

IHSAB award

Mercy University Hospital has been congratulated by the Irish Health Services Accreditation Board (IHSAB) on being awarded Pre Accreditation Level 1 in our first accreditation cycle.

muh surgeon takes over rcsi presidency

Mercy University Hospital is honoured at the appointment of one of its surgeons, Professor Gerald O'Sullivan, as the new President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI).

A National University Ireland, Cork (NUIC) graduate, Professor O'Sullivan was appointed Consultant Surgeon at Mercy University Hospital, Cork in 1985 following surgical residencies in Ireland and the U.S. He has been a Fellow of the RCSI since 1980 and was elected member of Council in 1998. He is also a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (RCS) Glasgow.

The Hospital wishes to extend its best wishes to Professor O'Sullivan as President of RCSI during his two-year term.



Back Row: (L-R) John O'Shea (Chairperson, Information Management Team), Kevin Burke (Chairperson, Environment & Facilities Team), Patrick Madden (Chairperson, Leadership & Partnership Team) and Kieran Murphy (Accreditation Co-ordinator). Front Row: (L-R) Nicola Collins (Chairperson, Oncology Care Team), Bridie O'Sullivan (Chairperson, Medical Care Team), Caroline Reddington (Chairperson, Human Resources Team), Therese Egan (Accreditation Team) and Mary Barry (Accreditation Team).

I am very proud of this achievement and well done to everyone who was involved. This award acknowledges the hard work of the past twelve months and the invaluable input by the multi-disciplinary teams.

This award puts us on a journey towards best practice in quality patient care, staff welfare and safety. From the patient's perspective, it enhances confidence that we are offering a quality service at MUH.

This journey will continue as we prepare ourselves for the next level of accreditation. Priority areas of action have been identified in the Report from the Peer / Service Users Survey and an action plan has been activated to address these areas.

Congratulations and well done to everyone.

Patrick Madden
Chief Executive Officer



Professor Gerald O'Sullivan, President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.
(photo courtesy of RCSI)



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.

Staff may access previous issues of the newsletter electronically by accessing: the "H" drive, opening the Public folder and opening the Mercy Times folder.

We note that three issues were produced in 2006.

Thank you,
'Mercy Times' Editorial Committee

editorial committee

Ros Donegan
Mary Ann Espinosa
Bernice Glavin
Clare Horgan
Catherine Leggett
Michael Mulry
Jenny Murphy
Seàn O'Bulmáin
Siobhán O'Mahony
Tony O'Regan (Photographer)
Donna Peyton (Editor)
A. Samson Sotomi
Mary Twohig

Welcome to our new members and sincere thanks to Deirdre O'Connor for her past dedication and service to the Editorial Committee.

thought for the day

Let your light shine.

Playing small does not serve the world.

We were all meant to shine as children do.

It is not just in some of us, it is in everyone.

And as we let our own light shine we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.

(Paraphrased from Nelson Mandela's inaugural speech)

Submitted by A. Samson Sotomi -
Ward Clerk Supervisor

official launch of mercy university hospital staff safety & security booklet



Lord Mayor - Deirdre Clune, Chief Superintendent - Kevin Ludlow, Community Liaison Garda - Jim O'Donoghue, CEO - Pat Madden and Hospital Watch Committee members together with some of the booklet sponsors.

Mercy University Hospital's Watch Committee has developed a Staff Safety & Security Booklet which is to be made available to all members of staff. This booklet contains important security advice as well pertinent information relating to the Hospital.

One of the main aims of the Hospital Watch programme is to promote crime prevention awareness in management, staff, patients and visitors. This booklet will also be instrumental in educating people in relation to crime prevention. It is envisaged that the booklet will form part of the induction pack provided for each new employee.

The Committee performed extensive research

and worked tirelessly to publish this booklet. There have been numerous meetings to discuss content, as well as the behind-the-scenes work dealing with publishers and gathering sponsorship.

Mary Murphy (Chairperson), Tony O'Regan and Yvonne Quinn were instrumental in bringing this document to fruition.



(L-R): Janice Lyons, Fiona Cunningham, Clare Horgan, Mary Murphy and Community Liaison Garda - Jim O'Donoghue at the display during Hospital Watch Security Awareness Week October 2006.

what is **clinical** biochemistry?



(L-R): Dr. Brendan Buckley, Colette Finn, Mary Deasy, Rosemary Lynch, Orla Walsh, Cynthia Smiddy, Susan Kelleher, Cait White, Eithne Barden, Mairead Keating and Mary Phillips.

