



Grúpa Ospidéal  
Oirthear na hÉireann



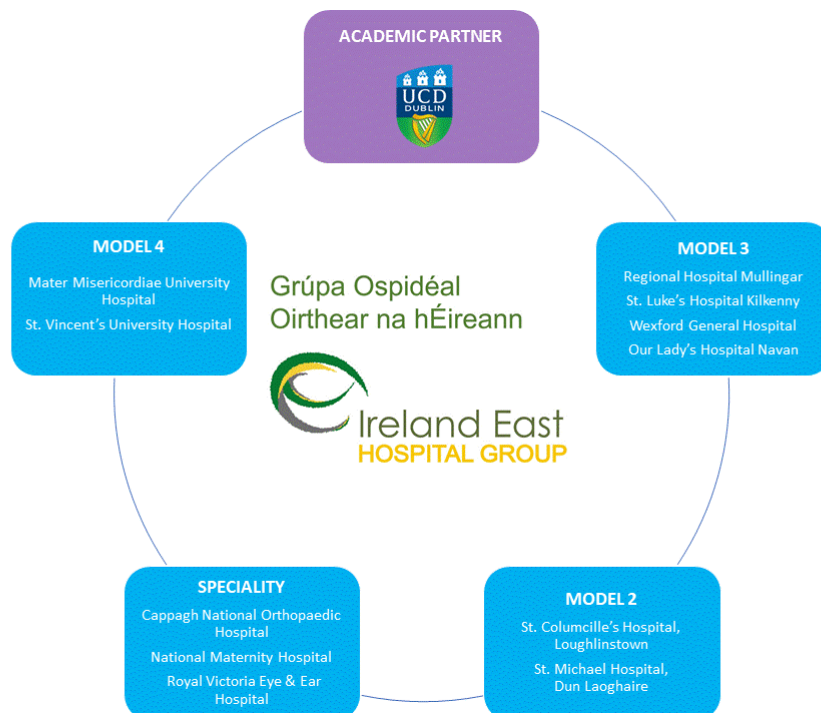
## UCD - IEHG

# ACADEMIC HEALTH SCIENCE CENTRE

eNewsletter - February 2019 - Issue 01

Welcome to our first Academic Health Science Centre Newsletter. Our Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC) is the first of its kind in Ireland and combines the 11 hospitals in the Irish East Hospital Group (IEHG) and our academic partner University College Dublin. Together we are committed to creating a world-class AHSC by 2020. Why develop an AHSC? Simply, because it improves patient care and outcomes by integrating teaching, research and innovation into all aspects of Healthcare.

An Academic Health Science Centre is a partnership between a group of hospitals and a University which carries out health research, teaching and innovation. Creating an AHSC brings in international best practice to improve patient care. By working together, we will improve integrated patient care by pooling our resources, knowledge and expertise in specialist areas, offering staff training in best practice and integrating research, education and innovation across the hospitals and university to create new treatments and technologies ensuring world class patient care. Integrated care means that the IEHG will work closely with GP Practices, Nursing Homes and Community Health Organisations to develop academic health care for the patients at home. Thus our AHSC will provide an integrated system across hospitals, communities, nursing homes and GP practices linked to UCD.



Being part of an AHSC also provides staff the opportunity to further their training, focus on career development and to become involved in cutting edge research and innovation. AHSCs make staff retention and recruitment easier as terms and conditions improve.

The backbone of our AHSC are the Clinical Academic Directorates (CADs) that link and develop specialties across our hospitals. Focusing on a number of key biological areas in CADs will enable us to develop world-class teaching, research and innovation in cancer, cardiovascular disease, neuroscience, genomics and women's and child health. Our patients will benefit hugely.

---

To study the phenomenon of disease without books is to sail an uncharted sea, while to study books without patients is not to go to sea at all.

*William Osler*

---

## Clinical Academic Directorate Update

This transformation journey to an AHSC using the CAD structure will pool resources and expertise across our hospitals and increase communication and collaboration with UCD to enable world-class research and innovation in 5 key areas. *The sum of the parts will be greater than the individual components.*



**Cancer** – Our cancer CAD is operating across St. Vincent's University Hospital (SVUH) and The Mater Misericordiae University Hospital (MMUH). This CAD now treats 45% of all patients with breast cancer, 50% of all gynecological cancers in Ireland and provides a national service for cytoreductive surgery and intraperitoneal chemotherapy for peritoneal cancer patients. This CAD is led by its Executive Director, Prof Risteard O'Laoide, Consultant Radiologist, Joint Clinical Director IEHG and Prof Michaela Higgins has been appointed Clinical Lead at the MMUH.



