

## Issue 5

# St. Vincent's Foundation Newsletter for the Friends of St. Vincent's

September 2011

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**St. Vincent's Foundation is the philanthropic fundraising arm of  
St. Vincent's Healthcare Group.**



# St. Vincent's Foundation

Board of Directors: Prof. Noel Whelan, **Chairman**

Mr. Nicholas C. Jermyn, Mr. Stewart Harrington, Prof. Michael Keane

Registered in Dublin, Ireland, Company Registration No. 464228 Charity No. 1183

Registered Office: St. Vincent's Foundation, Elm Park, Dublin 4

## *Welcome from Mr. Bill Maher, Acting C.E.O., St. Vincent's University Hospital*

I am delighted to introduce this edition of our donors' magazine *Friends of St Vincent's*.

When I came to St. Vincent's in 2007 from the National Health Service in the UK, I was very conscious of the long tradition of medical care in the hospital. I learned about the unbroken service stretching over more than 170 years to the people of Dublin and the South-East.

What particularly impressed me was that the hospital didn't just attend to the immediate medical needs of the patients but extended to the totality of their needs including often the social service dimension. It was clear to me that the staff of St. Vincent's lived the values of the founding Sisters in 1835 of human dignity, compassion, justice, quality and advocacy.

I have been proud to become part of that tradition.

As a Voluntary, not-for-profit hospital, St. Vincent's cares for all patients equally regardless of their financial or social circumstances and always has done. From the beginning we were able to do this because of the generosity of donors who wanted to make a positive difference to those people who were, perhaps, less fortunate. Nowadays we receive much of our funding from the Department of Health but donor support remains vital if we are to achieve our world class potential.

In addition to our role within our catchment area, St. Vincent's is the National Centre for Liver Transplants, adult Cystic Fibrosis and Pancreatic Cancer as well as a key regional centre for many other areas of treatment. To give all of our patients the best chance of a positive outcome to their condition, it is essential that we provide our medical and caring staff with the best facilities we possibly can. This is a challenge in the best of times but particularly as funding becomes very challenging.

We have a number of projects underway; notable among them is the new ward block which will be completed early in 2012. This block, where every patient will be accommodated in a single room, is a model for modern healthcare and the very best environment for our patients. Our new Dermatology Centre will be opened before the end of this year and represents a major advance for patients. These and many smaller projects are assisted by donor support and we are grateful to each and every one of them – indeed, many could not progress without this essential support.

There are many urgent investments required in the hospital. A very current example is the dedicated Stroke Unit which we are currently fundraising for. At a cost of approx. €470,000, this unit when delivered will have the capacity to help an additional sixty patients to return to full independent living *each year*. This is a fantastic objective. We already have more than half the funds required to open this unit but we need just over €200,000 to deliver this unit.

I have been most impressed at the range of fundraising and donations on behalf of St. Vincent's Foundation. It really is a testimony to the creativity, energy and generosity of our patients, their families and friends. I want to assure all our donors that they make a real difference and there is tangible evidence of this through a number of projects, just some of which are mentioned in our Estates update in this magazine. Our Donors and fundraisers are true Friends of St. Vincent's and their donations never go unnoticed or unappreciated. To deliver the healthcare that we aspire to, we need all the support we can get and I am delighted to welcome our Friends to this edition of the magazine. I want to wish John Hickey and his colleagues every success on behalf of our patients for their ongoing efforts for St. Vincent's Foundation.

Thank you.

**BILL MAHER,**  
**ACTING C.E.O., ST. VINCENT'S UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**



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**St. Vincent's Healthcare Group comprises: St. Vincent's University Hospital, Elm Park, Dublin 4, Ireland (affiliated with University College Dublin); St. Vincent's Private Hospital, Elm Park, Dublin 4, Ireland; and St. Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland. [www.stvincents.ie](http://www.stvincents.ie)**

## *Update from John Hickey, C.E.O. of St. Vincent's Foundation*



Once again I am delighted to welcome all our supporters to the fifth edition of *Friends of St. Vincent's*.

