



fond farewells

(further retirements on pages 5 & 7)

that's dedication

Noreen Buckley started working at the Mercy in July 1959 and very loyally provided the Hospital with 48 years of service.

In the early days, she carried out a range of duties required by both the Hospital and the Mercy Sisters. These duties included collections and deliveries to the blood bank and errands into other parts of the City. Noreen then moved into the sewing room where she worked closely with Sr. Claude (may she rest in peace) for a number of years, marking and repairing linen for the Hospital.

Noreen's loyalty to the Hospital and to the Mercy Sisters was unquestionable. She was always a hard worker who you could rely on to get a task completed. In recent years, Noreen also overcame personal obstacles in order to come to work, showing us her personal strength of character and courage.

We most sincerely wish Noreen all the best in her recent retirement.

civic reception honoured mercy university hospital



In March 2007, the Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr. Michael Ahern hosted a Civic Reception in the Council Chamber - City Hall, Cork honouring Mercy University Hospital on its 150th Anniversary. Pictured here: Lord Mayor, Cllr. Michael Ahern and Lady Mayoress, Eileen Ahern with members of the Mercy Order in the Lord Mayor's Chamber.



Back Row L-R: Stephanie Lowney, Rose Casey, Mags Murray, Siobhan O'Flynn, Mary Harris, Joan Gannon, Mairead Keating, Charlotte Callinan and Vera Griffin.

Front Row L-R: Ann McCarthy, Noreen Buckley, Bernie Kelleher and Teresa Cahill.

48 Years of Service!



welcome

We wish to express our thanks to everyone who submitted articles, information and / or photos for this edition.

This newsletter is yours and it is important that we cover items of interest to you. We welcome your comments and ideas, and would be delighted to consider for publication any article, photograph or other item of interest that you may have.

Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee to publish or to return submitted items, but will do our very best.

Previous issues of the newsletter can be found at www.muh.ie.

Thank you,
'Mercy Times' Editorial Committee

editorial committee

Kieran Coughlan	Catherine Leggett
Ros Donegan	Michael Mulry
Bernice Glavin	Seán O'Bulmáin
Clare Horgan	Mary Twohig
Tony O'Regan (Photographer)	
Donna Peyton (Editor)	

Welcome to our newest member, Kieran Coughlan and thank you to A. Samson Sotomi for his past contribution to the Editorial Committee.

thought for the day

"Good parenting helps children adjust to change and adversity, and establishes healthy patterns of emotional, social and cognitive functioning."

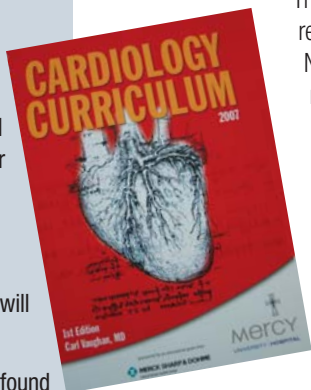
Dosani S. (2006).
Prevention of Psychosocial Problems in Adolescence. British Medical Journal, Volume 333, p. 460.

achievements congratulations to:

Jim Corbett - Deputy CEO, for having been elected to full membership of the Emergency Planning Society (Ireland and Britain). He successfully demonstrated significant experience of managing actual incidents, undertaking and providing training, and incident planning.

cardiology curriculum published

Dr. Carl Vaughan - Consultant Cardiologist at Mercy University Hospital (MUH) has recently published a handbook entitled, *Cardiology Curriculum*.



This handbook is intended as a reference and teaching tool for NCHD's, medical students and nurses within our Hospital environment. It is a very informative, to the point and relevant handbook and will be a bonus to the user as it is written in a concise, straightforward style. The handbook's content covers all aspects of

heart disease and treatment, with topics ranging from Stress Testing for Coronary Artery Disease to Hypertensive Emergencies. It also includes many other interesting and relevant topics.