Clinical Biochemistry as a science mainly looks at the analysis and measurement of substances that are being transported around the body. Some examples of these include:

- Electrolytes - sodium, potassium and calcium.
 - Lipids - cholesterol, HDL cholesterol and triglycerides.
 - Hormones - oestradiol and testosterone.
 - Drugs - paracetamol and digoxin.
- Measurement of these substances can help the clinician in the diagnosis, treatment and management of many different diseases. The MUH Biochemistry Lab is mainly involved in the analysis of blood but also analyses urine, cerebrospinal fluid, faeces, pleural and ascitic effusions.
- **1993** - a replacement was purchased, the Hitachi 911. This could do up to 20 different chemistries.
 - With the construction of the new laboratories at MUH in 1998, the Hospital moved to Olympus AU600. This had the capacity to do up to 47 different chemistries at a much-improved throughput.
 - **In 2005**, the Mercy was the second site in the Republic of Ireland to move to the Abbott Architect integrated system. This instrument has the capacity to do up to 75 different chemistries.

The technology involved in providing accurate results in a timely fashion has been the main development over the last 40 years; and Clinical Biochemistry in Ireland has continued to evolve.

- **1960's** - mainly single test-tube analysis.
- **1970's** - 1-2 channel chemistry auto-analysers were developed to speed up the analysis of many substances.
- **Early 1980's** - the MUH Biochemistry Lab (under the stewardship of Sr. Raymond) acquired the first Hitachi auto-analyser to be sold in Ireland - the Hitachi 705. This instrument was revolutionary in its day performing up to 12 different chemistries.

This means that patients now have a much shorter time to wait for their test results because we have a greater capacity to do many different chemistries with a faster turn around time.

There has been a quiet revolution in the technology of Biochemistry labs throughout the world and quite happily the MUH Biochemistry Lab has been to the forefront in keeping up with this new technology.

As with all its services, Mercy University Hospital continues to strive to provide an excellent Biochemistry service to all our patients.

Colette Finn - Chief Medical Scientist



lee swimmers

The Lee Swim dates back to 1914 at least. It was held in the City Centre until 1952 when the polio outbreak caused it to be moved to the lower harbour area. It was last held at that venue in 1987.

In 2005, as part of the European Capital of Culture celebrations, and facilitated by the dramatic improvements in river quality since the commissioning of the Cork Main Drainage Works, the historic swim was once again held in the City Centre.

This year the 'Vibes & Scribes' Lee Swim was held in July and 230 swimmers began their swim from MUH / UCC Campus grounds. The organisers of the event, Cork Masters SC, encouraged swimmers to raise funds for Cork Lions Club and its 'Holidays for Sick Children' project. Cork Lions report that the fundraising effort was very successful and allowed children from Mercy University Hospital's Leukaemia Unit to be sent on an all-expenses-paid holiday to Tenerife.

GP study evening

**28th November 2006 @ 6.30pm
Hayfield Manor, College Road, Cork**

As you know, there have been a number of new appointments at Mercy University Hospital -- bringing with them new and exciting methods to care for patients.

A GP Study Evening will be held on the 28th November in Hayfield Manor. Topics such as "Funny Turns", Urologic Surgery, Pain Management, Cardiology, Hepatobiliary Surgery, Radiology and Paediatric Resuscitation will be discussed. This meeting will be Chaired by Dr. Neil Brennan and Dr. Vivian Foley. I hope you can make this meeting and that you will find it highly informative.

Dr. Carl Vaughan - Consultant Cardiologist

congratulations!



**Student Medical Teacher of the Year
2005 / 2006**

Above (L-R): Dr. Eric Dy (Intern) on behalf of the Final Medical Students '05 - '06 presenting the award to Dr. A. Morcos, Gastroenterology Registrar for his work with University College, Cork undergraduate students.

To the right: Prof. Gerry O'Sullivan of the Cork Cancer Research Centre accepts a check for €5,091 from Seán O'Bulmáin (MUH physiotherapist) and friends -- proceeds from Seán's participation in the Ironman Canada event.

L-R: Alice Conroy, Prof. Gerry O'Sullivan, Seán O'Bulmáin, Dr. Declan Soden and Noreen O'Callaghan.

well done again!



For the third year in succession, the Catering Department has received the Excellent Ireland Quality Association award with a 3% increase on the previous year's audit. Congratulations to the HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point) Team and their efforts to attain high standards in safe food which augments the current Hospital Accreditation award.

thank you!



quiz masters!