**Neuroscience** – A Neuroscience CAD is being established to improve academic care in neurology, psychiatry, dementia, stroke, old age medicine and neurosciences. This aspect of our healthcare system is increasingly important as our population ages and degenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's disease become more prevalent. We will improve the care of our patients by availing of world class expertise in Multiple Sclerosis, dementia and dystonia at SVUH and stroke, neurodegenerative disease (Parkinson's disease) and headache at the MMUH.



**Women's Health and Children** – A Women's Health/Children CAD has been established under the leadership of Dr Rhona Mahony, Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist, working with Prof Fionnuala McAuliffe from UCD. It will focus on academic service improvements across the four IEHG hospitals (Hollis Street, Mullingar, Wexford, Kilkenny) that provide maternity services, paediatric care, gynaecology and transition management.



**Cardiovascular** – We are establishing a Cardiovascular CAD to be launched in 2019. The Cardiovascular CAD will focus on improving academic patient care in heart and cardiovascular disease, peripheral vascular disease (stroke), diabetic care and renal disease. Clinical Professor at UCD Ken McDonald has already put in place integrated care models involving virtual reality clinics from St Vincent's Hospital to GP practices to manage patients with heart failure in the community rather than A&E or Outpatient departments.



**Genomics** – Genetics underpins most of medicine and we have established a Genomics CAD under the leadership of Professor Owen Smith, Professor of Paediatrics, UCD. A solid tumour genetic laboratory is lead by Dr Kieran Sheehan at SVUH and we recently developed a state-of-the-art genetics diagnostic laboratory at the MMUH to provide a diagnostic genetic service for Irish patients. The research genetic laboratory at the Conway Institute UCD under the leadership of Prof Brendan Loftus will work closely with the solid tumour and diagnostic lab to develop new research and findings in genomics.



**Research** – A research Directorate has also been established under the leadership of Prof Peter Doran, Head of the Clinical Research Centre at SVUH and MMUH, using the framework of the UCD Clinical Research Centre to enhance the delivery of health research across the hospital group. This Clinical Directorate will also focus on Health Systems research and will be working closely with the Cancer and Genomics and other CADs to include research and innovation projects in 2019.

### **Case Study: Gynae Oncology Service**

The Cancer Clinical Academic Directorate (CACAD) is the first Clinical Academic Directorate developed in the Ireland East Hospital Group and was launched in June 2016.

The aim of the Directorate is to align the two cancer centres at the MMUH and SVUH into a single operating cancer unit across both sites to combine the strengths of both hospitals together with cutting edge cancer research at UCD (Conway Institute, Systems Biology Ireland, School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science, Charles Institute) and so improve the care and outcomes of cancer patients across our Group.

The IEHG agreed that a review of the entire service from initial referral through to end of treatment and survivorship was required in order to map out the service across the institutions within the IEHG and to identify specific areas of focus for improvement, to optimise both the patient journey and quality of care, ultimately improving patient outcomes.

The Gynae Oncology team provides a real example of a functioning clinical academic service. The service works as an integrated team covering 3 hospitals (MMUH, National Maternity Hospital (NMH) and SVUH) and integrates academic research and teaching into clinical care. Their integrated service delivery is enhanced by cross-site appointments which include Prof Donal Brennan and Dr Ruaidhri McVey, the development of a cross-site MDT and the creation of a centralised MDT coordinator position.

The Cancer CAD has supported an ovarian cancer research project across the MMUH and SVUH to the Conway Institute with the appointment of a bioinformatician, consumables and a soon to be recruited research assistant and the team are also targeting European Society of Gynaecological Oncology (ESGO) accreditation as a European Accredited Centre in Gynae Oncology.

## **Interview with Prof Tim Lynch, IEHG Chief Academic Officer & UCD VP for Health Affairs**

### **What does the role of Chief Academic Officer of the Ireland East Hospital Group involve?**

I have two roles – Chief Academic Officer of IEHG and Vice Principal of Health Affairs at UCD. My overall role is to increase communication between UCD and all IEHG's 11 hospitals and to make all aware of the potential for collaboration that exists.

There is a significant amount of clinical academic work going on in UCD and in our hospitals that would benefit from increased cooperation and communication. Another key related task will

be to drive the key development of an Academic Health Science Centre encompassing IEHG and UCD.