Dr. Vaughan would like to thank the pharmaceutical company, Merck Sharp & Dohme for sponsoring the publication of *Cardiology Curriculum* with an educational grant, and also wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Ms. Karina Connolly, Merck Sharp & Dohme medical representative.

new instructors - patient handling



Congratulations to the following MUH staff who successfully completed their Patient Handling Instructors Course in the Hospital. Back row L-R: Breda Shankla (Trainer), Ann Marie Cassidy, Richard Browne, Michael Murrihy, Noreen Moloney, Catherine Buttimer and Breda Murray (Trainer). Front row L-R: Saurabh Kaushik, Caroline O'Regan, Pamela Coongie, and Ann Marie Daly. Missing on the day of photograph: Eileen Dalton.

cycling to work

Not everyone is able to cycle to work for a variety of reasons including long distance and school-run obligations. However, there are many people who live within cycling distance of Mercy University Hospital who could try and forsake their cars, even on an occasional basis.

The benefits are multiple: exercise every day, free and available parking and queue-jumping the traffic jams every evening. Apart from the personal advantages, every single journey to or from work on a bicycle represents one less journey in a car and one more contribution to the environment. As of now, very few people in Cork City commute by bicycle. From available information, only 1-3% of commuters do so. Most people remember a time when the proportion was much higher, particularly among students. With this rapid decline, the 'critical mass' of cyclists has all but disappeared leaving the car driver as sole 'road-user.' However, between parking difficulties and traffic gridlock, the hapless motorist faces ongoing frustration with little sign of respite. For those who find themselves in this position, cycling represents a real, low-cost alternative.

There are many misconceptions which deter those who would like to switch from four wheels to two.

The most common reason cited is the weather. Contrary to what you might believe, rain is uncommon during any one bicycle-commuting journey - perhaps one in twenty trips. Whilst employers cannot improve the weather, they can explore incentives for those who would like to cycle but need more encouragement. Possible effective actions include provision of safe and secure parking as well as washing facilities and lockers. There are other more imaginative schemes operating across the water whereby employers contribute to the purchase of bicycles. With a 'greener' government, we may expect more incentives of this nature in the future as part of government policy.

For those who do cycle to work or would like to try, it is important to establish a 'Bicycle Users' Group' (BUG) to represent cyclists and advocate for change. If you are interested in joining such a group, please contact **Dr. Colm Henry** at extension 5626.

advanced **cardiac life support** (acls) course

Mercy University Hospital held its inaugural ACLS Course in April 2007.

The course was carried out in accordance with the Guidelines of the Irish Heart Foundation (IHF) under the auspices of the American Heart Association (AHA).

Course candidates included equal numbers of Medical and Nursing staff from the Emergency Department, Coronary Care Unit, Intensive Care Unit and Clinical Pharmacology Department. Dr. Aislinn Joy was Course Director and Ms. Bernie McGee was Course Coordinator. Course Instructors were Ms. Margaret Owens and Ms. Teresa Hynes from Mercy University Hospital together with Resuscitation Officers from other hospitals in Ireland. The teaching standard was of an exceptionally high quality, with a practical hands-on approach applied to all aspects of the course.

MUH critical care staff will no longer need to seek training in neighbouring hospitals, as they will now be internally trained to deal more efficiently and effectively with critically ill patients, as well as patients in cardiac arrest.

Another course is planned for October 2007 and it is envisaged that the course will



L-R: Teresa Hynes, Bernie McGee, and Margaret Owens.

eventually be available to Nursing staff in other areas of the Hospital.

We wish to acknowledge Ms. Mary Dunnion – Director of Nursing, and Ms. Martina Hughes – Assistant Director of Nursing, for their support in getting this venture off the ground.

Submitted by Advanced Cardiac Life Support staff: Bernie McGee, Margaret Owens and Teresa Hynes.



kind donation

The family of the late Maureen Crean present a cheque to Dr. Colm Henry for St. Mary's Ward.

L-R: Mary Sheehan, Kay Galvin, Dr. Colm Henry and Eileen Murphy (missing from photo - Noreen Kelly).



visit from **disney** characters

Beauty and the Beast characters (Beauty and Candlestick) made a visit to the Mercy to cheer up the young patients in St. Anne's Ward with songs and colouring.

celebrations continue mercy university hospital -150 years

As part of the celebrations of the 150th anniversary of Mercy University Hospital's foundation by the Sisters of Mercy in 1857, the Hospital is holding a number of events. Some of these include:

Summer 2007	Mercy University Hospital Staff Family Fun Day, including Presentation of Prizes for Art and Photography Competitions
	Laying of the Re-Dedication Stone
	Unveiling of the New Hospital Name Signs and Floodlighting of the Mansion House
Autumn 2007	Publication of Contemporary Hospital History
	Meeting of Mercy Order Central Leadership
September 2007	Opening of New Mercy University Hospital Emergency Department
	Open Day for Past Pupils
October 2007	Medical Conference at University College Cork
November 2007	150th Anniversary Black Tie Gala Ball (see page 4)