Benefit Quiz winning team L-R: Shane Mullins, Gerard Gillen, Noel Connolly and Colin McKeon. Organisers, Siobhan Kenny and Deirdre O'Connor, wish to express their thanks to all who supported the MUH Benefit Table Quiz. The monies raised are being spent on Thermocontour Bed Mattresses.

winners!



Golf event organisers JJ Cronin (far left) and John O'Shea (far right) with the winning team L-R: Claire Cromie, Graham O'Reilly, Cathal O'Regan. Well done to the entire cross-section of MUH staff who participated in this event. The 2007 competition is just around the corner, so start practicing!



Mary Dunning, Director of Nursing and Martina Hughes, Nurse Practice Development Co-ordinator with the Class of 2006 - (Bachelor of Science Nursing Degree), on the occasion of their Graduation Ceremony.

congratulations!



Margaret Geary, medical secretary and her daughter Claire Geary, nursing graduate.



Our thanks to Eileen O'Callaghan and her family for their kind donation for Cardiovascular Research in Cork. Pictured: Eileen O'Callaghan and family, Prof. Noel Caplice and Dr. Carl Vaughan.

19th July 2006

Mercy University Hospital
Grenville Place
Cork

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to thank the hospital for the excellent care I received when I was admitted with a minor stroke recently. My doctor was everything that a doctor should be, and the nurses on St Finbarr's were unfailingly efficient, cheerful and caring, as were the catering and cleaning staff. I met with the same good care in radiography. I also saw the compassion the nurses showed to patients who were in a much worse state than me.

I was left thinking that if I had to be in hospital at all, it was as well I was in yours.

Name Withheld

mercy v. south

**Perpetual Trophy Challenge Benefit Match
(M.U.H.P.T.C.B.M.)**



The annual Benefit Match is to take on an even more competitive edge as the South Infirmaries Victoria University Hospital soccer team meets our challenge. The match will take place on the legendary grounds of Cork City FC at Turners Cross on Saturday, November 25th at 7pm.

An evening of Après Match will be held in the Western Star, Western Road, Cork City. Funds raised during the event will be donated to Cork Cancer Research. Tickets available at Reception.

Sincere thanks to Tadhg O'Flynn from O'Flynn Medical for sponsoring this year's event. All are welcome and encouraged to attend what promises to be 'an event not to be missed.' Bring along your family and friends.

Support your Team!

achievements

congratulations to:

All staff members who recently obtained their BSc in Nursing.



staff news

Congratulations and very best wishes to the following staff members:

engagements

Catherine Barrett – HIPE
Mary Barry – Accreditation Department to
Lee Murray – Maintenance
Nuala Coakley – Medical Secretaries
Teresa Marshall – ICU
Audrey Motherway – Haematology

weddings

Patrick Coakley – ICU
Suzanne Cronin – PC
Mary Crowley – Medical Records
Carol Daly – HIPE
Marion Hickey – Urology
Agnieszka Miszkowska – Pharmacy
Maeve White – Catering

it's a girl

Mr. Ger McGreal – Consultant Surgeon / Vascular
Dr. Martin O'Driscoll – Consultant Radiologist
Anna Buckley – Nurse Training & Development
Catherine Buttimer – ICU
Patrick Dega – Catering
Mary Love – Ward Clerks
Joyce O'Connell – Catering
Susan Walsh – Dietetics

it's a boy

Dr. Peter MacEaney – Consultant Radiologist
Richard Browne – Catering
Kevin Burke – Support Services
Tracey Dinneen – Household Services
Ruth Holland – Social Work
Andrew Owen – Radiology
Susan Vaughan – ICU

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.

human resources department news

welcome new appointments

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

May 2006

Gillian Andrews	Staff Nurse
Orla Buckley	Catering Assistant
Aileen Carr	Medical Scientist
Christina Favier	Clerical Officer
Lara Glynn	Staff Nurse
Deborah Murphy	Clerical Officer
Annie O'Donovan	Catering Assistant
Kate O'Keeffe	Staff Nurse
Michael O'Sullivan	General Operative
Aoi Shibahara	Occupational Therapist
Eileen Sykes	Clinical Nurse Manager