Our family of "*Friends*" continues to grow despite the economic environment that is difficult for all our patients, their families and our own staff. Throughout this magazine you will see many heartwarming activities to fundraise for the hospital. We have also shown some improvements brought about through the support of donors and fundraisers.

During the summer the Flora Women's Mini Marathon took place in Dublin. As the biggest single fundraiser of the year we were really grateful for the record number of women who took part for St. Vincent's and, as in previous years, their sponsorship money continues to come in as we go to print.

This year, in support of our Stroke Unit development we had supporters taking part in the Wicklow 100 and Wicklow 200 cycling events. In terrible weather conditions these brave fundraisers endured to finish and we appreciate the money that their efforts contributed to this development. In addition to this, many other patients, families and staff organised and took part in events to fundraise for the Stroke Unit. This unit will cost a total of €470,000 of which we still need to raise about €200,000. We are really grateful to all who have helped so far.

We are delighted to report that the Hume Street Trust has been most generous to St. Vincent's in enabling us to extend our Dermatology capability. The development of the new state-of-the-art facility is well underway and when completed it will be a huge improvement in what we can offer our patients. We will have more about this in later editions of *Friends of St. Vincent's*. Our sincere thanks to the Board of the Hume Street Trust.

In recent market research we have been pleased to note that there is a growing awareness that St. Vincent's is a Voluntary not-for-profit hospital. This is very important in ensuring that we get the support we need to improve our conditions for patients. Equally, and not surprisingly, the research also reflects the reduced ability of contributors to donate money while demonstrating their willingness to do so.

We have spent a number of months redeveloping our website. Why not go to [www.stvincentsfoundation.ie](http://www.stvincentsfoundation.ie) to see what you think of the new format. *Friends of St. Vincent's* can also sign up for regular updates as they happen.

Don't forget that every donation makes a difference. Each and every one of you is helping St. Vincent's to achieve our world class potential.  
Thank you

*Don't forget that every  
donation makes a  
difference*

**JOHN HICKEY, C.E.O. ST. VINCENT'S FOUNDATION**



# *EstatesUpdate*

## ***Update on improvements in St. Vincent's University Hospital.***

We have continued in 2011 on an ambitious estates development programme that will bring further improvements to a wide range of patient facilities within the hospital.

Projects completed include the development of:

- ◆ Three new radiology reporting rooms
- ◆ Modifications to existing layout of the Cardiology Department / ECG to create additional offices and improve patient treatment areas
- ◆ Refurbishment and upgrade of Canteen Facilities for the benefit of patients and staff.



Some of our long term development projects under consideration include:

- ◆ Care of the Elderly - Development of a dedicated Stroke Unit
- ◆ Upgrade of family accommodation in the St. Rita's building
- ◆ Acute Medicine Unit - Existing Emergency Department layout to be redesigned and a further seven Admission lounges developed and relocation of non clinical services.

### **Updates on some of our key Projects:**



#### **New Ward Block**

The new ward is due to open in late spring of 2012 and construction work continues to be on track.

Construction works are well advanced and has reached the 7<sup>th</sup> level.

#### **New Herbert Wing**

Following the relocation of the Private Hospital in late 2010 the hospital commenced on a extensive modification to facilitate the transfer of a number of services into the new wing.

Considerable works have been undertaken to date especially on the ground floor level of the building and a number of Clinical and Administrative Services have now been relocated.

The development of a new ADCC suite on the ground floor included the complete redesign and refurbishment of the original consultants' private clinic into 12 consultant rooms, 1 treatment room and supporting administration areas.

## *EstatesUpdate continued.....*

Work has also commenced on upgrading the inpatient floors and is expected to be completed by December 2011.



Long term this will help facilitate the hospital's Infection Control Strategy to increase the number of ensuite and single cubicle rooms available for patients and also reduce the number of 6 bedded ward bays to improve patient comfort and dignity.

### **Department of Dermatology Expansion**

Upgrade and refurbishment works are well underway in the old OPD area adjacent to the current Dermatology Unit to facilitate the expansion of the Department.