**For additional information on any of the Mercy University Hospital 150th Anniversary events, please contact:
Mr. Jim Corbett, Deputy CEO. Tel: 021-4935244.**

pioneering cancer treatment

The Cork Cancer Research Centre (based at Mercy University Hospital and UCC) has pioneered a new treatment in Ireland called Electrochemotherapy, designed to replace more invasive surgical procedures for patients with cancer tumours.

To date, this procedure has been shown to be highly effective with an 85 percent success rate in patients treated as part of a clinical trial at the Mercy. These patients had previously been unresponsive to radiotherapy and chemotherapy.

For more information, please contact:

Elga Ryan at
021-4901437

or e-mail:
elga.ryan@ucc.ie





tips for a better pre-sleep ritual

Keep a regular schedule. Try to go to bed and wake up at the same time every day, even on the weekends. Keeping a regular schedule will help your body expect sleep at the same time each day. Don't oversleep to make up for a poor night's sleep - doing that for even a couple of days can reset your body clock and make it hard for you to get to sleep at night.

Incorporate bedtime rituals. Listening to soft music, sipping a cup of herbal tea, etc. cues your body that it's time to slow down and begin to prepare for sleep.

Relax for a while before going to bed.

Spending quiet time can make falling asleep easier. This may include meditation, relaxation and/or breathing exercises, or taking a warm bath. Try listening to recorded relaxation or guided imagery programmes.

Do not eat a large, heavy meal before bed.

This can cause indigestion and interfere with your normal sleep cycle. Drinking too much fluid before bed can cause you to get up to urinate. Try to eat your dinner at least two hours before bedtime.

Bedtime snacks can help. An amino acid called tryptophan, found in milk, turkey, and peanuts, helps the brain produce serotonin, a chemical that helps you relax. Try drinking warm milk or eating a slice of toast with peanut butter or a bowl of cereal before bedtime. The warmth may temporarily increase your body temperature and the subsequent drop may hasten sleep.

Jot down all of your concerns and worries.

Anxiety excites the nervous system, so your brain sends messages to the adrenal glands, making you more alert. Write down your worries and possible solutions before you go to bed, so you do not need to ruminate in the middle of the night. A journal or "to do" list may be very helpful in letting you put away these concerns until the next day when you are fresh.

Go to sleep when you are sleepy. When you feel tired, go to bed.

Avoid "over-the-counter" sleep aids and make sure that your prescribed medications do not cause insomnia. There is little evidence that supplements and other over-the-counter "sleep aids" are effective. In some cases, there are safety concerns. Antihistamine sleep aids, in particular, have a long duration of action and can cause daytime drowsiness. Always talk to your doctor or healthcare practitioner about your concerns!

Submitted by:
Aisling Donnelly - Pulmonary Technician

150th anniversary gala ball

It was always one of the big events on the annual calendar: the glamorous, formal ball held each year by the Mercy University Hospital and now it's back! As part of the 150th Anniversary of the Hospital, the Mercy University Hospital Ball is returning, bigger and better than ever. This year, the gala event will be black tie and promises to be a most glittering occasion with a sumptuous menu and dancing until the early hours.

The all important date is 2nd November 2007 and the venue is Cork City Hall - where else? There's a reason for the choice of location. Besides being the biggest and most admirably suited to such a prestigious occasion, the Lord Mayor of Cork in earlier times made his home at the Mansion House - now, of course, part of Mercy University Hospital.

Today, the Lord Mayor is to be found at the City Hall and thus, by holding our Gala Ball there, we acknowledge and emphasise the historic link between the two buildings and the two functions.

Tickets are available by calling extension 5037 or e-mailing yquinn@muh.ie.

Submitted by 150th Anniversary Committee

multi-disciplinary team meeting room

A multi-media room has been set up on the first floor Sheares Street Block, MUH. The configuration of this facility includes one large projected screen and two plasma screens, with surround sound. There is a video conferencing unit to enable training and meetings to be conducted with remote sites.

From a presentation perspective, the multi-media environment can present information from multiple sources:

- Two PC's with access to many applications
- DVD Player
- Video Player
- Document Visualiser (enables the projection of plain film, slides and documents).

