collins

Irish Association of Dermatologists meetings, Craigavon and Cavan.
British Association of Dermatologists annual meeting, Belfast.
European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology, Florence.

Ms Sheila Ryan:

British Dermatology Nursing group annual meeting, Belfast.
Irish Red Cross annual meeting re cosmetic camouflage service.

Publications

Modified surgical excision for the treatment of chondrodermatitis nodularis.

Ormond P and Collins P. *Dermatol Surg* 2004;30:1-3.

Brachioradial pruritus – an enigmatic entity.

Barry RBM and Rogers S., *Clin Exp Dermatol* 2004;29:637-638.

A guide to cryotherapy Ryan S., *Irish Nursing Journal* 2004

Presentations

British Association of Dermatologists Annual Meeting, Belfast 2004.

Vascular endothelial growth factor and angiopoietins stimulate endothelial cell proliferation and matrix degradation: pathogenic role in psoriasis.

T Markham, R Mullan, L Golden-Mason, S Rogers, B Breshihan, O Fitzgerald, DJ Veale and U Fearon. (Registrar's symposium) *Br J Dermatol* 2004;151 (Suppl 68):12-13.

Nodular extramammary Paget's disease of the penis.

SM Langan, A O' Brien, D Fennelly, D Mulvin and P Collins.

(Clinicopathological case) *Br J Dermatol* 2004;151 (Suppl 68):17.

Topical anaesthesia is effective for pain of topical 5-aminolaevulinic acid

photodynamic therapy. M O' Kane and P Collins. (poster) *Br J Dermatol* 2004;151 (Suppl 68):25.

Brachioradial pruritus: a heterogenous condition that is difficult to treat.

RBM Barry and S Rogers. (poster) *Br J Dermatol* 2004;151 (Suppl 68):32.

Royal Society of Medicine, Dermatology section, London.

Cutaneous sarcoid with granulomatous vasculitis.

RBM Barry and S Rogers. January 2004

Variegate Porphyria in an Irish family with a new genetic defect.

S Langan and S Rogers. December 2004

Irish Association of Dermatologists meeting, April 2004, Craigavon.

Staphylococcal scalded skin syndrome (poster) S Langan and S Rogers.

Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland, Dermatology Registrars clinical case prize meeting, February 2004.

Nodular extramammary Paget's disease of the penis.

SM Langan, A O' Brien, D Fennelly, D Mulvin and P Collins.

Pyoderma gangrenosum responds rapidly to infliximab.

RBM Barry, K Sheahan, D O' Donoghue, M Barry and P Collins.

Notalgia paraesthetica

M Alwari and S Rogers

Royal Academy of Medicine, Dermatology section clinical meeting

Sixteen clinical cases were presented.

Achievements

Dr Rogers and Dr Collins hosted the Royal Academy of Medicine, Dermatology section clinical meeting in November at St Vincents University Hospital. Dr Sean Whittaker Consultant Dermatologist, St John's Dermatology Unit at St Thomas's Hospital, gave the guest lecture on Cutaneous Lymphomas.

Ms Sheila Ryan has been elected secretary of the Irish Dermatology Nursing group and Irish representative on the Council of the British Dermatology Nursing group. Sheila also started a Masters of Nursing Science (advanced practice) at University College Dublin.

Dr Sinead Langan (SpR4) has gone to the Queen's Medical Centre Nottingham to undertake a clinical fellowship in dermatology with Professor Hywel Williams.

We have received approval to advertise a new Consultant Dermatologists post at St Vincent's University Hospital.

Department of Emergency Medicine

Departmental Review

Staffing

During 2004, the Emergency Departments in St. Vincent's University Hospital (SVUH) and St. Michael's Hospital (SMH) were dominated by plans to deal with patient overcrowding, and the challenges of peer review accreditation, quality improvement plans and performance indicators. The regional approach to emergency care incorporating St. Columcille's Hospital was further enhanced. Trauma by-pass in conjunction with the in house trauma team continues to prove its value as does the direct access availability for emergency vascular patients. A number of new staff joined the Department; Margaret Boland was appointed Divisional Nurse Manager for Ambulatory Day Care, Emergency Department and Infection Control and Mary Hayes appointed Clinical Nurse Manager 3 for the Emergency Department. Louise Morgan was appointed as a social worker dedicated to the Emergency Department.

Service Developments

The accurate streaming of patients underpins the future development of Emergency Medicine and allows rapid and appropriate patient assessment and supplies a more customer orientated health care service. This is made possible by Triage and Rapid Assessment and Treatment.

The Rapid Assessment and Treatment service (RAT), having been formally piloted in December 2003 got underway in January 2004. With its introduction came an improvement in patient streaming, a reduction in the patient to health care professional waiting time and also a reduction in the number of written complaints. Margaret Boland and Allen Doyle were awarded a poster presentation prize at the National Council for Professional Development for Nurses and Midwives in November 2004, for their poster entitled "Proactive and Professional Development to Support Change: Reorganisation of Service Delivery in an Emergency Department, Rapid Assessment Treatment". A second poster was also presented on 'Reorganisation of Service Delivery in an Emergency Department' by Allen Doyle, and Margaret Boland.

The Minor Injury Unit is a separate operational stream with its own dedicated staff. It deals with approximately 40% of department attendees. Patients are seen and assessed rapidly with an overall admission rate of 5%. Having a dedicated radiological unit will increase efficiency in the future.

A Clinical Decision Unit is planned for the assessment of patients with rule in rule out complaints according to agreed multi-disciplinary protocols. This should allow certain patients to be treated on an outpatient basis obviating the need for inpatient investigation. Other protocols have already been developed in conjunction with colleagues to allow outpatient management of thrombo-embolic disease, cellulitis and transient ischaemic attacks. Respiratory care pathways and close liaison with St Michael's Hospital respiratory unit allows the admission of certain respiratory patients from the emergency department to the St. Michael's respiratory unit.

A Chest Pain Evaluation Unit has been further developed with the Department of Cardiology. This allows the protocol driven management of chest pain patients with same day exercise stress testing where indicated. Combined with the continuing monitoring of departmental thrombolysis and increasing access to cardiac catheterisation, there has been an improved outcome for cardiac patients and a shorter hospital stay.

We are grateful to our colleagues who have allowed ready access to diagnostic imaging and laboratory services. This combined with near patient testing for blood gasses, cardiac markers and drugs of misuse has improved patient care where time critical interventions are indicated. A departmental ultrasound machine has been purchased for focused abdominal sonography in trauma and will further improve timely patient care.

The I.T. Department has further enhanced the computerisation of the department and improved networking with radiology, laboratory and patient administration systems. This will allow order communications and improve the collection of information and facilitate the planning of services. New medical records notes have been introduced, these are patient centred and allow integration of detailed medical and nursing notes and facilitate co-ordinated patient handover to speciality teams. Document imaging will further enhance record keeping.

Mr. John Ryan has the responsibility for medical education. The mandatory two-day skills based induction course for new SHO's has been of immense benefit. This is supported by continuing formal on site education and off site education at



www.emed-induction.ie. We continue our commitment to evidence based medicine and risk management with a robust multi-disciplinary audit programme and a critical incident monitoring programme. The two specialist registrars have contributed significantly to the functioning of the emergency department and have participated in valuable secondments in cardiology and orthopaedics. We are grateful to our colleagues in these specialities for their support. In September, Mr. Derek Barton directed a very successful RCSI accredited Advanced Trauma Life Support course in SVUH. He has also being involved in many ACLS courses.

Mr John Ryan was a member of a Department of Health Influenza Pandemic Expert Group which helped develop a national strategy for managing a Pandemic outbreak of Influenza.

Professional Nursing Development, underpinned by the Scope of Professional Practice continues with Venepuncture and Cannulation Training, and Manchester Triage. Jackie Brennan and Joanne Farren attended the Leading and Empowered Organisation Programme. Trauma Nursing Care and Advanced Cardiac Life Support courses were attended by nursing staff during the year.

Accreditation

The Emergency Departments at SVUH and SMH have explored new ways of providing emergency health care. These are not once off initiatives, but part of a concerted forward thinking plan to provide optimal emergency care with the patients' needs central to the plan. A number of these initiatives have been developed in close liaison with other specialities. The emphasis has been upon providing the right care for the right patient, at the right time and by the right person. These initiatives have been predicated upon rapid access to diagnostic tests, introduction of senior staff earlier in the decision making process, balancing variations in patient attendance with medical and nursing rosters and avoiding unnecessary return visits.

These initiatives have been recognised in the Accreditation Peer Review Survey carried out in May. This survey identified strengths and weaknesses within the department and allowed us to develop Quality Improvement Plans based on Performance Indicators. Among these Performance Indicators would be Door to Catheter Laboratory time, Registration to Health Care Professional time, Door to Analgesia time and prioritising use of the Rapid Assessment Team. Margaret Boland and Derek Barton are co-team leaders of the Emergency Medicine/General Internal Medicine Quality Improvement Team.

Significant Achievements

Jackie Brennan was awarded the Cecil King Memorial Prize for outstanding contribution to Emergency Nursing in February 2004.

Jerry Kearns commenced an MSc in Nursing Advanced Practice in UCD in September 2004

Brian Hayes, a 4th year medical student, won the Watts medal for the best Health Research Board funded student project in 2004. His project involved developing a computerised database for the real time collection of data following out of hospital cardiac arrest using the Utstein criteria.

Mr John Ryan has been awarded an EEC grant to develop a distance learning prototype, using virtual reality training in disaster management, in collaboration with a number of other European countries.

Publications

Ryan J,
Emergency Department overcrowding.
Canadian Journal of Emergency Medicine
2004;6:395

McKenna A, Nordt SP, Ryan J. *Acute Nutmeg Poisoning*
Eur J Emerg Med. 2004; 11(4):240-1

Presentations

Ryan J Clinician Impairment. Invited Presentation at the 10th International conference on Emergency Medicine Cairns June 2004

Ryan J, Barton D, Boland M. Emergency Department Accreditation: A framework for quality improvement. Presented at the 10th International conference on Emergency Medicine Cairns June 2004

Ryan J, McGrath L. Brain Natriuretic Peptide as a Near Patient Test for Distinguishing Cardiac from Non-Cardiac Causes of Dyspnoea in an Emergency Department. Presented at the 10th International conference on Emergency Medicine Cairns June 2004

Ryan, S.Feeney. Cocaine Associated Chest Pain, Prevalence in an Urban Irish Emergency Department. A Poster Presentation presented at the 10th International conference on Emergency Medicine Cairns June 2004

J Ryan, J Curran, M Stewart, 'Tag Rugby' Injuries - Presentations from a Non-contact Sport to an Emergency Department. A Poster Presentation presented at the 10th International conference on Emergency Medicine Cairns June 2004

O Sullivan JM, Ryan J, Boilson B, Cunningham S. Ischaemic modified albumen in the emergency department. Does it have a role in determining the disposition of patients presenting with cardiac sounding chest pain? A Poster Presentation presented at the 10th International conference on Emergency Medicine, Cairns June 2004

Roe B, Ryan J. Cardiac Arrest Numbers – A National Lottery? A Poster Presentation presented at the 10th International conference on Emergency Medicine Cairns June

Statistics

There were 33,407 new attendances and 4546 review attendances during 2004. Of the attendances, the triage categories were I (1%), II (18%), III (47%), IV (33%) and V (0.5%). There were 7984 admissions an admission rate increase of 23.9%. As evidence of overcrowding a new statistic was collected during the year, "patients awaiting beds following completion of assessment".

Future Plans

The main focus for 2005 will be the move to the new building and reorganising services within the Emergency Department. Service development will be introduced as per provider plan for 2005 –2007.

It is hoped to introduce a Clinical Decision Unit adjacent to the ED early 2005. Jerry Kearns commenced an MSc Nursing Advanced Practice in UCD on Chest Pain Evaluation will focus on further developing the Chest Pain Evaluation Unit.

With the reorganisation of Mental Health Services within the area it is planned to introduce a Liaison Psychiatric Nurse Service as part of the service development. As part of an overall improvement in community liaison and strengthening links with outside providers we will be improving bi-directional flow with the local GP Co-operative, enhancing the role of the GP Liaison Nurse and introducing a Care of the Elderly Nurse.

The Regional approach to Emergency Medicine, incorporating a local response for local needs, will be enhanced with the development of a revised role for St. Michaels Hospital including a CDU, dressing clinic and nurse led minor injury unit. A telemedicine service linking the three hospitals will allow senior support and specialty advice for doctors and nurses in St. Michael's and St. Columille's Hospitals.

Expanding the role for nursing should include nurse x-ray requesting and nurse prescribing for certain medications. There is also a Continuing Management Development Programme for all Shift Leaders and CNM 2 Staff.

Department of Endocrinology and Diabetes Mellitus

Departmental Review

Staff

Consultants Professor T.J. McKenna, Dr Malachi McKenna,
Dr Donal O'Shea Lecturers, Department of Medicine,U.C.D.:
Dr James Gibney and Dr Diarmuid Smith

Specialist Registrars Dr Kevin Moore, Dr Chong Yew Tan

Registrars Dr Montasir Hammam, Dr Sally Daly

Research Registrars Dr Twani Tuthill, Dr Tom Cawood

Diabetes Centre Nurses

Ms Deirdre Gleeson, Ms Moira Haran, Ms Nora Collis,
Ms Phil Sharkey, Ms Joanne O'Neill, Ms Maureen Quill,

Primary Care Liaison Ms Deirdre Hall

Dieticians Ms Maeve Moran; Primary Care Liaison, Ms Yvonne Ryan

Diabetes Liaison Psychiatrist

Dr. Eamon Kenny

Secretarial Staff Ms Geri Daly, Ms Patricia Sinnott, Ms Brenda Sullivan,
Ms Marie McCarrick, Ms Joyce Doyle, Ms Catherine Brady,
Ms Fiona Whelan, Ms Michelle Keane, Ms Heather Bailey.

Endocrine and Diabetes Research Nurse

Ciara O'Dwyer.

Endocrine Laboratory

Dr. Tom Smith, Principal Biochemist; Anne Dickinson,

Senior Medical Scientist

Anne-Marie Glynn, James Connolly, Martina Cassidy,
Paddy Doran, Sheila McKeon

Research-Graduate Students

Sinead Kelly and Lucille Kavanagh.

Weekly Departmental Academic Events

- Monday lunchtime – Diabetes Team Meeting
- Monday - 2.00 p.m. – Laboratory/Research Meeting
- Tuesday Noon – Endocrine Conference
- Friday – 11.00 a.m. – Departmental Journal Club

Outpatient Clinics

- 3 Diabetes Clinics per week
- 1 Joint Endocrinology Clinic (Prof. McKenna and Dr. O'Shea)
- Weekly multidisciplinary group education sessions for newly diagnosed patients with Type 2 diabetes.
- Monthly group education session on cholesterol management and diet.
- Quarterly group education sessions for patients with newly diagnosed impaired glucose tolerance.

Service Developments/ Activities

Diabetes Service

The Diabetes Service is based on the combination of formal clinical consultation, one to one and group problem solving, education and counselling sessions delivered by Diabetes Nurse Specialists and the Diabetes Centre Dietician, Maeve Moran. This system is further supported by a telephone contact service which has grown in response to need over several years. During this year an audit of this service was set in place and there are plans to develop a more formal and efficient telephone-based service. Dr Kevin Moore and Dr Sally Daly undertook an audit to assess the service performance with regard to achieving treatment targets for diabetic patients.

During the year continuous blood glucose monitoring was introduced which will be helpful in assessing the possibility of silent hypoglycaemia inpatients with type 1 diabetes particularly.

While there has been a general increase in Diabetes Centre activities, patient encounters have increased by 25% over the last year. Clearly, additional personnel will be required to serve continued growth at this level.

Endocrine Service

The Endocrine Service is delivered on an almost exclusively out-patient basis in line with international trends. Particular expertise exists in the area of thyroid disorders, disorders of reproductive endocrinology, disorders of the adrenal glands and pituitary. Disorders of metabolism, including obesity, metabolic bone disease and calcium disorders all enjoy a national profile. With the critical co-

operation of the Radiology Department and the Endocrine Laboratory, investigation of hypoglycaemia, and particularly the search for insulin-secreting pancreatic tumours, has been developed. This essentially involves arterial catheterisation of blood vessels feeding the various sections of the pancreas with infusion of calcium and simultaneous sampling of blood from the portal venous system. Insulin-secreting tumours too small for detection by conventional imaging may be localised when calcium stimulates the insulinoma to secrete insulin. This investigation has attracted national attention.

The Endocrine Laboratory experienced an overall 9% growth rate. The Endocrine Laboratory continues to provide HbA1c measurement for diabetes patients, in addition to a full array of steroid and glycoprotein measurements.

Research Projects

1. Control of Adrenal Steroidogenesis: (Ms Sinead Kelly)

Sinead Kelly is currently investigating the role of these orphan nuclear receptors and their co-activator proteins in regulating key steroidogenic enzymes and subsequent production of cortisol and adrenal androgens.

2. Characterisation of Macroprolactin: (Ms Lucille Kavanagh)

(a) Findings suggest an autoimmune susceptibility in macroprolactinaemic patients.

(b) The much reduced bioactivity apparent in vivo may be due to non-bioavailability rather than intrinsic inactivity of prolactin in macroprolactin.

3. Androgen-secreting Tumours: (Dr D Smith)

The importance of the findings in this study is that it supports the policy of restricting comprehensive evaluation of patients presenting with signs of androgen excess to a relatively small percentage of patients with a high likelihood of identifying a disorder other than polycystic ovary syndrome.

4. Bone Disease: Thyroid Disorders:

(Dr D Smith, Ms Barbara Murray, Metabolic Laboratory)

The usefulness of indices developed in the Metabolic Laboratory for the assessment of bone turnover and bone remodelling balance have also been assessed and applied to patients with Paget's Disease, hyperparathyroidism and eating disorders.

5. Bone Biomarkers in the Assessment of Breast Cancer Patients:

(Dr J Gibney, Ms Barbara Murray, Metabolic Laboratory, Dr D Smith)

Over 100 patients have entered in a study, whereby the sensitivity of bone biomarkers for the detection of bone metastases in breast cancer patients with normal bone scan is ongoing. This study will take several years to yield a result.

6. Thyroid Eye Disease: (Dr T Cawood)

Dr Cawood will examine the inflammatory cytokines that mediate the early stages of this condition in the hope that more targeted treatments can be developed to interrupt the process.

7. Diabetes

Clinical trials are currently being conducted to assess the efficacy of newly introduced long-acting analogue insulins which have reported the value in reducing the frequency of hypoglycaemia, particularly through the night, reduced weight gain, improved metabolic control with more reproducible glycaemic profiles. A study is also ongoing to assess the impact of analogue insulin in combination with fish oils, or fish oils alone or neither treatment in-patients with mild diabetes and evidence of vascular risk.

Achievements and Distinctions

Professor T J McKenna is President of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. Professor McKenna is a member of The National Taskforce on Medical Manpower and a member of its Medical Education and Training Group. He is also on the Editorial Boards for the journals, *Clinical Endocrinology* (Oxford) and *The Endocrinologist* (U.S.). He is a member of the Students Affairs Committee of the Endocrine Society (U.S.). Professor McKenna was invited assessor of quality for the Department of Medicine, University College Galway.

Dr Donal O'Shea is a member of the Eastern Regional Health Authority Diabetes Review Committee. Dr O'Shea is Secretary of The Irish Endocrine Society. He is also a member of the National Taskforce on Obesity and Chairman of the Detection and Treatment Subgroup. Dr O'Shea is Chairman of the Nutrition Council of the Irish Heart Foundation and Chairman of the St Vincent's Healthcare Group Drugs and Therapeutics Committee. He received an under-graduate-nominated Premier Award for Teaching Excellence from the Faculty of Medicine, UCD.

Dr Tom Smith is Chairman of the Association of Clinical Biochemists, Republic of Ireland Region.

Dr James Gibney was appointed Consultant Endocrinologist, Adelaide & Meath Hospital incorporating the National Children's Hospital, Tallaght.

Ms Maire Culliton was appointed Chief Medical Scientist, National Maternity Hospital, Holles Street.

Martina Cassidy was awarded MSc in Biomedical Science by the University of Ulster, Coleraine, Co Derry.

Sinead Kelly submitted a Thesis entitled "Transcriptional regulation of key steroidogenic enzymes in the human adrenal gland" for consideration for the PhD degree to The Department of Pharmacology, UCD.

Tom Cawood was awarded the Ritchie Research Scholarship by the Royal



College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow to study "The roles of new therapies for thyroid eye disease".

Dr Abdulwahab Suliman received the Irish Journal of Medical Science Doctor Award for excellence in Clinical Research for the best paper published in the field of Endocrinology during 2003. The paper was entitled "Frequent misdiagnosis and mismanagement of hyperprolactinemic patients before the introduction of macroprolactin screening: Application of a new strict laboratory definition of macroprolactinemia". Suliman AM, Smith TP, Gibney J and McKenna TJ. Clin. Chem. 2003; 49(9) 1504-9. (The research reported was undertaken when Dr Suliman was Lecturer in Medicine, U.C.D., attached to this department).

Conferences/Courses/Meetings Attended

DPC Immulite Training Course, Wales: 2nd- 4th March 2004.

Tosoh HPLC Training Course, Brussels: 10th March 2004.

The 23rd Joint Meeting of British Endocrine Societies, Brighton, England: 22nd-24th March 2004.

Association of Physicians of Great Britain and Ireland, Trinity College Dublin: 25th-26th March 2004.

Diabetes Federation of Ireland Study Day for Health Professionals: Dublin 26th March 2004.

American College of Physicians Annual Meeting: New Orleans, 22nd - 25th April 2004.

Designing and Conducting an Audit for Clinical Practice: Monaghan, 7th May 2004;

Run by Professional Development Centre Irish Nurses Organisation

The Irish Endocrine Society/British Thyroid Association Study Day: Dublin, 13th-14th May 2004.

Public Health Nurses Education Day: Vergemount Hospital, Dublin, 10th June 2004.

Diabetes Federation of Ireland Kids Camp: Tain Adventure Centre, Co Louth, 16th-18th July 2004.

12th International Conference on Intelligent Systems for Molecular Biology (ISMB 2004) and 3rd European Conference on Computational Biology (ECCB 2004); 31st July - 4th August 2004, Glasgow, Scotland.

The 12th International Congress of Endocrinology: Lisbon, 31st August – 4th September 2004. Professor T J McKenna - Invited speaker: Meet-the-Professor: "Polycystic ovary syndrome".

Medisense Annual Diabetes Meeting: Kildare, 17th September 2004.

Diabetes Nurse Specialists Association A.G.M.: Cavan, 7th - 8th October 2004.

Irish External Quality Assurance Conference: Dublin: 14th October 2004

Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Dublin Annual Study on Contemporary Issues: 14th October 2004. Professor T J McKenna - Invited speaker: "The impact on training of the European Working Time Directive".

Medical Representative Institute of Ireland Education Evening: St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin, 2nd November 2004.

Immulite 2000 Users Group Meeting: Kilkenny, 4th - 5th November 2004

Irish Endocrine Society 29th Annual Meeting: Malahide, Dublin, 5th - 6th November '04

Group Facilitation (Irish Management Institute): Dublin, 10th November 2004.

European Federation of Endocrine Societies: Postgraduate Course in Clinical Endocrinology, Sitges, Spain: 11 - 13th November 2004; Professor T J McKenna, invited speaker "Macroprolactin".

Academy of Medical Laboratory Science Conference: Killarney, Co Kerry: 12th November 2004

National Diabetes Awareness Day: Dublin, 14th November 2004.

Nutrition and Dietetic Institute of Ireland Meeting: Dublin, 19th November 2004.

Publications

Suliman AM, Freaney R, McBrinn Y, Gibney J, Murray B, Smith TP, McKenna TJ. *Insulin-Induced Hypoglycemia Suppresses Plasma Parathyroid Hormone Levels in Patients with Adrenal Insufficiency.* Metabolism 2004 53: 1251-1254.

Kelly SN, McKenna TJ, Young LS. *Modulation of steroidogenic enzymes by orphan nuclear transcriptional regulation may control diverse production of cortisol and androgens in the human adrenal.* J Endocrinol.;181:355-65.

O'Connell J, Green A, Crotty T, O'Shea D, McKenna TJ.

Li-Fraumeni Syndrome with Adrenocortical Tumors Producing Estrogens in a Young Man and Testosterone in his 18 Month-Old Daughter.

Endocrinologist 2004; 14:133-137.

Cawood TJ, O'Shea D. et al.

Update on insulin analogues.

Drug Ther. Bull. 2004; 42:77-80.

Cawood TJ, Moriarty P, O'Shea D.

Recent developments in thyroid eye disease. British Medical Journal 2004; 329:385-90.

Department of Metabolism

Departmental Review

Staff

Medical Director	Professor TJ McKenna
Principal Biochemist	Barbara Murray
Senior Biochemist	Dr Jennifer Brady
Medical Scientist	Julie Riordan
Laboratory Aide	Mairead Moore
Secretary	Siobhan Kelly

Paula O'Shea who was Senior Biochemist in the Department has joined the Endocrinology Laboratory in Beaumont Hospital as Principal Biochemist since June 2004. Julie Riordan joined us as Medical Scientist in June 2004 and Dr Jennifer Brady joined the Department as the Senior Biochemist in August 2004.

Service Developments / Activities

The Metabolism Laboratory provides a comprehensive analytical and consultation service on metabolic problems for medical and surgical patients at St. Vincent's Healthcare Group, and acts as a referring centre for specialist markers of bone and renal disease nationally.

To comply with best practice guidelines recommended by the American Diabetes Association, the urinary Albumin/Creatinine ratio test (ACR) was introduced as a screening test for early indications of deteriorating renal function in diabetic subjects. The ACR is also used to monitor patients renal response to an ACE inhibitor. The provision of this service to the Diabetic Clinics has increased urinary Albumin testing by 67%.

The measurement of 25 Hydroxy Vitamin D has been added to the test profile (Parathyroid Hormone and Ionised Calcium) for renal dialysis patients with intact parathyroid hormone levels above a target range for the stage of chronic kidney disease. This decision was based on evidence and clinical practice guidelines for bone metabolism and disease in chronic kidney disease, produced by the American National Kidney Foundation. Vitamin D workload has increased by 27% in providing this important service.

The serum resorption marker C - terminal cross - linking telopeptide of type 1 Collagen (CTX-1) has proven to be a useful parameter to measure in conjunction with bone formation markers in the anuric patient.

There has been an increase in the requesting of bone biomarkers to monitor bisphosphonate treatment in an osteogenesis imperfecta group of children in Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children in Crumlin. The measurement of bone biomarkers to monitor the effectiveness and dose response of this relatively new form of treatment

in this specialist area has been acknowledged to be most useful clinically. Since the licensing of new osteoporotic treatments such as recombinant PTH and Strontium Ranelate, requests for the measurement of bone biomarkers prior to and at set points during treatment has increased. It is hoped that observed changes in bone marker levels during and after treatment will reflect longterm increased bone mineral density and strength.

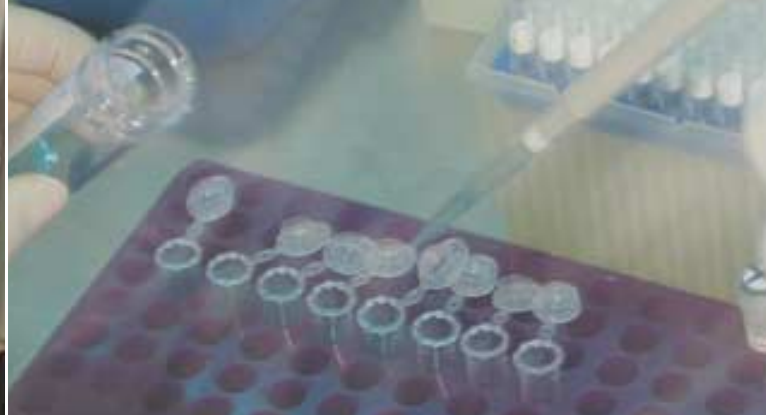
The laboratory is advancing the accreditation programme to ensure compliance with Clinical Pathology Accreditation (CPA) requirements.

Research / Future Plans

The study of changes in bone remodelling after a nutritional rehabilitation programme in Anorexia Nervosa patients has progressed. Our findings have demonstrated the significant impact of nutrition on bone formation.

Bone turnover is being studied in a group of sub clinical hyperthyroid patients.

New cellular markers of osteoblastic and osteoclastic activity are being studied in newly diagnosed breast cancer patients. It is hoped that some of these markers may identify patients most at risk of developing bone metastases.



Representative Functions

Barbara Murray is a member of the Executive Committee of Eurachem Ireland.

Meetings attended by Department Personnel

Focus 2004 Birmingham	17th – 20th May 2004
European Calcified Tissue Society	Nice, France 4th – 9th June 2004
Irish Endocrine Society	Malahide , 5th – 6th November 2004

Publications

Suliman AM, Freatney R, McBrinn Y, Gibney J, Murray B, Smith TP, McKenna TJ.
Insulin-Induced Hypoglycemia Suppresses Plasma Parathyroid Hormone Levels in Patients with Adrenal Insufficiency.
Metabolism 2004;53 (10) : 1251-1254

Oral Presentations

Irish Endocrine Society - Malahide , 5th – 6th November 2004
Smith D, Murray BF, Tan CY, Doyle M, Malone K, Darby M, O'Shea D, McKenna M, McKenna TJ.
Analysis of Bone Turnover in Patients with Anorexia Nervosa.
Ir.J.Med.Sci 2004;173:4(Supple 1)2

Poster Presentations

Irish Endocrine Society Malahide , 5th – 6th November 2004
Smith D, Murray BF, Gibney J, Tan CY, McKenna M, O'Shea D, McKenna TJ.
The effect of Thyroid Dysfunction on Indices of Bone Activity and their response to Thyroid Treatment.
Ir.J.Med.Sci 2004;173:4(Supple 1)5



Department of Medical Oncology

Departmental Review

The Medical Oncology Unit of St. Vincent's University Hospital underwent considerable growth and evolution during 2004, reflecting international changes in oncology. There is an increased focus on ambulatory treatments, and an increasing numbers of patients being treated in the oncology day centres of the University and Private hospitals. Our move towards a new patient-friendly flexible oncology outpatient/consultation model continued, with the re-development of the old oncology day centre as a new outpatients clinic. The type of treatment we give has also changed with an increasing focus on new molecular therapies e.g. Avastin and Erbitux in colo-rectal cancer.

Research

We continued to develop our translational, and laboratory research activities in collaboration with Professor Joseph Duffy in St. Vincent's, Professor Martin Clynes, in DCU and Professor Denis Slamon in UCLA. In addition, several of our clinical studies reached fruition. The Anglo-Celtic Study, one of the first large-scale trials embarked on in the Unit, was published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute. The first of our translational clinical trials, in which laboratory observations which were made by our international collaborators, were married with clinical trials performed in St. Vincent's University Hospital, was published in the JNCI.

Another of our studies, the International Breast Cancer Dose Intensity Study, a wholly St. Vincent's led initiative, was accepted for a major presentation at meetings in the United States and Europe.

We were delighted to host Dr. Giuseppe Gullo as a visiting oncology fellow from Milan. We also hosted the 4th International Translational Meeting in Dublin in July 2004.

Enrolment to clinical trials continued to pick up during 2004.

The total number accrued was 54.

Publications

Crown J.

Smart bombs versus blunderbusses: high-dose chemotherapy for breast cancer. Lancet. 2004 Oct 9;364(9442):1299-300.

Leonard RC, Lind M, Twelves C, Coleman R, van Belle S, Wilson C, Ledermann J, Kennedy I, Barrett-Lee P, Perren T, Verrill M, Cameron D, Foster E, Yellowlees A, Crown J;

Anglo-Celtic Cooperative Oncology Group. Conventional adjuvant chemotherapy versus single-cycle, autograft-supported, high-dose, late-intensification chemotherapy in high-risk breast cancer patients: a randomized trial.

J Natl Cancer Inst. 2004 Jul 21;96(14):1076-83.

Crown J, O'Leary M, Ooi WS.

Docetaxel and paclitaxel in the treatment of breast cancer: a review of clinical experience. Oncologist. 2004;9 Suppl 2:24-32. Review.

Pegram MD, Pienkowski T, Northfelt DW, Eiermann W, Patel R, Fumoleau P, Quan E, Crown J, et al.

Results of two open-label, multi-center phase II studies of docetaxel, platinum salts, and trastuzumab in HER2-positive advanced breast cancer.

J Natl Cancer Inst. 2004

May 19;96(10):759-69.

Schoemaker NE, Kuppens IE, Moiseyenko V, Glimelius B, Kjaer M, Starkhammer H, Richel DJ, Smaaland R, Bertelsen K, Poulsen JP, Voznyi E, Norum J, Fennelly D, et al.

A randomised phase II multicentre trial of irinotecan (CPT-11) using four different schedules in patients with metastatic colorectal cancer.

Br J Cancer. 2004 Oct 18;91(8):1434-41.

Department of Medicine for the Elderly

Departmental Review

Departmental Statistics

	2002	2003	2004
Inpatients			
Admissions	425	317	405
Discharges	443	403	429
Outpatients			
New	280	277	252
Review	500	543	546
Carew Day Hospital			
New	420	523	571
Review	1395	824	774
Stroke Inpatient Service	194	255	256
Total Attendance			
New	700	800	823
Review	1895	1367	1320

The number of in-patients treated has remained unchanged on previous years, though out-patient attendances have increased. New patient attendance is up from 665 in 2001 to 823 in 2004. This is reflected in the throughput in both outpatients and Carew House Day Hospital. Great credit is due to Ms Angela Moriarty, CNM II, and her multidisciplinary team for the throughput and quality of work there.

Service Developments / Activities

The department's clinical services provide an in-patient and out-patient consultation service, treatment and rehabilitation, primarily for elderly patients from the hospital's catchment area in South East Dublin and East Wicklow. Issues continuing to challenge the service include the lack of resources to maintain people in their home with dignity and a consequent increase in the number of people awaiting long-term continuing care.

In Patient Consultations

In 2004 over 900 inpatient consultations were seen in St Vincent's University Hospital by the Elderly Care team. Meetings are held weekly between Dr. O Shea, the elderly medicine registrars and the Medical Social Work Department to facilitate planning of discharge of those elderly patients on whom consultant colleagues have requested advice.

Stroke Service

Weekly meetings are held and chaired by Dr. Crowe. Representatives of the nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy and other medical departments attend. There are now 8 dedicated beds, on Our Lady's Ward, for patients with stroke. Ms. Imelda Noone, Stroke Nurse Specialist, is involved in further development of this unit and the introduction of set guidelines and protocols. An active stroke follow-up programme is now up and running in Carew House Day Hospital. A once weekly, dedicated TIA clinic was initiated in January 2003, to facilitate assessment and treatment of patients with TIAs, who do not require hospital admission.