### **IEHG is transitioning toward an Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC). What does this mean?**

An Academic Health Science Centre is a partnership between two or more universities and healthcare providers focusing on research, clinical services, education and training. AHSCs are intended to ensure that medical research breakthroughs lead to direct clinical benefits for patients. Academic Health Science Centres differ depending on where you go in the world, whether that be Holland, Canada, or Australia. In the US you have AHSCs such as Johns Hopkins and the University of Pennsylvania and there are three in London alone. Each plays to its strengths and specialities within its own particular healthcare setting and there is therefore no "off-the-shelf" AHSC model to emulate. IEHG will create its own model based on the Irish health system in which it operates, the strengths of its 11 hospitals, and where these can link and match with UCD.

### **What are the key benefits for patients and staff within an AHSC?**

It has been proven that both patients and staff do better within an AHSC. For patients, it means that cutting-edge research is translated into clinical benefits more quickly. For staff, an AHSC improves recruitment and retention, through research and training opportunities, among other things. As an AHSC, we will also offer ongoing career development for staff in our regional hospitals.

Our Clinical Academic Directorates (CADs) already show how research and clinical practice work well together. Ireland is known for offering world-class undergraduate education in medicine, nursing and related services. In my opinion, what is now needed is the development of postgraduate education and research which can dovetail seamlessly with the undergraduate offering.

A careers' structure also needs to be incorporated into postgraduate education. That is why the opening of the [Pillar Centre for Transformative Healthcare](#) at the Mater Hospital is so important. Postgraduate students will now be able to train in their area and study at the same time within a structured innovative research environment. The Pillar is a joint venture between the hospital and UCD and it is testament to the importance of research and innovation in the development of our healthcare in IEHG that the Board of the Mater has given over an entire building to this centre of learning. UCD has now a clear footprint in a clinical campus. We will be working with the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and there is also huge potential for international collaborations. A centre like the Pillar also attracts industry investment and product development. We are actively talking to a number of industries and companies about collaborative research and innovation.

### **What are the next key steps in IEHG's transition toward an AHSC?**

Communications about the collaborative work that is already ongoing and creating awareness of the potential of the AHSC is extremely important. People should be aware AHSC development is a very worthwhile endeavour which will benefit Irish healthcare and the economy. It is also time for politicians to support the hospital groups. The Groups were designed with an academic core at their centre to improve

patient care by applying academic medicine to clinical care. St Vincent's and the Mater have a 150-year history of working with UCD and there are established referral systems in place. Recently it has been proposed to realign the Hospital Groups. In my opinion it is too late to break up the hospital groups as this will damage integrated academic care of patients (e.g. Gynae Oncology) and the training of students, amongst other things. If the IEHG is split up, in ten years' time we will be struggling to find Irish staff as the UCD student cohort in medicine, nursing, physiotherapy and radiography will have shrunk substantially.

---

The good physician treats the disease; the great physician treats the patient who has the disease.  
*William Osler*

---

## UCD & Irish East Hospital Group News

### [Regional Hospital Mullingar Launches First of its kind Weight Management Guide](#)

Regional Hospital Mullingar launched its 'Guide to Managing Your Weight', the first of its kind by a hospital in Ireland. This easy-to-use booklet was produced as a joint initiative between the Physiotherapy and Nutrition & Dietetic Departments at the hospital and gives practical advice to managing weight.

### [IEHG Ambulatory Emergency Care \(AEC\) Masterclass](#)

Ireland East Hospital Group (IEHG) were delighted to welcome the NHS Ambulatory Emergency Care (AEC) Improvement Team to deliver a Masterclass on AEC and to share collective learning on improving the delivery of this model of care.

### [IEHG Careers](#)

IEHG hospitals are currently recruiting for a number of positions. For more information and to apply, you can visit the Careers page on the IEHG website.

### [IEHG publish their 2018 Year in Review](#)

IEHG have just launched their Year in Review 2018 which covers the main highlights from their work across the 11 hospitals in the group and the progression of the Academic Health Science Centre.

### ["Dare2CureLungCancer" St Vincent's Hospital Lecture](#)

Prof John Crown spoke to lung cancer patients, family, carers and members of the public at "Dare2CureLungCancer" at St Vincent's University Hospital on 25th Jan. Prof Ken O'Byrne Brisbane Oz outlined recent advances in the treatment of lung cancer.

### [UCD Medicine Clinical Pathway 2019 Open for Applications](#)

The School of Medicine UCD is delighted to welcome applications for first time appointment, re-appointment or advancement within the 2019 UCD Medicine Clinical Pathway, the School's adjunct academic appointment scheme designed to recognise clinical staff who contribute to our programmes.

### [Academic Track Internship, 2018/2019](#)

The UCD Intern Network has four Academic Track Intern posts for 2018/2019. These UCD Academic Track Interns rotate through Medicine for the Elderly, Gastroenterology and Orthopaedics at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital encompassing a three-month rotation for Clinical Research.