This presents a new and innovative approach to teaching and presenting case studies. For patient care its enables the collaboration between multi-disciplinary teams to present a patient's case in

order to assess the best outcome for the patient. As a teaching hospital, we need to embrace the benefits of technology and this is just one example where it will make a difference to patients in the long run.

Booking of this facility can be arranged with Mary Twohig at extension 5267 or e-mail: mtwohig@muh.ie. When booking video conferencing, it is important to first book the facility and then inform the ICT Department, so they can set up the system.

Peter O'Callaghan - ICT Manager

rcsi diploma in pain medicine

Hosting the Diploma in Pain Medicine examinations continues to be a great privilege and honour for Mercy University Hospital (MUH). This is the third time in the past three years that the Examinations have been held at MUH.



Back row L-R: Dr. Liam Conroy (MUH); Dr. Donal Harney (MUH); Dr. Gerry Browne (Belfast City Hospital); Dr. Camillus Power (Tallaght Hospital); Front row L-R: Dr. Roisin McCullivan (Mater Hospital); Ms. Marguerite Harvey (Exam Officer RCSI) and Dr. David Hill (The Ulster Hospital).

Farewell and best wishes to all our colleagues who recently retired from MUH.

(continued from page 1)

'rene' retires

Known to everyone as 'Rene' in the Catering Department and all over the Hospital, Margaret Cagney retired in June 2007.

Rene started work in December 1992 and worked in the Outpatient cafe during that period. She completed her service working in St. Oliver's Ward kitchen. There was a great turnout at her retirement function which was attended by her family and numerous MUH staff members.

L-R: Margaret Cagney, Michael Mulry and Richard Browne.



spring golf outing

Winners of the MUH staff Spring Golf Outing held at Waterrock Golf Course - L-R: Tony Fitzgerald, Ann O'Donovan, Dave Walsh and Craig Whittington.

muh training ground

MUH was delighted to be selected once again as a "training ground" for the Cork City Fire Department recruit training programme.

The 2007 Recruit Class of 10 recruits accompanied by Training Officers Liam Walsh and Anthony O'Donoghue, and Course Director Tom Croghan visited the hospital in April 2007.



Station Officer, Tom Croghan - Course Director Recruit Training 2007 with Training Officers Liam Walsh and Anthony O'Donoghue and Recruit Class 2007 accompanied by Pat O'Mahony, MUH Security Supervisor.

acknowledging the past - welcoming the future

The early morning sunshine of Thursday, April 12th bade welcome to 350 delegates from across the city, county and country to Maryborough House Hotel for Mercy University Hospital's National Nursing Conference entitled "Acknowledging the Past – Welcoming the Future."

This Conference formed an integral part of Mercy University Hospital's 150th Celebrations and was the first such Conference to be organised and held in the Southern Region by an acute hospital.

The national forum of speakers was richly represented by Dr. Kathleen Mac Lellan, Dr. David Smith and Dr. Ruth Barrington addressing the issues of Integrated Care Pathways, Ethical Conflicts and the future of Nursing Research in Ireland, respectively. Professor Geraldine McCarthy of University College Cork lit the torch in presenting the inaugural Sr. Josephine Ward Lecture aptly entitled "Balancing Traditional Values with Change."

Valuable insight into the concept of Magnet Hospitals was provided by American Professor, Donna S. Havens, flying the international flag, while Mercy University Hospital was represented by Margaret McKiernan who presented on her recent study entitled "Family Members' Lived Experience in the Intensive Care Unit" and Michelle O'Sullivan who regaled delegates on her experience of the transition from student to registered nurse in "Preventing the Reality Shock."

The pièce de résistance of the day, however, rested with Mary Dunnion, MUH Director of Nursing, who presented the groundbreaking action research entitled "Internationally Recruited Nurses in Mercy University Hospital – Adaptation, Integration and

our new Multi-Cultural Teams." This research was undertaken in association with the Department of Psychology in University College Cork and the Department of Nursing, Mercy University Hospital.