Falls and Syncope Service

Space has been provided on Our Lady's Ward for a falls and syncope service for the hospital and the neurocardiovascular service, which is being run by Dr. Diarmuid O'Shea. In total 120 patients were seen this year (of all age groups). Some progress has been made but the hoped for introduction of a Falls Nurse Specialist will be crucial to the further development of what is currently a rudimentary service.

The Royal Hospital Donnybrook

The Royal Hospital Donnybrook makes a very important contribution to the rehabilitation of our elderly patients. There are 40 rehabilitation beds in this unit, of which 12 are now dedicated to stroke rehabilitation. The Day Hospital at the Royal in Donnybrook continues to provide outstanding care and outpatient rehabilitation services to those with multi-disciplinary needs. The long established links with long-term care facilities continue to evolve through the dedicated work of Dr Mary Deane, Medical Director.



Staffing

Close liaison is maintained with St. Columcille's Hospital, Department of Medicine for the Elderly under the direction of Dr. Morgan Crowe and with St Michael's Hospital under the direction of Dr JJ Barry. Dr. Rachel Doyle has been appointed as a Consultant Geriatrician to St. Columcille's Hospital. Additional consultant posts are being applied for, to improve the service delivery in St. Vincent's University Hospital.

Congratulations to our SpR, Dr. Jose Miranda, who was appointed as Consultant Geriatrician in Letterkenny General Hospital. He is due to commence work there in July 2005.

Achievements / Conferences Attended

The multidisciplinary team members at Carew House Day Hospital attended The Stroke Information Day, Annual Stroke Study Day, The Irish Gerontological Society Conference, Parkinson's Association Meeting, National Council on Ageing and Older Peoples Conference. Ms Imelda Noone was an invited speaker at the Irish Heart Foundation Study Day.

The first Annual Elderly Care Study Day took place on 28th January, 2004, in the Education & Research Centre, St. Vincent's University Hospital. This year it focused on Stroke Medicine and was attended by 140 people. This will now be a regular study day in the teaching calendar.

Publications / Abstracts

Should a Question on Caring for the Younger Child become part of the Routine Assessment of the Older Patient?

C. O'Dwyer, A. Moriarty, C. Collins, D.O'Shea

Nutritional Status of Patients on a Care of the Elderly Ward- a pilot study

C. Fallon, R. McNamara, S. O'Hanlon, D. O'Shea.

Predicting The Outcome of Acute Stroke Using a Prognostic Score

I. Noone, A. Murphy, D. O'Shea, M. Crowe

Stroke in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation on Warfarin Therapy

C. O'Dwyer, I. Noone, B. Daly, D. O'Shea, M. Crowe.

Stroke Survivors Require Multidisciplinary Assessment after Hospital Discharge.

M. Cagney, A. Moriarty, S. Noelle, I. Noone, M. Crowe.

Department of Nephrology

Departmental Review

The haemodialysis service has further developed and extended as per population needs, with the unit also providing an increasing number of treatments for those patients with acute renal failure in hospital.

The peritoneal dialysis programme is now well established with the number of patients availing of this treatment option increasing to nineteen. A total of four patients from this patient population were successfully transplanted in 2004.

The Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis (CAPD) nurse specialist continues to work as part of the multidisciplinary team in the pre dialysis setting within the nephrology clinic, monitoring those individuals with progressive chronic renal failure and ensuring a smooth transfer to dialysis when necessary.

Service Developments

A designated nurse works within the haemodialysis unit managing the Erythropoietin programme to control and eliminate renal anaemia. This service also extends to the pre renal nephrology clinic. This allows for close monitoring, which can help to ensure prevention of renal anaemia in the pre dialysis setting.

Conferences

Miss Emer Kenny, CAPD nurse specialist, and Mr. Frank Kelly, Senior Clinical Engineer, attended the European Dialysis Transplant Nurses Association conferences in Geneva in September 2004. Emer Kenny also attended the Pre-Dialysis Forum in June 2004. Dr. Aishling O'Riordan attended both the American Society of Nephrology and the Irish Society of Nephrology in 2004.

Dr. Vincent Wong attended the European Dialysis Transplant Association conference in 2004.

Publication and Presentations

Mr. Frank Kelly, Senior Clinical Engineer, presented in Tullamore on "*Renal Technology a Students Prospective*" to the Biomedical / Clinical Engineering Association of Ireland.

Ms Linda Parke, Renal Dietician, presented "*Investigation of the effects modifying food intake during dialysis of the incidents of Intradialytic Complications*" at the Irish Nephrology Society Conference and the British Renal Society Conference 2004.

Dr. Aishling O'Riordan presented a pilot study [poster presentation] on *Renal Failure in Liver Patients* to the Irish Society of Nephrology at the Irish College of Physicians in 2004.

Training

A series of short talks were presented by Frank Kelly, Clinical Engineering, on "Implications of Poor Water Quality" to the dialysis Nurses as part of Continuous Professional Development.

Achievements and Appointments

Ms Tara Carneigie, St. Peter's Ward, was appointed Clinical Nurse Manager 1.

Dr. Aishling O' Riordan was awarded the Newman Scholarship in Nephrology 2004.

Department of Neurology

Departmental Review

Overview

2004 was a very significant year for Neurology at St. Vincent's University Hospital for a number of reasons. Most importantly, Dr Niall Tubridy took up the position of Consultant Neurologist in January, with immediate benefit in reducing waiting times for OPD attendances and in-patient consultation and increasing the breadth of expertise available to patients and colleagues. Since we have been able to set up two OPD clinics for new patients in St Michael's Hospital, there has been an immediate impact on waiting times reduced from 6 months to less than 3 months.

Last year over 4,000 people with neurological problems were booked to the neurology clinics. This number will only increase with the gradual expansion of the Department and the addition of extra specialist staff. Our thanks to Bernadette Howard and her staff for all of their hard work in making a difficult situation somewhat manageable.

Another important event was the move to the basement of Carew House which, thanks to the efforts of Administration and Support Services, particularly Cecily Dawson, Larry Clancy, Pat McDonnell and the IT Department, was completed in October. This means that we have excellent space for departmental staff and are able to assess patients in a well-equipped clinical room. We also welcomed our new MS Research Nurse Lisa Vahey and our new secretary Paula Halpin. Both have had an immediate impact in helping to generate an effective Neurology Team and in increasing the numbers of Clinical Trials available to our patients.

Service Developments/Activities

Initiatives for 2004 included reduction of the OPD waiting list both by new clinics and by a pilot study of an e-mail assessment/referral service. This "Teleneurology" project has been introduced by Dr Tubridy and should be shortly available in 2005. If successful, we plan to apply it to the East Coast area. A significant proportion of neurology referrals can be dealt with by this method; some patients do not need to see a neurologist. We are looking forward to improving the service to outpatients in the new ADCC, which will allow patients more privacy and more time. Although the Neurology Department has two areas of special expertise recognised internationally, multiple sclerosis and dystonia; we have been unable to treat these patients in the ideal setting of a special multi-disciplinary clinic due to space limitations in the old OPD building.

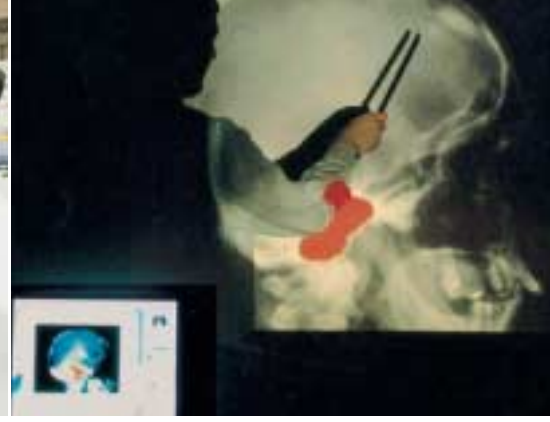
The research registrars, Drs John O'Dwyer (Dystonia) and Killian O'Rourke (MS) are due to finish their research periods in June 2005 and both have been successful in obtaining platform presentations at the Association of British Neurologists (Beijing), the American Academy of Neurology (Miami)(both JOD) and the European Neurological Society (Vienna) (JOD and KOR). During the summer of 2004, we had 3 medical students, Kinley Roberts, Jennifer Williams and Hugh Kearney doing short

research projects during which they gained some insight into research methods. Jenny was short-listed for the UCD Student Prize for her work on cognitive function in people with MS. Kinley has submitted her work to the Irish Neurological Association in 2005. Dr Iftikhar Sheikh has been working on an interesting dystonia project as part of his M Med Sci degree.

The ward, as ever, has been busy under the guidance of Clinical Nurse Manager Heather Kevelighan. The main difficulty has been in getting female patients admitted due to pressures on bed occupancy. Waiting list initiatives tend to improve the situation in the summer but it worsens again in the winter months.

Conferences Attended

Association of British Neurologists London April 2004, Movement Disorders Society, Rome, June 2004, Association of British Neurologists Blackpool September 2004 ECTRIMS Vienna, October, 2004



Department of Neurology

Publications in Peer –reviewed International Journals

Prof. Michael Hutchinson & Dr Niall Tubridy (5 of 14 published)

O’Riordan S, Raymond D, Lynch T, Saunders-Pullman R Bressman SB, Daly L, Hutchinson M.

Age at onset as a factor in determining the phenotype of primary torsion dystonia.
Neurology 2004;63:1423–1426

Vukusic S, Hutchinson M, Hours M, Moreau T, Cortinovis-Tourniaire P, Adeleine P, Confavreux C,

The Pregnancy In Multiple Sclerosis Group; Pregnancy and multiple sclerosis (the PRIMS study): clinical predictors of post-partum relapse.
Brain. 2004;127:1353-60.

McGuigan C, McCarthy A, Quigley C, Bannan L, Hawkins SA, Hutchinson M.

Latitudinal variation in the prevalence of multiple sclerosis in Ireland, an effect of genetic diversity.
J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry. 2004;75:572-6.

McMonagle P, Byrne P, Hutchinson M.

Further evidence of dementia in SPG4-linked autosomal dominant hereditary spastic paraplegia.
Neurology. 2004;62:407-10.

Rubio JP, Bahlo M, Tubridy N, Stankovich J, Burfoot R, Butzkueven H, Chapman C, Johnson L, Marriott M, Mraz G, Tait B, Wilkinson C, Taylor B, Speed TP, Foote SJ, Kilpatrick TJ.

Extended haplotype analysis in the HLA complex reveals an increased frequency of the HFE-C282Y mutation in individuals with multiple sclerosis.
Hum Genet. 2004, May;114(6):573-80.

Department of Clinical Neurophysiology

Departmental Review

Staff

Consultant Dr Sean Connolly, MD, FRCPI

Neurophysiology Measurement Technicians at SVUH

Ms Brigid Clark (full-time senior)
Ms Birgitta Levick (part-time senior)

SVUH Departmental Secretary Ms Lesley Bergin

The Department of Clinical Neurophysiology is part of the South Dublin Clinical Neurophysiology Service, which also includes units at St James' Hospital and the Adelaide & Meath Hospitals, incorporating the National Children's Hospital (AMNCH) at Tallaght. As this service is currently run by one consultant, it is best to consider this service as a whole.

The range of investigative/diagnostic services provided include routine Nerve Conduction Studies (NCS), Electromyography (EMG), Quantitative Sensory Testing (QST), Electroencephalography (EEG) and Visual Evoked Responses (VERs).

Applications for three additional consultant posts had been submitted to the ERHA prior to December 2004:

- (a) SVUH 5 sessions, Beaumont Hospital 6 sessions
- (b) AMNCH (Tallaght) 6 sessions, Beaumont Hospital 5 sessions
- (c) St James's Hospital 6 sessions, Beaumont Hospital 5 sessions

Dr Connolly conducts regular group sessions for neurophysiology measurement technicians approximately monthly at the AMNCH department, with the aim of teaching, and improving methods and standards of the neurophysiological investigations carried out within the service. Technicians from departments in Dublin, Limerick and Cork usually attend.

Research, currently being carried out mainly at the AMNCH and St Vincent's departments, includes a transcranial magnetic stimulation study in dystonia. There are also research collaborations with the department of electrical and electronic engineering at UCD and with Dr Geraldine Boylan in the department of paediatrics and child health, UCC.

Recent Developments

The addition of an experienced, albeit part-time, technologist with new evoked potential and nerve conduction equipment has had a significant positive impact on the number, range and quality of investigations being carried out in the St Vincent's University Hospital department. Investigations being added include more sophisticated assessments of visual function. More technologists are required and additional departmental space is necessary.

Recent Publications

Fitzsimons M, Ronan L, Murphy K, Browne G, Connolly S, McMenamin J, Delanty N. *Customer needs, expectations, and satisfaction with clinical neurophysiology services in Ireland: A case for tele-neurophysiology development.* Irish Medical Journal 2004;97(7):208-211

Ronan L, Murphy K, Browne G, Connolly S, McMenamin J, Lynch B, Delanty N, Fitzsimons M. *Needs analysis for Tele-neurophysiology in the Irish North-Western Health Board.* Irish Medical Journal 2004;97(2):46-49

Department Of Ophthalmology

Departmental Review

Staff

Consultant Staff	Dr Geraldine Kelly Mr Peter Barry Mr William Power
St James' Ward	Ms Colette Kingston, CNM2 Ms Sandra Murphy, CNM1
Ophthalmic Theatre	Ms Maeve Williams, CNM2
Surgical Registrar	Mr Patrick Talty/Dr Susan Kelly
Medical Registrar	Dr Magdy Nasralla
Lecturer in Ophthalmology	Dr Moji Oshodi
Orthoptist	Ms Nanno Fitzsimons

Clinical Activities

The department's clinical activities are summarised in the table on next page.

Its principle surgical activity is small incision cataract surgery with intraocular lens implantation specialising in the very elderly i.e. over the age of 80. We are grateful to the Department of Anaesthesia for their specialist contribution facilitating this surgery on these patients. The post of surgical registrar is highly sought after due to the training opportunities this permits. Ms Maeve Williams, CNM2 in theatre, ensures that everything runs smoothly.

The unit is recognised for both basic and higher specialist surgical training by the Royal College of Ophthalmologists.

The unit continues to become more centralised with an ever-expanding Day Care Unit in conjunction with the in-patient beds in St James' Ward. The number of daycare patients has increased from 788 to 1729 in the decade between 1994 and 2004. This busy unit is directed by Ms Colette Kingston, CNM2 and Ms Sandra Murphy, CNM1.

Staff nurses Esther McCarthy, Sheila Querubin, Gail Anderson, Carol Murphy, Gerry Porlante and Lulu Abellera each have specialist interests within the unit permitting its participation in clinical research and in-service education. Mr William Power conducts a weekly teaching session in which the entire unit staff participate.

All of this activity is catered for by the administrative skills of Jane Caulfield and Margaret Daly.

The department continues its involvement (with the seventh consecutive year) in the European Cataract Outcome Study – an unique system of audit for consultants and trainees whereby each surgeon can compare his/her performance and that of his/her department, with those of 52 other participating clinics in Europe. This activity was highly praised by the Accreditation Peer Review team.

Presentations

Department members made presentations and conducted instructional courses at the European Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons meeting in Paris and the equivalent American Society's meeting in San Diego. They also presented at the Association of Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO).

Future Plans

The department looks forward to 2005 when it hopes to begin the process of integrating its specialist nurses to a rotation through the ward, the day care unit, the outpatients and the operating theatre. This will hopefully become a reality when phase one of the new hospital development is complete.



Ophthalmology St. James' Ward

		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
St James' In-Patients	Admissions	443	461	458	458	442
	Discharges	436	457	456	451	434
St James' In-Patients	Cataract					
	Procedures	308	330	324	310	299
St James' Day Care	Admissions	1526	1611	1846	1994	1729
	Discharges	1526	1611	1846	1994	1729
St James' Day Care Orthoptic	Total Attendances	573	607	502	927	777
St James' A/E Ophthalmic Patients	Total Attendances	1130	1153	1261	1016	1064
St James' +A2 In-Patient Referrals	Total Attendances	361	299	309	327	342
Ophthalmology Out-Patients	New	702	745	773	781	729
	Total Attendances	2651	2372	2398	2475	2245

Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

Departmental Review

Staff

Consultants

Mr. Sean Dudeney
Mr. Brian Hurson
Mr. Eamonn Kelly
Mr. William Quinlan
Mr. S. Kieran O'Rourke

Administrative Staff

Ms. Jenni Cross
Ms. Frances Doyle

Orthopaedic Ward

CNM2: Ms. Gillian Fields
CNM1: Ms. Rachel Hayden
CNM1: Ms. Andrea Marnell

Orthopaedic Theatre

CNM2: Ms. Katrina Lennon
CNM1: Ms. Anna Marie Bos

Service Developments/Activities

The Orthopaedic Department, as part of the South East Department of Surgery (SEDDS), is based in St. Vincent's University Hospital, but also delivers the service through the facilities at St. Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown and St. Michael's Hospital, Dunlaoghaire. The service caters for the area including Dublin City South, South County Dublin, County Wicklow and the adjacent cross over areas, giving a local population of between 350,000 and 400,000. In addition, the individual speciality interests of the surgeons in the unit draw from a much wider, and in some cases, national catchment area.

Outpatient clinics are carried out on all sites. Daily clinics are held in St. Vincent's University Hospital. Subspeciality clinics in joint replacement and upper limb are held in St. Anthony's on the St. Vincent's campus. Mr S. K. O'Rourke and Mr. E. Kelly attend St. Columcille's Hospital, where there are twice weekly clinics, while Mr Quinlan, Hurson and Dudeney run clinics in St. Michael's Hospital. There is a large orthopaedic oncology referral to St. Vincent's University Hospital. While some of this work is dealt with through the Outpatient Department in St. Vincent's University Hospital, the bulk is seen in speciality clinics in Cappagh National Orthopaedic Hospital. For many years, Mr. Brian Hurson has shouldered this demanding service. However, latterly Mr. Sean Dudeney having returned from training in the United States has also become involved, and there are plans to increase the service further.

A total of 13,150 patients were seen as outpatients through the St. Vincent's campus, with a further 9,066 seen at other clinics. Therefore, a total of 22,216 patients attended the unit over the course of the year.

The bulk of orthopaedic surgery carried out in St. Vincent's University Hospital is trauma or trauma related. For all patients presenting to the unit through any of the

portals of entry viz. the Emergency Department in St. Vincent's University Hospital, St. Michael's Hospital or St. Columcille's Hospital, it is endeavoured to deal with them, where possible, within a twenty-four hour period. Such aspiration to efficiency requires maximum co-operation between the hospitals and staff involved.

The main impediments on an ongoing basis are the number of elderly patients waiting for long term placement and the dependence on an already stretched ambulance service for inter-hospital transfer. The demographics of this region are such that it has the highest percentage of over 65 year olds in the country. If the population forecasts of gradual increase and ageing are correct, it is vital for the future that we move to a proactive orthogeriatric concept which will allow these patients to be dealt with in a more appropriate and co-ordinated fashion than heretofore.

Patients for elective surgery, once seen at outpatient level, have surgery at Cappagh National Orthopaedic Hospital. This is a stand alone orthopaedic facility, which provides elective surgery for a number of Dublin Teaching Hospitals involving twenty orthopaedic surgeons, including the recently appointed Chair of Orthopaedics, Prof. John O'Beirne and as such is an important academic/teaching hub. From the St. Vincent's campus, there were approximately 1,000 cases operated on in Cappagh Hospital in 2004.

Education and Training

The orthopaedic staff are involved in teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. In combination with Cappagh Hospital and the other teaching

hospitals, St. Vincent's University Hospital is part of the Higher Surgical Training Programme in Orthopaedic Surgery, on behalf of the Irish Institute of Orthopaedic Surgery. Mr. Quinlan is currently the President of the Irish Institute of Orthopaedic Surgery and, as such, chairs a number of sub committees including the training committee. He has been on faculty of a number of academic meetings including the A.O. Instructional course in fracture management and the Annual Orthopaedic Updates Meeting. Mr. Quinlan is currently a Director on the Board of Directors of St. Vincent's Healthcare Group.

Mr. Dudeney is Secretary of the A.O. group Ireland. He was chairman of the A.O. instructional course in March. He was a member of the visiting faculty for the A.O. instructional course in fracture management in Portugal. He currently sits on the St Vincent's Healthcare Group Ethics Committee. Mr Dudeney was the Co-ordinator of the Intercollegiate Fellowship Exam held in Cappagh National Orthopaedic Hospital.

Mr. O'Rourke was a faculty member of the Second International Hip Resurfacing Meeting in November.

Mr Kelly is currently the Unit Director and the hospital representative to the training committee. He is also a member of council of the Institute of Orthopaedics.

Presented Work

1. *"Outcome following use of the "S" Quattro dynamic external fixation device in the management of fractures of the first ray."*
AM Byrne, SR Kearns, S Morris, EP Kelly.
Irish Hand Surgery Society Meeting, Dublin, May 2004.
2. *"Outcome following use of the "S" Quattro dynamic external fixation device in the management of fractures of the first ray."*
AM Byrne, SR Kearns, S Morris, EP Kelly.
Irish Orthopaedic Association Meeting, Killarney, June 2004.
3. *"Morbidity and mortality following hip fracture in the over 90's: A cohort study."*
SR Kearns, C Ridge, K Cahill, P Moroney, EP Kelly, SK O'Rourke, S Dudeney, B Hurson, WB Quinlan.
Irish Orthopaedic Association Meeting, Killarney, June 2004.
4. *"Comparison of open and modified percutaneous repair of acute tendo achilles ruptures."*
S Brophy, SR Kearns, WB Quinlan, SK O'Rourke.
Irish Orthopaedic Association Meeting, Killarney, June 2004.
5. *"Combined ankle and sub-talar arthrodesis: A novel application for the supracondylar femoral nail."*
M Cleary, SR Kearns, WB Quinlan.
Irish Orthopaedic Association Meeting, Killarney, June 2004.
6. *"Haemotogenous pyogenic spinal infection."*
B O Daly, S Morris, SR Kearns, P Moroney, P Kiely, SK O'Rourke
Britspine Meeting, 28-30th April 2004.
7. *"Morbidity and mortality following hip fracture in the over 90's: A cohort study."*
SR Kearns, C Ridge, K Cahill, P Moroney, EP Kelly, SK O'Rourke, S Dudeney, B Hurson, WB Quinlan.
Freyer Meeting September, Galway.



Department of Palliative Medicine

Departmental Review

Staff

Consultant	Dr Eoin Tiernan
Clinical Nurse Specialist	Ms Millie Devenish, Olga Price Ms Siobhan Hollingsworth, Ms Barbara Whyte
Specialist Registrar	Dr Sinead Kelly - 01/01/04 to 30/06/04 Dr Ita Harnett – 01/07/04 to 31/12/04
Registrar	Dr Carol Stone – 01/01/04 to 30/06/04 Dr Aoife Gleeson – 01/07/04 to 31/12/04
Senior Social Worker	Ms Susan Cox, Ms Aine Canny
Administrative Support	Ms Joan Stokes, Mr Olajide Ogidan

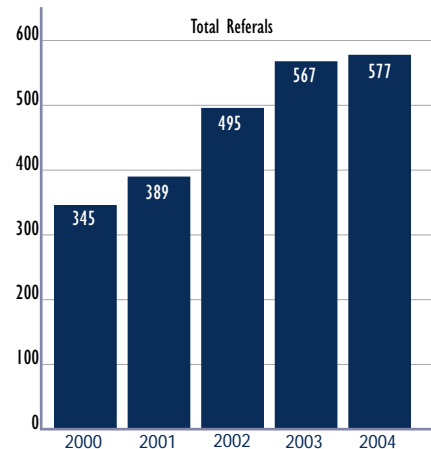
Service Development

2004 was a busy year for the Palliative Medicine Department. The team launched a major project in the hospital entitled "Care of the Dying Patient". The purpose of this initiative is to review the current standards of care given to dying patients in the hospital, and aims to improve all aspects of care to patients and support to families around time of death. The team received one of the Innovation Awards for Quality Improvement Initiatives presented for the project proposal in October. In summary, the project includes a survey of the experiences of staff nurses in caring for dying patients and their families, a survey of bereaved next-of-kin on their experiences of care given around the time of death, and a pilot project looking at the feasibility of introducing an established quality initiative/integrated care pathway from the UK, namely, the Liverpool Care Pathway for the Dying. Additional input and support for the Project is being provided by Ursula Bates, Senior Clinical Psychologist (Oncology Services), with methodological and statistical support from Dr. Barbara Dooley, Department of Psychology, UCD. The Project is being overseen by a Steering Group, which comprises representation from Hospital Management, the Medical Board, Nursing Administration, Social Work Department, Chaplaincy, and the Mission Committee.

We continued to receive rotating doctors from the Higher Specialist Training Scheme for Palliative Medicine, with Dr. Sinead Kelly and Dr. Ita Harnett each spending six months with the service. In July, Dr Aoife Gleeson replaced Dr Carol Stone as Registrar for a twelve-month period. Siobhan Hollingsworth joined the team in July as an additional clinical nurse specialist for a one-year period. Our Senior Social Worker, Susan Cox left St. Vincent's University Hospital to return to her native Australia, and was replaced by Aine Canny in March. Aine has taken up from where Susan left off; continuing to enhance the psychosocial and family care dimensions of our work. We continue to enjoy a close working relationship with the Clinical Psycho-Oncology Service, with Ursula Bates providing input to our multidisciplinary meetings, and also offering her expertise in team-work to facilitate some team-building exercises ourselves. With the ever-expanding remit of the Clinical Team, we continue to receive the excellent support of our administrative team comprising Olajide Ogidan and Joan Stokes.

Service Activity

2004 saw further increases in the clinical activities of the team – a total of 577 referrals were received (8% non-malignant diagnosis). The graph below illustrates the steady increase in referrals over the past 5 years.



St. Vincent's Private Hospital

Carmel Houlihan, Clinical Nurse Specialist, continues to provide a much-valued service, single-handedly, seeing overall referrals increase by 28% to 197. As with previous years, the majority of referrals continue to come from medical and radiation oncology (68%), with 14% of referrals from the surgical services and 18% of referrals from other medical services.

Education

The highlight of the Education calendar in 2004 was the hosting of a half-day symposium entitled "Care of the Actively Dying Patient" in the Education and Research Centre on 1st October. Approximately 180 people registered to hear eminent national and international speakers address various aspects of quality care of dying patients. The international faculty included Professor Declan Walsh

(Cleveland Clinic, Ohio), Dr. John Ellershaw (Marie Curie Centre, Liverpool), and Dr. David Carroll (Macmillan GP Facilitator, Aberdeen), with the local faculty comprising Dr. Sinead Donnelly (Milford Hospice, Limerick), Dr Ita Harnett, SVUH, and Ursula Bates, Clinical Psycho-Oncologist, SVUH.

The Nursing Team facilitated their Annual Palliative Care Study Day for registered nurses from around the country in December. The team continues to contribute to student and registered nurse education, ward attendant programmes and orientation programmes for overseas nurses, as well as facilitating clinical placements for nurses undertaking the Higher Diplomas in Palliative Care Nursing and Pain Management from UCD, and undergraduate medical students.

Audit and Research

Dr Carol Stone completed a research project validating a prognostic tool for patients with advanced cancer, which has been accepted for presentation at the European Association for Palliative Care's International Congress in 2005. The major team project initiated in 2004 was the Care of the Dying Project, previously described.

Courses and Conferences Attended by Members of the Team

A selection of the educational events attended by members of the team:

- Irish Association for Palliative Care Education and Research Seminar, Feb 2004;
- Liverpool Care Pathway Foundation Day, Feb 2004;
- 2nd Bristol Opioid Conference, Feb 2004;
- Multidisciplinary Approach to Pain Management (Irish Pain Society & IAPC), May 2004;
- 3rd Annual Kaleidoscope Conference (St. Francis Hospice), May 2004;
- 16th Annual Symposium of the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer, Miami, June 2004.
- "Palliative Medicine in the 21st Century – from Art to Science", Cleveland Clinic, Ohio, July 2004;
- Seminar – "Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the Role of the Nurse Specialist", Aug 2004;
- Advances in Radiation Oncology, Oct 2004.

Presentations

Dr Tiernan was an invited speaker at a number of international conferences during 2004:

- The Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer, 16th International Symposium in Miami, June 2004, where he chaired a symposium entitled "Dying Patients: What Should be the Standard of Care? Consensus Development".
- Palliative Medicine in the 21st Century: From Art to Science, at the Cleveland Clinic, Ohio, where he presented a paper entitled "Setting Standards for Care of the Actively Dying Patient", July 2004.

- International Interim Meeting on Home Care & Hospice in Oncology, Istanbul, Turkey, October 7-9, 2004, where he was an invited international co-chair for the conference, and presented two papers, entitled "Quality of Life – A Perspective from Palliative Care" and "Organization of Home Care – An International Perspective".

A number of posters were presented by team members at the Irish Association for Palliative Care's Annual Research Seminar and at the Multinational Association of Supportive Care in Cancer's 16th International Symposium in Miami.

Publications

Abstracts –

Conroy M, Cunningham J, Tiernan E, Smyth P. *Issues for medical interns in providing end of life care.*

Supportive Care in Cancer 2004; 12(6): 405.

O'Leary N, Tiernan E, Stone C. *Activity of a hospital-based palliative medicine team.*

Supportive Care in Cancer 2004; 12(6): 409.

Department of Plastic Surgery

Departmental Review

Staff

Consultants

Mr Tom O'Reilly
Ms Margaret O'Donnell
Mr Sean M Carroll

Registrars

Ms. D O'Keeffe
Mr M Allam

SHO

Dr. D Knight

Occupational Therapist

Ms Aine O'Reilly

Hand Therapist

Ms Emma Cannon

Service Developments/ Activities

The Department of Plastic Surgery continues to provide a general plastic surgery service within the St. Vincent Healthcare Group with specialised interests in breast reconstruction, hand surgery, skin cancer, pressure sore surgery and head and neck reconstruction.

St Agnes' Ward remains at the centre of the service and we acknowledge the dedication and hard work of CMN Dolores O'Neill and Josephine Ryan and the highly competent ward staff. Expertise amongst the ward nurses ensures the professional and efficient postoperative monitoring of patients who have undergone microsurgery, without the need to utilise expensive ICU or HDU beds. Out-patient clinical activity remains high and the expertise and continued positive attitude of the OPD nurses in the face of large clinics helps all involved. Three OPD clinics are held per week in St. Vincent's University Hospital, two of which are general plastic surgery, and one Hand Clinic. A new OPD clinic on Monday afternoons in St. Michael's Hospital has increased OPD activity over the last year. A total of 4,450 out-patients were seen during 2004 between the two hospitals, in the four OPD clinics per week. The outstanding hard work of our unit secretary, Rachel Boyle, helps us to communicate effectively with our patients, referring doctors and hospitals and we thank her sincerely.

The breast reconstruction service continues to expand with over one hundred and twenty reconstructions being performed during the year. We have a close working relationship with the Surgical Professorial Unit from where a significant number of patients are referred. We also provide a reconstructive service to BreastCheck and many patients now undergo breast reconstruction at the time of their mastectomy. The majority of patients, however, are reconstructed sometime after their initial surgery. The service is complimented by the participation of the Breast Care Nurses and encompasses a Micro-pigmentation (Tattooing) Clinic to complete Nipple-Areolar reconstruction.

Activity within the hand surgery service is increasing and a lot of hard work has been done on the writing of hand therapy protocols for both elective and trauma cases. The professional dedication of our Occupational Therapist, Aine O'Reilly, and our Hand Therapist, Emma Cannon, is greatly appreciated by everyone. Congratulations are due to Emma who got married during the year and we wish her a long and happy marriage.

St Michael's Hospital has afforded our department many opportunities for expansion, with the addition of two extra operating lists a week, one of which is a dedicated regional anaesthesia hand surgery list. This allows for greater theatre time usage, less recovery time and quicker patient discharge. We acknowledge the expertise of the Anaesthetists providing this service and look forward to its further development within the new day care facilities. Development of a dedicated breast reconstruction service within St Michael's Hospital is envisaged, further helping the incorporation of the two hospitals.

A plastic surgical service continues to be provided for the National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH). An outpatients and ward round at NRH takes place on alternative weeks. The further development of this service is envisaged but is dependent on the provision of protected beds into which our patients can be admitted.

Consultant staff numbers increased with the appointment of Sean Carroll to a permanent post in July of this year bringing the consultant body to three in number. He will continue to provide a general plastic surgery service with a special interest in hand surgery and microsurgery.



The future of the unit has been mapped out for the medium term. There is increasing demand, and need, for head and neck reconstruction, breast reconstruction and sarcoma surgery reconstruction. The ageing demographic and increasing incidence of skin cancer means that the pressures on this speciality will become even greater. It is apparent that the appointment of a fourth consultant is both appropriate and necessary. The accreditation of the unit for higher specialist training can now proceed with the appointment of the third consultant. This will enable us to attract high quality trainees, thus further improving our service potential, increasing our research output and contributing to the training of future plastic surgeons for Ireland.

Papers Published

The Two Finger Sign

Pashkumar K, Hanson R, Carroll SM

The British Journal of Plastic Surgery: 63: 45 - 46, 04

The Appropriate method of applying sterri strips

Pashkumar K, Hanson R, Carroll SM

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery 113: 1106- 1107. 04

Submitted Papers

A complicated chest wall reconstruction

Pashkumar K, Hanson R, Chan K, O'Donnell M Tolan M

The British Journal of Plastic Surgery

Presentations

Compartment Syndrome and delayed decompression

Pashkumar K, Hanson R, Carroll SM

Irish Association of Plastic Surgery meeting Cork 04

Lectures, Teaching and Examinations

All three consultants are active in teaching both within the Hospital and the surgical skills course in the College. All three consultants examined in the final medical exams

Meetings Attended

British Burns Association Manchester April 2004 O'Donnell M

IAPS Annual Scientific Meeting May 2004 O'Reilly T, O'Donnell M

British Association of Plastic Surgery, Dublin June 2004

O'Donnell M, O'Reilly T, Carroll SM

American Association of Plastic Surgery, Philadelphia September 2004. Carroll SM

Birmingham Breast Reconstruction Meeting. December 2004:

O'Reilly T, Carroll SM, O'Donnell M.

British Association of Plastic Surgery London Dec 2004 O'Donnell M.



Department of Respiratory Medicine

Departmental Review

Activity

Inpatient Admissions	408
Discharges	378

St. Michael's Hospital Admissions 384

Out-Patient Activities

	New	Return	Total
Prof. McNicholas			
Tuesday (Respiratory)	314	1022	1336
Wednesday (Sleep apnoea)	0	357	357
Dr. McDonnell			
SVUH (Resp)	57	375	432
SVUH (TB)	149	683	832
SMH	68	712	880

Pulmonary Function Laboratory

Total Patients:	3138
Total tests:	6061

Sleep Laboratory

Total Admissions:	524
CPAP commencements:	159

Service Developments

Plans were developed during 2004 to establish a 6-bedded acute non-invasive facility in St. John's Ward, which is expected to come into operation in the first half of 2005. This facility will significantly improve the level of care for medical patients in acute respiratory failure requiring non-invasive ventilation.