City of Dublin Skin and Cancer Hospital (Hume Street) has funded this major upgrade and construction Project. Additional treatment rooms and supporting facilities were required to accommodate the expansion of the service.

Enabling activity, which included a number of clinical services and administration offices relocated to facilitate the works, have been completed over the last 4 months and the construction phase is now well underway.

**Donations have always been important in improving the hospital.**

**If you would like to support us please go to our website [www.stvincentsfoundation.ie](http://www.stvincentsfoundation.ie) or call our donation line on 1850 603 803 or write to St. Vincent's Foundation, Elm Park, Dublin 4.**



# Fundraising Highlights

## Some examples of support from our donors

The last few months have been an active period for many of our supporters among staff, patients and friends, and we are pleased to update you on some of these successes. Many donors and fundraisers do not want to be publicly identified.

We continue to receive donations from grateful patients and their relatives and friends, as well as many kind comments about their treatment in the hospital.

Many bereaved families have requested that people give donations to St. Vincent's in lieu of funeral flowers. This demonstrates the generosity towards the hospital at a most difficult time for individuals and families.

Thanks to the Tivoli Theatre for their support in giving us complimentary tickets earlier this year to sell for two recent performances and to fundraise for the hospital.

The family of Leon O'Neill R.I.P. very kindly raised money previously for us. This enabled us to purchase four leather Recliner chairs for St. Christopher's Ward. These are a great addition for the comfort of patients and their families.

We have seen an increasing trend of people leaving bequests to St. Vincent's in their Will. During March we received a €3,000 bequest from a deceased patient which was sent to us by his grand-daughter. He had requested that his donation would help the hospital and had greatly appreciated the care he got here. We received another bequest for €2,000 in September. Many thanks to these supporters.

In memory of Mrs Mary McQuillan R.I.P., her daughter Mary Egan and the McQuillan family donated a cheque for almost €1,400 to the hospital. This fundraising was through the support of Louis McQuillan's employers Johnson Brothers. We are grateful to them all. Mary Egan has already been a great supporter of St. Vincent's as one of the organisers of a highly successful fundraising event last year in Irishtown Stadium.

*Mary Egan and her husband Ger present donation to St. Vincent's in memory of her mother Mary McQuillan R.I.P.*



More unusually, a lady on a weekend visit from Italy with her husband was taken ill suddenly and admitted to St. Vincent's. A bad event had a terrific outcome thanks to the care in the hospital. The grateful couple sent a donation of €1,000 for which we are thankful.

A patient of the Liver Unit made a most generous donation of €5,000 to the hospital to enable other liver patients to have a positive outcome as he had. Another patient recently donated €1,000.

# Fundraising Highlights continued.....

## STROKE UNIT FUNDRAISING

Staff in Our Lady's Ward recently presented proceeds from a number of fundraising events for the development of a Stroke Unit in St. Vincent's. These included the Connemara Half Marathon on 10<sup>th</sup> April, Wicklow 100/200 Cycle Race on 12<sup>th</sup> June, B.B.Q. in Fillies on 1<sup>st</sup> July and a Church Gate collection organised by staff member Jonathan O'Keeffe.



The Stroke Unit will cost approx €450,000 and we have already raised about half of this. Donations can be made directly to the Foundation or via MyCharity.ie at the following link [http://www.mycharity.ie/event/stvincentshospital\\_strokeunitteam/](http://www.mycharity.ie/event/stvincentshospital_strokeunitteam/), where our fundraising page is now almost at €6,000! Staff and family or friends may wish to promote or support this fundraising initiative.

The Stroke Unit will bring a huge improvement to the care we provide to patients affected by stroke. We estimate that approx 60 additional patients, each year, can be returned to full independent living through this initiative.



A brave St. Vincent's team took part in the Wicklow 100 and 200 cycling events on June 12<sup>th</sup> last for the Stroke Unit in St. Vincent's University Hospital. This was one of the worst days of the year and the team showed remarkable resilience to complete the courses despite the cold and wet.