June 2006

Caroline Browne	Health Care Assistant
Sarah Cahill	Health Care Assistant
Ruth Chambers	Catering Assistant
Antonio Dinamarca	Catering Assistant
Patricia Dineen	Health Care Assistant
Oonagh Fitzgibbon	Catering Assistant
Laura Griffin	Household Operative
Clare Harty	Clerical Officer
Caroline Hegarty	Clerical Officer
Aoife Higgins	Health Care Assistant
Eoin Horgan	Catering Assistant
Eleanor Kamal	Household Operative
Rachel Kiely	Clerical Officer
Sheila Lucey	Catering Assistant
Noirin McCarthy	Clerical Officer
Mairead O'Brien	Health Care Assistant
Eileen O'Donovan	Lab Assistant
Lorraine O'Donovan	Catering Assistant
Michelle O'Donovan	Health Care Assistant
Cathal O'Regan	Catering Assistant
Orla O'Regan	Catering Assistant
Doireann O'Sullivan	Catering Assistant
Sean Peyton	Catering Assistant
Breda Sweeney	Catering Assistant

July 2006

Geraldine Harrington	Staff Nurse
Sr. Gertrude Murphy	Chaplain
Nicola Murray	Clerical Officer
Clare O'Halloran	Staff Nurse
Fr. Christy O'Shaughnessy	Chaplain
Barbara O'Sullivan	Staff Nurse
Kimberley O'Sullivan	Staff Nurse
Julie Ryan	Health and Safety Officer

August 2006

Fiona Arnott	Staff Nurse
Deirdre Casey	Human Resources Manager
Joanne Cashman	Clerical Officer
Niamh Crowley	Staff Nurse
Rachel Edwards	Clerical Officer
Rasif Kamal	Stores Porter
Sinead Keane	Staff Nurse
Mary O'Donnell	Occupational Therapist
Anne O'Dwyer	Dietician
Carmel O'Meara	Staff Nurse

September 2006

Susan Bullman	Medical Lab Student
Ruth Foley	Medical Lab Student
Kim Jennings	Student Social Worker
Maria Jump	Medical Lab Student
Adele Maguire	Medical Lab Student
Finbarr O'Leary	Porter
Conor Stanley	Medical Lab Student

October 2006

Marylin Barry	Health Care Assistant
Katherine Corkery	Health Care Assistant
Siobhan Duggan	Clerical Officer
Abigail Goggin	Clerical Officer
Emer Horgan	Clerical Officer
David Kelly	Porter
Gordon McGregor	Porter
Susan Murphy	Health Care Assistant
David O'Connor	Porter
Diane O'Connor	Clerical Officer
Ann O'Driscoll	Catering Assistant
Amy Walsh	Health Care Assistant

consultant appointments

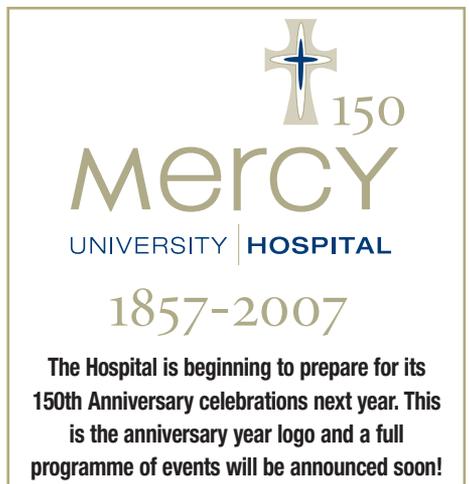
Welcome to the following Consultants who recently joined Mercy University Hospital.

Mr. Mayilone Arumugasamy Locum Consultant Surgeon
Dr. Kieran O'Connor Consultant Geriatrician
Mr. Criostóir Ó Súilleabháin Consultant Surgeon in Upper G.I – Hepato Biliary Pancreatic
Dr. Clodagh Ryan Consultant Haematologist (S.I Paediatric Haematology)

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.

Fr. Tony Butler Chaplain
Christine O'Donoghue Laundry Operative
John Roche Porter



150
MERCY
 UNIVERSITY | HOSPITAL
 1857-2007

The Hospital is beginning to prepare for its 150th Anniversary celebrations next year. This is the anniversary year logo and a full programme of events will be announced soon!

fond farewells to retiring colleagues

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



A retirement function was held in August for John Roche after 21 years of service as a Porter at Mercy University Hospital. At this celebration he was joined by, his wife Ann, his daughter Elizabeth, friends and work colleagues.



L-R: Josephine Griffin, Portering Officer and John Roche.



"Going out and coming in" on the same day! Fr. Tony Butler, retiring Chaplain from MUH, pictured here with some of the nursing graduates. Front Row L-R: Gillian O'Shea, Gillian Culleton. Middle Row L-R: Kathy Lane, Edel Tobin, Michelle O'Neill and Linda Kelleher. Back Row: Breifni Callanan.