Pulmonary Function and Sleep Laboratory

Three 8-week student placements were accommodated from DIT in the clinical measurement degree course. All technicians attended the Irish Thoracic Society meeting in Cork and two technicians attended the British Thoracic Society meeting in London. Technicians from St. Vincent's University Hospital provide Pulmonary Function testing service two days per week in St. Michael's Hospital. In St. Michael's a total of 449 patients had 750 tests.

The Sleep Research Laboratory continues a varied clinical and basic science research programme that has been evolving over several years. Ongoing collaboration exists with the research group of Dr. Cormac Taylor in the Conway Institute at UCD and the

Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering (Dr. Conor Heneghan and Prof. Mark O'Malley), also in UCD, in addition to the Department of Physiology, R.C.S.I. (Dr. Aidan Bradford).

Respiratory Education Centre

The Respiratory Education Centre received a total of 1800 consults during 2004, 650 of these were out-patients. Deirdre Donaghy, Patricia Jones and Lindsay Brown successfully completed a distance learning non-invasive ventilation module through University Hospital Aintree in Liverpool. Policy development has been this year's focus. The nebuliser policy was updated. An extensive tracheostomy care policy was devised collaboratively. Respiratory Nurse Specialists continue to devise audit tools to evaluate service provision, policy implementation and patient satisfaction.

On World COPD Day, 96 people visited the stall set up on the hospital concourse and educational support was well received. World Asthma Day was similarly promoted and well received.

St. Michael's Hospital.

The COPD Unit in St. Michael's Hospital continues to be busy accepting patients directly from the Emergency Department in St. Vincent's University Hospital when appropriate. The Pulmonary Rehabilitation Unit also remains very active with a total of 81 new patients to the programme in 2004, with reviews carried out on 2,452 patients. This represented a significant increase in activity over the preceding year. The patients are primarily referred from the respiratory services in St. Vincent's University Hospital as well as patients from St. Michael's Hospital. In addition to patients with COPD, a significant number of patients



with interstitial lung disease have been referred from the lung fibrosis clinic in St. Vincent's University Hospital. Finally, a nurse led COPD clinic has been initiated by Ms. Mary Frances O'Driscoll, Respiratory Specialist Nurse. It is run in conjunction with the respiratory clinic on a Friday morning. This has allowed more patients to be seen efficiently at the respiratory clinic

Honours and Distinctions

Prof. McNicholas was President of the European Respiratory Society during 2004, which is the principal scientific society in the area of respiratory diseases and one of the largest such societies worldwide. He also presided over the annual meeting of the society in Glasgow during September 2004, which was attended by over 14,000 delegates and represents the largest international respiratory meeting. During this congress, he presented a special award to Mr. Michael Martin in recognition of his successful introduction of the smoking ban in Ireland.

Invited Presentations during 2004

Prof. McNicholas gave invited lectures at the annual meeting of the Japanese Respiratory Society in Tokyo in April, the annual meeting of the European Respiratory Society in Glasgow in September, and the annual meeting of the Asian Pacific Society of Respirology in Hong Kong in December. He was also a Visiting Professor at Brown University, Rhode Island, USA, in October 2004, during which he presented Medical Grand Rounds at the University.

Presentations of original research were given by members of the research team at the annual meeting of the American Thoracic Society in Orlando in May (Dr. Silke Ryan, Dr. Liam Doherty and Dr. Sardar Ali), the annual meeting of the European Respiratory Society in September (Ms. Geraldine Nolan (Lawless)). Geraldine Nolan (Lawless) also gave a presentation at the Association of Respiratory Technology and Physiology meeting in the UK.

Selected Publications 2004

Prof. Walter McNicholas

From a total of 14 publications.
(Please see also ERC Publications listing.)

Martial FP, Dunleavy M, Nolan P, McNicholas WT, O'Regan RG, Bradford A.
Simultaneous recording of breathing and respiratory related neuronal activity in the brainstem of conscious rats.
Respir Physiol Neurobiol. 2005 Feb;145(2-3):301-6.
PMID: 15705544

Dr T McDonnell

Butler MW, O'Mahony MJ, Donnelly SC, McDonnell TJ.
Managing exacerbations in COPD: room for improvement.
Irish Medical Journal 2004; 97:108-110.

Armstrong J, Breathnach C, Carney D, Eakin R, Grogan L, McDonnell T, McManus K, O'Connell F.
Guidelines for the treatment of lung cancer.
Irish Medical Journal 2004 February Supplement.

3 Naji NA, Connor MC, Nagle MM, McDonnell TJ.
Modified BODE index predicts risk of death in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.
Irish Journal of Medical Science 2004;173:S(2)20.

4 Naji NA, Connor MC, Nagle MM, McDonnell TJ.
Does a modified BODE index predict outcome of pulmonary rehabilitation?
Thorax 2004;59:ii60.

Department of Rheumatology

Departmental Review

Staff

Consultant Staff	Professor Barry Bresnihan Professor Oliver FitzGerald Dr Douglas Veale
Senior Scientist	Dr Ursula Fearon
Specialist Registrar	Dr Adrian Gibbs
Registrar	Dr Teck Loeng Tai
Research Staff	Mary Connolly, Martina Gogarty, Laura Greenan, Keith McQuillan, Trevor Markham, Julia Martin, Clare Matthews, Ronan Mullan, Bea Radovits, Jennifer Ralph, Terence Rooney, Catherine Sweeney, Wahlid-AI-Shehi, Ceara Walsh
Advanced Nurse Practitioner	Patricia Minnock
Clinical Nurse Manager	Catherine Slattery
Clinical Nurse Specialists	Alexia Grier, Miriam Molloy, Louise Moore, Madeleine O'Neill, Karen Reid, Susan van der Kamp

Service Developments/Activities

Service developments included specialist clinics for patients receiving biologic therapies (predominantly anti-TNF therapies). It is intended to maintain 3 additional weekly clinics supported by both medical and nursing staff. Other specialist programmes including the fast-track early arthritis clinic, the bone densitometry service and the arthroscopy programme continue to expand. Plans are nearing completion for the establishment of a diagnostic musculoskeletal ultra-sound facility within the department. Integration of the rheumatology service across the 2 sites (SVUH and Rheumatology Rehabilitation, Our Lady's Hospice) continues.

Departmental Statistics

There were 643* acute medical admissions to St Vincent's University Hospital. In addition, 811 patients were admitted for evaluation and treatment to the Rheumatology Rehabilitation Unit, Harold's Cross. A total of 5,633 patients were seen in the Rheumatology clinics at SVUH, including the Early Arthritis and Juvenile Arthritis Clinics and of these 941 were new referrals.

*Breakdown of 643 acute medical admissions is as follows:-

A & E	436
Urgent	21
Elective	14
Day Care	172

Significant Achievements

Professor Bresnihan was an invited speaker at the New Zealand Rheumatology Association and the Israel Society for Rheumatology. He was a visiting Professor at the Rheumatology Update Programme at Georgetown University, Washington. He chaired the satellite symposium on 'B Cells in Rheumatology' at the EULAR Congress in Berlin in June. He was an external examiner for PhD thesis at the University of Newcastle and a member of the Dutch Arthritis Association Review Committee. Professor Bresnihan continues to co-chair the European Synovitis Study Group. He is chairman of the Subcommittee for Academic Support, Arthritis Research Campaign (UK), chairman of the Arthritis Ireland and a member of the Oliver Bird Programme Selection Committee. Professor Bresnihan serves on the Editorial Board for the Journal of Rheumatology, Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases, Joint Bone and Spine, and Bailliere's Clinical Rheumatology.

Professor FitzGerald was an invited speaker both at the British Society for Rheumatology and at the American College of Rheumatology. He was also invited to speak at the meeting on Breakthrough Therapy for the Treatment of Psoriasis. Professor FitzGerald was an external examiner for PhD theses in Queens University Belfast and at Oxford University. He was also an external examiner at the Trinity College final medical examinations. He is a Council Member of Arthritis Ireland and is interim Director of the SVUH Education and Research Centre. He is also a member on the Editorial Board of *Rheumatology* and of *Current Rheumatology*.



Dr Veale was an invited speaker at the EULAR Congress and the American College of Rheumatology Meeting. Dr Veale is Medical Director, Rheumatology Unit at Our Lady's Hospice, Harold's Cross. He was the chairman of Arthritis Action Ireland, a Council member of the Irish Society for Rheumatology and Editor of *E-Medicine*.

Prizes

Dr Veale was awarded Best Oral Paper at the Irish Association of Dermatologists in 2004: Markham T et al, Anti-TNF α therapy in psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis: clinical and angiogenic responses.

Jenny Ralph won First Prize Oral Presentation at the Irish Society of Rheumatology Meeting in Dublin in October.

Publications

Benito MJ, Murphy EP, van den Berg W, FitzGerald O, Bresnihan B.
Increased synovial tissue NF- κ B1 expression at sites adjacent to the cartilage-pannus junction in rheumatoid arthritis.
Arthritis Rheum 2004, 50:1781-1787.

Curran SA, FitzGerald OM, Costello PJ, Selby JM, Kane DJ, Bresnihan B, Winchester R.
Nucleotide sequencing of psoriatic arthritis tissue before and during methotrexate administration reveals a complex inflammatory T cell infiltrate with very few clones exhibiting features that suggest they drive the inflammatory process by recognizing autoantigens.
J Immunol. 2004 Feb 1; 172(3): 1935-44.

Kane D, Gogarty M, O'Leary J, Silva I, Bermingham N, Bresnihan B, Fitzgerald O.
Reduction of synovial sublining layer inflammation and proinflammatory cytokine expression in psoriatic arthritis treated with methotrexate.
Arthritis Rheum. 2004 Oct;50(10):3286-95.

McEvoy AN, Bresnihan B, FitzGerald O, Murphy EP.
Cyclooxygenase 2-derived prostaglandin E2 production by corticotropin-releasing hormone contributes to the activated cAMP response element binding protein content in rheumatoid arthritis synovial tissue.
Arthritis Rheum. 2004 Apr ;50(4):1132-45.

O'Hara R, Murphy EP, Whitehead AS, FitzGerald O, Bresnihan B.
Local expression of the serum amyloid A and formyl peptide receptor-like 1 genes in synovial tissue is associated with matrix metalloproteinase production in-patients with inflammatory arthritis.
Arthritis Rheum 2004, 50: 1788-1799.



Department of Urology

Departmental Review

Staffing

Consultants	Mr David Quinlan, Mr David Mulvin Mr Gerald Lennon
Senior Registrars	Seamus Teahan (from 1/7/03) Richard Power (from 01/07/04)
Registrars	Stephen Connolly (from 1/7/03), Michael Floyd (from 01/07/04)
Senior House Officers	Ann Maria Byrne (from 1/01/04) Catherine Dowling (from 1/7/04)
Interns	Marie Therese Cooney, Eimear Halley, Evelyn O'Neill, Elizabeth Cummins (to 30/6/04) Christopher Hegarty, Fiona Magee, Deirdre Sweetman, Michael Boyle (from 1/7/04)
Clinical Nurse Manager 2	Ms Louise Hederman (St Charles')
Clinical Nurse Manager 1	Ms Mary Nevin, Ms Denise Murray (St Charles')
Clinical Nurse Manager Theatre	Ms Linda Mullen, Ms Breda O'Donoghue
Urology Cancer Nurse Coordinator	Ms Angela Kissane
Urodynamics/Urology Nurse Practitioner	Ms Siobhan Gardner
Inpatient Clinical Coordinator	Ms Nuala Kennedy
St Charles Ward Secretary	Ms Adelah O'Brien
Urology Secretaries	Ms Fiona Whelan, Ms Kirsty Whaley

Service Developments/Activities

2004 remained a busy year for the Department of Urology. As in 2003, St Charles' Ward was largely protected from admissions from other disciplines as of 1st March to 31st December 2004. This permitted patients on urological waiting lists to be given a date for admission, which in the majority of cases is honoured. The success of this strategy revolves around the dedicated office and admissions coordinator in St Charles' Ward to facilitate these patients' admission and associated investigations and procedures. Protection has been at the 85% level from the 1st March to 31st December. While protection is lost for the other two months, the Bed Manager has managed to secure admission to a high level during January and February for major oncological surgical cases.

While the Department of Urology has no dedicated 5 day beds on the campus of St Vincent's University Hospital (having relinquished St Kevin's Ward for five day activity in 2000), its five-day activity continues to occur off-site in the Annexe of St. Michael's Hospital. The provision of extracorporeal lithotripsy in the Annexe has been a particular success and benefit for Urological patients with renal stone disease.

Urodynamics has been very active. Most male patients presenting for the first time to outpatients with lower urinary tract symptoms arrive for their initial consultation with a packet of information from a pre-assessment with Siobhan Gardner consisting of urinalysis, renal profile, prostate specific antigen, symptoms score, uroflow and estimation of post void residual. This provides for instant decision making at the patient's first consultation.

Surgically, 2004 has seen the further development of Laparoscopic Urology under the direction of Mr David Mulvin. Mr Lennon has continued to expand Urodynamics and Female Urology.

The Urology Nurse Diploma programme at University College Dublin and St Vincent's University Hospital is now well established. This is the only programme of its type in the country and a most coveted development by the Department of Urology.

The Urological Club of Great Britain and Ireland held their annual meeting at St Vincent's on the 15, 16th and 17th of September. This meeting was well received by the club members and extremely well supported by the hospital and the university.

Departmental Statistics

During 2004, there were 10,329 patient presentations, which included:

- **Outpatients:** A total of 4,797 out patients were seen by the Urology Team. Three Urological outpatient clinics occur per week on the St Vincent's Campus with 3,965 attendances. Of these 940 were new patient attendances. There were 832

outpatient attendances in St Michael's Hospital seen in the once weekly outpatient clinic, of which 237 were new patient attendances.

- **Admissions:** Total admissions were 3,695 patients. There were 2,229 admissions in the year 2004 on the St Vincent's Campus, with an additional 914 in St Michael's Hospital and 552 daycare and 5-day patients through the St Michael's Annexe.
- **Theatre:** Surgical procedures totalled 3,250, with 1,784 surgical procedures performed on the St Vincent's Campus, 914 performed at St Michael's Hospital and a further 552 procedures performed in the St Michael's Annexe.
- **Consults:** 936 inpatient consultations in 2004.
- **Urodynamics:** There were 901 urodynamic procedures performed.

Teaching

For the urological trainees there is a major emphasis placed on teaching with academic conferences, teaching in the operating room and research endeavours. Each day starts with an organised teaching session with weekly conferences on:

- Research Conference and Journal Review (Monday 8:15a.m.)
- Irish Society of Urology Teaching Conference (Monday 7:00p.m.)
- Uroradiology Conference (Tuesday 8:15a.m.)
- Surgical Conference (Wednesday 8:15a.m.)
- Uro pathology Conference (Thursday 8:15a.m.)
- Audit (Friday 8:15a.m.)

Monthly meetings occur as below:

- Multi-Disciplinary Team Meeting (Monthly, Monday 8:15 a.m.)
- University College Dublin Urology Conference (Bi-Monthly on Thursdays 6:30p.m. between Mater and Vincent's)
- Irish Society of Urology Clinical Case Conference (Monthly Wednesdays 7:00p.m.)

Ongoing Clinical Trials

- Casodex 150mg for non metastatic prostate cancer (Zeneca)
- Atrasentan for prostate cancer (Abbott)

Presentations

- Quinlan, DM: Course Director - Urological Trauma Course. British Association of Urology Annual Meeting, June.

Publications

O'Brien MF, Connolly SS, Kelly DG, O'Brien A, Quinlan DM, Mulvin DW.

Should patients with a pre-operative prostate-specific antigen greater than 15 ng/ml be offered radical prostatectomy? Ir J Med Sci. 2004 Jan-Mar;173(1):23-6.

Galvin DJ, Mulvin D, Quinlan DM.

Thromboprophylaxis for radical prostatectomy: a comparative analysis of present practice between the USA, the UK, and Ireland.

Prostate. 2004 Sep 1;60(4):338-42.

Connolly SS, O'Toole GC, O'Malley KJ, Manecksha R, O'Brien A, Mulvin DW, Quinlan DM.

Positive apical surgical margins after radical retropubic prostatectomy, truth or artefact?

Scand J Urol Nephrol. 2004;38(1):26-31.

Connolly SS, O'Malley KJ, O'Brien A, Kelly DG, Mulvin DW, Quinlan DM.

Can prostate biopsies predict suitability for nerve-sparing radical prostatectomy?

Scand J Urol Nephrol. 2004;38(3):216-20.

Shaheen A, Quinlan D.

Feasibility of open simple prostatectomy with early vascular control.

BJU Int. 2004 Feb;93(3):349-52.

Koo V, Duggan B, Lennon G.

Spontaneous rupture of kidney with perirenal haematoma: a conservative approach.

Ulster Med J. 2004 May;73(1):53-6.

Future Plans

The plans for 2005 will focus around continued improvements in ward accommodation for inpatients, particularly regarding privacy, shower and toilet facilities. Again, Urology needs to continue to improve the outpatient setting to provide a seamless transition into the new Ambulatory Day Care Unit. Information technology and secretarial infrastructures will need to be improved to provide a better interface with both referring doctors and their patients. Office space and secretarial support still remains an issue for development. A fourth Urological Consultant is required.

Department of Vascular Surgery

Departmental Review

Staffing

Consultants	Denis Mehigan, Stephen Sheehan, Mary Barry
Senior Registrars	Ronan Cahill, Eoghan Condon
Registrars	Asad Jawad, Mashood Ahmed
Senior House Officers	Shaf Rizan Tajri, Samer Saour Dermot McDowell, John Byrne
Interns	Richard Barry, Cathy Vaughan Deirdre Waterhouse, Deirdre Sweetman Fiona Magee, Ingrid Heaslip
Division Nurse Manager	Maureen Flynn
Clinical Nurse Managers	Niamh Kiely, Bernadine Cawley, Brid Murphy, Mary Leamy
Theatre Sisters	Bernadette Farrell, Maeve Williams Carmel Kelly, Annette Hughes
Plethysmographist	Catherine Kelly
Tissue Viability Nurse	Deirdre Cornally

Service Development/Activities

The Vascular Surgery Unit at St. Vincent's University Hospital continues to be a busy surgical department with good throughput of work despite restrictions imposed by bed shortages. The absence of dedicated 5-day surgical beds has been a particular problem during 2004 and has had an impact on throughput of elective cases in the unit. The High Dependency Unit, in particular, has proven invaluable in improving throughput in the department and has reduced the cancellation of moderate and major vascular surgical procedures. We hope that we may be in a position in the near future to take advantage of beds and theatre facilities in St. Michael's Hospital to improve access for our patients to timely elective 5-day medical care and surgical procedures.

Provision of emergency vascular services to the catchment area has been facilitated by an agreement with St. Michael's Hospital and St. Columille's Hospital to transfer all vascular emergencies directly to St. Vincent's University Hospital. We provide a similar rapid-access service to our extended catchment area in the South-Eastern Region.

Staff

The Unit is happy to welcome our new nursing colleague, Mary Leamy (CNM1) to St. Joseph's Ward.

Service developments have been restricted again in 2004, but we hope that with the

opening of the new hospital, along with improved imaging equipment, we will be able to provide expanded endovascular procedures, minimally invasive/laparoscopic vascular procedures and a comprehensive non-invasive vascular laboratory service.

As part of the Unit's commitment to ongoing quality improvement and clinical audit, patient information leaflets covering all aspects of vascular surgery have been produced. This initiative was led by Mr. Ronal Cahill, Specialist Registrar in Vascular Surgery who produced 15 booklets covering the topics of peripheral vascular disease, intermittent claudication, angiogram/angioplasty, femoropopliteal/femorodistal bypass grafts, aorto/axillo-bifemoral bypass grafts, limb amputation, abdominal aortic aneurysms, abdominal aortic aneurysm surgery, transient ischemic attacks, carotid endarterectomy, varicose veins, venous leg ulcers, Reynaud's disease and associated conditions, lymphoedema and hyperhidrosis. These booklets will be updated and revised in the future as the need arises.

Department Activity 2004

Admissions	2004	2003	2002
Elective	227	245	330
7 day	216	191	151
5 day	11	54	179
Urgent/Emergency	228	197	179
Day Care	91	71	57
Total	546	513	566

Out Patient Attendances

Out patient sessions	117
New Patients	625
Return Patients	2,335
Total	2960



Department Activity 2004 continued

Operative Procedures	2004	2003	2002
Elective	316	222	243
Emergency	78	87	81
Total	394	309	324

Meetings attended by Members of the Department

European Society of Vascular Surgery, Innsbruck
 Vascular Access for Renal Dialysis, London
 Screening for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, London
 Interventional Radiology Meeting, Sheffield
 The American College of Surgeons, Chicago

Mr. Denis Mehigan is co-ordinator of the Basic Surgical Training at St. Vincent's University Hospital and is also a member of the Court of Examiners (FRCSI).

Mr. Stephen Sheehan is a Member of the Court of Examiners (FRCSI). He is an instructor on the Basic Surgical Skills Course and on the Advanced Trauma Life Support Course.

Ms. Mary Barry is Secretary of the Basic Surgical Training Committee, RCSI. She is also a faculty member on the Care of the Critically Ill Surgical Patient (CCRISP) Course. Ms Barry lectured on the Revision Vascular Course organised in conjunction with the European Society of Vascular Surgery Meeting held in Innsbruck, Austria in September 2004.

Academic Activity

Grants

Ms Vicki Fera, a third year medical student, received a Health Research Board Summer Student Grant in 2004 to continue work on the role of matrix metalloproteinases in ruptured and non-ruptured aortic aneurysms.

Presentations

1. Prospective Evaluation of the Efficacy of Dermal Botulinum Toxin for Primary Axillary Hyperhidrosis. L. Hanlon, R. Cahill, MC Barry.
Sylvester O'Halloran Surgical Meeting, Limerick, March 2004.
2. Matrix Metalloproteinase activity in the thrombus of ruptured and non-ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm. D. Kavanagh, H. Sliger, S. Kieran, JF Dowdall, L. Young, SJ Sheehan, D. Mehigan, MC Barry.
Sylvester O'Halloran Surgical Meeting, Limerick, March 2004.
3. Impact of a Surgical High Dependency Unit on the Management of Patients with Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm. M. Cleary, RA Cahill, F.Younis, SJ Sheehan, D. Mehigan.
Sylvester O'Halloran Surgical Meeting, Limerick, March 2004.
4. Utility of CT Angiography in a supraregional vascular surgical service. S. Kieran, RA Cahill, T. Owens, SJ Sheehan, D. Mehigan, MC Barry

Department of Vascular Surgery

Sylvester O'Halloran Surgical Meeting, Limerick, March 2004.

5. Determination of the effects of peri-operative beta blockade in patients undergoing surgery for peripheral vascular disease. S. Kieran, RA Cahill, S. Saour, SJ Sheehan, D. Mehigan, MC Barry.
Sir Peter Freyer Surgical Symposium, Galway, September 2004
6. Acute presentation of a popliteal artery pseudoaneurysm in a young patient
J. Byrne, E. Condon, S. Sheehan
Royal Academy of Medicine, Clinical Cases Competition December 2004.

Selected Published Papers

1. Young O, Neary P, Mehigan D.
Aorto-enteric fistula secondary to the cannabisation of an aortic graft. Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg (Extra) 2004;8:17-19.
2. Kieran S, Neary P, Owens A, Mehigan.
Inferior vena caval agenesis with paravertebral muscle collateralisation. Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg (Extra)2004;8:123-25
3. Kelliher C, Kavanagh DO, Belton F, Dowdall JF, Barry MC. *Primary aorto-duodenal fistula following staphylococcal septicaemia.*
Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg 2004;27:679-681..
4. Kieran S, Cahill RA, Sheehan S, Barry MC. *Radiation-induced femoral arteritis.* Ir Med J 2004;97:179-180.
5. Kavanagh DO, Richards S, Barry MC, Sheehan S. *Aortic Saddle Embolus causing Paraplegia.* Ir Med J 2004;97:117.
6. Kieran SM, Cahill RA, Sheehan S.
Mycotic peripheral aneurysms and intracerebral abscesses secondary to infective endocarditis.
Eur J Vasc Endovasc Surg 2004;28:565-56

Liver Transplant Programme and Liver Unit

Departmental Review

Staff

Surgical Professor Oscar Traynor, Mr. Justin Geoghegan, Mr. Donal Maguire, Mr. Gerry McEntee.

Medical Professor John Hegarty, Professor Aiden McCormick.

Registrars Dr. Fergal Donnellan, Dr. Asghar Qasim, Dr. Lorraine Power, Dr. Diarmuid Manning, Dr. Tariq Tajuddin, Mr. Emir Hoti, Mr. M. Zaman.

Transplant Co-ordinators

Ms. Aoife Coffey, Ms. Jennifer Fleming, Ms. Yvonne McGarry, Ms. Jane Howe.

Nursing

Ms. Maureen Flynn, Ms. Margaret Cullen, Ms. Brenda O'Sullivan, Ms. Anne Brennan, Ms. Elizabeth Burke, Ms. Valerie O'Brien, Ms. Antoinette Flynn, Ms. Dolores Dempsey Ryan, Ms. Susan Patton, Ms. Ann Farrell, Ms. Concepta Molloy, Ms. Siobhan Cronin, Ms. Carol McNulty.

Administration

Ms. Rita Burns, Ms. Noreen Kelly, Ms. Aideen Holden, Ms. Georgina O'Reilly.

Liver Transplant Programme

The year 2004 has been the most successful year to date for the National Liver Transplant Programme. A total of 45 liver transplants were performed on 39 patients. The total number of liver transplants performed since the start of the programme in January 1993 is 339, and the overall success rate is just over 84% (one year survival), which is in keeping with the best rates achieved in large liver transplant units in Europe and the United States.

Organ donation continued at a very satisfactory level during 2004. A total of 82 livers were donated in Ireland during the year and this places us in an almost uniquely favourable position in relation to organ donation. Most transplant units throughout Europe and the United States are struggling to maintain adequate service in the face of reduced organ donation. We are extremely fortunate to have a population who are well disposed to the concept of organ donation.

The success of the National Liver Transplant Programme has resulted in a rapidly increasing referral pattern of patients with complex medical and surgical problems of the liver, which do not necessarily require liver transplantation, but who might be treated non-surgically or by types of surgery other than transplantation. This referral pattern has had highly beneficial effects on training for doctors, nurses and paramedical

staff at St Vincent's University Hospital. At the same time however, it has stretched the resources of the Intensive Care Unit and the Department of Diagnostic Imaging. Furthermore, it has placed great strain on the bed availability in St Brigid's Ward. For this reason, the hospital has undertaken a major expansion and refurbishment of the liver unit during 2004. The bed complement has increased to 21, and this includes five HDU beds for liver transplant patients and patients who had major liver surgery. The expanded unit should be fully open by mid 2005 and will greatly enhance our ability to deliver a service that matches the requirements of the National Liver Transplant Programme.

A major milestone for the National Liver Transplant Programme during 2004 was the opening of the Halfway House. This facility provides accommodation for relatives of patients who are in St Brigid's Ward and also for some patients who have been discharged from hospital but are not yet ready to return to distant parts of the country. Great credit is due to Mr Gerry McEntee who first proposed the Halfway House and organised intensive fund raising for this venture and also to the Hospital Board of Management who made a major investment in the development of the Halfway House.

Liver Research Group

The Liver Research Group is currently concerned with a variety of research areas including Liver Transplant Immunology and the mechanisms of Ischaemia Reperfusion Injury following Human Liver Transplantation. Research activity continues in the areas of Interferon resistance in chronic Hepatitis C virus infection and the mechanisms underlying liver damage, which occurs after transplantation for chronic

Hepatitis C virus infection. Fifteen scientific papers were presented at National and International meetings. Dr. Aiden McCormick was in receipt of a Newman Chair in Clinical Research.

Professor Cliona O'Farrelly was in receipt of Isla Haliday Memorial Lecture and Conway Lecturer and Medallist. Additional funding for ongoing research activities was obtained from ROCHE Pharmaceuticals, InVitrogen Life Technologies and U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs.

Selected Publications

(See also ERC Publications listing)

Golden-Mason L, D.C. Doeuk, R.A. Koup, J. Kelly, J.E. Hegarty, C. O'Farrelly
Adult human liver contains CD8^{pos} T cells with naïve phenotype but is not a site for conventional ab-T cell development.
J. Immunol 2004 May 15;172(10):5980-5 PMID 15128780

Kelly A, L.Golden-Mason,G. McEntee, O. Traynor, J.Hegarty, D.Doherty, C. O'Farrelly
Interleukin 12 (IL-12) is increased in tumour-bearing liver and expands CD8(+) and CD56(+) T cells in vitro but not in vivo.
Cytokine 2004 Mar 21;25(6):273-82 PMID 15036243

Barry J, Bourke M, Buckley M, Coughlan B, Crowley D, Cullen W, Dooley S, Keating S, Kelleher D, Moloney J, Murray F, McCormick PA, MacMathuna P, O'Connor J, O'Grady J, O'Sullivan C, O'Sullivan P, Quinn C, Smyth B, Sweeney B;
Dublin Area Hepatitis C Initiative Group. Hepatitis C among drug users: consensus guidelines on management in general practice.
Ir J Med Sci. 2004 July -Sep; 173 (3) : 145-50.
PMID: 15693384 [PubMed – in process]

McCormick PA, O'Rourke M, Carey D, Laffoy M.
Ability to pay and geographical proximity influence access to Liver Transplantation even in a system with universal access. Liver Transpl. 2004 Nov; 10 (11) : 1422 - 7.
PMID : 15497151 [PubMed – in process]

Bexis S,Vandeputte C, McCormick PA, Docherty JR.
Deletion of inducible nitric oxide synthase decreases mesenteric vascular responsiveness in portal hypertensive mice.
Eur J Pharmacol. 2004 Sep 24; 499 (3) : 325-33. PMID: 15381055
[PubMed – indexed for MEDLINE]

Kavanagh PM, Roberts J, Gibney R, Malone D, Hegarty J, McCormick PA.
Acute Budd-Chiari syndrome with liver failure: the experience of a policy of initial interventional radiological treatment using transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt.
J Gastroenterol Hepatol. 2004 Oct; 19 (10) : 1135-9



Medical and Surgical Gastroenterology incorporating Centre for Colorectal Disease

Departmental Review

Staff

Consultant Medical and Surgical staff

Medical Gastroenterology	Professor DP O'Donoghue, Dr HE Mulcahy
Colorectal Surgery	Mr J Hyland, Mr D Winter
GI Pathology	Dr K Sheahan, Dr D Gibbons
GI Diagnostic Imaging	Dr C Collins, Dr R Gibney, Dr D Malone
Medical Oncology	Dr D Fennelly
Radiation Oncology	Dr M Moriarty, Professor J Armstrong

Non-Consultant Medical and Surgical staff

Specialist Registrars	Dr G Cullen; Dr J Canavan; Mr B Mehigan
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Clinical Nurse Managers

St. Teresa's Ward	Ms A Smyth, Ms G O'Neill
St. Patrick's Ward	Ms A Kiely, Ms B Nolan
Endoscopy Unit	Mr R Marshall, Ms G Hickey

Research Staff

Senior Research Scientist	Dr J O'Sullivan
Senior Biochemist & Hon. Lecturer	Dr D Leahy
Research Assistant	Ms M Toretto
Research Fellows	Dr A Coss, Dr J Sheridan
Research Nurse	Ms D Keegan
PhD student	Mr E Fox
MSc Student	Dr S Bakhiet

Dieticians

Medical Gastroenterology	Ms M Doyle
Surgical Gastroenterology	Ms C Lamont

Specialist Support Staff

Colorectal Pathology Technician	Mr R Geraghty
Cancer Nurse Co-ordinator	Ms A White
Colorectal Nurse Specialist	Ms G McEvoy
Colorectal Nurse Specialist	Ms N Smyth
Secretary	Ms M Dargan

Clinical Developments/ Activities

Medical and Surgical Gastroenterology continues to play a major role in the activities of St Vincent's Health Care Group. Close to one third of all hospital admissions fit into the category of acute or chronic gastroenterological disease and it is appropriate that the medical and surgical departments work so closely together to provide a patient oriented service. For some years now, Medical and Surgical Gastroenterology have run a combined Colorectal clinic which is probably unique in this island. This clinic, plus weekly Radiology and Pathology conferences run with our colleagues in Diagnostic Imaging and Pathology, allow for best practice in patient care and provide an excellent

source of teaching for NCHDs. Further combined meetings include a monthly Audit of Colorectal Cancer and monthly research symposia in Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Cancer. We wish to acknowledge the close clinical and scientific support we receive from our colleagues in Medical and Surgical Oncology and Palliative Care.

The Centre for Colorectal Disease is an umbrella for clinicians and scientists with an interest in Colorectal Cancer, Inflammatory Bowel Disease and Functional bowel disorders. The aims of the centre are the delivery of state of the art services for our patients, research into causes and treatment and the education of the public. However, the multidisciplinary team would be unable to function successfully without the aid of nursing co-ordinators and nurse specialists such as Anne White, Grace McEvoy and Nikki Smyth, who lead patients through the varied and complex pathways of diagnosis, treatment and postoperative stoma care in a way that appears seamless. Grace and Nikki are to be congratulated on their production of an information book for patients undergoing total colectomy. This production has been enthusiastically received by many units throughout the country. A further major addition to the Centre in 2004 was the appointment of a second Colorectal surgeon, Mr Des Winter, to the hospital. Des is currently working in the Mayo Clinic and is due to return to join the unit in late 2005

We also wish to put on record our thanks to our nursing colleagues on St. Teresa's and St. Patrick's wards who manage our gastroenterology patients despite major involvement in general Medical and Surgical call. The arrival of Mr Richard Marshall to the post of CNM2 in the endoscopy unit

has proven very timely. His management skills will be of immense importance as we move into the new 3-roomed Endoscopy Department late in 2005. As usual, Ms Nuala Donnelly and staff in St. Mark's Day ward produce beds for our sick patients. Like us, they are looking forward to moving to a larger and purpose built ward adjacent to the new Endoscopy Department. This will facilitate the rapid transfer of patients between units.

Research

The Centre for Colorectal Disease has, for the past 25 years, had an active background in both basic gut immunology and clinical and basic colorectal cancer research and has been responsible for bringing on a new generation of basic science and clinical researchers. Higher degrees written up in 2004 include those of Sean Cochrane (MD) and Anne Marie Lennon (PhD). In addition, the arrival of Dr Jacintha O'Sullivan, Senior Scientist, has especially helped push the research we perform to a higher plane. New immunological, molecular and cell culture techniques have been introduced to our scientific armamentarium allowing us to extend the scope of the research we perform. This has also been helped by additional research funding and we would like to acknowledge the generous donations for research and education from benefactors.