Delegates also had the chance to view the 31 posters presented on the day by Nursing staff of Mercy University Hospital. These Posters represented and showcased the many patient-centred initiatives implemented by the Department of Nursing in recent times and prizes (sponsored by J.F. Supple) were awarded in two categories – St. Anthony's Ward acquired the Group Prize for their poster entitled "To Fast or Not To Fast Pre-Operatively" and Marie Byron and Bridie O'Sullivan claimed victory in the individual prize category for their poster entitled "The Development of an Evidence Based Assessment Tool for Patients with Lower Limb Ulceration."

In summation of the day, it is the words of others that speak for us all:

"Well done, it did 'the Mercy' proud."

"It was a privilege to be in attendance."

"The affirmation and praise of the work of the Mercy Sisters was indeed very inspiring."

"Thank you for a great conference, excellent speakers and great papers with relevance to Nursing and the future."



marathon success

Congratulations to those members of staff who participated in the Cork City Marathon on 4th June 2007 - with special mention to Dr. Alan O'Shea who won the mens race. Way to go MUH athletes!

Pictured above L-R: Dr. Corinna Sadlier, Liam Gallagher, Bernice Glavin, Dr. Alan O'Shea, Dr. Aisling Hamilton and Dr. Jennifer Lee.



staff news

Congratulations and very best wishes to the following staff members:

engagements

Catherine Angland – St. Mary's
Aoife Board – Medical Secretaries
Sinead Cribbon – St. Anne's
Caroline Cummins – Dietetics
Tricia Healy – Purchasing
Elaine O'Riordan – St. Patrick's
Carolann Power – Catering

weddings

Paul Kelly – Supplies
Emma Tobin – St. Mary's

it's a girl

Dr. Mahmoud Gawad – Anaesthetics
Eileen Looney – St. Mary's
Yvonne McEniry – Admissions
Catriona Minihane – Theatre
Mary O'Brien – St. Catherine's
Dr. Clodagh Ryan – Paediatrics

it's a boy

Nicola Collins-O'Leary – St. Therese's
Fiona Coveney – Haematology
Elma O'Connor – Haematology

it's twin boys

Ruth Fitzgerald – St. Anne's

In each issue of the Mercy Times, we would like to include the names of staff members who recently: became engaged, got married, or welcomed a new addition to their family. If you or one of your colleagues has staff news to share, please contact the Editor or any Editorial Committee member.

Despite our best efforts, there may be some omissions due to our inability to obtain timely approval.

grand prize in aid of the oncology unit - muh

Prize includes two tickets to the 150th Anniversary Gala Ball, a chauffeur-driven limousine with champagne en-route and an overnight stay in the Imperial Hotel.

Tickets only €10 from the Catering Office - ext. 5297. (available to MUH staff only)

human resources department news

welcome new appointments

We wish to welcome the following staff, who recently joined Mercy University Hospital.

March 2007

Eileen Healy	Clerical Officer
Sheelamma Johnson	Staff Nurse
Bibi Joy	Staff Nurse
Brid Kearney	Staff Nurse
Rita Masih	Staff Nurse
Karu Lal Nagar	Staff Nurse
Sunitha Viswambharan Veliyath Parambil	Staff Nurse
Sherly Maramattathil Paul	Staff Nurse
Sally Varghese	Staff Nurse

April 2007

Elisa Jennings	Clerical Officer
Eileen McCarthy	Medical Scientist
Marguerite O'Flynn	Staff Nurse
Shini Shaju	Staff Nurse

May 2007

Michael Bradley	Staff Nurse
Aine Fitzpatrick	Dietician
Mary Kingston	Receptionist
Eileen Mullins	Chaplain
Eleanor O'Reilly	Pharmaceutical Technician
Frank O'Riordan	Senior Pharmacist

June 2007

Susan Arthurs	Physiotherapist
Katrina Barry	Catering Assistant
Aileen Burke	Medical Scientist
Maria Corrigan	Occupational Therapist

June 2007 - continued

Aaron Fitzpatrick	Household Operative
Ruth Foley	Lab Attendant
Laura Griffin	Household Operative
Martha Elaine Cronin Hanna	Staff Nurse
Tony Healy	Clerical Officer
Gregory Jones	Catering Assistant
Siun Ann Kearney	Occupational Therapist
Jennifer Kirwan	Staff Nurse
Dympna Looby	Lab Attendant
Fiona Mooney	Catering Assistant
Aoife O'Callaghan	Medical Scientist
Breeda O'Leary	Catering Assistant
Niamh O'Riordan	Catering Assistant
Maeve McGrath	Medical Scientist

consultant appointment

Welcome to the following Consultant who recently joined Mercy University Hospital.