The "**St Vincent's Team**" included our Group C.E.O. Nicky Jermyn and Consultants from across the spectrum of medical disciplines. They were joined by junior doctors, nurses and staff from all areas of the hospital. It was the greatest collaborative effort by staff to support a single project in the hospital.

Pictured on right Leinster rugby stars Isa Nacewa, Isaac Boss and Heinke Van Der Merwe are pictured above lending their support to some members of the "**Stroke Team**" (Nicky Jermyn, Dr. Morgan Crowe, Gerry McSweeney, Elaine Marsden, Jonathan O'Keeffe, Aoife Caffrey, Dr. David Keane, Dr. John Ryan & Imelda Noone)



Jonathan Chawke has been a longterm supporter of our effort to develop a Stroke Unit and has raised significant funds over a number of years. Jonathan again this year took part in the Wicklow 100 in memory of his late father and raised over €900 from his MyCharity fundraising page and sponsorship. We are truly grateful for this terrific support.

Thanks also to David Healy from County Wicklow for raising €250 sponsorship from this event also.



## *Fundraising Highlights continued.....*



We were delighted that the Committee of the SVUH Sports & Social Club decided to support the Foundation in the first major social event. There was a most enjoyable Table Quiz held in R.T.E. and the proceeds were shared equally between funding for the club and the Stroke Unit in the hospital. We are really grateful for the efforts of the hardworking committee and for the presentation of over €600. Sincere thanks to all involved.

*Pictured above are members of the Sports & Social Club: Barry Breen, Patricia Brehony, Tanya King, Eamonn Heffernan and Louise McCormack presenting Table Quiz proceeds to John Hickey.*

**Thank you again to staff and friends who took part, and continue to take part, in fundraising events for the Stroke Unit.**

We have received €15,000 for the Haematology Unit from the Jack O'Neill Memorial Fund and the O'Neill family. This fantastic donation is the proceeds from their "JACK goes to Bollywood" fundraising event in the Burlington Hotel. The family and friends of the late Jack O'Neill have been wonderfully generous supporters of the hospital over years and we are truly grateful.

St. Vincent's Rugby Club held a very successful annual Charity Ball in March, from which St. Vincent's Foundation was to benefit from whatever surplus was achieved. The function was a great success and St. Vincent's Foundation is delighted to acknowledge receipt of €4,400. Not content with simply organising the Charity Ball, the medical students also raised €1,000 from a bag-packing day in Tesco Merrion Centre. Sincere thanks to the trojan selling efforts of the club, under the guidance of Andrew Brownlee and Conor O'Callaghan. We're grateful also to Prof. Michael Keane, as President of the Rugby Club, for his support. Our thanks additionally to all the individuals and companies who supported these wonderful events.

Our thanks to Ray Glass from Kinnegad who took part in the "Movember" wax and shave for cancer services in St. Vincent's and his sponsorship was matched by his employers Northern Trust. A total of €600 was received for St. Vincent's.

Sincere thanks to Paul Kerr, Captain and Mona Rooney, Lady Captain of Hermitage Golf Club for proceeds of €1,750 received for Breast Cancer patient care in St. Vincent's. St. Vincent's were delighted to be among one of the wide range of charities who benefitted from this most successful fundraising day and we would like to express our appreciation to all involved in the wonderful event.

We are very grateful to Patrick Dunne from Bray who, along with his work colleagues in Peter Mark, Blackrock, organised a fundraising night of waxing and shaving on 1st May last in Baker's Corner. A fantastic sum of €7,633 was raised for Breast Cancer services in St. Vincent's, which reflected the enormous effort which went into this event.



## *Fundraising Highlights continued.....*

The recycling of mobile phone and printer cartridges, which was originally a staff suggestion, continues to be successful and is now complemented by a donation box for Dublin Bus refund tickets.



One of our greatest supporters is Christine Kearney. Once again Christine has gone to extraordinary lengths to support St. Vincent's, raising €1,240 from a "Short Haircut" event recently. We have a lovely picture of Christine and her 3 grandchildren presenting the sponsorship funds.