The scientific, clinical and financial changes to the Centre also allowed us to expand our personnel during 2004. A very necessary appointment was that of a Scientific Research Assistant in the Centre, Ms Miriam Toretto. In addition, two new MD thesis students joined the Centre. Dr Juliette Sheridan is now conducting research into colorectal cancer in young patients and Dr Alan Coss is exploring the role of proteases in the progression and outcome of early colorectal cancer. As always, our collaborations with other research departments both within the UCD campus and farther afield have added considerable value to our research and we would like to thank Professor Cliona O'Farrelly and Professor Alan Baird, amongst others, for their continued collaborations.

Other highlights of 2004 included the election of Mr. John Hyland to President of the Coloproctology Association of Great Britain and Ireland. During the year he gave the Freyer State of the Art Lecture 2004 "*The Evolution of Colorectal Surgery*" and also the Lockhart Mummery Lecture Basingstoke 2004 "*Laparoscopic Colorectal Cancer Surgery*"

Additionally, the ever-popular International Colorectal Meeting was once again held before a large audience in the Education and Research centre in September. It was a particular pleasure to welcome Professor Oscar Traynor as the state of Art lecturer at our eleventh meeting

Grants Active in 2004

(See ERC section)

Selected Peer Reviewed Research Publications in 2004 – Gastroenterology (See also ERC Publications Listing)

O'Keeffe J, Doherty DG, Kenna T, Sheahan K, O'Donoghue DP, Hyland JM, O'Farrelly C. *Diverse populations of T cells with NK cell receptors accumulate in the human intestine in health and in colorectal cancer.* European Journal of Immunol, 2004; 34: 2110-9.

Troy AM, Sheahan K, Mulcahy HE, Duffy MJ, Hyland JM, O'Donoghue DP. *Expression of Cathepsin B and L antigen and activity is associated with early colorectal cancer progression.* European Journal of Cancer. 2004; 40: 1610-6.

Anker P, Zajac V, Lyautey J, Lederrey C, Dunand C, Lefort F, Mulcahy H, Heinemann J, Stroun M. *Transcession of DNA from bacteria to human cells in culture: a possible role in oncogenesis.* Annals of the New York Academy of Science 2004; 1022: 195-201.

Zierau O, O'Sullivan J, Morrissey C, Wunsche W, Schneider M, Tenniswood M and Vollmer G. *Tamoxifen exerts agonistic effects on clusterin and complement C3 gene expression in RUCa-I primary xenografts and metastases but not normal uterus.* Endocrine Related Cancer. 2004; 11: 823-30.

Schoemaker NE, Kuppens IE, Moiseyenko V, Glimelius B, Kjaer M, Starkhammer H, Richel DJ, Smaaland R, Bertelsen K, Poulsen JP, Voznyi E, Norum J, Fennelly D, Tveit KM, Garin A, Gruia G, Mourier A, Sibaud D, Lefebvre P, Beijnen JH, Schellens JH, ten Bokkel Huinink WW. *A randomised phase II multicentre trial of irinotecan (CPT-11) using four different schedules in patients with metastatic colorectal cancer.* British Journal of Cancer. 2004; 91: 1434-41.

Outpatient Department

Departmental Review

The following consultants commenced clinics in the Outpatient Department:

Dr. Niall Tubridy	Consultant Neurologist
Prof. John Armstrong	Professor of Radiation Oncology
Sean Carroll	Consultant Plastic Surgeon
Mr. Richard Mascarenhas	Locum Consultant General Surgeon

Staff

Margaret Boland	- appointed as Divisional Nurse Manager
Mary Farrelly	- joined the reception team as Grade IV Officer

Service Developments/Activities

The Outpatient Committee met regularly during the year. The main focus of the group was to participate in planning for the changeover to the new Ambulatory Day Care, which will happen in 2005.

Outpatient Department staff were involved with Quality Improvement teams as part of the accreditation process. The first quarter of the year focused on final preparation for the survey, which took place in May.

Neurology clinics for new patient referrals commenced in St. Michael's Hospital in October. This was organised in conjunction with Prof. Hutchinson, Dr. Tubridy and staff from St. Michael's Hospital. The overall aim is to reduce the waiting time for new referrals. All follow-up patient visits take place in St. Vincent's University Hospital.

The Liver Transplant Clinic changed from alternate weeks to weekly.

The Podiatry service was extended to a full day provided by Ms. E. O'Brien.

Procedures were put in place to allow for the discharge of outpatients on the Patient Administration System (PAS). By recording discharges on the PAS, inappropriate reviews without a proper referral letter are eliminated.

For clinics shared by more than one consultant, new computer templates were setup to allow for registration of patients to the appropriate named consultant.

Departmental Statistics

In the year 2004 a total of 3,942 sessions were held, which was an increase of 7.1% over the previous year. Total attendances were 90,879 of which 20,638 were new patients. Overall, attendances showed an increase of 4.2% from last year. DNA's (did not attend) for the year were 18,643 and walk-ins were recorded as 2,974.

Future Plans

- Planning for the move to the new building will be on going.
- Review of the DNA policy is taking place and will continue in the New Year.

Surgical Professorial Unit St. Raphael's Ward

Departmental Review

Staff

Consultants	Professor N. O'Higgins, Mr J. J. Murphy, Mr E. W. M. McDermott, Mr A. D. K. Hill, Mr R. Mascarenhas
Senior Registrars	Mr P. Ridgway, Mr Karl Sweeney
Adjunct Professor	Professor M. J. Duffy
College Lecturers	Dr P. P. A. Smyth, Dr Leonie Young
Special Lecturers	Mr Steve Richards, Ms Usha Shan
Registrar in Breast Diseases	Mr Athar Sheikh
Post-Doctoral Research Scientists	Ms Marie McLroy
Research Fellows	Dr Claire Davidson, Dr Mary Dillon, Dr Dhafir Alazawi
PhD Student	Ms Niamh Cosgrove
Clinical Research Associate	Ms Trudy Roche
Clinical Nurse Manager	Ms Gillian Webster
Advanced Nurse Practitioner	Sr Mary Murray
Clinical Nurse Specialists in Breast Care	Ms Marina Nolan, Ms Gillian O'Donnell
Breast Cancer Co-ordinator	Ms Catherine Masterson
Senior Executive Assistant	(To be appointed)
Executive Assistants	Ms Elaine O'Sullivan, Ms Sinead Carey
Senior Laboratory Technician	Mr Dermot Carty

Undergraduate Activities

The enthusiastic teaching by the lecturers and consultant staff has been one of the outstanding features of St Vincent's University Hospital for many years. The strong support and interest of the consultant staff as well as the non-consultant Hospital doctors is greatly appreciated by the academic staff and by all the students. The recent arrangement whereby the Final Examination in Surgery takes the form of an Objective Structured Clinical Examination has been introduced and is under assessment.

Departmental Developments

Professor O'Higgins assumed office for a period of two years as President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. He has completed his three-year term as President of the World Federation of Surgical Oncology Societies and organized a meeting in Los Angeles between the WFSOS and the American Society of Surgical Oncology. He was Visiting Professor at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons meeting in Brisbane and during 2004 was External Examiner in Kuwait and Malaysia.

Mr E. W. McDermott, in his role as President of the Irish Society of Surgical Oncology, organized a meeting of this society with the Sir Peter Freyer Symposium in Galway and continues his role as Chairman of the Cancer Care Committee of St Vincent's University Hospital.

Mr A. D. Hill delivered the St Luke's lecture entitled "Molecular oncology – current themes and future directions". He has been chosen as the James IV Surgical Traveller for 2005 by the James IV Association of Surgeons Inc. He was elected General Secretary of the Society of Academic and Research Surgery and is on the Scientific Program for the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland. He continues as Secretary of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland and of the Surgical Section.

Professor M. J. Duffy has been awarded a five-year programme grant by the Health Research Board.

Mr Denis Evoy has been appointed Consultant Surgeon with special interest in Breast Diseases with particular involvement in BreastCheck, the National Breast Screening Programme. He will take up his appointment on the 1st of April 2005. We look forward to him joining the Surgical Professorial Unit and wish him well.

Dr Leonie Young was successful in obtaining a grant for €200,000 from the Health Research Board to develop a Breast Cancer Research Portal, a singular achievement.

Sr Mary Murray was appointed the first Advanced Nurse Practitioner in Breast Care in Ireland in St Vincent's University Hospital and was accredited on the 1st of December 2004. We congratulate her on this achievement. The role of the Specialist Breast Care Nurse is now well recognized and is established throughout the country, mainly due to the Breast Services activity at St Vincent's University Hospital.



The year has been a particularly successful one for surgical trainees on the research front. Mr Paul Ridgeway was invited Lecturer at the Society of Laproscopic Surgeons in Miami. His talk was on "Surgical training and simulation". Mr Karl Sweeney received the Bennett Medal in St James's Hospital for his presentation entitled "The value of adjuvant therapy in breast cancer".

Within the Surgical Professorial Unit Mr Eddie Myers from the Research Laboratory was awarded the Ronald Raven Prize for 1st place in the British Association of Surgical Oncology research meeting in London. He was also awarded 1st place at the William O'Keefe Medal in October at the Surgical October Club in Waterford and finally won the prestigious Patey Prize at the Society of Academic and Research Surgeons meeting in the United Kingdom. Research theses for Higher Degrees were submitted by him and the other research fellows, Ruth Pritchard, Dara Kavanagh and May Cleary.

Clinical activity of the unit, including inpatient care and day care, saw a total of 2,537 admissions during the year 2004. In the Symptomatic Breast Clinic a total number of 7,186 attendances was recorded. This included 2,238 new patients and 4,998 return patients. The unit treated 422 newly diagnosed breast cancer patients, 257 directly from the Symptomatic Service and 165 from BreastCheck, the National Breast Screening Programme.

The Triple Assessment Clinic for Breast Diseases was relocated to be closer to the Radiology Department. This is much more convenient for the patients and represents a significant improvement in the services.

Publications

Of the 24 publications in peer-reviewed journals the following are representative:-

Myers E, Fleming FJ, Crotty TB, Kelly G, McDermott EW, O'Higgins NJ, Hill AD, Young LS.

Inverse relationship between ER-beta and SRC-1 predicts outcome in endocrine-resistant breast cancer.

British Journal of Cancer. 2004 Nov 1; 91 (9): 1687-93.

Buggy Y, Maguire TM, McGreal G, McDermott E, Hill AD, O'Higgins N, Duffy MJ.

Overexpression of the Ets-1 transcription factor in human breast cancer.

British Journal of Cancer. 2004 Oct 4; 91 (7): 1308-15.

O'Higgins N.

The world federation of surgical oncology: the global mission

Journal of Surgical Oncology. 2004 Sep 1; 87 (3): 109-15. Review.

Fleming FJ, Hill AD, McDermott EW, O'Doherty A, O'Higgins NJ, Quinn CM.

Intraoperative margin assessment and re-excision rate in breast conservation surgery.

European Journal of Surgical Oncology. 2004 Apr; 30 (3): 233-7.

Fleming FJ, Hill AD, McDermott EW, O'Higgins NJ, Young LS.

Differential recruitment of coregulator proteins steroid receptor coactivator-1 and silencing mediator for retinoid and thyroid receptors the estrogen receptor-estrogen response element by beta-estradiol and 4 hydroxytamoxifen in human breast cancer.

Journal of Clinical Endocrinol Metab. 2004 Jan; 89 (1): 375-83.

Duffy MJ.

The urokinase plasminogen activator system: role in malignancy.

Curr Pharm Des. 2004; 10 (1): 39-49. Review.

Department of Nursing

Departmental Review

Ms. Pauline Doyle retired as Director of Nursing in April 2004. During her tenure, Ms Doyle was responsible for significant achievements, including the restructuring of Nurse Management, the introduction of Pre-registration Diploma and Degree in Nursing and the development of Clinical Nurse Specialists. Pauline actively championed the continuing professional development of nursing at hospital and national level and never lost sight of the importance of patient care. Pauline's contribution to the DATHS group is widely acknowledged. Her kind and caring approach to patients, staff and their families will be missed. We wish her every happiness in her retirement.

The Nursing Department continues to develop and provide quality-nursing care to patients in line with the vision, ethos and mission of the hospital. The education and professional development of registered nurses, nursing students and nursing support staff is integral to the department's philosophy. Ms. Margaret Moran, Director of the Centre of Nurse Education, worked closely with the School of Nursing and Midwifery UCD to develop, organise and deliver a high standard of education and support for nurses. Ms Catherine Walshe, Post Registration Course Co-ordinator, Clinical Course Facilitators, Nursing Practice Development and nursing staff in the clinical areas, all play a pivotal part in achieving these aims. In addition to the BSc in Nursing programme, St Vincent's University Hospital provides clinical placement to ten post registration higher diploma nursing courses in partnership with UCD, as well as supporting a number of research projects in nursing at Masters level.

Clinical Nurse Specialist Roles

Anticoagulant	Transfusion Surveillance/Haemovigilance
Cancer Nurse Co-ordinator	CAPD
Coloproctology	Cardiac Rehabilitation
Dermatology	Cystic Fibrosis
Haematology Liaison	Diabetic
Heart Failure	Health Promotion
Hepatitis C	Infection Control
Liver Transplant Coordinator	Lung Transplant Coordinator
Multiple Sclerosis	Occupational Health
Oncology Liaison	Osteoporosis
Palliative Care	Orthopaedic Casting and Splinting
Respiratory	Sleep Apnoea
Rheumatology	Tissue Viability
Stroke Care	Urodynamics

Service Developments and Activities

External study is actively supported by a comprehensive study leave policy, which is availed of by an increasing number of nursing staff. A total of 466 nurses received support for a variety of courses over the year.

The National Council for Professional Development of Nursing and Midwifery granted funding for a number of projects for nursing:

- Training for two facilitators to run the Leading an Empowered Organisation (LEO) three-day course for the Health Care Group. It is envisaged that this training will be rolled out to CNM grades in 2005.
- To purchase software for clinical audit and train nursing staff in it's application.
- Additional funding was granted for Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) training for nurses working in critical care areas.
- A facilitation programme was sponsored in conjunction with the ERHA for Clinical Placement Co-ordinators and Practice Development Staff.
- Funding to provide a series of lectures on the legal aspects of documentation.

Nursing Divisions

Cardio Respiratory

Critical Care

General Medical

Neurology, Medicine
of the Elderly
and Psychiatry

Oncology, Palliative Care
and Professorial Surgical

Theatre

Urology, Gynaecology
and Nephrology

Emergency Department,
Ambulatory Day Care
Infection Control

Areas of Responsibility

Coronary Care Unit, Cardiology Ward, St. John's Ward, St. Paul's Ward, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Respiratory, Cystic Fibrosis and Heart Failure. Intensive Care Unit, St. Brigid's Ward, St. Joseph's Ward, High Dependency Unit, Liver Unit (Liver Transplantation and Hepatitis C) and Tissue Viability Services.

St. Kevin's Ward, St. Michael's Ward, St. Patrick's Ward, St. Mark's Ward, St. James' Ward, Haemovigilance, Diabetes Centre, Anticoagulant Services and Occupational Health.

St. Agnes' Ward, St. Vincent's Ward, St. Monica's Ward, Our Lady's Ward, St. Camillus Ward, Day Hospitals (Psychiatry of Old Age, Medicine for the Elderly and Camillus), Stroke Rehabilitation, Infection Control and Multiple Sclerosis.

St. Anne's Ward and Day Centre, St. Raphael's Ward, St. Teresa's Ward, St. Catherine's Ward, Palliative Care, Breast Care, Haematology and Cancer Co-ordinators. Operating Department, Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory, Endoscopy and Radiology

St. Charles' Ward, St. Peter's Ward, Dialysis Unit, St. Laurence's Ward and Urodynamics, Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis

Emergency Department, Ambulatory Day Care
Infection Control

Cardiac Rehabilitation

The Cardiac Rehabilitation Service continues to offer four phases of rehabilitation to patients recovering from a Myocardial Infarction, Angioplasty, and Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery/Valve Surgery. There has been a notable increase in the number of patients seen over the last year. 460 patients were seen at Phase I. At Phase II, all patients were phoned post their event and 269 patients were met on an individual basis. 141 patients attended our six-week Phase III programme and 100 attended our Phase IV refresher sessions.

The Monthly Lifestyle Information Sessions continue for patients and their families, 199 people attended during 2004.

The Cardiac Rehabilitation database, which commenced at the beginning of 2003, is ongoing.

Developments

With the increasing number of patients being referred, a group rather than individual approach at Phase II was instigated. This involves giving preliminary education and lifestyle advice, which is delivered by a Cardiac Rehabilitation Co-ordinator and a Physiotherapist.

This year saw the introduction of obesity management in the cardiac rehab groups. This allows obese patients to exercise individually in the gym and to join the rest of the group for group therapy and education sessions.

Phil Pyne, Psychotherapist, also presented a paper on "Cognitive Behavioural Psychotherapy-useful in the Management of Anxiety and Depression in Cardiac Rehabilitation".

The members of the cardiac rehabilitation team, along with Sinead Keogh CNM1 CCU, compiled patient information booklets on discharge advice post angioplasty and myocardial infarction. These should be available early in 2005.

Cardio Respiratory Division

Ms. Anne Henley, Divisional Nurse Manager

Coronary Care Unit

Thirteen students undertook the Higher Diploma in Nursing Studies Critical Care (Cardiovascular Pathway) year 1 and year 2. CCU facilitated thirty students from other hospitals on placements and also facilitated the placement of a number of Emergency Medical Technicians from Dublin Fire Brigade.

St. Paul's Ward

Three staff members completed their Bachelor of Science Nursing from UCD.

Ms. Orla Finnegan attended the North American Cystic Fibrosis conference in St. Louis Missouri in October 2004.

Cystic Fibrosis

Catherine Carroll was appointed as the third Clinical Nurse Specialist in Cystic Fibrosis.

St. John's Ward

Plans for the development of a 6-bedded non-invasive ventilation unit (NIV) continue. Eight nurses have completed an accredited nursing module on non-invasive ventilation. Equipment for the unit was procured. A multidisciplinary working group is in the process of developing policies and guidelines for the unit.

Equipment

A patient kindly donated funds for the purchase of a bicycle and rower in the cardiac rehabilitation gym.

Appointments

Lorna Timmons and Niamh O'Sullivan CNS (Job-Sharing) in Cardiac Rehabilitation resigned during the summer of 2004. Kathryn O'Sullivan, who is currently studying for an M.Sc. in Cardiac Rehabilitation, was appointed to the position.

The Heart Failure Unit

The Heart Failure Unit, located at St. Michael's Hospital, had 2,684 patients attend the Out patient Department. The number of re admissions for heart failure to St. Vincent's University Hospital has significantly reduced due to the excellent service delivered by the multidisciplinary team.

Critical Care Division

Ms. Maureen Flynn, Divisional Nurse Manager

One hundred and fourteen (wte) nurses and 12 (wte) support staff work across the Critical Care Division. In the later part of the year, the Endoscopy Department was temporarily included within the division pending the appointment of the Divisional Nurse Manager for the Operating Department.

The effectiveness of the Critical Care Nurse Leaders Group established in 2003 was positively evaluated and continued to meet monthly throughout 2004. Educational presentations were given on the Report of the National Taskforce on Medical Staffing - *The Challenge for Nursing and Midwifery* by Ms. Aileen Lynch; *Professional Development Planning an Introduction*, by Ms. Christine Hughes; and the *Role of the Occupational Psychologist at St. Vincent's University Hospital* by Ms. Nuala Gannon.

The Clinical Nurse Managers Group established for the Intensive Care Unit was positively evaluated and continued to meet on a monthly basis. The group prepared a high quality leaflet and poster *Thinking About a Career in Intensive Care Nursing*, which was widely circulated across the country and resulted in maximum uptake of places on the Higher Diploma in Critical Care Nursing programme.

Developments

- Nursing staff across the division actively participated in the i) Liver Transplant and Hepatitis C; ii) Theatre, Critical Care and Anaesthesia; and iii) Cardiology, Respiratory, Thoracic and Vascular, Accreditation Quality Improvement Teams.
- In May 2004, St. Brigid's Ward moved to the 11 bedded refurbished area (formally known as St. Clare's Ward). This area provides greatly enhanced facilities for patients and staff including wheelchair accessible en-suite bathrooms; clinical room for treating liver transplant patients requiring Hepatect infusion on an out patient basis; and heptafiltration for the entire ward and day room.
- The nursing team actively participated in the planning for the structural redevelopment and refurbishment of the St. Brigid's Ward, which commenced in August 2004.
- In July 2004, the High Dependency Unit closed for three days for the installation of air conditioning to enhance the care environment and minimise risk.
- Following an evaluation of a range of disposable chest drains and portable chest suctions (by the nursing and medical teams) a new system of care was

introduced for the High Dependency Unit and St. Joseph's Ward.

- Guidelines for arranging admission and continuing medical care for patients in the Thoracic/Vascular High Dependency Unit were prepared by the Nursing and Medical Team and authorised by the Medical Executive in October 2004.
- The nursing team in St. Joseph's Ward/HDU provided input in the development of patient information leaflets on a range of vascular and thoracic conditions.
- The ICU Nursing team prepared the *Intensive Care Unit – Visitor Information Booklet*.
- The Clinical Nurse Specialists and the Divisional Nurse Manager represented the Hospital at the ERHA Hepatitis C Forum.

Education

- The Critical Care Clinical Facilitators and the Tissue Viability CNS, in association with Nurse Practice Development, prepared fourteen new evidence based Policies Procedures and Guidelines for nursing care launched in December 2004.
- Seven nurses successfully completed the Higher Diploma in Critical Care Nursing and twelve nurses commenced the Higher Diploma in Critical Care Nursing in September 2004.
- The two-week placement in the High Dependency Unit (HDU) was evaluated and continued for the Higher Diploma in Critical Care Nursing students.
- A two-week orientation to critical care nursing practice in Ireland was arranged for four new members of nursing staff (St. Brigid's Ward) in the General ICU, during 2004.
- For the first time, a clinical placement was facilitated in St. Brigid's Ward for the BSc first year nursing students and the third year rostered placement. This initiative was warmly welcomed by the staff of St. Brigid's Ward.

- A self directed learning pack incorporating liver disease and the transplant process was developed by Ms. Brenda O'Sullivan and is being used by all nursing team members.
- Commencing in 2004, links were developed with University of Central England, Birmingham to facilitate staff from St. Brigid's Ward in completing the *Principles of Hepatology and Transplant Care Course*. Ms. Brenda O'Sullivan and Ms. Anne Brennan successfully completed the programme. It is intended to facilitate two members of staff to complete the course on an annual basis.
- In 2004, all nursing staff across the Critical Care Division were actively encouraged and supported to complete the Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) two-day course.
- A number of nurses across the division successfully completed Degrees in Nursing and Management.

In addition to this report the Liver Transplant Co-ordinators, Hepatitis C Clinical Nurse Specialists, Tissue Viability Clinical Nurse Specialist, and the Clinical Facilitators from ICU and St. Brigid's Ward each prepared and circulated detailed reports of their activities for 2004.

General Medical Division

Ms. Margaret Murphy, Divisional Nurse Manager

Comprising 74 in-patient beds, 9 ophthalmology in-patient beds and day care service, the diabetes centre, haemovigilance, and anti-coagulant service, the Occupational Health Department and 12 ambulatory day care beds are also incorporated in this division.

Throughout all areas, high standards of patient care were delivered while operating to almost 100% occupancy. The Anti Coagulant Service continued to be developed throughout 2004 by the CNS, Ms Elaine Tallon, who was awarded post graduate diploma in Clinical Practice by Trinity College Dublin.

By the latter half of the year, the Occupational Health Department had a full complement of Clinical Nurse Specialists and was looking forward to rolling out the service to St. Vincent's Private Hospital. The Diabetes Centre continued to be very busy with the Clinical Nurse Specialists seeing in excess of 8,500 patients. The initial Accreditation process was completed in May and the division was pleased with the outcome and look forward to implementing the quality improvement plans.

Neurology, Medicine of the Elderly and Psychiatry Division

Mr. Patrick Gargan, Divisional Nurse Manager

Together with its core departments, St Agnes' Ward, St Monica's Ward and Infection control are also incorporated in this division, which comprises 102 in-patient beds and three day hospitals. Preparatory work on the merging of our Department of Psychiatry services with those of Vergemount Clinic, Clonskeagh continued with the establishment of a joint working group to review and merge existing policies in both centres. St. Monica's Ward became part of the newly established division under Margaret Boland in November. The Clinical Nurse Specialists in Infection Control developed an education programme for the Infection Control Liaison Nurses. The Department of Neurology held two study days, which were well attended. Plans are at an advanced stage for the development of a Parkinson's Nurse Specialist.

Developments in the Department of Medicine for the Elderly included the up grading of a nursing post to Clinical Nurse Manager 1 grade. It is hoped that this will provide further scope for the on-going development of Our Lady's Ward / Stroke Care Unit. We welcomed many new staff to the division from a variety of different nationalities and we look forward to the coming year with renewed enthusiasm.

Oncology, Haematology, Palliative Care and the Surgical Professorial Division

Mrs. Tanya King, Divisional Nurse Manager

The Oncology/Surgical division comprises 101 in-patient beds and a combination of out-patient and day care services. The nursing staff in the division continued to show adaptability and commitment in dealing with the pressures created by the many emergency admissions. This was particularly apparent in St Catherine's Ward, where the profile changed from a 5-day to a 7-day service. Throughout the division, high standards of nursing care were maintained and many of our nurses were members of the Accreditation teams.

Developments:

Ms Mary Murray, Advanced Nurse Practitioner Candidate, completed an outstanding report on site preparation. This resulted in St Vincent's University Hospital receiving approval as a site for an Advanced Nurse Practitioner in Breast Care from the National Council for Nursing and Midwifery. This is the first such post in Ireland.

Following redevelopment of the area where St Anne's Day Centre was previously located, a new dedicated Outpatient area was opened. This will accommodate Oncology, Haematology, Breast, Palliative Care and Nurse-led clinics.

Education

Ongoing further education is facilitated for the following strands of the Higher Diploma in Nursing Studies: Cancer Nursing, Palliative Care, Breast Care. Work



Department of Nursing

continued on the development of a specialist strand in Colorectal Nursing as part of the Higher Diploma in Gastroenterology. This will be facilitated in St Vincent's University Hospital.

Seven nurses successfully completed the Higher Diploma in Cancer Nursing, two of which completed the specialist Breast Care strand. Other courses that nurses are currently undertaking are:

- BSc. Nursing
- MSc. Nursing
- Diploma in Management

Theatre Division

Ms. Anne Grumley Divisional Nurse Manager

During 2004, The Theatre Division maintained a high standard of patient care. This was made possible through the commitment and dedication of the nursing staff, as part of the multi-disciplinary team.

Through the process of Accreditation, the value of multi-disciplinary team approach to service delivery and quality care was realised. In undertaking this process, specific quality initiatives have commenced.

The division welcomed colleagues from overseas to the team and staff were involved in the planning process for the new development due for completion in 2005.

The Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory provided both diagnostic and interventional procedures. Plans for its refurbishment were at an advanced stage by the year-end. The Endoscopy Unit had a busy year and radiology nursing continues to offer many new challenges, with the increases in new techniques and procedures.

Staff Development and Education

Nurse education and the commitment to staff development is an ongoing process. Through formal educational sessions and attendance at conferences, nursing staff are maintaining their levels of competencies and keeping up-to-date with what is best practice. Staff within the department undertook the education programmes or attended the conferences as listed below.

- Higher diploma in Peri-Operative and Peri-Anaesthesia.
Staff Nurses successfully graduated from these courses.
- Irish Operating Room Nurses Conference.
- National Association of Theatre Nurse (NATN).
- European Operating Room Nurses Association.

Staff Retirement

Ms. Ann Grumley retired from her position as Divisional Nurse Manager in the Operating Theatre Department after fifteen years in charge. During this time she saw many changes through the development of technology, coupled with the increasing complexity of surgery. Her commitment and dedication to her work was exemplary to her colleagues. All her colleagues wish Ann a long and healthy retirement.

Staff Appointments 2004

- Ms. Sheila Breiden as Clinical Nurse Nurse Manager 2
- Ms. Antoinette Cullen as Clinical Nurse Manager 2

Presentations

Tracking Surgical Instruments -
Dream or Reality - Ita Balfe
Compliance with Standard Precautions among Peri-operative Nurses - Sheila Breiden

Poster Presentations

The Role Massage can have in the
Operating Theatre - Lucy O'Connell
Complications from Tourniquet Use-
Deirdre Morris, Michelle Singsby Smith

Future Plans

The new Operating Theatre Department will be the main focus of attention in 2005. What seemed a lifetime away is now imminent. There has been an enormous amount of work and commitment from all staff towards realising this state of the art Operating Theatre facility. People have committed time and energy to drafting operational policies and preparing presentations.

There will be enormous challenges in the process of moving, while at the same time maintaining the current level of services and quality of care for patients. Further to this is the development of a Bi-located Theatre Department and the logistics of developing and running such a service.

These are the challenges going forward. However, there is enthusiasm, energy and determination to deliver. Every part of the development would appear to be on schedule and by the time the next annual review is published it should reflect the ongoing process.

Statistics

In total, there were 9,860 theatre procedures carried out in 2004.

Urology, Gynaecology, and Nephrology and Orthopaedic Division

Ms. Therese Carey, Divisional Nurse Manager

Together with its core departments, the Orthopaedic Department is incorporated into this division. This division comprises sixty-seven inpatient beds, Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis (CAPD), Haemodialysis and Urodynamics units.

Nursing staff from all areas in the division actively participated in the Accreditation process. This undertaking offered the opportunity for staff from all three hospitals in the Healthcare Group to work together in successfully participating in this process for the first time. Members of the Renal Multidisciplinary Team participated in the preparation of Standard Operational Policies for Haemodialysis for the move to the new building planned for 2005.

Staff in the division continue to commit to ongoing education and professional development. A number of staff participated in Higher Diploma and Degree courses. Three members of staff successfully completed the first ever Higher Diploma in Nursing Studies (Clinical Practice) Urology Nursing Specialist Strand run in conjunction with UCD. While four members of St Peter's staff successfully undertook the Higher Diploma in Renal Nursing.

Ambulatory Day Care, Emergency Department and Infection Control

Ms. Margaret Boland, Divisional Nurse Manager

2004 continued to be both exciting and challenging for the Emergency Department. A number of new staff joined the Department. Margaret Boland was appointed Divisional Nurse Manager for Ambulatory Day Care, Emergency Department and Infection Control and Mary Hayes appointed Clinical Nurse Manager 3 for the Emergency Department. The environment has on occasions been challenging due to overcrowding, although a number of initiatives have helped to lessen the impact of overcrowding.

Service Developments

Close liaison with St Michael's Hospital Respiratory Unit continued with admission of respiratory cases from the Emergency Department to the St Michael's Respiratory Unit.

Professional development, underpinned by the Scope of Professional Practice, continues with Venepuncture and Cannulation training, and Manchester Triage. Jackie Brennan and Joanne Farren attended the Leading an Empowered Organisation Programme. Trauma Nursing Care and Advanced Cardiac Life Support courses were attended by nursing staff during the year.

The Biologics Clinic was started in November 2004 in St Anthony's Rheumatology Clinic (SARC). The clinic was set up to assess and review patients at the pre-treatment i.e. screening stage and ongoing course while on biologic treatment (see below). It is held two mornings a week, but will shortly need to expand to three mornings as numbers grow. The clinic caters for planned review appointments and emergency referrals. Three members of the nursing team in SARC commenced the Higher Diploma in Nursing (Rheumatology) in UCD in September 2004.

The Outpatient Committee met regularly during the year. The main focus of the group was to participate in planning for the changeover to the new Ambulatory Day Care, which will happen in 2005. This included the development of operational policies in preparation for the move to the new department.

Accreditation

Identifying and improving the quality of patient care and services was a significant development in 2004. The first quarter of the year was focused on final preparation for the survey, which took place in May 2004.

Significant Achievements

Margaret Boland and Allen Doyle were awarded a poster presentation prize at the National Council for Professional Development for Nurses and Midwives in November 2004, title "Proactive and Professional Development to Support Change: Reorganisation of Service Delivery in an Emergency Department, Rapid Assessment Treatment".

Jerry Kearns commenced an MSc in Nursing Advanced Practice in UCD in September 2004. The main focus for this advanced practice will be on Chest Pain Evaluation.

Future Plans

The main focus for 2005 will be the move to the new building and reorganising services within the Emergency Department and Ambulatory Day Care Services. Service development will be introduced in line with the provider plan for 2005 –2007. Management Development will continue for all shift leaders and CNM 2 Staff.

It is hoped to introduce a Clinical Decision Unit adjacent to the Emergency Department early in 2005.

With the reorganisation of Mental Health Services within the area, it is planned to introduce a Liaison Psychiatric Nurse Service as part of the service development.

Nurse Education Centre Staff

Director	Ms Margaret Moran
Registered Nurse Tutor	Ms Catherine Walsh
CNM3 (January to August 2004)	Ms Margaret Conway

The Registration/Diploma programme for the 2000 and 2001 nursing groups continued to be managed and delivered in the Nurse Education Centre throughout 2004. Fifty-eight nursing students from the 2000 Registration/Diploma group were presented with St Vincent's University Hospital badges in February 2004. Three UCD college lecturers delivered the theoretical component for Year 3 of the programme for the 2001 group. Fifty-seven students from the 2001 group completed the programme by December 2004. Three Proficiency Assessment seminars in the Art of assessing Registration Diploma student nurses were held in 2004.

In-Service Education

Mary Killeen, Registered Clinical Nurse teacher, continued to co-ordinate the monthly 5-day orientation programme for newly appointed registered nurses until her retirement in August 2004. We wish Mary a long, happy and healthy retirement. Sinead Murphy, (A/CNM2) Nursing Practice Development, co-ordinated the programme from October 2004 to December 2004. A total of 59 registered nurses completed the programme in 2004.

Induction Programme for Newly Registered Diploma Nurses

A 4-day induction programme, in line with the DATHS recommendations for newly qualified nurses, was co-ordinated by Mary Killeen, Registered Clinical Nurse teacher for the 2000 Registration/Diploma students. A total of 54 newly registered nurses completed the programme.

Monthly Administration of Intravenous Medications Study Day

The Intravenous Study Day is incorporated into the 5-day orientation programme. Registered nurses from the clinical areas, who are obligated to attend an Intravenous Study day every 2 years, are accommodated on the IV Study Day with the newly appointed staff to St Vincent's University Hospital. In 2004, a number of registered nurses from St Michael's Hospital also attended the Intravenous Study Day in the Nurse Education Centre. A total of 147 nurses completed the Intravenous Study Day in 2004.

FETAC Health Care Support Certificate

The (Further Education and Training Awards Council) FETAC Health Care Support Certificate training programme for healthcare assistants continued throughout 2004. The 2003 intake continued until November 2004, under the co-ordination of Ms Liz Tuohy, Nursing Support Service Manager.