A retirement function was held in September for Christine O'Donoghue after 30 years of service as a Laundry Operative at Mercy University Hospital - of which 11 years were served at the North Infirmary Hospital. At this celebration she was joined by her family, friends and work colleagues. Pictured here with Sr. Laurentia Roche.

dignity at work

The Human Resources Department will prepare a revised Mercy University Hospital Dignity at Work Policy for adoption by the Executive Management Board.

In conjunction with the roll out of the programme, People - Management - the Legal Framework, immediate multi-disciplinary training will be provided to raise awareness of behaviour which could give rise to Dignity at Work concerns at the Hospital.

Through the partnership process, a Dignity at Work Charter will be agreed and will be prominently displayed in all areas in the Hospital. Posters will also be distributed to all work locations advising of the existence of the Policy.

Deirdre Casey - HR Manager



Lucy Pope, Dr. Jaya, Finola Murphy and Marie Tobin.

kind donation

The staff of St. Anne's Ward would like to extend their thanks for the recent donation received from the "Friends of Inchigeelagh."

With this donation we are delighted to have bought a Camcorder with the facility for night recording and recording directly onto CD. Within the first week of having this facility, events which were causing diagnostic difficulty for families who were having problems describing events were captured on three patients, directing further medical investigation in two patients and avoiding the need for any further investigation on the third.

We are absolutely delighted to have this facility and over the last number of months we have captured a number of events which have been seizures, events thought to be seizures but which were not, respiratory difficulties occurring at night, facial spasms and episodes of abnormal gait.

We are delighted to have this facility as it empowers patients and their families to provide us with definitive information which directs further tests and helps in diagnosis. We are extremely grateful to the "Friends of Inchigeelagh" who made this kind donation given to us through the parents of Sholto O'Sullivan.

Dr. Olivia O'Mahony
Consultant Paediatric Neurologist

improvement achieved

The Hospital improved its score in the Second National Hygiene Audit and expects to do even better in the third audit later this year.

goodbye and best wishes



Pictured at a farewell party for Professor Kearney were: Front Row: (L-R) Maria Ryan, Noleen McCarthy, Peg O'Riordan and Olga Buckley. Back Row: (L-R) Dr. Madden, Prof. Kearney, Christine Griffin, Ruth Holland, Dr. M. A. Rehman and Dr. Elamin Mahmoud.

friends of londiani

Friends of Londiani wish to thank all staff who sponsored Pat Broderick - St Patrick's Ward and Laura Ahern - Emergency Department, who participated in the 4 Peaks Challenge during the summer.

This challenge involved climbing and supporting the climbing, over a weekend, of 4 mountains in Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales - a logistical nightmare but completed in the time allotted.

For more information on the project in Kenya and how your donations will be spent, please visit the website: www.friendsoflondiani.com or contact one of the staff mentioned above.

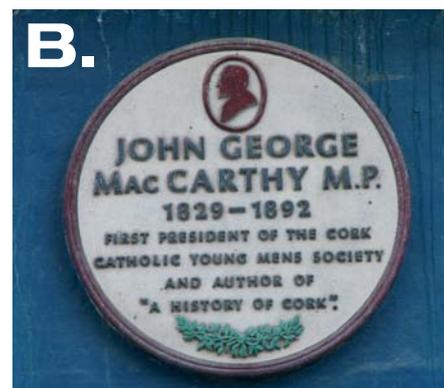
Thank you again for your continued support.

Kenya 2007

Five of the Emergency Department staff have volunteered to assist the Friends of Londiani registered charity, with medical work in a Londiani hospital next year. They plan to take holidays from their work at the Mercy in August 2007 and work for 3/6 weeks in Kenya.

To take part in this charity effort, they will be funding their own flights and living expenses but are also required to raise money to fund all the forthcoming projects in Londiani. Any fundraising goes directly to the people it's meant to reach. This project has no overhead as it is totally done on a voluntary basis. If anyone would like to help with this project, please contact Laura, Anne or Niamh in the Emergency Department.

where am I? staff competition



Correctly provide the specific Cork City locations for these two memorial plaques and you could be the lucky winner of a €50 shopping voucher, just in time for Christmas!

Please submit your answers on a separate sheet of paper together with your name, department and extension or contact number and place your entry in the labelled box on the wall in the Post Room by 12 noon on Friday, 22nd December. One entry only per staff member please. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries and answers will be displayed in the Post Room. Judge's decision is final. Good luck!