*Christine Kearney, her husband Tommy and grandchildren Christian, Kai & Ruby present her sponsorship proceeds.*

Because of the donated funds we are able to support projects in the hospital that would not happen otherwise. Some of the recent activities include:

- Comfortable chairs for C.F. patients and their families
- A Votive Candle Stand for the Chapel through a donation from a bereaved family. It is proving very popular, (see photo)
- A number of key research projects that will lead to better outcomes for our patients
- Contact and guidance signage for C.F. patients.
- TV/DVD for Leucapheresis Room (in Haematology) while patients are having treatment.



As we build up our funds we will be able to support a range of large and smaller projects, all as a result of donor support.



John Candy and friends organised a Gala Concert in aid of various charities in Mount Wolseley Carlow on Monday 25th July last featuring a fantastic line-up of performers including Brendan Bowyer, Joe Cuddy, Philomena Begley, Foster & Allen and many others. A full house had a great evening as well as raising funds for a total of seven charities. St. Vincent's received €3,000 for which we are really grateful. Sincere thanks to the hardworking committee who made it possible and to the artists who gave generously of their time.

*Carlow Gala Concert presentation*

## *Fundraising Highlights continued.....*

### **2011 Flora Women's Mini Marathon Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June**

**We had a record number of participants taking part in the Flora Women's Mini Marathon for St. Vincent's this year. We are really thankful to all who supported and sponsored this event for St. Vincent's. Below are photos of some of our great supporters taking part on the day and presenting their sponsorship proceeds.**



## *Fundraising Highlights continued.....*

### **2011 Flora Women's Mini Marathon Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June**

Among those who took part in the Women's Mini Marathon this year are many individual heartwarming stories. Here are just a selection of them:

- ♦ The Creane Family from Wexford, along with friends and family raised over €1,900 for the Liver Unit in memory of their mother Teresa who died last year.
- ♦ A young mother Samantha Duffy who spent a long time in I.C.U. in St. Vincent's last year, along with family and friends raised over €2,500.
- ♦ Great supporters, Marian O'Shea and her family (McMahon Family, County Laois) and friends raised over €1,600 in memory of their late brother Brian McMahon.
- ♦ Hannah Yorke and her friend Adrienne Moore raised over €1,400 via their MyCharity fundraising page and sponsorship.
- ♦ The family of a patient who died in the Liver Unit just a year ago have continuously supported St. Vincent's and raised in excess of €2,400 in this year's event.



We are really thankful to all who took part, sponsored and donated for this wonderful fundraising event.

### *MyCharity Affiliation*

Don't forget our partner in fundraising [mycharity.ie](http://mycharity.ie). This is a really useful way to organise fundraising for sponsored events. If anyone is considering participating in any type of sponsored event, it is worth visiting the website. Literally any kind of event can be put up.



If you are using the MyCharity to raise money for St Vincent's through sponsored events the best way is by setting up your own page through [www.mycharity.ie](http://www.mycharity.ie). You can reach this by going to our website [www.stvincentsfoundation.ie](http://www.stvincentsfoundation.ie) and following the link for sponsored events. You can then email the link to friends who might wish to sponsor you. There is a Direct Debit payment facility on the mycharity website and also, we are linked to their Facebook Fundraising application. You can also access a myriad of fundraising ideas via the "fundraising ideas page" on this site.

***We are so indebted to all our supporters and to many more not listed.  
Some donors do not want to be identified and we always respect that.***



# Bequests & Gifts to St. Vincent's

## Legacy Activity

We previously highlighted the importance of legacies in enabling projects in St. Vincent's since the hospital was established in 1834 and we are delighted that this support continues.

Recognising the importance of legacy gifts, some of the biggest charities throughout the world have come together this year and established September 13<sup>th</sup> as International Legacy Giving Day. Participating countries include Australia, Canada, Spain, Switzerland, U.K. and many many others. In Ireland the movement is through Legacy Promotion Ireland.



According to recent Irish research, only one in three Irish adults make a Will. Furthermore, only 12% of Irish people indicate that they have included a charity as a beneficiary in their Will, despite the fact that 62% of Irish people say they would consider leaving a gift to charity in their Will. Legacy donations are an extremely valuable source of unrestricted income to charities. However Irish charities only raise approximately 6% of their income from legacies which compares to up to 40% in the UK. Indeed, many Irish charities have never received a bequest.