In September 2004, the Nursing Midwifery Planning and Development Unit appointed a part time co-ordinator for the FETAC programme for 2004/2005. The course commenced in September 2004. Five of the twenty-five healthcare assistants undertaking the 2004 course are from St Vincent's University Hospital. The programme is delivered from St Vincent's University Hospital, Nurse Education Centre for the East Coast Area.

Preceptorship Course

The Nursing Midwifery Planning and Development Unit appointed a registered nurse teacher to co-ordinate twelve 1-day Preceptorship programmes from April to June 2004. The programme is delivered from the Nurse Education Centre in St Vincent's University Hospital. Organisations which come under the remit of the Nurse Education Centre and who accommodate BSc degree student nurses were allocated a number of places on the programme. 73 registered nurses from St Vincent's University Hospital availed of a place on one of the Preceptorship courses.

A further series of twelve 1-day Preceptorship programmes commenced in December 2004.

Throughout 2004, the Nurse Education Centre was the venue for the delivery of a number of courses and study days (which came under the remit of the Personnel Department) in St Vincent's University Hospital.

Post Registration Nurse Education

The Post Registration Nurse Tutor is a member of the Centre for Nurse Education staff. The role involves the planning, co-ordination, facilitation, evaluation and development of post registration nurse education. The principal focus is co-ordinating the Higher Diploma in Nursing Studies programmes which are run in conjunction with School of Nursing & Midwifery, University College Dublin and partner hospitals. Students undertaking a H. Dip. in Nursing Studies programme are nursing in St. Vincents University Hospital, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and hospitals throughout the country. Ms. Jennifer Carthy provides secretarial support for the Higher Diploma in Nursing Studies programmes.

Gastro-Intestinal Working Group

A working group was set up to continue the development of a Higher Diploma in Nursing Studies – Gastro-intestinal Strand. This programme is scheduled to commence in September 2005.

Assessment Committee

A committee, with representation from key stakeholders undertook a review of assessment procedures across the spectrum of the Higher Diploma in Nursing Studies programmes. There had been a wide variation of assessments. A standardized framework was agreed and implemented for all programmes commencing in September 2004.

Clinical Competency Assessment Tool Committee

A working group, with representation from UCD, St. Vincent's University Hospital, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and Paediatric Nursing, commenced evaluation of Clinical Competency Assessment Tool. A questionnaire was devised and will be sent to both assessors and students in January 2005, to determine the effectiveness of the tool. The group will then evaluate responses and develop the document accordingly.

Open Day

An in-house Open Day was held on 1st April, 2004 in the hospital boardroom to provide information and advice on educational opportunities for qualified nursing staff within St. Vincent's Healthcare Group.

Library & Information Services Committee

The Post Registration Nurse Tutor represents the Department of Nursing on this committee. The committee meets on a bi-monthly basis. Library and information technology issues, which are pertinent to all members of the St. Vincent's Healthcare Group, are dealt with at this forum.

Nursing Practice Development Department

The department has continued its committed approach to the support and delivery of nursing care through the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of nursing practices throughout the hospital. A significant achievement of this department in 2004 was the launch of the Nursing Policies Procedures and Guidelines 2004.

Other achievements included ratification of the revised Policy for the Administration of Intravenous Medications by Nurses and the development of a Protocol for the Intravenous Administration of opiates in the Post Anaesthetic Care Unit.

In collaboration with the Department of Physiotherapy, an assessment tool for patient mobility was also introduced (The Easy Move Form). On-going projects include a multidisciplinary policy for the care of the patient with tracheostomy, care of the patient requiring nebuliser therapy and the update/ revision of Discharge Co-ordination Guidelines for Nurses.

Programme	Number Attending
Assessing Adult Learning	147
Reflective Practice (undergraduate nursing students)	594
Nursing Care Conference (18 courses)	400
Best Practice discussions in clinical areas	195
Overseas Orientation Programmes x 3	56

The Nursing Practice Development Department continued to facilitate the Competency Assessment programmes designed to equip clinical staff with the knowledge and skills required for teaching and assessing degree student nurses and overseas pre-registration nurses. There are now three years of the BSc Nursing in progress. September saw the successful introduction of the BSc Nursing Rostered Service Year. The Clinical Placement Co-ordinators work in partnership with UCD developing assessment tools and improving the programme, supporting students and staff and facilitating learning in the clinical area.

The Clinical Facilitator for overseas nurses continues to lead the co-ordination, placement and assessment of overseas nurses with the support of registered nurses across the hospital. We welcome all our new colleagues who joined us during 2004.

Presentations

Irish Nurses Practice Development Association (INPDA) Annual conference - Poster presentation "*Developing a competency based framework for Registered Nurses*". R. Mc Mullin Nursing, Practice Development Co-ordinator

Nursing Human Resources

All registration Diploma Student Nurses graduating in 2004 took up staff nurse positions at St Vincent's University Hospital. Selection and recruitment of staff, in collaboration with the six major Dublin Academic Teaching Hospitals (DATH's) continues both nationally and internationally. Senior nursing staff from St Vincent's University Hospital participated in three overseas recruitment campaigns in India and the Middle East. The Clinical Facilitator for overseas nurses leads the co-ordination, placement and assessment of these nurses with the support of registered nurses across the hospital. A total of 72 nurses were facilitated for the purpose of adaptation placement and assessment in 2004. We welcome all our new colleagues who joined us during 2004.147



Senior Nursing Appointments

Divisional Nurse Manager

Margaret Boland (Ambulatory Day Care/ Emergency Department)
Mervyn Hollywood (Operating Department)

Clinical Nurse Manager 3

Mary Hayes (Emergency Department) Ann Breen (Out of Hours)
Geraldine Culloty (Bed Management)
Margaret Cullen (National Liver Transplant Unit)

Clinical Nurse Specialist

Carol McNulty (Hepatitis C) Sheila O Toole (Hepatitis C)
Catherine Carroll (Cystic Fibrosis) Kathryn O'Sullivan (Cardiac
Rehabilitation)
Asiling Purcell (Occupational Health) Marguerite Duggan (Multiple Sclerosis)

Liver Transplant Co-ordinator

Yvonne McGarry, Jane Howe

Clinical Nurse Manager 2

Sinead Brennan (Nurse Practice Development)
Fiona O'Keefe (Night Duty) Annette Cullen (Theatre)

Clinical Placement Co-ordinator

Patricia Hogan

Clinical Facilitator

Sheila Breedin (Operating Department)

Clinical Nurse Manager 1

Joan Killeen (ICU) Susan Patton (St Brigid's Ward)
Concepta Molloy (St Brigid's Ward) Mary Brady (CCU)
Olivia Gannon (St Teresa's Ward) Susan O'Grady (ICU)
Mary Leamy (St Joseph's Ward)

Awards

Presentation of Prizes and Hospital Badges

Fifty-eight newly qualified nurses were presented with St.Vincent's University Hospital Badge by the Department of Nursing. Special awards were made to the following members of staff.

Award	Recipient	Area
Gold Badge	Mary Killeen	Clinical Nurse Teacher
Mother Mary Aikenhead Medal	Jean Mc Carth	CNM2 Anaesthetics
Mother Mary Bernard Medal	Rachel Hayden	CNM1 St Laurence's Ward
Nuala Deeny-Brennan Memorial Prize	Elizabeth Tuohy	Nursing Support Service Manager
The Cecil King Memorial Prize	Jackie Brennan	CNM2 Emergency Department
RCSI Bursary	All Nursing Staff	St Peter's Ward

Retirements

- Miss Pauline Doyle, Director of Nursing, retired in Spring 2004.
- Mary Killeen, Clinical Nurse Teacher, retired in August 2004

We all wish our colleagues happiness in their retirement.

Future Plans

An education programme to develop the Clinical Nurse Specialist role will be developed for all CNSs in the Healthcare Group.

Development of frontline nursing staff will continue through the provision of training and facilitation.

The Hospital Redevelopment Programme requires the development of Standard Operating Procedures for the new building and the Department of Nursing continue to have an important role to play in this area.

The Accreditation Programme has yielded Quality Improvement Plans that will be developed and implemented over the coming year.



Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health Research

Departmental Review

The Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health Research has continued its clinical mission in 2004 with ongoing inpatient, day hospital care and outpatient activity in the existing St. Camillus' Ward and outpatient services. In parallel with this service, the department is in the final stages of preparing its exciting move to the recently completed state of the art inpatient 54-bed unit on the St. Vincent's University Hospital campus. This new unit will incorporate the existing psychiatric service at St. Vincent's University Hospital, as well as those of the acute community inpatient service currently in Vergemount Hospital.

Negotiations with regard to occupation of the new unit are near to completion in 2004 and the unit should be fully operational by early to mid-2005.

Nursing

2004 was another busy year for the nursing staff in St Camillus' Ward. In November 2004, the ward had its first visit from the Mental Health Commission.

An ECT nursing record form was passed for approval by Nurse Practice Development.

March brought the introduction of the smoking ban and this was introduced on St Camillus' Ward. Thanks to all patients and staff for their co-operation in this matter.

Meetings commenced with Vergemount Hospital staff pertaining to work on policies, procedures and guidelines for the new psychiatric unit in April 2004.

We would like to thank all staff for their participation in the Accreditation process.

Congratulations to Sinead Smyth on the birth of baby Cathy and to Sharon Byrne on the birth of baby Alannah. We said goodbye to Neena Harrypassad who returned to South Africa and welcomed Ciara Dunne.

Psycho-Oncology

The Psycho-Oncology service has had a very active year, contributing to guidelines for psycho-oncology support for primary care within the HSE East Coast region. The service was delighted to be part of the opening of the new Cancer Care Support House, 'Lios Aoibhinn', which is a drop-in centre for patients who are suffering from cancer.

Mental Health Research

The department is engaged in over eight different projects in relation to the study of suicidal behaviour, including suicide and major psychiatric disorders. The department is also studying suicide in high-risk occupational sub-groups of society with a view to encouraging earlier intervention and prevention across all communities in society. Together with the charity 3Ts (Turing the Tide of Suicide), the department organised

a very successful international conference titled *Suicide in Modern Ireland – New Dimensions, New Responses* which was opened by President Mary McAleese on the first day of her second term in office. This conference received significant media attention and is bringing increasing pressure to bear on both government and society to seriously face up to this modern tragedy. Further important research projects are planned for 2005.

Departmental Statistics

Total Admissions:	198
Old Age Psychiatry Admissions accounted for	30%;
Overdose/Self Harm and Eating Disorders	15% 8.6%.

Day Hospital Attendances: 1,231 of which 38% were attending for treatment of Eating Disorders.

47% of all new patients referred to OPD were suffering from Eating Disorders.

Day Psychiatric Treatment Programme

The Day Psychiatric Treatment Programme has developed several specific programmes relating to Eating Disorders, which is particularly important as the hospital is the National Referral Centre for Eating Disorders.

Geraldine Carroll, CNM2, graduated in November 2004, obtaining an MSc in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy. On foot of this, the SAIF group therapy programme for the treatment of Bulimia Nervosa was re-evaluated. A new 8-week therapy group was devised and will be launched in 2005.



Psychotherapy

The School of Psychotherapy at St. Vincent's University Hospital continues to play an important role in the training of psychotherapy clinicians. 2004 was a particularly important year for the School of Psychotherapy as four students have undertaken a PhD thesis project which will contribute significant added value to the School of Psychotherapy work.

Selected Publications

(See also ERC publications listing)

Bolger, S., O'Connor, P.O., Malone, K., Fitzpatrick, C., (2004)
Adolescents with suicidal behaviour: attendance at A&E and six month follow up.
 Irish Journal of Psychological Medicine, 21:3, 78-84

Mahon, M., Tobin, J., Cusack, D., Kelleher, C., Malone, K., (In Press)
Military suicide: occupational specific risk-factors for workplace suicide: a retrospective case-control study.
 American Journal of Psychiatry

O'Donovan, A. & Hughes, B.M. (2004).
Buffering cardiovascular stress: Is psychometrically assessed social support as effective as a laboratory analogue?
 Paper presented at the annual conference of the British Psychological Society, Health Division, Edinburgh, Scotland, September 2004.

O'Donovan, A. & Hughes, B.M. (2004). *The relative effects of everyday social support and laboratory support availability on cardiovascular reactivity to a reading task.*
 Paper presented at the first annual conference of the Psychological Society of Ireland, Health Division, Galway, Ireland, April, 2004.

O'Donovan, A. & Hughes, B.M. (2004). *Are the effects of social support availability on cardiovascular reactivity moderated by psychometrically evaluated social support?*
 Paper presented at the annual Psychological Society of Ireland Student Congress, Dublin, Ireland, March 2004.

Whelan, R. & Barnes-Holmes, D. (2004). *Empirical models of formative augmenting in accordance with the relational frames of Same, Opposite, More-than and Less-than.*
 International Journal of Psychology and Psychological Therapy, 4, 285-302.

Department of Old Age Psychiatry

Departmental Review

Departmental Review

The Department of Old Age Psychiatry had its busiest year to date in 2004. Levels of service activity increased significantly. We provide a community-orientated, hospital-based service for patients aged 65 and over, living in Dublin South-East, with new onset mental health problems. The aim of the service is to provide a comprehensive, accessible service to patients and their families, responding rapidly where required to crisis referrals. The major challenge facing us is to continue to provide a prompt service to patients and their families in the context of ever increasing rates of referral to the service.

Staff

The department welcomed Dr. Leone Judge, Senior Registrar in Old Age Psychiatry. Congratulations to Mary Finn who has taken up post as Assistant Chief Nursing Officer and has already made a significant contribution to the co-ordination of nursing services across the Old Age Psychiatry Service.

Service Developments and Activities

There was a 20% increase in the number of new patients seen in 2004, with over 600 new referrals assessed. New referrals include patients seen at home and in hospital settings within the catchment area, including St. Vincent's University Hospital, St. Michael's Hospital, The Royal Hospital Donnybrook, Loughlinstown Hospital and nursing homes in the area.

The Day Hospital had 1,118 attendances in 2004, its second year of activity. The day Hospital has provided an invaluable service for elderly patients with psychiatric illness while inpatients, to prepare them for discharge, and, for patients recently discharged, to provide support for them in the community.

An unmet need was identified for patients with enduring mental health problems for regular appropriate day care in the day hospital. An "Active Rehabilitation Group" for these patients was set up and meets every Thursday, with regular input from Senior Occupational Therapist, Senior Psychologist and Senior Nursing Staff.

The Community Psychiatric Nurses continue to provide an invaluable service to patients and their families providing seamless follow-up of patients across many different settings.

The team has been in negotiation with Hospital Management and Medicine for the Elderly service regarding the development of an Institute of Health Care for the Elderly.

Significant Achievements

Dr. Freyne, consultant psychiatrist, was awarded an MD by UCD/RCSI for her thesis on the prognosis of depression in older people and has been invited to present her findings to the All Ireland Institute of Psychiatry in Spring 2005.

Dr. Aideen Lewis, Senior Psychologist, developed The Nursing Home Educational Project which took place in January 2004 and October/November 2004. The Old Age Psychiatry multi-disciplinary team contributes to the project and it has received positive feedback from its target audience. The team won a Hospital Innovation Award under the category of Alternative Service Delivery Initiative.

Martina Dolan, Senior Social Worker, completed data collection for the Camberwell Needs Assessment Study of elderly people referred to the Old Age Psychiatry Service. In addition, she has developed and implemented an information session for carers of dementia sufferers, which is run regularly in the department.

Catherine Keogh, Senior Occupational Therapist, together with a Community Psychiatry Nurse, provides a very successful anxiety management programme (4 groups facilitated in 2004) at the Day Hospital. In addition, she has been invited to lecture on Occupational Therapy and Dementia at Trinity College Dublin and has facilitated a one-day conference with the Dementia Services Information and Development



Centre on "Occupational Therapy and Person Centred Care in Dementia Care". She has been invited onto the Executive Committee of the Mental Health Commission to consider a working definition of severe dementia for the Mental Health Act 2001.

Dr. Judge has developed a lithium clinic in the department, which takes place every 3 months and she has also organised the monthly Old Age psychiatry lecture programme at the Education and Research Centre.

Research and Academic Activities

There is a very busy research programme at the department, which includes the following: -

- An exploration into the perceived factors influencing the implementation of person centred care in long-term settings: a qualitative study by Catherine Keogh, Senior Occupational Therapist.
- A survey of benzodiazepine use by patients referred to the service by Dr. Stoffels, Dr. Cooney and Dr. Freyne.
- Shouting in Dementia Sufferers – a case series and review.
- Health needs of patients referred to the Old Age Psychiatry service – Martina Dolan, Dr. Freyne and Dr. Cooney.
- Carers awareness of legal issues regarding older patients – Dr. Halley, Dr. Cooney.
- A review of psychotropic medication in delirium – Dr. Ni Chorcorain and Dr. Freyne.

Department of Pathology

Departmental Review

Service Development/Activities

The major developments in 2004 were:

- Commencement of the Health Link project to provide pathology results electronically to General Practitioners.
- Detailed planning exercise for the commissioning of the new laboratory to ensure that the pending transfer of services to the new building is seamless.

Quality Improvement/ Accreditation

After a number of years of preparation, two assessments of the Pathology Laboratories were carried out by Clinical Pathology Accreditation (UK) Ltd (CPA) in 2004. The Histopathology laboratory was assessed on the 19th/20th May and the Haematology/ Blood Transfusion laboratories were assessed on the 18th/19th November. The CPA team of assessors, which included medical consultants and senior medical scientists, spent 2 days on site per visit. The assessment involved audits of all aspects of the above services against the CPA standards for laboratories and included meeting with users of the services. Both assessments were very successful with favorable comments from the assessors on the quality of the services provided.

The report of the Histopathology assessment was issued on September 27th 2004 and was 'conditionally approved incorporating ISO 15189'. The report of the Haematology/ Blood Transfusion assessment is due for issue in March 2005. The above outcomes could not have been achieved without the commitment and enthusiasm of all laboratory staff for the accreditation project. The Pathology Department also participated in the Hospital Accreditation project, with a number of staff contributing to the care/service teams.

Departmental Statistics

Pathology activity increased by 2.3% in 2005. The increase in pathology activity can be attributed to the increase in workload from General Practitioners, which increased by 15% during the period.

Future Plans

The main priorities for pathology in 2005 are:

- Commissioning of the new Pathology Department.
- Continuation of the CPA accreditation assessments with the chemistry laboratories i.e. Clinical Biochemistry, Endocrinology, Nuclear Medicine and Metabolism scheduled for assessment during 2005.

Administration

In 2004, Niamh Devereaux, Marian Purcell and Siobhan O'Grady joined our staff as Grade III Clerical Officers. Louise Sweeney was promoted to Grade IV Officer.

Laura Conroy, Grade IV Officer in Biochemistry successfully completed Year 1 and commenced Year 2 of the Diploma in First Line Management held in St. Vincent's University Hospital by the National College of Ireland and Catherine Kavanagh, Grade

IV Officer, Anticoagulant Monitoring Service commenced Year 1.

Theresa Ward, Sandra Devlin and Maureen O'Brien participated in modules of the Management Education Programme provided in SVUH for middle managers.

The following clerical staff registered for the e-learning Personal Development Programme on The Office for Health Management website, Louise Sweeney, June Donnelly, Laura Conroy and Niamh Lyons.

Phlebotomy

Outpatient phlebotomy activity increased by 3.9% in 2004. Despite the increasing workload the Phlebotomy team continue to provide a quality service both to the hospital and the community. The hours of the GP access service were extended (8.00am–12 noon) with a further extension of hours (8.00am–2.00pm) planned for 2005.

Clinical Biochemistry Department Staffing

Ms Mairead O'Leary, Senior Medical Scientist, left Biochemistry at the end of October to take up the position of IT Coordinator/Quality Manager in Pathology. Ms Geraldine Scaife commenced as Lab Aide.

Service Developments/Activities

The workload of the Biochemistry Department increased by a further 5% in 2004, reaching a total of 1.75 million tests per annum.

Participation in External Quality Assurance Schemes was significantly extended, including responsibility for the External



Quality Assessment of Hospital Point-of-Care (POC) Testing for Blood Gas Analysis, Blood Glucose and Cardiac Markers. A new Therapeutic Drug Monitoring Analyser, the Abbott FLX, was installed during the year.

In collaboration with the Emergency Department and the Cardiology Department/Heart Failure Unit, the Biochemistry Department has been involved in ongoing evaluation of Ischaemia Modified Albumin (IMA), an early marker of Cardiac Ischaemia and B Natriuretic Peptide (BNP), a diagnostic test for Heart Failure.

Future Plans

In 2005, it is anticipated that the Biochemistry Department will be required to take responsibility for the maintenance and quality assurance of additional Blood Gas Analysers in ICU, the Emergency Department and St. Brigid's Ward. We plan to continue our evaluations of new Cardiac Markers and to introduce BNP into routine service as a new test.

The Biochemistry Department will undergo an assessment for Clinical Laboratory Accreditation in mid-year by CPA UK Ltd.

Achievements

Mr. Rowland Reece is Hon. Secretary of the Association of Clinical Biochemists in Ireland (ACBI) and was appointed to the Irish Expert Body on Fluoride & Health. *Dr Sean Cunningham* is Chairman of the Clinical Biochemists Registration Board. *Ms Myra O'Keane* is Chairman of the Safety Advisory Body of the Academy of Medical Laboratory Scientists.

Conferences Attended

Focus 2004, The National Meeting of the Association of Clinical Biochemists, Birmingham 18 – 20th May. Ms G Collier gave a presentation entitled "*An Audit of the Performance of Point-of-Care Blood Glucose Monitoring Using a Data Management System*".

ACBI 2004, 27th Annual Conference of the Association of Clinical Biochemists in Ireland, 24-25th September, Cork. A presentation entitled "*Evaluation of the Beckman Coulter Total IgE Assay on the Immage Immunochemistry System*" was given by G Collier, L Healy, O Maguire and S Cunningham.

Waterford Regional Hospital Biochemistry Seminar "*Implications of New Diagnostic and Cardiac Marker Guidelines in Acute Coronary Syndromes*" presented by Dr S Cunningham, 27th May.

Beckman Coulter Meeting, Galway, 28th April. Mr. Rowland Reece gave a presentation on "*The Importance of Quality in Biochemistry Analyses*".

Blood Transfusion Department Service Developments

The focus for the year was the preparation of the blood transfusion laboratory for accreditation by CPA.

Outstanding Achievements

Deirdre O'Neill completed her Masters in Biomedical Science, which included project work on "*Patient Response to Current Platelet Products*". Mr. Paul O'Brien and Mr. Niall Wall (AMANCH) developed a web-based register for patients who develop red cell alloantibodies. This was presented as a poster at Biomedica 2004 and is presently under consideration as a pilot for national use. Paul O'Brien was a member of the National Blood User Group that published Guidelines for the Administration of Blood and Blood Products.

Meetings Attended

Paul O'Brien presented at the National Haemovigilance Annual Meeting, Lesley Hopkins presented at the IEQAS annual meeting.

Future Developments

EU Directive 2002/98/EC of the European Parliament on setting standards of quality and safety for the collection, testing, processing, storage and distribution of human blood and blood components will influence the way forward. This is currently under consideration by the Department of Health and Children and will pass into law on November 9th 2005. The most likely implication for hospital blood banks will be accreditation to ISO Standard 15189 and also compliance with 100% traceability of all transfused blood and blood products.

Haematology Department

Service Development/ Activities

There was an increase of approximately 4% in haematology tests over 2003. The specialised tests for Thrombophilia and Immunophenotyping continue to increase every year. The main focus during the year was Accreditation (see above).

The Anticoagulant Monitoring Service continues to be very busy, with the number of referrals increasing every year. The RAID software was updated during the year and this has been a useful improvement. The Anticoagulant Nurse Specialist, Ms Elaine Tallon, and the Haematology Medical team now carry out calculation of Warfarin dosage.

During the year the D-dimer assay was introduced on a 24-hr basis for St. Vincent's University Hospital and for St Michael's Hospital. This is in line with recommendations from the Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) Group.

Staff – New Appointments

Mr. Brian Philbin took up a permanent position as Medical Laboratory Scientist.

Achievements/ Conferences Attended

Dr. Donald McCarthy is the President of the Haematology Association of Ireland (HAI).

Dr. Karen Murphy is the National Specialty Director for Haematology and Education Secretary to the Irish Haematology Society/Haematology Association of Ireland.

Mr. Ivan Shirley is a member of the Steering Committee of the Irish External Quality Assessment Scheme.

Invited Lecture: *Dr Karen Murphy* gave a lecture titled "*Thrombotic Risks in Pregnancy*" at Anticoagulant Course – University of Hertfordshire Faculty of Health. August 2004

Dr Jonathan Dean was awarded with a PhD during 2004 and the title of his thesis is "*NKR+ Cells in Human Bone Marrow*" – Dr Donald McCarthy was one of the supervisors.

Future Plans

The main plan for this year is the move to the new building.

Clinical Haematology

This year two registrars were employed to cope with the increased clinical workload, one of which is a Specialist Registrar post.

Histopathology

Staff

Julie Gorman was appointed as a Medical Scientist.

Terry Hegarty was appointed to a postgraduate Trainee post.

Outstanding/Significant Achievements

Shay Caffrey, Senior Medical Scientist, completed the Diploma in Healthcare Management with the Institute of Public Administration. *Catherine Geoghegan* and *Clara Myers*, Senior Medical Scientists, completed the MSc degree in Biomedical Science by distance learning with the University of Ulster at Coleraine. *Dr. Kieran Sheahan* is currently President of the Pathology Section of the Royal Academy of Medicine of Ireland.

Service Development/ Activities

The workload in 2004 was largely unchanged from 2003, apart from a 26% rise in the number of (Coroner) post mortems performed.

Future Plans

The introduction of Fluorescence In Situ Hybridization (FISH) for analysis of predictive markers including HER2 in breast cancer awaits approval of a Senior Medical Scientist with special responsibility to the symptomatic breast service.



Immunology Laboratory

The total number of tests performed in 2004 was 64,067, an increase of 2% over 2003.

Staff

Kira Ulso Sax started as a medical scientist in March.

Cathal Prendergast worked in Immunology from June to September 2004.

Outstanding /Significant Achievements

Paul McArdle successfully completed the Trainee Medical Laboratory Scientist programmed and attained Membership of The Academy of Medical Laboratory Science.

Microbiology

Staff

Ms. Jean Power was promoted to Senior Medical Scientist. Ms. Heidi Anderson took up a permanent medical scientist post in January.

Ms. Angela Ormond was appointed as Laboratory Aide.

Service Developments/ Activities

Outbreaks of norovirus infection brought its own workload increase as did the MRSA screening programmed, which was tailored to maximize the yield of this organism.

Future Plans

The adoption of antibiotic sensitivity methods to meet NCCLS standards will begin immediately.

Microbiology – Professorial Unit

Professor William W. Hall.

Outstanding/Significant Achievements

Adjunct Professor, The Rockefeller University, New York, U.S.A.

Elected to the Board of the Institute of Human Virology, Baltimore, U.S.A.

Elected to the Membership Committee, Kunkel Society, Rockefeller University, New York, U.S.A.

Editorial Boards

AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses.

Neuropathology.

Journal of Neurovirology.

Journal of the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome.

Nuclear Medicine Laboratory

The number of tests performed was 105,135, an increase of 9.4% over the previous year.

Staff

Isabelle de Gardelle was made acting Senior-Grade Biochemist.

Geraldine Murphy, Basic-Grade Biochemist resigned and was replaced by Louise Kelly.

Outstanding/Significant Achievements

Professor Joe Duffy continued to act as Chairman of the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry (USA) Panel to establish new guidelines for the clinical use of markers in breast cancer. Professor Duffy was also invited to be the lead-author on new European Group on Tumor Markers (EGTM) guidelines for use of markers in ovarian cancer.

Invited Presentation at International Meetings

Professor Duffy was invited to speak at the following Internal Conferences:

International Society for
Oncodevelopmental Biology and Medicine
(ISOBM) Meeting: Helsinki,
Title of Presentation: Markers in
Colorectal Cancer European Group on
Tumor Markers Guidelines.

Central European Conference on Human
Tumor Markers: Prague,
Title of Presentation: Tumor Markers in
breast cancer: which ones are clinically
useful ?

Urological Club of Great Britain and
Ireland Annual Meeting: Dublin.
Title of Presentation: Beyond PSA.

Selected Publications

(See also ERC Publications Listing)

Buggy Y, Maguire TM, McGreal G, McDermott E, Hill AD, O'Higgins N, Duffy MJ.

Overexpression of the Ets-1 transcription factor in human breast cancer.

Br J Cancer 2004;91(7):1308-15.

Dillon MF, Hill AD, Quinn CM, O'Doherty A, Crown J, Fleming FJ, et al.

Surgical intervention in screen-detected patients versus symptomatic patients with breast cancer. J Med Screen 2004;11(3):130-4.

McCormick PA, Nolan N.

Palpable epigastric liver as a physical sign of cirrhosis: a prospective study.

Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol 2004;16(12):1331-4.

McDonald DG, Kelehan P, McMenamin JB, Gorman WA, Madden

D, Tobbia IN, Mooney EE.

Placental fetal thrombotic vasculopathy is associated with neonatal encephalopathy.

Hum Pathol 2004;35(7):875-80.

McDowell A, Mahenthiralingam E, Dunbar KE, Moore JE, Crowe M, Elborn JS.

Epidemiology of Burkholderia cepacia complex species recovered from cystic fibrosis

patients: issues related to patient segregation. J Med Microbiol 2004;53(Pt 7):663-8.

McKiernan SM, Hagan R, Curry M, McDonald GS, Kelly A, Nolan N, et al.

Distinct MHC class I and II alleles are associated with hepatitis C viral clearance, originating from a single source.

Hepatology 2004;40(1):108-14.

O'Connell MP, O'Leary M, MacKeogh L, Murphy K, Keane DP.

Is the monitoring of anti-Xa activity necessary in pregnant women undergoing thromboprophylaxis?

Eur J Obstet Gynecol Reprod Biol 2004;114(1):12-4.

O'Driscoll L, Cronin D, Kennedy SM, Purcell R, Linehan R, Glynn S,

et al. Expression and prognostic relevance of Mcl-1 in breast cancer.

Anticancer Res 2004;24(2A):473-82.

O'Keefe C, Baird AW, Nolan N, McCormick PA. *Cholestatic pruritus - the role of*

cutaneous mast cells and nerves. Aliment Pharmacol Ther 2004;19(12):1293-300.

Todd S, Xu J, Millar BC, Moore JE, Crowe M, Raoult D, et al.

Culture-negative Bartonella endocarditis in a patient with renal failure: the value of molecular methods in diagnosis. Br J Biomed Sci 2004;61(4):190-3.

Xu J, Crowe M, Millar BC, Moore JE. *Non-culturable Haemophilus influenzae meningitis*

identified by 16S rDNA PCR and sequencing. Ir J Med Sci 2004;173(1):57, 59.

Department of Radiology

Departmental Review

Radiology Management Team

Clinical Director of Radiology	Dr Stephen Skehan
Radiography Service Manager	Sharon Simpson
Clerical Supervisor Grade VI	Helen O'Reilly
Clinical Nurse Manager II	Sara Nicholson

Service Developments / Activities

New Development

Construction of the future Radiology Department within the new development forged ahead as steering committees continued to handle the procurement of new and exciting technology.

Clinical Service Developments

New interventional liver tumour treatment protocols such as chemoembolisation and radiofrequency ablation were implemented. Interventional activity increased with the increase in the numbers of hepatobiliary surgeons and gastroenterologists.

Staff Movement

Radiology

Dr Patricia Cunningham and Dr Jean Doyle left the department. Dr Susannah Harte and Dr Ronan Killeen joined the department as first year Specialist Registrars, with Dr Amjad Iqbal and Dr Aideen Larke joining as fifth year SpRs.

Radiography

The following Radiographers joined us during 2004:

Sinead Howard	Denise McDonnell	Mary Hinch
Lorna McEntee	Linda Menyo	Rebecca Hazlewood
Patricia Radebe	Maureen Minyuku	

Catherine Corr, Catherine Dullea and Tanja Van der Walt left the Radiology Department in 2004.

Mary-Pat Corridan and Caroline Gallagher were granted leave of absence.

Deirdre Scott-Hayward retired from the position of Radiography Service Manager after over 30 years of service. Toinette Tunney, Clinical Specialist Radiographer in Mammography, retired after 35 years of service. Best wishes for the future to both of our colleagues.

Lea Farrell became Acting Clinical Specialist Radiographer - Radiation Safety Officer.

We welcomed back S/N Loida Macalinao in 2004.

Outstanding Achievements

Administrative and Academic Achievements by Consultant Radiologists in 2004

Dr Risteard O Laoide was elected Chairman of the Medical Board in St. Vincent's University Hospital in 2004. Dr O Laoide resigned as Director of Radiology and was replaced by Dr Stephen Skehan. Dr Skehan also became Chairman of the Hospital Radiation Safety Committee.

Dr Conor Collins became the new Educational Co-ordinator for radiology trainees in St. Vincent's University Hospital.

Dr Dermot Malone became Chair of the Research Committee, Faculty of Radiologists, RCSI in October. He was nominated to the Editorial Board of Radiology during 2004. Dr Malone was a moderator at sessions of the ECR, RSNA and ESGAR. He was a Visiting Professor at the University of Toronto and McMaster University in May.

Specialist Registrar Achievements

Dr Eric Heffernan and Dr Fiona Hughes obtained their FFRRCSI, with Dr Heffernan awarded First Place in the examination. Dr David O'Donnell was successful in the primary examination for the Fellowship.

Radiology Section, RAMI: Annual Registrar's Prize 2004. Won by Dr. Lorna Browne for: Browne L, Staunton M, Heffernan E, Malone DE. Non-invasive imaging diagnosis of hepatocellular carcinoma: a review using 'Evidence-Based Practice' methods.

Journal of Medical Science Research Award (Radiology Section): Won by Dr. Michael Maher for:

Maher MM, McNamara AM, MacEaney PM, Sheehan SJ, Malone DE. Abdominal aortic aneurysms: elective endovascular

repair versus conventional surgery--evaluation with evidence-based medicine techniques. *Radiology*. 2003 Sep;228(3):647-58.

Dr. Maher was subsequently appointed to the Chair of Radiology in Cork, where we wish him every success.

Selected Publications

Kealey SM, Dodd JD, MacEaney PM, Gibney RG, Malone DE. *Minimal preparation computed tomography instead of barium enema/colonoscopy for suspected colon cancer in frail elderly patients: an outcome analysis study*. *Clin Radiol* 2004;59(1):44-52.

Dodd JD, MacEaney PM, Malone DE. *Evidence-based radiology: how to quickly assess the validity and strength of publications in the diagnostic radiology literature*. *Eur Radiol* 2004;14(5):915-22.

Lim ET, O'Doherty A, Hill AD, Quinn CM. *Pathological axillary lymph nodes detected at mammographic screening*. *Clin Radiol* 2004;59(1):86-91.