Dr. Anna Arya *Locum Consultant Gynaecologist*

retirements

Mercy University Hospital would like to thank the following employees for their service throughout the years and to wish them a long and happy retirement.

Noreen Buckely	Hospital Seamstress
Margaret Cagney	Catering Assistant
Dr. Vincent Fenton	Consultant Gynaecologist

lions club donation

St. Anne's Ward wishes to express its deepest gratitude to the Carrigaline Lions Club for its most generous donation towards the purchase of a new cardiac monitor for the Ward.



L-R: Evelyn Keane, Clare Twomey, James O'Sullivan*, Mark Ginn*, Niamh Ring, Jean O'Sullivan, Donal Browning*, Finola Murphy, Pat O'Sullivan*, Dr. Amir Bala and Sarah Fitzgerald. *(Lions Club member)

fond farewells (continued from page 1)

Farewell and best wishes to all our colleagues who recently retired from MUH.

farewell to 'fab Vinny'

A valued and much loved colleague, Vincent Fenton, recently retired from Mercy University Hospital (MUH).

Vincent Fenton was everything that one would want in a colleague - a great clinician with meticulous attention to detail, yet always great fun and a pleasure to work with. He has been immensely loyal to Mercy University Hospital and other colleagues found him prompt and obliging in attending consults. His frank and open manner with patients meant that they knew what surgery they were having and why. As a testament to his ability and popularity with patients, many Mercy University Hospital staff chose to attend him themselves or refer family members to him.

Vincent was a very innovative Gynaecologist. In the mid '80s, he introduced laparoscopic surgery to Mercy University Hospital, which subsequently allowed the General Surgeons to adapt the technique. It is hard to imagine a day when laparoscopic surgery did not exist here and we can attribute this development to Vincent Fenton. In the early '90s, Vincent was the first Gynaecologist in Ireland to perform Trans-Cervical Endometrial Resection. This radical innovation allowed hundreds of women to avoid much more complicated surgery. In addition to

his clinical commitment, Vincent was widely regarded as a marvellous teacher to both medical students and postgraduates. His practical and uncomplicated approach meant that all his students left with a thorough grounding in the subject matter being taught.

During the 80's to 90's, Vincent was on a very busy 1 in 2 Obstetric on-call rota in the Erinville Hospital. Despite often working for much of the previous night, he bounded up the MUH stairs to Theatre on a Tuesday and Friday. Amazingly, he still remained in good form, interested in everyone else and on top of his clinical prowess. It is no wonder he earned the nickname "Fab Vinny."

A recent retirement reception held in the Hospital for Vincent Fenton included a large turnout of staff from all disciplines who wanted to thank Vincent and wish him well in his retirement. There was hardly a dry eye in the room when he spoke, which shows what a wonderful colleague and friend he has been. We all wish him and his wife, Carmel, long life and happiness together.

Dr. Anita Griffith - Consultant Anaesthetist



Pictured above: Mrs. Carmel Fenton and Dr. Vincent Fenton - Consultant Gynaecologist with a group of MUH colleagues.

poster presentations

Mercy University Hospital's (MUH) National Nursing Conference in April featured 31 posters representing the excellent work of nurses from various departments at MUH and highlighting some of the clinical initiatives developed over the past number of years.

In her presentation on the day of the conference and at her master class the following day, Professor Donna Haven from the USA commented on the posters and indicated that it is very important that nurses showcase their work and share their experience with colleagues. She emphasised that this sharing of information is a very important aspect of Magnet Hospital status, which is a status of quality and something to be aspired to in the USA.

Professor Geraldine McCarthy of the Catherine McAuley School of Nursing and Midwifery – University College Cork (UCC) suggested that the enhancement of clinical services and professional development of staff evident in the poster presentations all serve to enhance the patient journey at MUH. She requested that the posters be presented at the UCC Nursing Conference later this year.

This request was also echoed by the National Council for the Professional Development of Nursing and Midwifery for their conference in November of this year, to share the clinical initiatives on a national level as there is much to be learned from the presentations.

The posters were also displayed in the Hospital for one week in response to numerous requests from those unable to attend the Conference. Staff from all departments had the opportunity to study and enjoy the posters at their leisure.