Legacy Promotion is an organisation of a wide range of over 60 Irish charities which aims to raise public awareness of the importance of making a Will and leaving charitable bequests in Wills through an on-going campaign.



St. Vincent's is proud to have been a founder member of Legacy Promotion Ireland. Please see [www.mylegacy.ie](http://www.mylegacy.ie) for more details.

*Pictured on left is Mr David Bell, the oldest practising solicitor in Ireland at aged 91 years, with his grand-daughter Emily at the launch of **Best Will in the World Week** recently*

This year Legacy Promotion Ireland has run an extensive advertising campaign on TV, radio and in the newspapers highlighting the benefits of legacies. The campaign makes a number of key points:

- ♦ Leaving a gift in your Will to your favourite charity is easy
- ♦ Your gift doesn't have to be a big cash gift e.g. 1% of your estate
- ♦ Leaving a gift in your Will to your favourite charity will have a lasting impact

Anyone making or amending a Will is advised to use the services of a solicitor to ensure that their wishes are clear and will be carried out accordingly. Legacy Promotion Ireland has got support from a wide range of solicitors who have offered a client consultation for a minimal fee and in some cases no fee at all when someone is considering including a charity as a beneficiary in their Will.



## *Bequests & Gifts to St. Vincent's*

Here in St. Vincent's we are supported by Mangan O'Beirne Solicitors, 31 Morehampton Road, Donnybrook, Dublin 4 who have very kindly offered a free consultation to anyone considering a Will. Anyone wishing to avail of this service should call 01-6684333 or email [solicitors@manganobeirne.ie](mailto:solicitors@manganobeirne.ie) and mention St. Vincents to make an appointment.

We are grateful to all who have supported St. Vincent's through a legacy over the years.

If you would like to know more about how a legacy/gift can help St. Vincent's, please contact John Hickey, C.E.O.  
St. Vincent's Foundation on  
[j.hickey@st-vincents.ie](mailto:j.hickey@st-vincents.ie) or Tel: 01-2215035

### *In Memory donations*

There is a growing trend of families suggesting "In Memory" donations to specific causes in St. Vincent's in lieu of funeral flowers. This is welcome and very generous of families who look for others to benefit from their loss. We are very grateful for the donations we receive from relatives of deceased patients and also via our website.

### *Tax Relief on Donations to St. Vincent's Foundation*

Because St. Vincent's Foundation is an "Eligible Charity" as defined by the Irish Revenue Commissioners, donations of €250 or more in any one year are eligible for tax relief. This relief applies if donations of €21 or more per month are made by standing order. The relief means that the Irish Revenue Commissioners repay the tax that is relevant to the donation. The tax relief is given at the donor's marginal tax rate (either 20% or 41%). The treatment of the tax differs between PAYE taxpayers and self-employed. The following examples demonstrate the benefits.

#### PAYE Donors

- St. Vincent's Foundation can seek the tax relief on the donation. Depending on the tax rate of the donor the following applies to a donation of €250:
- If the donor pays tax at 41%, St. Vincent's Foundation reclaims €174 thereby increasing the donation to €424 without any additional cost to the donor
- If the donor pays tax at 20%, St. Vincent's Foundation reclaims €62 which increases the donation to €312—again at no additional cost to the donor
- Larger donations attract a correspondingly increased tax refund.

#### Self--Employed Taxpayer

- The same level of tax relief applies as with PAYE taxpayers, but , in this case the refund is claimed by the taxpayer.