Thirion P, Holmberg O, Collins CD, O'Shea C, Moriarty M, Pomeroy M, et al. *Escalated dose for non-small-cell lung cancer with accelerated hypofractionated three-dimensional conformal radiation therapy*. *Radiother Oncol* 2004;71(2):163-6.

Dutton JA, Bird NJ, Skehan SJ, Peters AM. *Evaluation of a 3-hour indium-111 leukocyte image as a surrogate for a technetium-99m nanocolloid marrow scan in the diagnosis of orthopedic infection*. *Clin Nucl Med* 2004;29(8):469-74.

Conferences

All of the Irish radiology conferences were attended, in addition to the following overseas conferences: RSNA, ESGAR, ICR, UKRC, EANM, BNMS and BMUS. Presentations were made at most of these meetings.

Post Graduate University Courses

Hilary Eustace received a Higher Diploma in Computed Tomography from UCD.

Emma Canniff received a Higher Diploma in Ultrasound from UCD.

The following radiographers received funding for University based courses:

Aine Kelly: H.Dip. Ultrasound
 Melanie Jackson: H.Dip. Magnetic Resonance Imaging
 Sonya Allen: H.Dip. Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Short Courses

Several radiographers received funding to attend various short courses throughout the year:

QA and Radiation Protection: Lea Farrell
 PACS Course, Hammersmith: Jason Groarke
 Breast Imaging Update, UCD: Carol O'Connor, Louise Venables
 Scottish CT Course: Susan Collins
 Advanced Vascular Ultrasound Techniques: Sarah Cullen
 Musculoskeletal Ultrasound Techniques: Esther Walsh
 Fundamentals of MRI: Sonya Allen, Melanie Jackson

S/N Mira Sta.Ana, S/N Vangie Tayao, Josephine Lynch, Donna Pili and Patricia Martinez participated in the "Second Chance - Key Skills Programme".

Ismay Crowley became a Grade IV Officer (Clinics) in November.

Helen O'Reilly was involved with the implementation of the Quality Improvement Plans of the Accreditation Information Management Team.

Samantha Alford successfully completed the Supervisory Management Course (IMI) and achieved a distinction.

Anne Sharkey obtained a Certificate in Patient Records & Health Service Management (IHSMI) and also achieved a distinction.

Ancillary Staff

The Radiology Aides have continued to contribute significantly to workflow. Their structured rota ensures that an Aide is present to assist a radiographer 24 hours a day.

Departmental Statistics

Statistics	2004
In-patients	34768
Out-patients	32212
Emergency Department	29018
General Practitioner	12799
Other	10613
Total	119410

Compared to the 2003 figures, this is an increase 7.6%.

Future Plans

The move to our new department, which is spread over three floors of the new building, will begin in late 2005 and will be completed early in 2006. Additional facilities will include MRI for the first time in St. Vincent's University Hospital.



School of Diagnostic Imaging

Departmental Review

Service Developments/ Activities

The year 2004 was challenging and exciting for the staff and students of the School of Diagnostic Imaging. The UCD Quality Assurance review of the school reached its peak activity in March 2004, when a team of external experts met with students and staff to discuss and report on potential improvements in the school's operation. A Quality Improvement Plan is developed following all such reviews and the staff and students of Diagnostic Imaging are currently involved in the plan's continued implementation.

Concurrently, the new Health Sciences complex on Belfield approached completion. The tendering process to equip the Diagnostic Imaging component of this facility was very effectively co-ordinated by Allison McGee and Mark McEntee. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of all staff involved in this exercise.

Of course, routine activity carried on regardless. 2004 saw fifteen new graduates in Radiography, as well as thirty five qualified staff enrolling for taught postgraduate programmes in specialised areas of Diagnostic Imaging, and ten postgraduate research students undertaking MSc or PhD in the School.

The number of ongoing education courses in 2004 was limited as a direct result of staff workload associated with the above activity. However, we were still able to accommodate 37 radiographers on short courses contributing to their CPD portfolio.

Finally, in November 2004, the School of Diagnostic Imaging became the first Irish organisation to our knowledge to exhibit at the prestigious RSNA conference in Chicago. The aim of our exhibit was to promote the school as a centre for international students to complete their postgraduate research, and this has proved extremely successful. The stand also provided a welcome meeting point for the many Irish delegates at the conference.

Achievements

The following prizes were awarded:

Karen Purcell	Second Year Scholarship Award (UCD)
Yvonne Corrigan	Third Year Scholarship Award (UCD)
Henry H Stewart	Scholarship (NUI)
Marie Louise Butler	Fourth Year Scholarship Award (UCD)
Marie Hanrahan	Siemens Medal & Prize (UCD)
John Tuffy	O Farrell Medal (UCD)
Bridget Furlong	Phillips Medal and Prize (UCD)
Aoife Neary	Olive Fleming Memorial Award (Irish Institute of Radiography)
Emma Canniff	Kodak Award (UCD)

Published Papers

Staff and students published widely, and only a selection of work is listed below.

Doolan A, Healy J, Brennan PC.
Gonad protection for the antero-posterior projection of the pelvis in diagnostic radiography in Dublin hospitals.
Radiography 2004; 10 (1): 15-21

Grondin Y, Matthews K, McEntee M, Rainford L, Casey M, Tonra M, Al-Qattan E, McCrudden T, Brennan PC.

Dose-reducing strategies in combination offers substantial potential benefits to females of childbearing age requiring X-ray examination.

Radiation Protection Dosimetry 2004; 108(2): 123-32

McEntee M, Brennan PC, O'Connor G.
The effect of kilovoltage peak on the image quality of PA chest radiographs when using digital image acquisition devices.
Radiography 2004; 10 (4): 287-292

O'Leary D, McDonnell, Brennan PC.
Increasing film focus distance (FFD) reduces radiation dose for X-ray examinations.
Radiation Protection Dosimetry 2004; 108(3): 263-8.

Wade C, Brennan PC.
An assessment of viewing conditions for the display of diagnostic images on workstation monitors in Dublin.
British Journal of Radiology 2004; 77 (918): 465-71.



Abstracts and Presentations

Doyle CA, Matthews K. Multifactorial influences on Pain during Mammography. *RSNA, Chicago*.

D'Helft CS, McGee AM, Rainford LA, McFadden SL, Hughes CM, WinderJR, Brennan PC. A survey of radiation dose and image optimisation for cardiac interventional procedures. *8th Annual Conference of the IIR*

Matthews K. Questioning females of reproductive capacity: implications of S.I.478 of 2002 European Communities (Medical Ionising Radiation Protection Regulations). *8th Annual Conference of the IIR*

Matthews K, Brennan PC. Paediatric patient dose variations in Irish X-ray Departments. *RSNA, Chicago*.

Matthews K, Furlong B. An analysis of the implementation of Irish legislation in establishing the pregnancy status of relevant female patients *RSNA, Chicago*.

McCrudden T, Brennan PC, Matthews K. The Calibration Accuracy of Dose-area Product Meters in Irish Imaging Departments performing Paediatric Radiography. *BIR Congress Series, Proceeding of UKRC 2004*

Future Plans

In May 2005, the School of Diagnostic Imaging will move from St. Anthony's to Health Sciences in Belfield, where state of the art premises will be shared with Nursing and Physiotherapy in Phase I, and also with Medicine in Phase 2. Over its lifetime, the school has occupied various premises, but has always been closely related to St. Vincent's University Hospital. Originally in prefabs behind St. Vincent's Hospital on St. Stephen's Green, the school moved to Elm Park with the hospital in 1971. The current building was donated in 1990 by Sr. Francis Ignatius, Mother General of the Sisters of Charity, and refurbished with Department of Health funding. The Herbert Avenue building has hosted many events in Diagnostic Imaging education, and will remain poignant in many memories when the school eventually moves to Belfield.

Throughout the long association with St. Vincent's, the education of radiographers has developed with the support of the Sisters of Charity and of the hospital. The school is also indebted for the contribution over the years of many "Vincent's radiographers". Radiography education in Ireland is entering a new era in a premises that can be ranked amongst the best in the world. However, the relationship with St. Vincent's University Hospital and the Sisters of Charity will not be forgotten. Radiography undergraduates will continue clinical placements in the excellent teaching environment of St. Vincent's University Hospital, and we aspire that the links forged in our past will be propagated through collaborative research between Radiographers.

Department of Information and Communication Technology

Allied Health Professional and Support Services

It was a busy year for the ICT department with the completion of existing projects and the commencement of new projects. We were sorry to say goodbye to Mary Ward and Paul Cosgrove, two valued members of staff, but were also very happy to welcome three new staff members Neal Mullen, Ailish Lawlor and Joe Ryan to our team.

Projects Completed in 2004

The **Appointment Scheduling System**, which we have developed in partnership with H2H Care, went live in St. Anne's Ward. This system has functionality to manage appointment scheduling, cancellations, rebooking and overbooking facilities and incorporates an interface to the Hospital Patient Administration System. The system also has the ability to produce management reports, statistical analysis and patient specific letters and documents. The system was very favourably received and we are now implementing it in other areas such as St. Mark's Ward. A number of other hospitals have expressed interest in the system.

We went live with our **Group Intranet** initially in St. Vincent's University Hospital but this will be extended to all areas shortly. This system will improve communications, allow departments to share information, reduce and eliminate paper and provide access to policies and procedures, manuals and forms online. The Intranet will incorporate links to current systems for enquiry, reporting and result reporting.

This year we implemented the first phases of our **Management Information System and Data Warehouse** drawing and purifying information from clinical and non-clinical systems into a single repository incorporating systems integration tools, on line analytical processing (OLAP), business intelligence software and desktop decision support. The system also contains a data-mining tool capable of providing comprehensive reports and adhoc queries. The solution enables the hospital to maximise the value of data already stored in our current IT systems, building an infrastructure that allows us to meet the current and increasing demands for management and clinical information. It is now envisaged that it will not only provide management and clinical reports, but will also help to support essential functions such as clinical audit.

We have initiated a project in conjunction with the **Healthlink** project team to provide data such as pathology and radiology data to GPs. We are piloting this project in four GP practices. We are evaluating the introduction of an online neurology referral module in this project.

Substantial upgrades of the Emergency Department and RIS systems have been carried out. A replication system for the Patient Administration System has been created incorporating an inquiry module for disaster recovery.

In 2004, we made a concerted effort to consolidate our infrastructure and enhance our security below is a list of our **Infrastructural and Security Projects**:

- We joined the E-Government Virtual Private Network (VPN) providing a 2MB to the Internet.
- 100% Academic Open Licenses : saving up to 80% on Microsoft products
- Campus agreement on servers : saving up to 90% on operating system licenses
- Implementation of ISA proxy server
- SurfControl e-mail filtering
- SurfControl web filter
- SurfControl IMI & Peer 2 Peer Filtering
- IP structure rationalization with a new design incorporating DHCP
- Documentation on all servers
- Central management of backups
- Contracts consolidated into one contract and one vendor
- Tendered for new Enterprise Storage Solution
- Implemented a single group Domain Structure
- Alpha Server Hardware Upgrade
- ePolicy Orchestrator anti virus software
- Migration from Linux and Pegasus mail to Exchange and Outlook
- Created Active Directory as part of a migration from Novell to Microsoft 2003
- Server Consolidation



- Microsoft SMS which will facilitate remote application installation, security and product updates and remote management of all PCs
- VPN Concentrator for remote access for vendors and hospital staff
- Netware SAN (File and Application Storage)
- Migration from Netware on all systems
- Rebuild of all servers to Windows 2003 Advanced Server
- Expansion of active network
- Removal of all modems
- Increased security throughout hospital
- E-mail and web monitoring for security

Projects that made significant progress in 2004 and to be completed in 2005:

We are currently preparing a requirements specification for an **Order Communications System** which will provide for the electronic raising / transmission of orders and the gathering / receipt of results between patient based departments or locations and ancillary departmental systems e.g. Pathology, Radiology etc.

The **Nursing Personnel system** will go live in January 2005. It records information on nurses relating to their demographics, nursing registration, contacts, career history, education, professional development activities, research, membership of professional organisations, skills and some details relating to leavers. A nurse-scheduling module will also be incorporated which will aid staff management and skill mix on the wards. The scope of this system has been extended to include Personnel and Medical Administration.

Our level of involvement with the new building project has continued to grow. We received substantial capital funding from the ERHA for the procurement of active network equipment, PCs and peripherals. We are working closely with the project office on the procurement of a number of clinical systems and on preparations for the commissioning of the new building.

Library & Information Service

Allied Health Professional and Support Services

The Library & Information Service (LIS) facilitates all staff of the three hospitals in St Vincent's Healthcare Group and all students from UCD who are resident in the hospitals.

Library and Information Services are located on two sites: at St Vincent's University Hospital (SVUH), in the Education & Research Centre; and at St Michael's Hospital (SMH), in the Annexe.

Service Developments/Activities

St Michael's Hospital

In 2004, St. Michael's Hospital appointed Breda Bennett, a qualified librarian, to develop library and information services. The Library is currently based in the former Nurses' Library. There is also a medical Reading Room in the Hospital stocked by UCD, for the sole use of its medical students and medical staff. Breda's remit is to pull these two resources together to create an integrated library and information service for all healthcare staff at St Michael's.

The two library sites – at SVUH and SMH - are working together to develop equal access across the Healthcare Group.

Informatics

HEA Net decided to install fibre optic networks to connect all Dublin hospitals. The work was to be completed by the end of the year but has been delayed.

A wireless local area network was installed in the ERC to provide mobile users with flexible connectivity to the UCD network.

In September, UCD agreed to install a VPN concentrator in SVUH to allow UCD staff on the hospital side gain access to UCD network services. This is a very significant development since it will be technically possible to roll out electronic resources to all healthcare staff, but the project will need significant backing from all stakeholders. Installation is due for early 2005.

Work also began to connect SVUH and SMH libraries for the purpose of sharing the Heritage IV software over two sites. This project is dependent upon an improved connection between the two hospitals. This should be achieved by early 2005.

Collection

Shelving: New shelving was added to SVUH Library at the end of 2003 and staff worked with contractors in the summer relocating and reorganising the shelves and stock.

Journals: SVUH Library subscribed to 106 journal titles in the areas of medicine, surgery, nursing and allied health, at a cost of nearly €50,000. This is funded jointly by the Hospital and UCD. Over 60 titles were also received on donation.

A review of journal subscriptions took place this year and, as a result, 12 new titles

were subscribed to for 2005, ensuring that each healthcare department is now represented by a major journal in its field.

In St. Michael's Hospital a rationalisation project was begun to centralise all journal subscriptions. The Hospital now subscribes to 30 journal titles at a cost of €17,000 .

Books: €6637.16 was spent on 136 new books for SVUH Library. Of those, 24 books were purchased from the undergraduate medical textbook funds at a cost of €1540.70.

SMH Library purchased 27 new books in 2004 at a cost of €2000 approximately.

Heritage IV: All of the collections of SVUH Library were added to the Heritage system by the end of the year. The library in St Michael's Hospital received funding for an additional administrator licence for the system and for the WebOPAC module. This will make the catalogue available to all users in the Healthcare Group.

Electronic Resources

Through the UCD server SVUH Library had access to a number of databases including Cinahl, Web of Science and Medline. Over 15,000 journal titles are available through this server and other online resources for healthcare staff include Clinical Evidence, Books@Ovid and MD Consult.

The Library subscribed to two databases: PyscINFO and BNI Plus and provided online access to 60 of its journals. PubMed and the Cochrane Library continue to be freely available on the Internet.

A number of groups and individuals availed of the free tutorials provided by library staff on searching the electronic databases.



SMH Library now has 8 PCs, all connected to the Internet. Databases are available to individuals who have access to electronic resources from UCD, RCSI, DCU etc. Training is provided by the Librarian to individuals and small groups.

Interlibrary Loan

The number of interlibrary loan (ILLs) requests fell dramatically in SVUH this year, thanks to the increasing availability of online journals. 828 items were requested: 118 were from the British Library; 356 were from Subito; and 354 from the network of Irish Healthcare Libraries (IHL). The Library supplied 682 to other hospital libraries nationwide, proving how valuable our journal collection is.

The cost of ILLs dropped significantly this year too, to €2789.94. This was due not only to the fall in number of requests but also as a result of subscribing to Subito, a German-based document supply service, which provides material electronically at a fraction of the cost of the British Library.

SMH Library joined the IHL and the British Library. The numbers of requests outward were larger than the numbers of requests inward. Both were small.

Library & Information Services Committee

The Library & Information Services Committee met 6 times in 2004.

Its members were:

Aongus Curran, Medical Board (*Chair*)

Breda Bennett, St Michael's Hospital/Library

Salman Ghani/Huzaifa Adamali, UCD Medicine

Eamonn Fitzgerald, Group Executive

Saul Lugoye, UCD/ERC IT

Steve Richards/Usha Shan, UCD Surgery

Peter Sheehan, St Vincent's Private Hospital

Niamh Lucey, Library (*Secretary*)

Dermot Cullinan,

IS/IT Department

Lloyd Felton, IS/IT Department

Pauline Leahy,

Allied Health Professionals

Cliona O'Farrelly, ERC Research

Kieran Sheahan, Medical Board

Majella Tonra/Allison McGee,

UCD Diagnostic Imaging

Catherine Walsh, Nursing

Outstanding/Significant Achievements

Greg Sheaf acted as head of the department, and secretary to the Committee, from January to August, to cover maternity leave.

Niamh Lucey co-edited the second edition of *Standards for Irish healthcare library and information services*, which, after a long delay, is due for publication in 2005.

Staff attended the following conferences and training days:

Advanced Internet Searching Techniques, Dublin – Greg Sheaf

Cochrane Library training, Dublin – Breda Bennett

Heritage IV training, Dublin – Breda Bennett, Niamh Lucey & Greg Sheaf

Library Association of Ireland Health Sciences Group Annual Conference, Tullamore – Breda Bennett & Niamh Lucey

Future Plans

2005 will be a crucial year in the development of an integrated healthcare library for St Michael's Hospital. Projects include: survey of all staff; development of ILL service; and the drafting of a new plan for the library service. Library staff members gratefully acknowledge the commitment of senior management at St Michael's to this project.

A combined catalogue of books, journals and other material held in both libraries will be launched on the Group intranet in 2005. This will allow users to access the catalogue from their workstations, to reserve and renew library material and, where possible, to link out to online journals.

Pending the completion of the IT networking project in St Vincent's Private Hospital, it is hoped to extend electronic access to library resources in 2005.

Many old journals will be removed from the shelves of St Vincent's University Hospital to make way for new material. However, lack of space continues to present a big problem. Plans for redeveloping the existing space will be drawn up and other options explored.

Medical Physics and Clinical Engineering Department

Allied Health Professional and Support Services

Overview

2004 was another busy year for the department. The continuing widespread digitisation and networking of medical equipment, while it brings immense benefits to the patient, presents great challenges in the areas of quality assurance and equipment maintenance. The department continued to be heavily involved in the commissioning of the new building. Staff members were also committed to the provision of significant medical physics and clinical engineering input in the specification of new equipment for the building. In addition to our many service responsibilities, staff were also involved in a variety of educational and training programmes within the Healthcare Group.

Medical Physics

The staff complement remained unchanged in 2004. The four permanent staff members provided a wide range of routine medical physics services to the Group. These services included - radiation protection, image analysis, quality assurance and quality control, in-vivo and in-vitro testing, research support and teaching. Staff were also active in the compilation of submissions to regulatory agencies, such as The Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland, and in the preparatory work necessary to meet the inspection requirements of these bodies.

The professional training scheme being run in conjunction with St. Luke's Hospital absorbed a considerable amount of staff effort. The scheme was reassessed during the year and a greater emphasis placed on the candidate's training portfolio and on independent evaluation of competencies. These modifications necessarily involved a greater time commitment to the scheme from the four permanent staff members. One candidate successfully completed the training course in 2004.

There was also active participation of staff members in teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level in U.C.D. (School of Diagnostic Imaging and Department of Physics) and also in the Faculty of Radiology of the Royal College of Surgeons. In recognition of this continuing ongoing commitment to teaching and research, Michael Casey was appointed honorary clinical lecturer in diagnostic imaging in the Faculty of Medicine in U.C.D.

Staff members were committed to professional development in the course of 2004. We wish to express our gratitude to hospital management for giving staff members the opportunity to attend the following conferences:

- British Nuclear Medicine Conference. Brighton. April 2004.
- Association of Physical Scientists in Medicine. Dublin. July 2004.
- European Nuclear Medicine Association. Helsinki. September 2004.
- Radiation Protection and Quality Control in Radiopharmacy. Slovenia. September 2004.

Clinical Engineering

Staff Members

Tom Smyth
Chief Clinical Engineering Technician

Richard Bergin AEng AMIEI
Principal Clinical Engineer

Derek Farrell
Senior Clinical Engineering Technician

Frank Kelly IEng.MIHEEM
Senior Clinical Engineer

John Harte
Senior Clinical Engineering Technician

Aidan O'Connor
Senior Clinical Engineering Technician

Declan Murray MSc
Principle Clinical Engineering Technician (Project)

We welcome the appointments of John Harte and Aidan O'Connor as part of the team.

Although Stephen McGrath has retired, the hospital has retained his valued service by re-hiring him on a part-time basis to work with the project team.

Service Developments/Activities

- Preparation for forthcoming project, equipping
- Compiling comprehensive equipment specifications
- Advising on and evaluating new equipment purchases
- Continuously updating information on EEC Directives
- Continuous liaison with health and safety including product alerts
- Quality control
- Technical specifications for all new electro-medical equipment

Outstanding/Significant Achievements/Presentations

F. Kelly achieved a Diploma (Hons) in Renal Technology City University London, in conjunction with School of Nursing St. Bartholomew's Hospital London. He lectured on the Higher Diploma in Renal Nursing UCD. He also lectured to Renal Nurses on dialysis water quality. He was a guest speaker at a Dialysis Technologist training course, Dublin. "Principles and Practice of Renal Technology". He is the National Treasurer for the Biomedical / Clinical Engineering Association of Ireland.

Academic Achievements

In September 2004, Richard Bergin achieved the title of Associate Engineer with the Institution of Engineers of Ireland. He was the first member of our staff to achieve the title. It is hoped that in the years to come more members of our staff would obtain the same title. The Institution of Engineers are the professional representative body for Clinical Engineering in Ireland and, as such, by act of the Oireachtas in 1969 are entitled to award the title of Chartered Engineer, Associate Engineer, and Engineering Technician of the Institution, confined to suitably qualified candidates.

Publications

"*Renal Technology a Students Prospective*"; BEAI Scientific Meeting Tullamore
October 2004, F. Kelly

Departmental Statistics

The department has continuously succeeded in producing considerable savings in equipment repairs and planned preventative maintenance by adopting the policy of only outsourcing maintenance when absolutely necessary.

Future Plans

We plan to introduce a new I.T. solution to our method of equipment management. This will be in place by the end of April 2005 and will also serve to greatly assist the task of equipping the new building.

Also, an operational policy is being developed for the establishment of an equipment library.

Medical Social Work Department

Allied Health Professional and Support Services

Staff

In the past year two valued members of the team have left for various reasons.

Susan Cox, Senior Social Worker, returned to her native Australia. She had laid a very solid foundation for Social Work in the area of Palliative Care Medicine since February 2003.

Mary O'Connell took two years leave of absence in December 2004 in order to travel and work. She is presently in Vietnam and heading eventually to New Zealand. She was one of the founder members of the Bereavement Service that was launched by the Department in April 2003.

Kelle Mason took up a locum position at the beginning of June 2004 in the areas of Cystic Fibrosis, Pain Medicine, Gastroenterology and General Medicine.

Mairead Phelan provided a Social Work service during Rita Delaney's maternity leave from February to August 2004.

Enara Extebarria covered the remainder of the period until October 2004.

Louise Morgan obtained a permanent position as the Emergency Department Social Worker in September 2004 after doing four months as a locum in the same area. Finally, Aine Canny became Senior Social Worker in Palliative Care in June 2004.

Congratulations to Rita Delaney on the birth of baby Daniel in March 2004.

Service Developments/Activities

Bereavement Service

The Bereavement Service continues to develop and has completed a very successful year. Again, there were two blocks of seminars in April/May and October 2003. The speakers essentially remained the same while the format slightly changed. Two additional members of the team became involved, Teresa McDonnell, Senior Social Worker and Una Curtin, Senior Social Work Practitioner.

Information Evenings

Martina Dolan, Acting Senior Social Worker, has been running information evenings for relatives of patients who are known to the Old Age Psychiatry Service. The topics covered include community services, long term care options, health and social welfare entitlements. An evaluation questionnaire is completed by participants at the end of the session.

Emergency Medicine

Louise Morgan is the first Social Worker appointed in St Vincent's University Hospital designated solely to the area of Emergency Medicine. This is a vital appointment in that this is the first point of entry to the hospital service for many, usually a crisis situation, and the professional located here can focus immediately on the patients.

Professional Development

All staff had opportunities to advance their professional development during the year. Eileen O'Donnell and Aine Canny, Senior Social Workers, attended several courses pertaining to death and dying.

Margaret Cagney, Michelle Harte and Martina Dolan attended several seminars during the year concerning Older People and their care.

Victoria Richardson attended several study days run by the Social Work Interest Group on Mental Health.

Martina Dolan and Margaret Cagney were also active in their respective professional interest groups.

Rhona Sherlock and Rita Delaney attended a seminar on rehabilitation held in the National Rehabilitation Hospital, Dun Laoghaire.

Margaret Hunter was a participant in the International Conference on Cardiac Rehabilitation held in Dublin in May 2004.

There were also several in-house seminars attended during the year by Senior staff e.g. Employment Law, Teamwork, Recruitment, Diversity.

Several members of the Social Work Team were involved in the hospital Accreditation process during the year.

Significant/Outstanding Achievements

- In November 2004 our department received one of four awards for innovation from the hospital management. The award was for the work we have done in providing a bereavement service to relatives of patients who die in the hospital, as well as future plans for the project. We received a bursary of €2,000 that will be a useful addition to our budgetary resources for 2005.

Future Plans

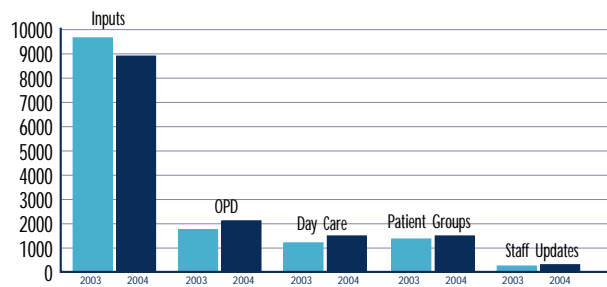
- This year we hope to do some training as a team. We have chosen Brief Therapy as a pertinent topic for advancing individual skills. Hospital Social Work by its nature is short term and usually crisis orientated. We need to optimise our involvement with patients and families.
- We also have been focusing on improving our accommodation situation in the next few years. We need more space in order to interview clients/patients and families in privacy. We also need a staff/education room.
- We hope to look at more group work with patients and families in particular areas of medicine and surgery. It is a very practical way to encourage self-help amongst clients and is time effective.

Department of Nutrition and Dietetics

Allied Health Professional and Support Services

Departmental Statistics

The overall variance in consultations from 2003 to 2004 is down slightly (3.7%). However OPD consults have increased with the reinstatement of OPD clinics in 2004, which had been suspended during deferral of staff appointments in 2003. There has been a 9% increase in the number of patients attending group education sessions to facilitate the increased demand for services, as staffing levels have remained unchanged since 2001.



Staff

The staff compliment level of the Department is 12 WTE dietitians and one administrator. Yvonne Lydon and Eimear Fanning were successful in securing senior positions in St James' and Beaumont Hospitals respectively. Fiona Boyle, locum dietitian, obtained a permanent position in the National Children's Hospital, Temple Street in September. Julie Dagg, Senior Dietitian resigned her position in October. Dorothy Loane joined the department in April. Louise Walsh and Cathy Monaghan joined the department in locum capacity.

Service Developments/Activities

Five dietetic students successfully completed their clinical placement training with the department between February 2004 and February 2005. Each student completed 17 weeks of a 26-week Dietetics programme in this hospital.

In collaboration with the Nutrition Committee, the Annual Nutrition Seminar entitled *Nutrition and patients – a doctor's responsibility* was held in March with final year medical students as the target audience. 72 students attended and 68% completed the evaluation forms. While all attendees found the afternoon very informative and useful, the students identified areas that they required training on which included diabetes, weight and lipid management. These areas are beyond the scope of the Nutrition Committee. The evaluation summary has been sent to the Dr Seamus Donnelly and Barbara Cantwell so that the University can address these issues.

Maeve Moran, Senior Dietitian in Diabetes has collaborated with the Dietitians in St Michael's, St Colmcille's and the Community Dietetic service to devise diabetes diet sheets for use by all. This facilitates a consistent approach and content to the education of patients with diabetes. These diet sheets will be printed and in use by early 2005. The Dietitians and Clinical Nurse Specialists involved in the shared-care service for Diabetes have set up a quarterly education group for patients newly diagnosed with impaired glucose tolerance.

Vivien Reid, Clinical Specialist Dietitian, worked with Billy Kearns, Chef and Rosemary Hickey, Catering Manager, to revise the menu choices for patients in the Coronary Care Unit. Positive feedback has been received from patients and staff.

Dietitians participated either directly (as part of a team) or provided support material and information for a number of the quality improvement teams (QITs) leading up to the Hospital Accreditation process in May. We continue to participate in the quality improvement projects that have been sanctioned to date.

Significant Achievements

In collaboration with the Department of Speech and Language Therapy, we have undertaken a number of initiatives to address the gaps in care of patients with dysphagia. We have developed joint care plans, which are in use already. A further initiative was completed in 2004 with the development of an integrated educational tool for use with patients and/or carers. The booklet entitled *Swallowing Problems and Nutrition* was developed by a Dietitian and Speech and Language Therapist and approved by both Departments. It was piloted with patients and carers with modifications made on this feedback. The booklet complies with National Adult Literacy guidelines. It is a practical, user-friendly educational tool that can be used by therapists to facilitate the education and upskilling of patients and /or carers in relation to the safety and nutritional adequacy of a modified consistency diet. As an integrated tool, both professions can

support and reinforce appropriate and safe advice minimising the risk of respiratory infections, while maintaining or improving dietary intake and nutritional status. This department was delighted to share the Innovation Award allocated to this project.

Lorraine Sewell, Departmental Administrator was awarded her diploma in First Line Management in October 2004.

Significant Publications/Presentations

Presentations

Doyle, M. *"Imagining the body – anorexia of the mind"*. Delivered as part of SUVH Psychiatric team's presentation to the Health Conference organised by the Arts Council of Ireland as part of the closing of Ireland's Presidency of the EU. Dublin, May 04.

Doyle, M. *"Management of Eating Disorders"*. The Annual Study Day of Paediatric Interest Group of the Irish Nutrition and Dietetic Institute, Dublin Sept 04.

Moran, M. *"Nutritional management of diabetes – present and future"*. Diabetes Federation of Ireland Dublin Nov 2004.

Parke, L. *"Investigation of the effect modifying oral intake during dialysis and of other factors on the incidence of intradialytic complications"*. British Renal Society Annual Conference in Harrogate, May 2004

Reid, V. *"Influence of cardiac rehabilitation on lifestyle change – one year follow up"*. World Congress of Cardiac Rehabilitation, Dublin. May 2004.

Poster presentation

Barnes, EA, McAuliffe, E, *"Exploring the information needs of Irish patients with colorectal cancer"*. UICC Conference for Cancer Organisations in Dublin Nov. 2004.

Reid, V. *"Fruit intake of hospital staff – how does the data compare with national data?"* Nutrition Society, Dublin July 2004.

Publications

Moran, M. *"The evolution of the nutritional management of diabetes"*. Proceedings of the Nutrition Society Nov 2004 (in press).

Moran, M. *"Prescriptive education – Is this adequate for people with diabetes"*. Diabetes Wise Vol 1 (2) Summer 2004.

Future Plans

We will explore the use of group education for patients with coeliac disease. Best-practice guidelines indicate that patients should have an annual consultation with a Dietitian. However, with long waiting lists for OPD, group education may be more efficient. Patient evaluation of this initiative will be undertaken.

In collaboration with Speech and Language Therapy and Catering, we intend to explore the possibility of developing modified consistency diets for patients with dysphagia.

A pilot project of professional supervision will be undertaken for 2005. 7 members of the department will be involved in this process. If successful it will be rolled out to the remaining members of the department provided funding can be secured.

Occupational Health Department

Allied Health Professional and Support Services

Staff

Members of the Occupational Health Department (OHD) during 2004 were:

Occupational Physician

Dr. Paul Guéret
Dr. John Walsh

Dr. Jacintha More-O'Ferrall

Occupational Psychologist

Nuala Gannon

Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)

Siobhan Bulfin
Justine McGrane

Ann O'Reilly
Aisling Purcell (Acting CNS)

Clinical Nurse Manager (CNM)

Orla Seale

Administrative Support

Áine Yap
Ciara McCarthy

Other hospital staff who contributed to the department include Ergonomists, the Health & Safety Coordinator, Infection Control, Health Promotion and the HR Department.

In June 2004 Susan Collum resigned from the position of administrative support.

Significant Achievements

Needlestick injury prevention activities

Medical and psychological assistance was provided for the 113 staff members who received inoculation injuries in 2004. This number is similar to the incidence of needle stick injuries in 2003 levels, which represented a reduction of 25% on the 2002 figures.

Needle stick injury prevention workshops continued throughout the year. 281 (14.5%) staff members attended these workshops. A concerted effort was made to include all categories of staff, including medical staff.

Seminars were provided on 'Management of Blood Borne Viruses' and 'Management of needlestick injuries'. Nuala Gannon presented a paper on the findings of the pilot phase of the needlestick injury prevention programme at the 12th Conference on Health Promoting Hospitals conference in November.

A needlestick injury prevention information stand was displayed regularly in different locations in the hospital.

'Working Backs Programme' for staff

A multidisciplinary care pathway was developed for staff members who require treatment for their back. Education sessions and Information Packs were sent to all Back Clinicians and Line Managers. Promotion stands were also held to advertise the programme to staff. The programme commenced in April 2004 and has been

successful to date - 136 people have attended. There were 54 referrals to Physiotherapy. The average sick days lost if the employee attended the OHD was 1.8 days.

Stress Management Activities

The 'Managing Work-Related Stress' seminars continued. 218 staff members attended these sessions.

Other Seminars and workshops provided included:

- Well-being at work;
- Facilitating behavioural change;
- Understanding loss and bereavement amongst colleagues;
- Dealing with verbal and physical assault and aggression.

Influenza Vaccination Programme

All hospital staff were encouraged to avail of the influenza vaccination programme. Out-of-hours clinics were provided to staff resulting in 588 employees receiving the vaccine.

Infection Control

Follow up precautions were taken by the OHD following exposure to 3 cases of TB and 3 cases of shingles and Varicella.

SRSV: 450 staff contacted the OHD during 3 outbreaks in 2004, a considerable number of additional staff telephoned the department seeking advice.