Our sincere thanks to all the Nursing and Clerical staff from various departments who were involved in the achievement of this wonderful display.

Doreen Lynch
Director of the Centre of Nurse Education



photo exhibition

Hospital staff members, Azeem Koleci and Jim Corbett at the Annual Exhibition of the Cork Camera Group at which both were exhibitors, pictured with the Deputy Mayor Michael O'Connell.

golden jubilee



Congratulations to Sr. Celine and Sr. Felicitas on the occasion of their Golden Jubilee in April 2007, celebrating 50 years as professed Sisters of Mercy. Pictured with Fr. O'Regan - Jubilee Mass celebrant.

ucc appointment



We are delighted to announce that Professor David Kerins, Consultant Cardiologist at MUH, has been appointed Dean of Medicine at University College Cork. We wish Professor Kerins every success in this position.

commemorative edition

Keep a look out for the Mercy Times - 150th Anniversary Commemorative Edition to be produced at the end of 2007!

We intend to provide you with an in-depth review of all 150th Anniversary festivities taking place throughout the year.

sincere **condolences**

The Hospital wishes to express its deepest condolences to the families of Brian Hartnett (Finance Department), Sr. M. Claude O'Callaghan, Sr. Laboure O'Sullivan and Sr. De Pazzi Murphy (Sisters of Mercy) who recently passed away. **May they rest in peace.**

Sr. De Pazzi

Somehow one felt that Sr. De Pazzi would always be with us and in spirit this is, of course, true. Sr. De Pazzi's dutiful, steadfast character was moulded by her West Cork family and a deep religious faith. The prayerful rule of service of Catherine McCauley obviously appealed to someone like Sr. De Pazzi, who was dedicated to the common good.



Secure in her calling, Sr. De Pazzi had an enormous influence for good. Sister administered the Mercy Hospital with dignity for the best part of half a century. Examples of her good governance abound. Sr. De Pazzi

valued her staff highly and was particularly helpful in times of difficulty. When presented with serious problems which threatened the good name of the Hospital she dealt with them in a calm, pragmatic way. Sister was much appreciated for her fair and straight manner; reprimands were given but no lasting rancour ensued. Her loyalty to those who had served the Hospital was a byword among the staff.

Sr. De Pazzi never said "no" to any project that

was proposed to help the Hospital. Sister's knowledge of Hospital matters helped her to make important decisions without delay, sometimes within minutes. The Department of Health could only smile wryly at the completion of projects which they had not sanctioned.

Mercy University Hospital would not exist today in its current form but for Sr. De Pazzi. The building of the then new block in Sheares Street was the key to survival. It enabled the X-ray Department, Intensive Care and Coronary Care with Day Care Gastroenterology to be developed making a strong case for Histology, Bacteriology, Haematology and Biochemistry to be based at the Mercy.

Sister De Pazzi's light has shone brightly illuminating the path for others to follow.

May she rest in peace.

Dr. M. A. Bennett
(Retired Consultant Physician)

Dear Committee,

Thank you so much for continuing to send me the Mercy Times, which I always enjoy. Well done to you all and continued success.

There is a very famous poem entitled – 'Crabbed Old Woman' and it describes how an old woman in hospital feels as she looks at the young nurses. There is a reply to this poem written by a nurse in Liverpool:

What do we see, you ask, what do we see?
Yes we are thinking when looking at thee,
We may seem to be hard when we hurry and fuss,
But there's many of you and too few of us.

We would like far more time to sit by you and talk,
To bath and feed you and help you to walk,
To hear of your lives and the things you have done,
Your childhood, your husband, your daughter, your son.

But time is against us, there's too much to do,
Patients too many and nurses too few.

We grieve when we see you so sad and alone,
With nobody near you, no friend of your own.
We feel all your pain and know of your fear,
That nobody cares now your end is near.

But nurses are people with feelings as well,
And when we're together you'll often hear tell,
Of the dearest old gran in the very end bed,
And the lovely old dad and the things that he said.

We speak with compassion and love and feel sad,
When we think of your lives and the joy that you had.
When the time has arrived for you to depart,
You leave us behind with an ache in our heart.

When you sleep the long sleep no more worry or care,
There are other old people and we must be there.
So please understand if we hurry and fuss,
There are many of you and too few of us.

Yours sincerely,
Theresa Gould - Retired Staff Nurse