## *Comments from Our Patients and their Relatives*

We constantly receive kind comments on the care given to our patients. We give a sample of these in each edition but we don't identify any patient or staff member. Readers might recognise their own comments

**"..a big thank you to all the wonderful staff who helped me to recover so quickly from a broken ankle. The care I received was really superb.."**

**"her attitude and attention to duty, her bright bright smile, her cheery demeanour and her caring sensitivity during Alan's low points helped him cope greatly with his difficulties."**

**"To say goodbye to her each evening was like leaving her in the care of an extended family member...."**

**"She talked to me throughout the whole procedure but above all she held my hand. I cannot thank her enough for her empathy and kindness"**

**" .....the one tiny bit of comfort they are clinging on to is the compassionate, professional and caring way they were dealt with...."**

**" ..the care from cardiology, dermatology and emergency department over the last eight years was extraordinary..."**

**"...they gave me back my life and I always owe that to the staff.."**

**"Even now when I return for my check-ups they make me feel so welcome."**

**"...during the night in the emergency department the professionalism was terrific..."**

**"...right through her illness and up to the end ,they treated her as an individual and made time for her as well as treating her sickness"**

**" We were all touched by the kindness and support shown by the staff of St. Vincent's University Hospital"**

**"We decided to take part in the Flora Women's Mini Marathon to help raise funds for St. Vincent's Hospital to express our thanks for all the care they gave to our mother"**

## *Some Medical Highlights from St. Vincent's*



**by Prof. P. Ronan O'Connell, Head, Surgery & Surgical Specialities, UCD School of Medicine & Medical Sciences, St. Vincent's University Hospital**

### **SVUH obtains research funding to study incontinence**

Faecal incontinence affects some 8 to 12% of the population to some degree. It is a very debilitating condition and may lead to social isolation. Women who have a history of difficult childbirth are most likely to be effected and the condition may be associated with other disorders of the pelvic floor such as prolapse or urinary incontinence. In collaboration with Prof Colm O'Herlihy at the National Maternity Hospital and Dr James Jones, Senior Lecturer in Physiology at UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science, Prof. Ronan O'Connell has a long established research group which has investigated the underlying mechanisms of injury during and after childbirth. Recently,



sacral nerve neuromodulation has been introduced for the treatment of patients with incapacitating incontinence with excellent results. The group has now secured more than €200,000 in external research funding from Science Foundation Ireland and the Bowel Disease Research Foundation of Great Britain to study the mechanisms by which neuromodulation works in the treatment of faecal incontinence. Collaborative research projects have also been established with colleagues in Trinity College Dublin and the Royal London Hospital.



### **Centre for Colorectal Disease Meeting**

The Centre for Colorectal Disease at St. Vincent's Hospital was established to ensure integration of medical and surgical treatment, education and research relating to diseases of the colon and rectum - the large bowel - at St. Vincent's University, St. Michael's and St. Vincent's Private Hospitals. The Centre brings together the collective expertise of gastroenterologists, colorectal surgeons, radiologists, oncologists, pathologists, specialist nurses and dieticians to provide multidisciplinary care for patients supported by nursing and administrative staff.

## *Some Medical Highlights from St. Vincent's contd...*



*Pictured above at the 2011 Centre for Colorectal Disease Annual meeting in the Education & Research Centre, St. Vincent's University Hospital were L. to R. Prof. Diarmuid O'Donoghue, Prof. John Armstrong, Prof. John Hyland, Mr. Brendan Moran, Dr. Nick West, Dr. Glen Doherty, Prof. Hugh Mulcahy, Prof. Kieran Sheahan & Dr. David Fennelly*

The annual International meeting provides a forum to share the Centre's clinical and research experience with doctors, nurses, dieticians, scientists and students. The 18<sup>th</sup> meeting was held on 9<sup>th</sup> Sept. with the theme '*Old problems – New solutions*'. The title reflects the difficulties of and recent advances in the treatment of colorectal cancer at the two ends of the clinical spectrum: early disease in which minimal surgical techniques may be used to avoid major operations and advanced disease in which more radical surgery may achieve long term survival and even cure when it might not previously have been possible.

Each year notable international speakers are invited and the list includes some of the world's most highly regarded clinicians involved in colorectal diseases.