MRSA: Student nurses attended the OHD for MRSA screening and ward staff were advised and screened as requested by Infection Control.

Education

The following seminars were provided:

- Pregnancy risk assessments and chemical risk assessment awareness
- Induction seminars
- Skin care information session ('The right glove for the right job')
- Use of Latex in Healthcare.

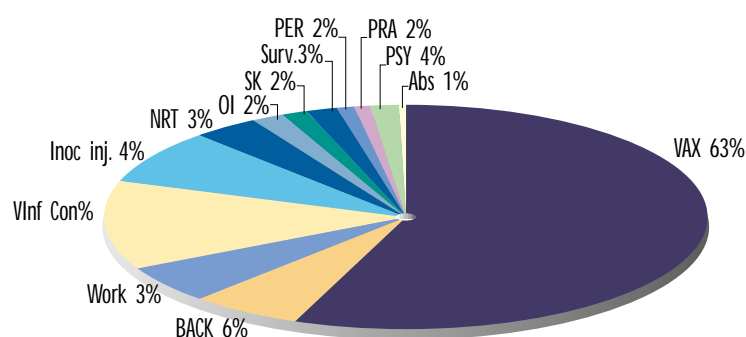
The department contributed to many other educational activities including:

- Health and Safety Week;
- Smoking Cessation programme;
- SVUH Adult education programme;

The OHD is continuing to review all policies and initiate setting up of standard operating procedures (SOPs) to standardise all our activities.

Department Statistics

A total of 3,107 people attended; a significant number also availed of telephone consultations.



Audit

The following audits were carried out:

- An evaluation of the needlestick injury prevention programme ("Be sharp, Be safe")
- Needlestick injury rates
- The effectiveness of needlestick equipment in use
- Time lost from work due to back pain
- Work absence in specific locations
- Immune status evaluation was carried out on all staff in several areas.

These audits proved useful in informing the work of the department.

To comply with the Accreditation process, the OHD staff continue to monitor and improve the quality of its services.

Reason	Number
Absenteeism	15
Vaccination	2002
Back	181
Workability	104
Infection Control	147
Inoculation Injury	113
Nicotine Replacement	83
Occupational Injury	41
Skin	53
Health Surveillance	84
Pre-Emp Review	68
Pregnancy Risk Assessment	45
Psychosocial	129

Reasons for attendance

Occupational Injuries

	2004	2003	2002	2001
Sharps/Inoculations	85	83	104	106
Blood splashes	28	18	24	9
Other injuries	245	189	252	235

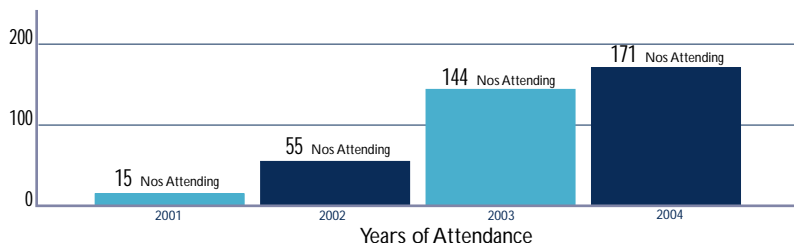
OHD attendance for certain occupational infections

	2004	2003	2002
SRSV	450	98	182

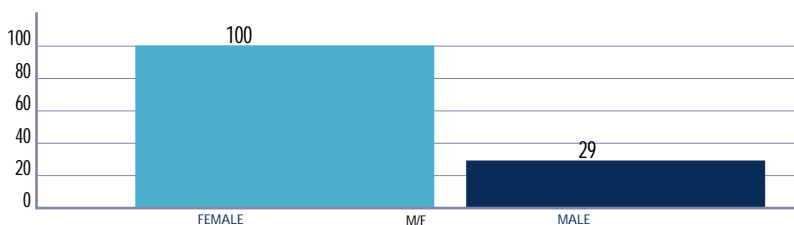
Visits to the OHD for non-vaccine consultations

	2004	2003	2002
2001			
<i>Seen by</i>			
Occupational Nursing Team	1627	1247	993
<i>Seen by</i>			
Occupational Medical Team	1038	463	782
<i>Seen by</i>			
Occupational Psychologist	171	144	55

Attendance at Occupational Psychologist 2001-2003

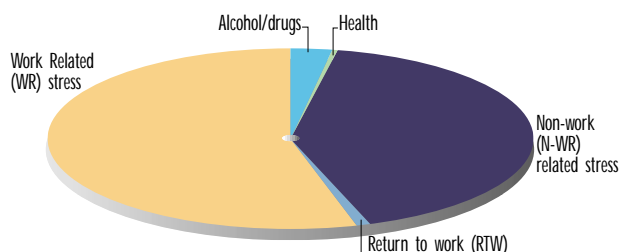


Breakdown by gender (n=129)



General classification of reasons for attendance at Occupational Psychologist

Reason for attendance



Alcohol/drugs	7.0%
Health	0.8%
N-WR stress	30.3%
RTW	1.6%
WR stress	30.5%
Total	100.0%

171 people attended the Occupational Psychologist, an 8% increase from 2003. Of these, 129 attended for stress management support; 42 people used the Managers advisory service.

In the majority of cases, the work-related stress was caused by interpersonal behaviours such as overt and covert criticism, isolation and/or exclusion of colleagues, discourtesy and disrespect, and the undermining of authority.

Priorities for 2005

- The provision of a limited service to St.Vincent's Private Hospital and development of closer links with St. Michael's Hospital Occupational Health Department.
- Continued focus on stress management activities.
- Contribution to the implementation of the HSEA 'Dignity at work' policy .
- An evaluation of the OHD services by examining:
 - The impact of the workshops on needlestick injury rates.
 - The effectiveness of 'Managing work-related stress' seminars.
 - The incidence and severity of assaults directed at staff.
 - The usage and uptake of the staff support service.
 - Varicella immune status of staff in high-risk areas.
 - The extent of latex glove use in certain departments.
 - The numbers of non-standard pre-employment medicals performed.
 - The Hepatitis B status of those carrying out exposure prone procedures.

Continuing Professional Development

Two members of staff commenced M.Sc. Degree programmes in Safety Health & Welfare – J. McGrane & A. Purcell.

O. Seale commenced a Diploma in Safety, Health & Welfare.

A. O'Reilly successfully completed the Manual Handling instructor's course.

Occupational Therapy Department

Allied Health Professional and Support Services

Staff

This year some new faces joined the Occupational Therapy Department. We welcomed Eileen du Plooy, Senior Occupational Therapist in General Medicine, and the following basic grade therapists, Áine Jackson, Amanda Wallace, Elaine Toner, Eilish Hogge and Freda Connolly, to the department.

2004 also saw two Occupational Therapy assistants join our team, Elizabeth Grant and Riona Nolan. There were also quite a lot of vacancies within the department, which also presented challenges in the area of recruitment. The Occupational Therapy Department looks forward to actively working on the area of recruitment and retention for 2005.

Service Developments/Activities

The departmental statistics convey that, despite the reduced numbers of new patients due to staff shortages, total treatment units are considerably up from both in and out patient perspectives in 2004. Outlined below are the specific developments/activities carried out within each service area during the year.

Old Age Psychiatry

- Involved in Nursing Home Education Programme.
- Ms. Catherine Keogh, Senior Occupational Therapist, and day hospital nursing staff developed the active rehabilitation group. This was facilitated weekly with good success.
- Anxiety management group continued. Four groups co-facilitated with Community Mental Health Nurses in 2004 with good success.

Hands and Plastics

- Flexor tendon injury audit completed with physiotherapy colleagues.
- Introduced use of Jobst garments in the treatment of patients for scar management and lymphoedema.

Rheumatology

- Multidisciplinary Education Group for Inflammatory Arthritis. Three groups facilitated by Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Nursing in S.A.R.C.
- Ms. Carol O' Donnell, Senior Occupational Therapist, completed Rheumatology Splinting Guidelines as part of National Association of Occupational Therapists in Ireland.

Stroke/Neurology

- Mrs. Louise Sutton, Senior Occupational Therapist, formed part of clinical working group investigating best outcome measures for this service area.
- Founder members of national Occupational Therapy Stroke Special Interest Group.

Pain Management

- Programme re-commenced with great success following difficulties with recruitment.

Medicine for the Elderly

Research completed by Ms. Carmel Collins on driving and the elderly.

Significant Achievements

St. Vincent's University Hospital and St. Michael's Hospital Occupational Therapy Services formed part of steering group directing the pilot Slán Abhaile Equipment project.

SWOT analysis completed on the department.

Catherine Keogh awarded Post Graduate Fellowship Award from DSIDC.

Accreditation

Carol O' Donnell was team leader in the Bone and Joint Rehabilitation and Pain Management Team accreditation teams, while Catherine Keogh replaced Valerie Kelley on Old Age Psychiatry / Neurology /General Adult Psychiatry and Medicine for the Elderly team.

Presentations

Ms. Carmel Collins, Senior Occupational Therapist in Medicine and the Elderly and Ms. Freda Connolly, Basic Grade Occupational Therapist, presented Safety Awareness Management of Falls at the Care of the Elderly Annual Study Day.

Ms. Catherine Keogh, Senior Occupational Therapist Old Age Psychiatry was involved in the following presentations:

- Invited to lecture on Occupational Therapy and Dementia at Trinity College Dublin.



Occupational Therapy Department

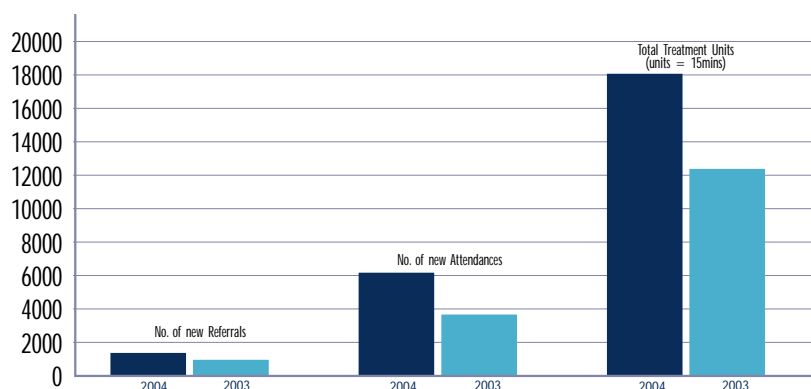
- Facilitated one-day conference in conjunction with the Dementia Services Information and Development Centre.
- Invited onto the Executive Committee of the Mental Health Commission to consider a working definition of severe dementia for the Mental Health Act, 2001.
- Facilitated one-day conference in conjunction with the Dementia Services Information and Development Centre (DSIDC) on "Occupational Therapy and Person Centred Care in Dementia Care".

Staff from the following areas continued active participation in professional Special Interest Groups including Rheumatology, Stroke and Neurology, Hands and Plastics Hand Therapy and Oncology.

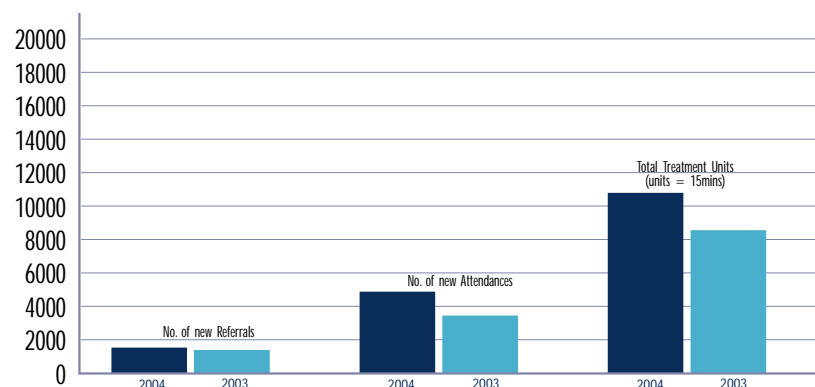
Departmental Statistics

Occupational Therapy In-Patient activity

Year	New Referrals	No. of Attendances	Total Treatment Units
2004	923	3,631	18,025
2003	1,335	6,135	12,349



Occupational Therapy Out-Patient Activity



Future Plans

To complete implementation stage of computerised data management system.

To implement the move and development of Occupational Therapy Services, especially Rheumatology in the Bone and Joint Ambulatory Day Care Centre.

Complete the move of Occupational Therapy Service from St. Camillus to New Psychiatry Building. This is seen as an exciting and challenging development, as apart from the new environment, the Occupational Therapy Service hopes to extend some of its services to being more Community based.

In Rheumatology, the the multidisciplinary education group and the inflammatory arthritis group continue to develop. The service also plans a relaxation group for service users once the move to the new building has been completed.

Hands and Plastics have been offered as part of basic grade rotation.

Introduction of Peer Group/Problem Based Learning for Basic Grade Therapists.

Occupational Therapy Out-Patient Activity

Year	New Referrals
2004	1,356
2003	1,496

Year	No. of Attendances
2004	3,413
2003	4,844

Year	Total Treatment Units
2004	10,770
2003	8,535

Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care Department

Allied Health Professional and Support Services

Chaplaincy Department

The Chaplaincy Department, like every other department within the hospital represents a very specific and professional discipline. It works with other professional disciplines in providing an overall or Holistic Service that is geared to total Patient Care and Ministry to the family.

The Department is interdenominational in character and all members of the department are professionally trained for their work.

The Department has two main functions:

- To provide Pastoral & Sacramental Service to patients, their families and staff.
- To provide Educational Programmes for the 'In-Service Training' of student chaplains.

Chaplaincy Staff

Since the last annual review, there have been changes in personnel. Sr. Daphne O'Gorman was appointed to the Chaplaincy team in December. Sr. Daphne is a Religious Sister of Charity and has formerly worked in Child Care. Daphne trained in CPE here at St. Vincent's University Hospital and was accredited by the Healthcare Chaplaincy Board of Ireland in October. Daphne is a very welcome addition to the Chaplaincy team and we wish her well in her new career.

Service

When patients are admitted to hospital in need of healing for a physical or emotional illness, they often bring with them other concerns that range over the psychological and spiritual dimensions of their lives. Being aware of their many concerns, the Chaplaincy Department responds at different levels:

- In the administration of the sacraments and in providing appropriate spiritual care and counselling to patients.
- The need for this care is acutely felt at times of great anxiety, such as major surgery and especially terminal illness.
- Much time is spent with families of patients, supporting those shattered by the terminal illness of those closest to them, and later in consoling the bereaved.
- The Chaplaincy Department continues to provide a twenty-four hour service in the hospital. The team consists of three full time Roman Catholic priests, two part time priests, two Church of Ireland ordained Ministers, and three chaplains from the Religious Sisters of Charity. The department is very fortunate to have over forty lay volunteers who serve as Ministers of the Eucharist and assist in bringing the Blessed Sacrament to patients on a daily basis.

During the past year, the chaplains attended at over seven hundred deaths and made 60-80 pre-operation visits per week to patients who had requested a visit. Added to these were the informal visits made on wards when time permitted.

Staff Support

The members of the Chaplaincy Department work closely with the other health care professionals and are available to provide counsel and support to staff when the need arises.

Religious Services

The chaplains provide liturgical services in the main hospital chapel, on the wards, and in the oratory during Advent, Lent and on special occasions. One memorable occasion was the special Mass in February to commemorate the World Day of the Sick. A large number of patients attended with the kind assistance of many staff and volunteers. The Sacrament of the Sick was administered during a very prayerful and moving liturgy.

Five Masses were held during the month of November for deceased patients. The next of kin and family members of patients who died during the past year were invited and it gave bereaved families an opportunity to come together and remember their loved ones in a 'Candle Ceremony of Remembrance'. There was a very large attendance at the Masses and bereaved families were very appreciative of the support and consolation they received. For many families, it was their first time back in the hospital since the death of their loved one and they found it brought a sense of closure to their experience. Bereaved staff, and deceased members of staff and their families were particularly remembered at a special Mass organised by the Mission Effectiveness Committee.

Seminars

During the year, seminars on pastoral care were given to the student nurses, at the in service training programmes for Overseas Nurses, at induction programmes for new nurses, and for new employees.

The chaplains attended the Annual Conferences of the National Association of Hospital Chaplains and of the Dublin Diocesan Committee of Hospital Chaplains as well as other relevant study days.

Professional Bodies

At present, a member of our Chaplaincy team sits on the **Executive Committee of the Dublin Hospital Chaplains' Association**.

Clinical Pastoral Education

The primary focus of the C.P.E. course is the spiritual needs of the patients. The course aims at enabling the student develop a better understanding of patients' needs and how to respond to these. The participant's personal ministry is enhanced through interpersonal group experience and other methods of reflection on how one relates to patients (people in crisis). Attention to the participant's personal development and supervision of the individual's pastoral work promotes a greater self-assurance and effectiveness in ministry. Formal lectures focus on areas such as the theory of pastoral care, loss and bereavement and personal development.

Participants are welcome from all religious denominations. While these courses were originally aimed at providing practical pastoral training to clergy, seminarians, and members of religious orders, in recent years there has been a growing interest in this area among lay people.

During the past year, the Chaplaincy Department hosted an intern year in Clinical Pastoral Education. Four student-chaplains participated from September through to July. One other joined this group from January to July. The stability and continuity of this course offers students a special learning experience. This also enhances the quality of Pastoral Care offered to patients.

Sr. Dervilla O' Donnell (Supervisor in Training) shared leadership with Fr. Joe Cahill in directing the final unit of CPE from September to December. Nine student chaplains participated in the course.



Pharmacy Department

Allied Health Professional and Support Services

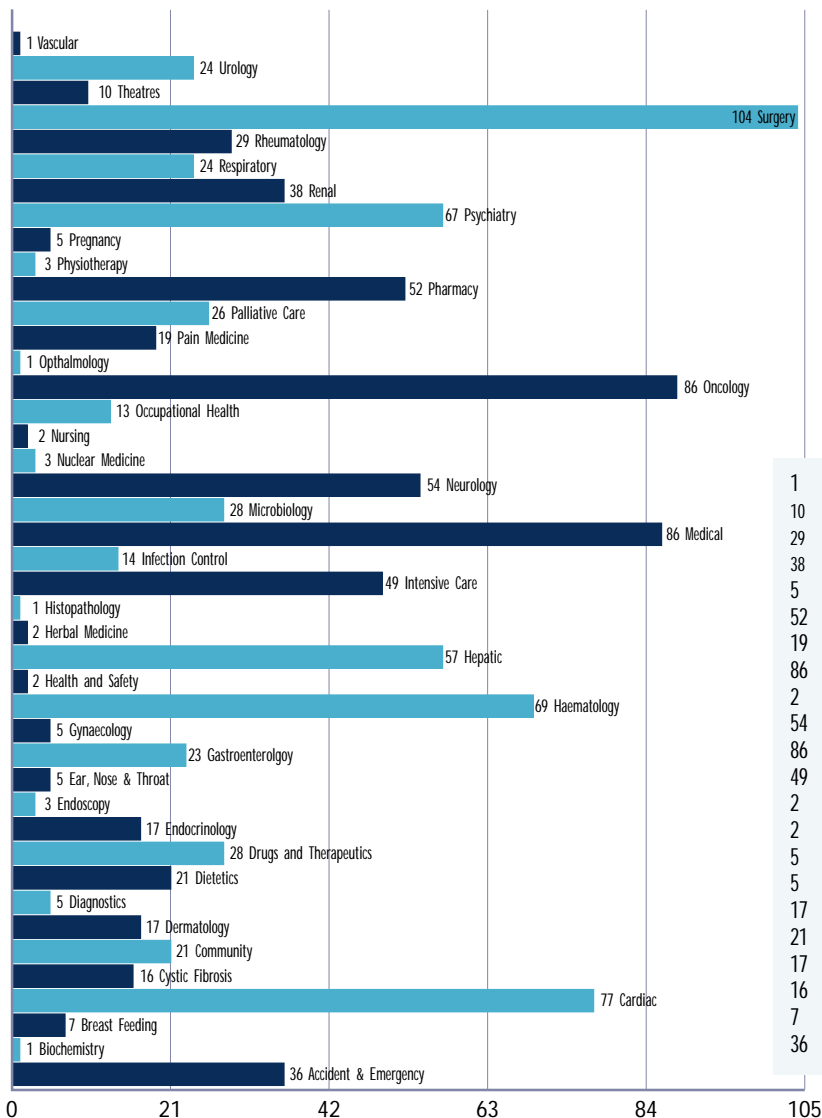
Service Developments / Activities

In 2004, there were considerable challenges for the Pharmacy Department in meeting service needs. This was mainly due to an increase in activity over the previous year. For example there was an increase of 6.4% in the number of items issued from the dispensary.

Medicines Information (MI) Service

In 2004, Medicines Information (MI) answered 1,173 enquiries, an increase of 3.7% compared with 2003 (1,132 enquiries).

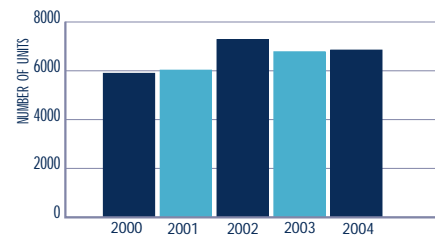
Breakdown of enquiries by directorate for the organisation, in 2004 are shown below.



Aseptic Compounding Service

The number of units prepared in the Aseptic Unit (ASU) in 2004 was 6845. Since 2000 the number of units prepared has increased by 20%.

Number of Units compounded



These figures do not reflect the complexity of work and they do not take into account quality assurance and research activities. In 2004, a capacity planning formula was devised to measure workload, taking these additional parameters into account. This formula was successfully used to negotiate additional staff for the ASU.

1 Vascular	0.95%	24 Urology	2.06%
10 Theatres	0.86%	104 Surgery	8.94%
29 Rheumatology	2.49%	24 Respiratory	2.06%
38 Renal	3.27%	67 Psychiatry	5.76%
5 Pregnancy	0.43%	3 Physiotherapy	0.26%
52 Pharmacy	4.47%	26 Palliative Care	2.24%
19 Pain Medicine	1.63%	1 Ophthalmology	0.09%
86 Oncology	7.57%	13 Occupational Health	1.12%
2 Nursing	0.17%	3 Nuclear Medicine	0.26%
54 Neurology	4.64%	28 Microbiology	2.41%
86 Medical	7.39%	14 Infection Control	1.2%
49 Intensive Care	4.21%	1 Histopathology	0.09%
2 Herbal Medicine	0.17%	57 Hepatic	4.9%
5 Gynaecology	0.43%	2 Health and Safety	0.17%
23 Gastroenterology	1.98%	69 Haematology	5.93%
5 Ear, Nose & Throat	0.43%	3 Endoscopy	0.26%
17 Endocrinology	1.46%	28 Drugs and Therapeutics	2.14%
21 Dietetics	1.81%	5 Diagnostics	0.43%
17 Dermatology	1.46%	21 Community	1.81%
16 Cystic Fibrosis	1.38%	17 Dermatology	1.46%
77 Cardiac	6.62%	21 Community	1.81%
7 Breast Feeding	0.6%	16 Cystic Fibrosis	1.38%
36 Accident & Emergency	3.1%	7 Breast Feeding	0.6%
		1 Biochemistry	0.09%

Patient Controlled Analgesia Audit

The Pharmacy Department and the Departments of Anaesthesia and Nursing carried out a review/audit of PCA usage in St. Vincent's University Hospital (SVUH) and St. Vincent's Private Hospital (SVPH). As a result, the following changes were implemented:

- Introduction of a new PCA pre-filled device.
- Revised documentation e.g. PCA prescription sheet and monitoring guidelines.

The PCA service will be re-audited in 2005.

St. Vincent's Healthcare Group Prescriber's Guide and Formulary

The 3rd edition of the St. Vincent's Healthcare Group Prescriber's Guide and Formulary (2004/2005) was circulated in August.

Accreditation

A lot of time and effort went into preparations for the Accreditation survey. The Pharmacy Department's contribution to the process was capably managed by Fionnuala Kennedy.

Project Work

Work on operational policies for the new building started in 2004. Considerable progress has been made on identifying the gaps between existing resources and those required to meet service needs in the new building.

Discharge Medication Policy

A new discharge medication policy for the Emergency Department was agreed between medical, nursing and pharmacy representatives. This service provides discharge medication packs for patients who anticipate a delay in having their prescription dispensed.

Medication Incident Reporting

The IT Department designed a software programme for recording data on medication incidents. Work has commenced on inputting medication incident reports (MIRs) from 2004 on this database. The Drugs and Therapeutics Committee will use this information for compiling strategies for medication incident avoidance.

Achievements

- Niamh O' Hanlon won the award for the best presentation of original research at the United Kingdom Medicines Information (UKMI) annual conference in Warwick.
- Sinead Murray received a Diploma in Clinical Pharmacy from Queens University, Belfast.
- Niamh O' Hanlon was awarded an MSc in Health Services Management by the University of Dublin, Trinity College.
- Lisa Hammond and Brian Spooner graduated in November after completing their pre-registration year.

- Laura McCabe registered for an MSc in Hospital Pharmacy, University of Dublin, in January 2004.

Lectures and Workshops

The pharmacy staff delivered a comprehensive selection of lectures and educational support for many undergraduate and postgraduate medical, nursing and pharmacy programmes.

Publications and Posters

Gonzalez Z, Schaffer K, O'Sullivan S, Fitzgerald S, Fenelon L.

Evaluation of Diagnostic Studies and Antibiotic Treatment on Admission to a Dublin Teaching Hospita.

Poster presentation at the National Pharmaceutical Congress (Spain), Alicante, October 2004.

Kennedy F.

PCA Use in a Large Acute Hospital.

HPAI Clinical Conference, Dublin, April 2004

Spooner B.

Hospital Discharge Prescriptions and their Impact on Community Pharmacy and the Drugs Budget.

Thesis as part of pre-registration training programme.

Hammond L.

An Investigation of Medicines Information Sources used by Medical and Nursing Personnel at SVUH.

Thesis as part of pre-registration training programme.



Conferences

All Ireland Cystic Fibrosis Meeting; Killarney, February 2004. C. Keane.

British Travel Health Association Conference; London, March 2004. N. O'Hanlon.

European Association of Hospital Pharmacists Conference; Seville, March 2004.
F. Kennedy.

Seminar on Cancer-related Fatigue; Dublin, March 2004. E. Marsden.

HPAI Clinical Conference; Dublin, April 2004. C. Keane, F. Kennedy, C. Kingston.

UK Pharmaceutical Technicians Conference; Belfast, April 2004. A. Flynn.

United Kingdom Medicines Information (UKMI) Annual Conference; Warwick,
September 2004. N. O'Hanlon, M. Broderick.

North/South Pharmacy Conference; Dundalk, September 2004. C. Bogue,
L. Hammond.

Haematology Seminar; Dublin, September 2004. K. Feeley.

British Oncology Pharmacists Association (BOPA) Conference; Birmingham, October
2004. K. Feeley, E. Marsden, A.M. de Frein.

29th Annual UK Psychiatric Pharmacists Conference; Reading, October 2004. R. Knox.

World Congress of Cardiac Rehabilitation Meeting; Dublin, May 2004. C. Kingston.

North American Cystic Fibrosis Conference; St. Louis, October 2004. C. Keane.

National Pharmaceutical Congress (Spain); Alicante, October 2004.
Z. Gonzalez Sanchez.

UK Hospital Pharmacy Conference; London, November 2004. N. O'Hanlon.

American Society of Health System Pharmacists Midyear Clinical Meeting; Orlando,
December 2004. S. Murray.

UK and ROI Liver Pharmacists Group; Meetings throughout the year
attended by F. Kennedy.

Plans for 2005

- Installation and implementation of a new IT software programme in the pharmacy.
- Review of drug storage systems in clinical areas.
- Publication of 4th Edition of SVHG Prescriber's Guide and Formulary.
- Re-audit of PCA usage.

Physiotherapy Department

Allied Health Professional and Support Services

The Physiotherapy Service encompasses an inpatient and outpatient service, a GP direct access scheme, a rheumatology specific GP direct access scheme, an ergonomic service, Moving & Handling training programme and an Instructors training course.

Staffing

- The physiotherapy staffing complement consists of 33.5 wte posts.
- Staffing levels were reduced by 1 wte January - May '04, holiday locum cover by 75% and on call locum cover by 100%.
- Ms Grainne O'Hara was appointed Deputy Physiotherapist Manager in May'04.

Service Developments

The Physiotherapy Department is organised under three core specialities, which encompass the scope of physiotherapy practice and education namely:

- Cardio Respiratory Care
- Musculoskeletal Care/Rheumatology
- Rehabilitation

Physiotherapy Cardio Respiratory Service

The number of patients requiring Non Invasive Ventilation (NIV) continues to rise. A proposal to set up a 5-bedded NIV ward was submitted to Mr Jermyn, Group CEO, in March '04 by the multidisciplinary NIV review committee. This has been agreed in principal.

Developments in cardiology have included an obesity management programme for cardiac patients. Current research is investigating the effect of exercise on heart failure patients. Study to be completed 2005.

The Cystic Fibrosis Service's activity levels continue to exceed the physiotherapy staffing of 1.5 wte. In 2004, 0.5 wte staff physiotherapist was allocated to CF service as an emergency measure from within the physiotherapy staff complement.

A multidisciplinary approach to the care of the critical ill patient is in line with best practice. A consultative process with the medical and nursing teams involved in the Critical Care Division is in place in preparation for the transfer to the new unit.

Physiotherapy Musculoskeletal Service

Hand Therapy Service recorded a significant rise in activity levels 2001-2004 (133%). The current staffing levels of 0.5 wte senior post does not meet the needs of the service. The importance of physiotherapy intervention in terms of clinical outcome post hand surgery is evident.

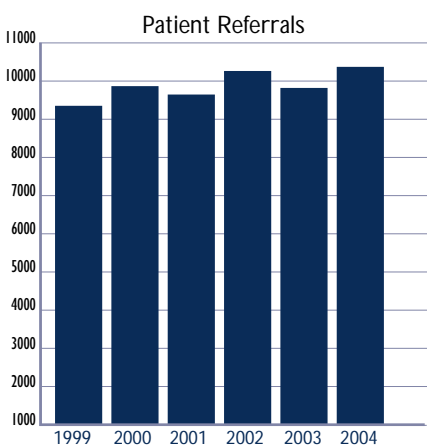
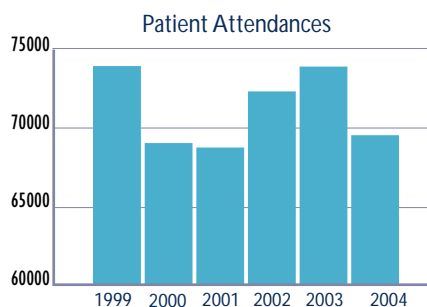
The Working Backs Programme was implemented successfully in 2004. This innovative programme offers a streamline evidenced based management pathway for staff with low back pain.

Physiotherapy Rehabilitation Service

The Neurology Outpatient Service has also seen a significant increase in referrals (220 referrals in 2004 compared to 106 referrals in 2003). This growth may be attributed to the demand for rehabilitation and lack of similar services in other hospitals in the area. The number of patients referred to the stroke service is in line with 2003 activity.

Physiotherapists are involved with the multidisciplinary diabetic programme. The need to further develop this programme to include an exercise component is supported by research.

Departmental Activities



Outstanding/Significant Achievements

There is strong evidence of ongoing education and research at postgraduate and undergraduate level. 84 clinical placements are provided annually for physiotherapy undergraduates from UCD.

Awards

- Martina Fitzpatrick awarded the Abbott Education Bursary
- Martina Fitzpatrick awarded the O'Neill Bursary for research
- Noel S, Conlon S, Dockery M, Leahy P & O'Shea D, awarded prize for poster presentation at International Association of Physical Therapists Working with Older People Conference. May '04.

Postgraduate Degrees

- Keith Smart, MSc by research UCD
- Karen Cradock, 2nd year MSc by research TCD
- Aoife Caffrey, 1st year MSc (Sports Physio)
- Ruth Gibson, 1st year MSc (Sports Physio)
- Sarah O'Donnell MSc (Physio) North Western University, Australia. Awarded prize for 1st place
- Grainne O'Hara commenced Leadership Programme
- Six SVUH Physiotherapy Education Bursaries were awarded to staff undertaking postgraduate degrees and diplomas.

Oral Presentations

French H, Cahalane E, Cooke G, Farrell S, Fitzpatrick M, Leahy P, Keown A.M, O'Grady A.M, O'Shea N, Smee C, *'Green Belt' Approach to conducting a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Project'*

ISCP Conference 5th November 2004.

Cahalane E, Cooke G, Byrne M, Farrell S, Fitzpatrick M, French H, Leahy P, Keown A.M, O'Grady A.M, O'Shea N, Smee C, *'The Use of Focus Groups in a Qualitative Study of CPD'*; - ISCP Conference. November 2004.

Smart K *'Clinical Reasoning and Classification of Pain by Experienced Musculoskeletal Physiotherapists'*; Chartered Society of Physiotherapists Annual Conference. UK 2004

Murphy A *'Positioning & Handling of Stroke Patients'*; SVUH Study Day. Jan 2004

Poster Presentations

Kennedy N, Duffy A, Cussen G, Wallace L, Nolan M, Fitzpatrick M, Craig A, Dunne-Shannon U, Grant M, Buckley K, McGrane E, and Keogan F, *'The Demographic Profile of Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis Attending for Physiotherapy Treatment: Results from a Survey of Eight Physiotherapy Departments'*

Irish Society of Rheumatology (ISR) and Irish Rheumatology Health Professional Society (IRHPS) Scientific Meeting, October 2004. Awarded IRHPS Poster Prize.

Keogan F, Duffy A, Cussen G, Wallace L, Nolan M, Fitzpatrick M, Craig A, Dunne-Shannon U, Grant M, Buckley K, McGrane E, and Kennedy N, - *'Provision of Gait Aids, Orthotics and Splints to Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis: Results of a Survey From Eight Physiotherapy Departments'*

ISR and IRHPS Scientific Meeting, October 2004.

ISCP Conference, November 2004.

British Society of Rheumatology Conference, April 2005.

Conferences attended 2004

Physiotherapy staff attended a wide variety of national and international conferences

Plans 2004

Implement the Dublin Academic Teaching Hospitals Continuing Professional Development Project, a continuous professional development programme for staff grade physiotherapists, developed 2004 by DATH Physiotherapy Managers and Clinical Specialists.

Develop data system to incorporate ICD-10.

Develop early intervention rehabilitation programme.