This year Dr Nick West, a pathologist from Leeds in UK, spoke on how detailed assessment of tissues removed at the time of surgery can be used to predict cancer outcome and also act as a measure of quality assurance. Mr. Jurgen Mulsow, just returned from a fellowship at the University of Erlangen, Germany, described ultra radical surgical techniques used in Erlangen to treat colon cancer, while Mr Dara Kavanagh, spoke on the St. Vincent's experience in introducing more radical surgery for patients with advanced rectal cancer. Mr David Beddy, consultant surgeon, discussed the potentially curative effects of radiotherapy on rectal cancer, while Prof Des Winter considered whether it is possible to avoid removal of the rectum in certain patients with cancer. Dr Glen Doherty, consultant gastroenterologist, presented on new techniques for endoscopic removal of cancerous polyps and other early tumours. Such techniques are of particular importance in the treatment of tumours such as those identified by screening for colorectal cancer – soon to be introduced in Ireland.

The state of the art lecture was given by Mr Brendan Moran lead surgeon at the Colorectal Unit at Basingstoke Hospital, UK which is one of only two centres in the UK or Ireland funded for the treatment of advanced intra-peritoneal malignancy due to carcinoma of the appendix. Every year 3 to 5 Irish patients are referred to Basingstoke for specialist treatment. Mr Moran presented data on recent advances in the surgical and oncological management of advanced peritoneal malignancy in patients with colon cancer, a situation that has up until now always been considered incurable.



## *Business Partners of St. Vincent's*

A very important element of the support for St. Vincent's University Hospital is the growing number of Business Partners of St. Vincent's Foundation. In a very practical way each of these companies have contributed to the development of the hospital and demonstrated their corporate social responsibility. This is much appreciated and we hope that each benefits from their involvement with St. Vincents. As part of our Business Partner programme in St. Vincent's we have an annual reception in the hospital attended by the Business Partners together with the Board and Senior Management of St. Vincent's Healthcare Group. Partners are presented with certificates reflecting their ongoing support for the hospital. This contribution is very welcome.

**St. Vincent's Foundation is supported by the following Business Partners**



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# Christmas Cards

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1.

**Support St. Vincent's when buying  
your Christmas Cards**

*St. Vincent's is acknowledged on all cards*

**Price: €5.00 per pack of 10 cards**



3.



2.



5.



4.

## Order Form for Christmas Cards

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact tel. no. \_\_\_\_\_

Cards are packed in 10's@ €5 per pack)

Choose Card Type/Quantity from above: 1.  2.  3.  4.  5.

Amount Enclosed € \_\_\_\_\_ (Cheque/postal order payable to St. Vincent's Foundation)

**Return your completed order form to:**  
**Mr. John Hickey, C.E.O., St. Vincent's Foundation,**  
**St. Vincent's University Hospital, Elm Park, Dublin 4**  
**or**  
**Phone us on 01-2215065 with your order**

## *Upcoming Sponsored Events*

***Are you thinking of taking part in a sponsored event?  
If so, please consider choosing St. Vincent's Foundation as your  
chosen charity***

**You can select the cause within the Foundation you would like your money to go to. All monies received will go directly to your chosen cause and patient care.**

**Contact us now for a sponsorship  
pack on 01-2215065 or email  
[stvincentsfoundation@svhg.ie](mailto:stvincentsfoundation@svhg.ie)**

**If you are looking for fundraising ideas why not go to  
[www.mycharity.ie](http://www.mycharity.ie) and follow the link**

**Check out our website for more details of  
how you can help**

**[www.stvincentsfoundation.ie](http://www.stvincentsfoundation.ie)**



Donations can be made by  
24 hour donation phone line Tel: 1850 603 803  
Via Our Website

[www.stvincentsfoundation.ie](http://www.stvincentsfoundation.ie)

Or

Pick up one of our leaflets in the hospital

### **OUR CONTACT DETAILS**

**St. Vincent's Foundation**

**St. Vincent's University Hospital**

**Elm Park**

**Dublin 4**

**Tel: 01 221 5065**

**Fax: 01 221 4428**

**Email: [stvincentsfoundation@svhg.ie](mailto:stvincentsfoundation@svhg.ie)**

**St. Vincent's Foundation**

Company Registration No. 464228 Charity No. 1183