Department of Preventive Medicine and Health Promotion

Allied Health Professional and Support Services

Staff

Professor Cecily Kelleher
MD, FRCPI, MPH, FPHM, MFPHMI (Head of Department)

Ms Jacinta Barnewell
RGN, SCM, Adv. Dip. Montessori Education
(Health Promotion Officer from November 2004)

Dr. Anna Clarke LRCP&SI, MB, MPH, FRCPI, FPHM, FFPH

Ms. Denise Comerford RGN, RM (Health Promotion Coordinator)

Ms. Frances Conlan (Secretary)

Ms. Kirsten Doherty BSc, MPH (Health Promotion Officer)

Ms. Hilda Gallagher RGN, RM (Health Promotion Officer)

Ms. E. McIntyre RGN, RSCN, H. Dip. Health Promotion
(Health Promotion Officer to September 2004)

Ms. Veronica O'Neill RGN, RM (Health Promotion Nurse)

Ms. Carol Pye RGN, RM (Health Promotion Officer)

Ms. Vivien Reid MSc, Dip Diet. (Clinical Specialist Dietitian)

Ms. Brenda Whiteside RGN, RM (Health Promotion Officer)

Allied UCD staff

Professor Leslie Daly, MSc, PhD, FFPH

Dr. Dominique Crowley MB, MPH, MFPHMI, MFPHM (to April 2004)

Dr. Patricia Fitzpatrick MD, MPH, FRCPI, FPHM.

Service Developments/Achievements

Service to Patients

24 Hour Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring Service
This service is provided for both inpatients and outpatients of hospital consultants and general practitioners.

Cardiac Rehabilitation

This department's support of cardiac rehabilitation continues through the monthly cardiac lifestyle information session. An information stand was provided at a GP Heartwatch Workshop in November.

A Heart Health Research Bursary was awarded to Hilda Gallagher to evaluate systematically pre-hospital administration of aspirin to patients with suspected acute myocardial infarction.

Smoking Cessation Services

This service has continued to develop, with intensive interventions for in-patients and out-patients, stop smoking courses, and a weekly drop-in session. Staff education sessions took place in most wards, in several departments, and at staff and intern induction days to increase awareness of smoking and the service available. Development of a smoking education DVD commenced with Dun Laoghaire College of Art and Design.

A research programme, funded by the EU and the Cardiovascular Health Strategy, includes an almost complete follow-up study of 1100 in-patients, at six months post discharge. Smoking cessation support and free nicotine replacement therapy are offered to staff, in conjunction with the Pharmacy and Occupational Health Departments.

Service to Staff

In-house health promotion training sessions were presented to all departments. These sessions are now included in medical interns and general staff induction programmes.

"Healthwise SVUH" continued to be published quarterly. The contribution from staff throughout the hospital is appreciated.

Health promotion information stands were provided, including Cancer Awareness for men, co-ordinated by Divisional Nurse Manager Tanya King, and Smoking Cessation, manned by the health promotion team. A COPD Awareness Day with spirometry testing was offered by the Pulmonary Department. A Heart Health Awareness stand was co-ordinated by the Cardiac Rehabilitation Department.

During National Healthy Eating Week an information stand was provided for staff and patients. The theme was 'What's your portion...size matters'. A measurement session 'Are you an Apple or a Pear?' was advertised on the stand. Measurements were compared to the Ashwell Shape chart indicating action needed to reduce weight and waist size. Two pedometers were raffled as prizes.

Service to the Community

Education and Training Days

Training days for health professionals were run in conjunction with other hospital departments. Topics were:

- Colorectal Cancer
- Palliative Care
- 2-Day Stop Smoking Courses in conjunction with the Irish Cancer Society

In association with the Health Promotion Unit at the Department of Health and Children, a national research seminar was provided for Community Dietitians relating to audit and research.

Health Promoting Hospitals

St.Vincent's University Hospital is one of over ninety hospitals affiliated to the National Health Promoting Hospital (HPH) Network. Denise Comerford and Dr Anna Clarke are members of its National Executive. Denise Comerford continued as secretary to our own hospital committee.

Health Promotion Seminars for Students

Six seminars were held, each attended by approximately 100 transition year students; topics covered were alcohol awareness, cancer awareness, smoking cessation and healthy eating. A stop smoking course was run for transition year students as part of their entry to the Young Scientists Exhibition. Smoking Awareness stands were provided at the UCD Medical Science Awareness Day for 2nd year students and the UCD No Smoking Awareness Day

Significant Publications

Reid V. *The influence of Cardiac Rehabilitation on lifestyle change – one year follow up.* European Journal of Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation. 2004 Vol. 11 Supp. 1. p.13

Doherty K. *A service analysis of a hospital-based smoking cessation service – positive outcomes.* Proceedings of the 12th International Conference on Health Promotion Hospitals, Moscow, May 2004

Reid V. *Fruit intake of hospital staff – how does it compare with national data?* Proceedings of Nutrition Society Summer Meeting, Dublin, July 2004. (In press)

O'Donoghue S. *Positive impact of the anti-smoking legislation on hospitalised cigarette smokers.* Proceedings of the Winter Scientific Meeting of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine, Dublin, May 2004

Gallagher H. *The external and internal factors affecting the delivery of healthcare: are nurses prepared for the challenges of the new Health Service Reforms?* Proceedings of the National Council for the Professional Development of Nursing and Midwifery Conference

Speech and Language Therapy Department

Allied Health Professional and Support Services

Staffing

This year, our senior post in ENT was made permanent and Susan McElwee took up this position, in January 2004. We continued our link post with St. Michael's Hospital, this service has been running for nearly two years. Susan Starr completed her 12-month contract and returned to Australia. Claudia Schäfer who worked in the department since March 2002 took a one-year career break to return to Germany. Claudia is now working in a community based adult post in Berlin. We successfully filled both of these posts. Una Deane joined the department in June 2004. Una worked in Cork University Hospital, since graduating from TCD (June 2002). Sharon McNulty, who graduated in June 2004, joined the department in August 2004.

Service Development

ENT Service

- We continued our twice-weekly Joint Voice/Digital Stroboscopy Clinics with Mr. Russell and Mr. Charles.
- We commenced a Fibre Optic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES) assessment clinic (June 2004).
- Two of the Senior Speech and Language Therapists (ENT and Neurology) continue to participate in the multidisciplinary tracheostomy policy working group.
- Fionnuala Duffy, Speech and Language Therapy Manager, was a member of the DEEPO quality improvement team.
- **Voice Problems: Prevention Programme for Primary School Teachers**
Following the 2003 audit of our Joint Voice/Digital Stroboscopy Clinic (ENT OPD), we were able to see that over 60% of the patients presenting with vocal cord pathology (vocal cord nodules) were Primary School Teachers. This programme commenced in September 2004. To-date, 16 schools have been involved (284 teachers). This programme is the first of its kind in the Republic of Ireland.

Link Post with St. Michael's Hospital

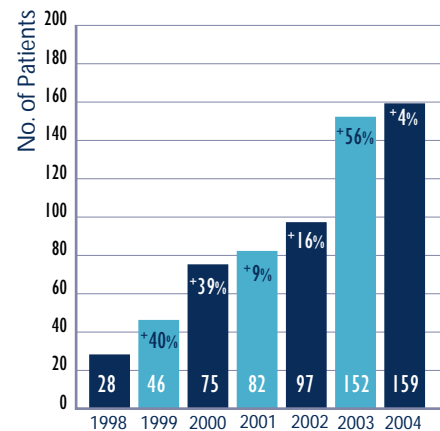
- Deirdre Kidney and Una Deane conducted training sessions for nursing staff on the management of swallowing problems at ward level.
- Patients from St. Michael's Hospital continue to avail of the specialist clinics – Videofluoroscopy and Joint Voice Clinic.

Input to the Neurology Service.

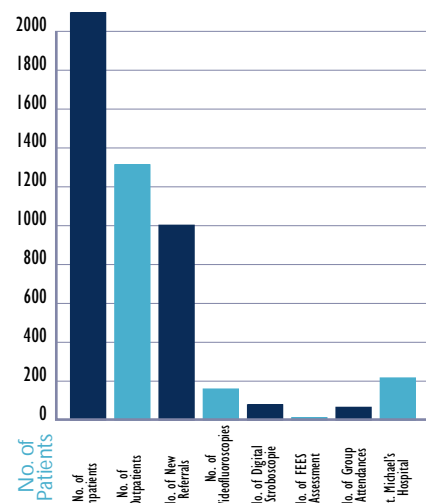
- This service has increased significantly over the last 12 months. Deirdre Kidney and Una Deane continue to participate in ward rounds and have made a number of presentations at the weekly journal club.
- We have also commenced a group treatment programme for patients with Parkinson's disease.

Videofluoroscopy Service

The Speech and Language Therapy Department and Dr. Dermot Malone, Consultant Radiologist, run this specialised clinic jointly. It continues to be the only videofluoroscopy service in the East Coast Area Health Board. Referrals are accepted from St. Michael's Hospital, St. Vincent's Private Hospital, St. Colmcilles, National Rehabilitation Hospital, and Royal Hospital Donnybrook.



Departmental Statistics



Departmental Statistics

No. of Inpatients	2,095
No. of Outpatients	1,313
No. of New Referrals	1,002
No. of Videofluoroscopies	59
No. of Digital Stroboscopies	78
No. of FEES Assessment	12
No. of Group Attendances	65
St. Michael's Hospital new referrals	216
Total	4,940

Stroke Service/Care of the Elderly

Staff attached to this service attend the weekly journal club on a regular basis. These staff members also presented at one of the stroke specific sessions on 'Assessing for depression in patients with dysphasia'.

Fionnuala Duffy, Speech and Language Therapy Manager, presented at the first annual Study Day, in January 2004.

Deirdre Kidney, Senior Speech and Language Therapist, participated in the Parkinson's information sessions organised by Dr. Diarmuid O'Shea, in Carew House.

Quality Innovation Award

We were delighted to win an award for our patient information booklet on 'Swallowing and Nutrition'. This is a joint project with our colleagues in the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics.

Training and Development

- Throughout 2004, the department was involved in a number of presentations.
- Ruth Maxwell, Senior Speech and Language Therapist, continued to provide input to nursing students on Our Lady's Ward.
- Susan McElwee, Senior Speech and Language Therapist, provides ongoing input to physiotherapy students.
- The department provided several placements for Speech and Language students, including a final year TCD student and a first year from UL.
- We also continued our extensive in-service training programme, which was particularly useful given the number of new staff in the department.
- Three members of the department have commenced postgraduate degrees (1 – IPA & 2 –TCD).

Significant Courses / Conferences

Various members of the department attended a number of different courses throughout the year.

- Special Interest Group in Voice Disorders-Voice Training for Teachers.
Dr. Stephanie Martin 19th February 2004.Mater Hospital.
- The State of the Art of Dysphagia Management.
Dr. Joseph Murray 3 days – St. James's Hospital, 2nd – 4th June 2004.
- IASLT – Conference 26th /27th November 2004.
'Celebrating innovations in Service Development and Clinical Practice'.

Three members of the department presented papers at this National Conference.

"Do Speech and Language Therapists working in adult dysphagia use the same labels when referring to foods and fluids?"

Ruth Maxwell, Senior Speech and Language Therapist.

Laryngotracheal Separation for intractable aspiration.

Fionnuala Duffy, Speech and Language Therapy Manager.

Assessment of Oropharyngeal Dysphagia in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis.

Deirdre Kidney, Senior Speech and Language Therapist.

We also displayed two poster presentations at this Conference.

Development of a Multidisciplinary Tracheostomy Management Policy in an Acute Care Setting.

A practical guide for helping families and carers understand aphasia.
(SVUH and NRH)

Plans for 2005

- To upgrade two of our senior posts to Clinical Specialist.
- To continue our involvement in student education.
- To continue the research project on a 'Pharyngeal Retention Scale' with Dr. D. Malone and Prof. L.Daly (UCD).
- To set-up a Voice Laboratory in the new ENT OPD.
- To develop a database system.
- To complete a project on 'aphasia friendly' information with the Stroke and Care of Elderly teams.

Department of Catering

Service Departments

Staff

Staff training and development is ongoing in the Catering Department in order to comply with Current Food Hygiene and Health and Safety Regulations and continue to progress the implementation of HACCP.

Mr. Alphonsus Maguire, Chef Grade II, retired in June 2004 after forty-seven years service. Alphonsus started his career in St. Stephen's Green in 1957. I wish to thank him for his loyalty and support and wish him good health and happiness in his retirement.

Mr. Billy Rooney, Kitchen Porter, also retired in June 2004 after twenty years service. May he too enjoy good health and happiness.

We are glad to welcome all new staff who joined the Catering Department in 2004. In particular, Ms. Paula Grogan, Catering Officer, with main responsibilities for the food service in the Cafeteria.

Ms. Nora Kavanagh graduated in May'04 after successfully completing the Supervisory Management Course in D.I.T. Cathal Brugha Street. Nora started her career as a Catering Assistant and, through her own perseverance, returned to study in her own time while she continued to work at St. Vincent's University Hospital for the past three years. Congratulations Nora and every success in the future.

Service Development/Activities

The main kitchen upgrade continued through 2004. All the old steam operated equipment was discarded and replaced with modern electric and gas appliances. A major rewiring was carried out to give badly needed electric capacity and to facilitate a more efficient service. The monitoring of food temperature controls was implemented in each ward kitchen and all relevant staff were trained to carry out this function. This now completes the food chain traceability required to comply with the HACCP system.

The Catering Department, through the Director of Catering, is involved in a North/South catering project funded by the National Partnership Forum looking at nutritional and ethnic food requirements for patients and staff.

In February 2004, a one-day workshop was held in Newry which Hospital Managers, Financial Controllers, Procurement, Dieticians, Catering Managers, Supervisors, Chef and Trade Union Representatives attended. Ethnic and religious groups were in attendance at the workshop.

The issues raised were used to compile a questionnaire which was issued to Hospitals nationwide to :

- Identify the numbers of ethnic groups in various communities.
- Find out the numbers of different nationalities using our hospitals.
- Collect data on the availability of supplies in Ireland and set up a supplies register.

The aim is to produce a booklet, which will be used as a toolkit to assist and provide guidelines on menu interpretation, protocol for meal ordering and other useful information for people from different communities.

Here at St. Vincent's University Hospital Halal, Kosher and other ethnic dishes have been introduced into the staff menus and are also available to patients. The experiment is proving popular.

Departmental Statistics

The Catering Department caters for 500 in-patients and over 2,000 staff. Added to this is the demand from visitors and patients to use our Cafeteria, which itself has increased its turnover beyond all expectations. The Out Patients Snack Bar is used by at least 500 people every day. A full meal service is provided to patients awaiting admission in the Emergency Department. The Catering Department also provides a wide range of meals and snacks for functions, seminars, meetings etc throughout the hospital.

Future Plans

In order to address the problem in the staff restaurant of long queues at service points and at the cash desk, plans have been drawn up to provide a better layout and to offer several service points in an enclosed food hall. A carvery unit manned by one of our Chefs will provide added choice and variety for our customers. More emphasis will be on healthy eating, even though a small section is reserved for the "chip fancier". It is hoped this will be in operation within the year.

Enhanced delivery of meals to our patients is still a priority, even though the progress may seem slow. We hope to replace all the hot/cold food trolleys soon and offer an improved menu selection allowing the patient more time to choose from a wider range of dishes, as well as lighter meals and snacks.

We will continue to serve the needs of our patients, staff and visitors in a caring and courteous manner.

Theatre Sterile Services Unit / Central Sterile Supplies Department

Service Departments

Service Development / Activities

2004 will be remembered as the year of Accreditation. The preparation, the paperwork, the time involved presented no small challenge to us all. Despite the hard work involved, it was a satisfying process for this department as it allowed us to look critically at what we do, how we do it and at the same time recognising opportunities for improvement.

A lot of time and effort was spent this year in preparation for the move to our new department in 2005. Equipping lists, operational policies and gap analysis have become part of our lives. In the autumn, organised staff visits to the new building produced very positive feedback, as the dream is fast becoming a reality.

Staff

Early in the year Angela Ormonde left us to join the Laboratory team in the hospital, and Jacqueline Donnelly left to seek pastures new in the United States. We welcome Brian O'Leary and Linda Finn as new members of the team.

TSSU Supervisor Aileen Byrne graduated from Tallaght DIT with a National Diploma in Sterile Services Technology. A glutton for punishment, Aileen has returned to college to study for a Bachelor of Science degree.

Ms. Anne Grumley, retired in September and we thank her for the support and wisdom that she showed to this department during her time as Divisional Nurse Manager.

Statistics

2004 showed an increase in the volume of instrument sets and other devices reprocessed to over 60,000 items. The increased workload and the limitations of the current working environment meant another demanding year for TSSU. We look forward with great anticipation to 'new beginnings' in 2005.



General Services Department

Service Departments

Telephone and Communication Services

The Telephone Services Department provides switchboard and communication services to approximately 12,000 internal and external callers per week. The department also co-ordinates our internal and external fire and emergency communication protocols, and is responsible for maintaining internal directories for the telephony and paging systems.

The service operates on a 24-hour basis, and is staffed by a team of 12 full and part-time staff members.

The service continues to benefit from ongoing capital investment as part of the hospital re-development programme. During 2004, this investment included the commissioning of a new internal paging system, involving the successful overnight changeover of 650 pager users. These investments will ensure that our new facilities can be successfully integrated into our existing communications arrangements.

Security Department

The hospital is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for patients, relatives and staff. Our Security Department plays a key role in the co-ordination of security and safety activities, with a particular focus on fire safety management and emergency response procedures.

The service is staffed by a team of 14 members, offering a 24-hour service. The department continued to meet the challenges associated with ongoing construction activities on site and looks forward to providing security services to the completed facilities in 2005.

Portering Services Department

The Portering Department provides support services to a broad variety of hospital departments through the provision and supervision of Portering staff. The areas serviced include Theatres, Laboratories, Radiology and Patient Clinics. Whole-hospital activities such as waste management, post and patient transport are also co-ordinated within the department. The current staff compliment is 67.

Training continued to be a focus for 2004. The department commenced a programme of re-training all staff in patient and non-patient moving and handling, and the first of our supervisors graduated from the hospital's Diploma in Supervisory Management Programme.

In late 2004, the department began planning for the commissioning of the new waste marshalling facilities and we look forward to the challenges and opportunities arising from their planned opening in 2005.

Cleaning, Hygiene & Household Services

The hospital takes seriously its obligation to meet the highest standards of cleaning and hygiene in support of the care of patients. All cleaning and hygiene activities are guided by best Infection Control practices, and operate to a pre-agreed cleaning specification. During 2004, the hospital engaged in a comprehensive review of this specification with a view to ensuring we continue to meet our changing needs.

Cleaning activities are provided under a contracted service with approximately 70 cleaning operatives and supervisors working in close partnership with the hospital.

Our Household function co-ordinates rest, welfare and accommodation facilities for staff and patient relatives, and is also responsible for co-ordinating and monitoring various contracted household services.

Medical Records and Patient Services

Service Departments

Staffing

During 2004, a total of 9 Grade IV Officers and 13 Grade III Officers commenced, in addition to summer locums and part-time temporary staff. This is an indication of the hard work and commitment given by our long-term permanent staff with regard to orientation and training that is on going within the department.

The following permanent Grade V appointments were made:

- Thomas Slattery, HIPE/Casemix Department
- Gaye Moffat, Emergency Department

Staff participated in the following courses on offer to line managers:

- Communication and Motivation
- Managing Team Performance
- Recruitment and Selection Skills
- Equality and Diversity Training
- Personal Development Planning

The following staff completed a 5 Day Module Supervisory Course which was offered by the Office for Health Management:

Tara Kelly (Cardiology), Ruth Gavin (Emergency Department), Mary White (Rheumatology), Rachel Boyle (Secretarial Services), Jenni Cross (Orthopaedics/Pain Management), Mary Kavanagh (Outpatient Department), Angela Corrigan (Theatre), Lorraine Murray (Medicine for the Elderly)

Service Developments/Activities

- Involvement with the Accreditation process continued for many of our staff and the Peer Review Survey took place in May.
- A new patient chart was introduced on February 11th. Workshops were held for all Medical Records and Ward Secretaries (98 attended). The changes implemented were significant with regard to structure and filing order. Attention to the changes is ongoing and an audit process is planned for the New Year.
- A very important HIPE deadline was successfully met in September, thanks to the hard work of all Coders, Casemix Assistants and Support Staff in the Medical Records filing room.
- A File Management Working Group was formed with the East Coast Area Health Board & St. Vincent's University Hospital in planning for the move to the new Psychiatric Unit. Mary Moran, Candy Molloy, Rosaleen McGuire and Tricia McDonough, along with Dermot Cullinan (ICT Department) are working with this group on the development of procedures for chart management in the new unit

and coordination of information flow between the unit and various outpatient sites.

- Various IT projects, that involved many of our supervisors, were ongoing in 2004, such as:-

H2H installation in St. Anne's with plans for other day care areas

Bi-directional between Maxims and PAS

Scanning of Emergency Department records

Development of the new Data Management Warehouse

Human Resources Department

Service Departments

Overview

Looking back at the activities for 2004, it is apparent that the Human Resources (HR) Department had another busy year. As well as the normal range of HR functions, the department was involved in a number of projects, the most significant being the IHSAB Accreditation and advancing the modernisation and change agenda.

The hospital wide accreditation initiative impacted on HR and three sub-groups were established to address the HR standards. The Partnership approach to accreditation adopted by these teams, which involved the three hospitals in the group, proved very successful. Representatives from Department Heads, Line Management, Staff, Trade Unions and the HR Department across the three sites, worked collaboratively to identify and document key strengths and opportunities for improvement, with a prioritised list of areas for attention under Quality Improvement Plans. Significant work was carried out by the teams formed to address the HR standards and the partnership approach taken was commended by the Accreditation survey team. Work is continuing on our Quality Improvement Plans for the next stage of the process.

The hospital continued to progress a range of new change management initiatives, while consolidating the advancement of existing measures, with particular emphasis on enhanced customer services initiatives. A significant focus was also placed on the development of standard operating procedures for the move to the new building, with real and worthwhile engagement from staff in this process. The relevant pay increases under Sustaining Progress and Benchmarking were paid to staff on foot of the report submitted to the Health Services Performance Verification Group.

In July 2004, Noel Cassidy, who joined St. Vincent's University Hospital as Personnel Officer in April 1973, retired. All his colleagues in HR and throughout the hospital wish him a very happy retirement. The HR Department extends every good wish to all our staff who also retired during the year.

Service Developments/Activities

The recruitment division was involved in a high volume of activity across a wide variety of grades throughout the year. The hospital continued to experience shortages in certain specialised areas and successful efforts were made to recruit from both at home and abroad. The "Recruitment and Selection Skills" training for interview panel members up-skilled our staff in best practice recruitment and selection techniques. A review of policies, procedures and practises in Recruitment and Selection is planned for the year ahead.

The HR Department initiated and supported a range of training and development interventions, including educational financial support. Some of the key initiatives are listed below.

- The hospital was successful in an application to the ERHA for funding a Management Development Programme in collaboration with the other Dublin Academic

Teaching Hospitals and Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children. The programme, which commenced in April 2004, contained six stand alone modules viz Managing Team Performance, Dignity at Work, Communications and Motivations Skills, Recruitment and Selection skills, Employment Law and Conflict Handling, and Equality and Diversity Training. It is expected that this programme will continue during 2005.

- During 2004 the hospital offered, in conjunction with the University of Limerick, a five-day Supervisory Management Programme for Front-Line supervisors to fourteen staff from a cross section of departments. 55 managers and local union representatives took part in the three pilot Joint Problem Solving sessions. This programme may be repeated in 2005.
- The 2nd Chance Key Skills Programme, supported by the HSNPF, proved very popular and was deemed a success. This programme was developed to assist staff improve their skills in certain areas such as English as a second language, writing skills, word processing, and report writing. The programme commenced May 2004 and concluded September 2004. A total of 18 staff completed the programme and many requests have been received to run this programme during 2005.
- Throughout the year, the hospital continued to roll-out Personal Development Plans (PDPs) with staff in our Pathology Department. This initiative will continue in 2005, with more departments becoming involved.
- Many of our staff were afforded the opportunity to attend Master Classes

organised by the Office for Health Management. The guest speakers included leaders in Industry and Academia and they shared their practical views on implementing the leadership visions in the Health Service.

- The National College of Ireland two-year Diploma in First Line Management commenced in September 2004 for the third year and the programme continues to attract huge interest. 2004 was the first graduation year for St. Vincent's Healthcare Group and forty-five staff graduated.

As Partnership is now in its third year of operation, the Partnership Committee took the opportunity to review its vision and values statements and its Service Plan at a one day workshop in June. A renewed commitment was given to further developing and extending the partnership approach in the hospital. Underpinning partnership activity is the clear understanding that management, trade unions and staff have agreed under Sustaining Progress to work collaboratively to modernise the health services; to improve services to patients and clients, improve the quality of work-life for staff and provide value for money.

Our main achievements reported under the Partnership Service Plan in the hospital during the year included supporting the development of St. Vincent's University Hospital Intranet, which was piloted in five departments and extended to other areas/departments by year end. Other projects which received support are referred to elsewhere in this section.

In December, the St. Vincent's University Hospital Partnership team participated in the HSNPF major national conference and exhibition, where all health agencies exhibited the results of partnership activity over the previous five years.

The Industrial Relations and Employee Relations Division of the HR Department also had a demanding year. Most issues were dealt with at local level and, where necessary, certain issues were referred for third party intervention. The hospital continues to be fully compliant with the Industrial Relations provisions of Sustaining Progress.

2004 saw The Health Service National Joint Council become the primary forum for the management of industrial relations in the health service. It oversees the conduct of industrial relations and decides on an efficient method of dealing with any matter arising.

The following nationally agreed policies were launched during the year: -

- *"Dignity at Work Policy for the Health Service"*. This policy has a strong preventative focus and emphasises the duty of every staff member to maintain a working environment in which the dignity of everyone is respected. Training to support this policy will be provided to designated support contact persons once selected and general training/awareness for other staff.

- The *"Framework for Dispute Resolution in the Health Services"*, which was produced following discussions between the HSEA and the Health Service Trade Unions, provides clear and definitive procedures for discussion and negotiation on all matters which affect staff in the health service.

- *"Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures for the Health Service"* came into effect on 1st May 2004 and superseded all existing local procedures.

- *"An Equal Opportunities/Diversity Policy & Strategy Objectives for Health Service"* commits health service employers to treat all employees and potential employees equally in terms of recruitment and selection, pay, conditions, training, work experience and opportunities for career progression.

Purchasing & Procurement Department

Service Departments

Activity & Service Developments

Activity increased in 2004 as a result of additional funding made available to the hospital late in the year. The workload within the department also increased and all staff performed well within this very busy environment.

	2002	2003	2004
Total Purchase Orders	18,783	17,166	18,217
Total Value	€21,787,514	€23,943,843	€29,857,219

The increase in expenditure can be attributed to Capital Funding and also the procurement for the project development, which took place in the last quarter of 2004.

Inventory Management

A programme to count and analyse stock held at ward level was initiated. Providing data on valuation, excess and potential out of date stock, and giving the opportunity to redistribute stock, thus increasing stock turns and reducing inventory investment.

Top Up System

With existing resources the Top Up Stock Control System was rolled out to include St Paul's Ward and Theatre General Ad Hoc gowns and drapes.

e-Procurement

Personnel in the Purchasing Department have been actively involved in the introduction of e-procurement systems from suppliers and hope to develop this technology further with the introduction of the new email system in 2005.

Savings

Total Savings for 2004 was €240,000, which includes the Hospital Procurement Group new tenders and contracts.

Capital Equipment

The Purchasing Department tendered and purchased on behalf of the hospital €3 Million worth of equipment this year. Many areas throughout the hospital benefited from receiving new equipment.

New Developments for 2005

It is planned to have the new contract implemented for Custom Procedure Trays (CPT) in 2005 for all of the main operating theatres. This should bring about more efficiency for theatre case management and also achieve further value for money. It also envisaged moving CSSD stores to the main stores.

Project Procurement

The procurement process for all new equipment for the project is now well underway. 2004 saw the tendering process initiated for the following tendering packages:

- PACS / RIS
- Diagnostic Imaging Equipment
- Portable Biphasic Defibrillator & Monitor and Emergency Trolley
- Office & General Furniture
- Network Equipment Tender
- Pathology Analysers
- Dialysis Equipment
- Wall Mounted Diagnostic Sets

2005 will see the tendering process initiated on a phased basis for the remaining equipment requirements. It is envisaged that there will be 41 different types of tendering packages (including those listed above).



Technical Services Department

Service Departments

Overview

The Technical Services Department provides the engineering and maintenance service for the hospital facility. The department is responsible for providing the following services:

- Maintenance of existing building and facilities
- Maintenance of grounds, plant and equipment
- Management of fire protection, emergency lighting systems
- Energy management
- Refurbishment of existing accommodation
- Engineering and technical advice on the installation of new equipment
- Provision and upgrading of infra-structural services such as water, electricity, steam, heating, ventilation, medical gases, telephony etc. within the hospital
- Project management

Staff

The current compliment of staff is 40. Jimmy Ward, a carpenter, retired during the year. Jimmy was a familiar sight throughout the hospital, pushing his tool cart while attending to the numerous requests for minor jobs to be carried out. We wish him well for the future. 3 new staff joined the department during 2004:

- Richard Buckley, Carpenter
- Christopher Lindsay, Groundsman/helper
- Niall Crowley, Groundsman/helper

Service Developments/Activities

There was significant progress in the main hospital project development. The Breast Check Building and Waste Marshalling Yard were both completed during the year. The new main hospital building progressed rapidly through the year and the building entered into the builder's commissioning phase as the year drew to a close.

The Technical Services Department worked closely with the design team and contractors in integrating the new developments with the hospital's existing infrastructure, and facilitating the fire upgrades and lift refurbishment within the existing hospital.

In addition to the above, many minor capital projects were completed. This was achieved through a combination of our own in-house staff of electricians, carpenters, plumbers and painters and external contractors. A summary of these projects is as follows:

- Refurbishment of Provincial House to provide a Cancer Support Centre and overnight accommodation for relatives of Liver Transplant patients
- Refurbishment of the 3 sets of public toilets on the ground floor of the main Hospital
- Total upgrading of St. Brigid's Ward to provide two 2-bed intensive care wards, an intensive care isolation cubicle, a standard isolation cubicle and a 4-bed ward, all of which are aspergillus protected

- Provision of air-conditioning in a number of areas to improve working conditions and patient comfort
- Alterations and redecoration of Carew House basement to facilitate the relocation of the Neurology Department

Various infrastructure improvements were carried out in line with ongoing policy of improving reliability and service:

- Complete upgrade of electrical wiring in the kitchen
- Various roof repairs
- Replacement of the heating pipe work serving St. Rita's
- Upgrading of heating pipe work and controls in the plant rooms serving the ward block. This has resulted in much improved temperature control in the ward block.

Maintenance activity was ongoing with the increasing demands of routine and preventative maintenance and breakdown maintenance in both existing and new buildings. This effort is supported by the computerised maintenance system, Pemac and the Building Management System.

Future Plans

It is planned to develop the computerised maintenance system (Pemac) to enable staff to log work requests directly on the system via the hospital Intranet. This will be a more efficient and effective means of registering work requests and will provide a facility for feedback and updates to staff.

The year ahead will provide significant challenges for the department as we get familiar with the new building and take on the responsibility of running the new building and the equipment and plant therein.

2004 Committee Membership

Annual Review 2004

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Ms Louise English
Mr Stewart Harrington
Professor M. X. FitzGerald
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Dr Brian Maurer
Ms Gemma McCrohan
Mr Partick Meade
Mr Michael Meagher
Dr Risteárd Ó Laoide
Mr W. R. Quinlan
Mr Conor Sexton
Dr Michael Somers

In Attendance:

Sr Therese Culhane
Ms Pauline Doyle (to April 2004)
Mr Eamonn Fitzgerald
Mr N. C. Jermyn
Mr Cormac Maloney
Ms Raphael McMullin (from May 2004)
Mr Michael Redmond

Group Medical Executive

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Dr Risteárd Ó Laoide

Honorary Secretary:

Dr Alan Watson

Members:

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Dr Tom Crotty
Dr Seamus Donnelly
Dr David Fennelly
Mr Arnold Hill
Professor Kevin Malone
Dr Ken McDonald
Professor Niall O'Higgins
Dr Diarmuid O'Shea
Dr Tom Owens
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Group Executive

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Mr N. C. Jermyn (Chair)

Members:

Mr Ken Bale
Ms Marianne Byrne
Mr Noel Cassidy (to July 04)
Ms Gretta Colbert
Mr James Crowe
Ms Pauline Doyle (to April 04)
Mr Eamonn Fitzgerald
Mr Ian Maguire
Mr Cormac Maloney
Dr Brian Maurer
Ms Raphael McMullin (from May 04)
Mr Seamus Murtagh
Dr Risteárd Ó Laoide
Ms Sorcha O'Quigley (from August 03)
Mr Michael Redmond
Mr Peter Sheehan
Ms June Stanley
Mr Neil Twomey

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Mission Committee

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Dr Risteárd Ó Laoide
Dr Diarmuid O'Shea
Ms Sheila O'Toole
Ms Phil Pyne Daly

Project Team

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Group Chief Executive

Members:

Mr Eamonn Fitzgerald,
Group Deputy Chief Executive

Mr Gary Wright
Project Manager

Mr Paul Marlow
Director, Cyril Sweett Boyd & Creed

Mr Peter Kerruish
Associate Director, Boyd & Creed

Sr Anne MacEaney,
Sister Superior

Ms Pauline Doyle (to April 04)
Director of Nursing

Ms Raphael McMullin (from May 04),
Acting Director of Nursing

Mr Pat McDonnell
Technical Services Manager

Mr John O'Callaghan
Technical Services Consultant

Dr. Risteárd Ó Laoide
Chairman, Medical Executive

Dr Lynda Fenelon
Consultant Microbiologist

Professor Diarmuid O'Donoghue
Consultant Gastroenterologist

Mr Arnie Hill, Chairman
Division of Surgery

Mr Justin Geoghegan
Consultant General Surgeon

Mr William R. Quinlan
Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon

Mr Wilf Higgins
Engineering Advisor, Department of Health & Children

Mr Paul de Freine
Deputy Chief Architectural Advisor, Department of Health & Children

Mr Terry Woulfe-Flanagan
Principal Quantity Surveyor, Department of Health & Children

Mr Brendan McGrath
Structural Engineering Advisor, Department of Health & Children

Mr Laurence Hayes,
NDP Manager, Eastern Regional Health Authority

Ms Fionnuala Duffy,
Senior Commissioner, Eastern Regional Health Authority

Ms Martine Curran,
Projects Co-ordinator, Eastern Regional Health Authority

Health & Safety Committee

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Ms Fiona Lavin

Ms Pauline Leahy (to March 04)

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Ms Justine McGrane

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Ms Mary Shore

Ms Angela Smith (to March 04)

Ms Catherine Smith (April to June 04)

Ms Catherine Toole
(from September 04)

Ethics and Medical Research Committee (October 2004)

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Ms Siobhan Reynolds

Ms Amelia Smith

Mr Frank Smith





St. Vincent's Healthcare Group

Elm Park Dublin 4 Ireland

Tel: +353 1 2773731

Fax: +353 1 2691264

Web: www.stvincents.ie