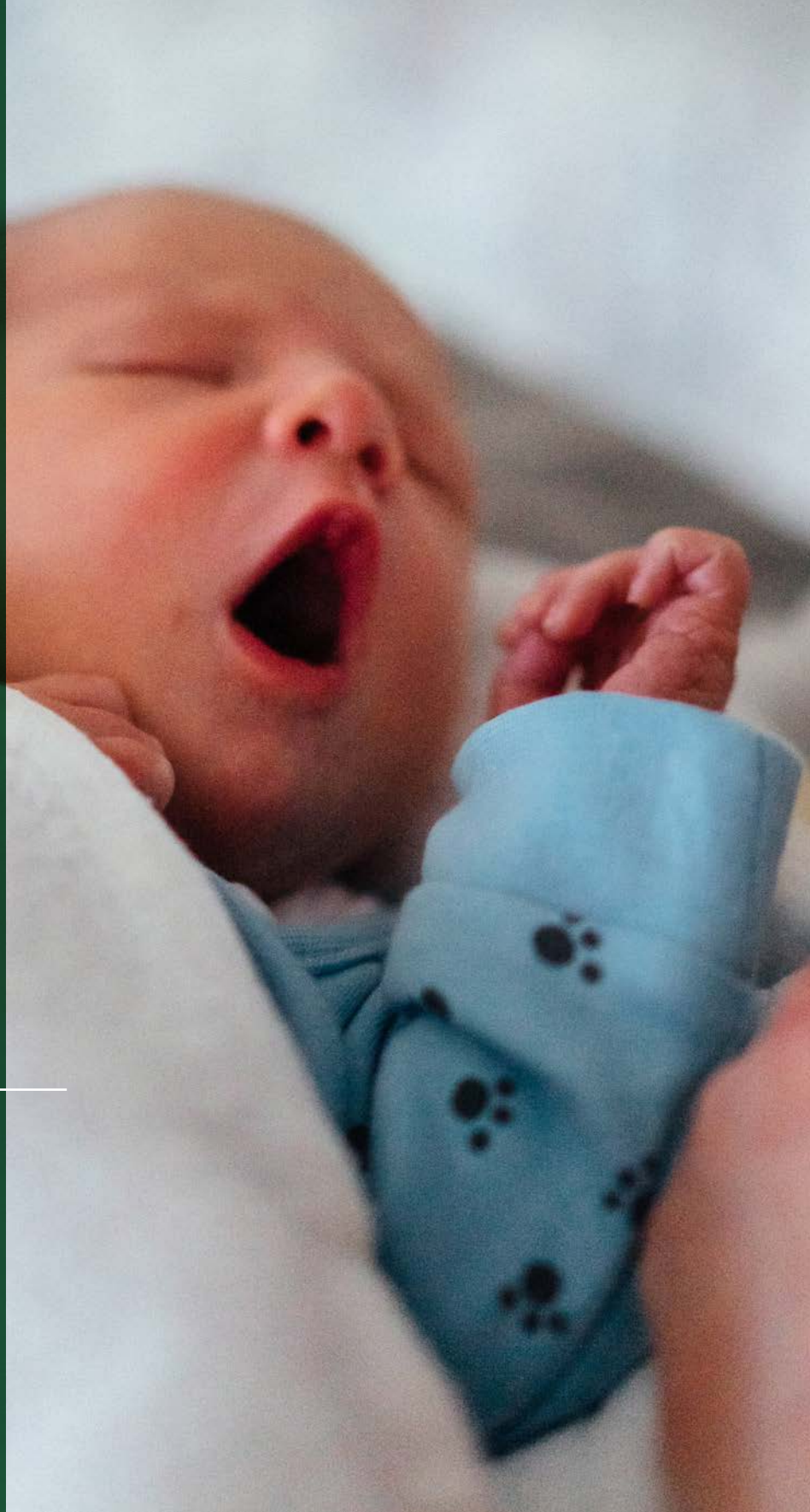


20 22

annual report



Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate
South/South West Hospital Group

Together with women, babies and families, our academic healthcare network strives for clinical excellence & innovation

University
Hospital
Kerry

Tipperary
University Hospital

University
Hospital
Waterford

Cork University
Maternity Hospital



Contents

Clinical Data	2
2022 at a glance	3
Introduction	4
Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate Management Structures	5
Executive Management Committee	6
Our Maternity Units	8
Cork University Maternity Hospital	8
University Hospital Waterford	14
University Hospital Kerry	20
Tipperary University Hospital	26
Neonatology	30
Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, UCC	42
The National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre (NPEC)	44
Obstetrics	46
Gynaecology	52
Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Service (SPMHS)	60
Pharmacy	65
The National Gestational Trophoblastic Disease Registry, Monitoring & Advisory Centre	68
Pregnancy Loss Research Group	70
School of Nursing & Midwifery	76
Centre of Midwifery Education	80
Infant	82
Clinical Pastoral Education for Healthcare Professionals	84
Health Innovation Hub Ireland	85
Staffing across Ireland South Women and Infants Directorate	86
2022 Highlights	88
Publications 2022	98

Clinical Data

Page	Figures
5	Figure 1: The multidisciplinary membership of the EMC
6	Figure 2: Ireland South EMC major work streams
6	Figure 3: EMC subcommittee structures
35	Figure 4: Neonatal Unit Cot Occupancy
39	Figure 5: Neonatal Unit Cot Occupancy
43	Figure 6: Research Income in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, 2010-2021
44	Figure 7: Timeline of the National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre
61	Figure 8: Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Team staffing
Page	Tables
31	Table 1: Summary data of neonatal unit activity across ISWID 2022
31	Table 2: Reason for admission
32	Table 3: Number of infants admitted to the Neonatal Unit CUMH
32	Table 4: Number of admissions to the Neonatal Unit (includes readmissions)
33	Table 5: Number of admissions to the Neonatal Unit (includes readmissions)
33	Table 6: Admissions to Neonatal Unit (%)
33	Table 7: Number of admissions to the Neonatal Unit (includes readmissions)
33	Table 8: Gestational age profile of primary admissions
34	Table 9: Birthweight category profile of primary admissions
34	Table 10: Reason for admission (N=1186)
35	Table 11: Number of infants reported to VON annually
36	Table 12: Survival to discharge by gestation (N=97)
36	Table 13: Survival to discharge by birthweight (N=97)
36	Table 14: Clinical demographics of infants (N=97)
37	Table 15: Summary of respiratory support (N=97)
37	Table 16: Major morbidities amongst infants reported to VON (N=97 unless otherwise stated)
38	Table 17: Summary of infants with neonatal encephalopathy (N=23)
46	Table 18: Frequency (N) of maternities and births 2014-2022
46	Table 19: Distribution of maternal and delivery characteristics
48	Table 20: Frequency (N) of maternities and births 2014-2022
48	Table 21: Distribution of maternal and delivery characteristics - Vaginal delivery
48	Table 22: Distribution of maternal and delivery characteristics - Instrumental delivery
49	Table 23: Incidence of caesarean delivery per total mothers delivered
49	Table 24: Distribution of labour epidurals
49	Table 25: Inutero transfers admitted
49	Table 26: Inutero transfers sent out
49	Table 27: Maternal transfers for critical care
50	Table 28: Severe maternal morbidity
51	Table 29: Perinatal Mortality
53	Table 30: Waiting lists in CUMH
53	Table 31: Referrals to gynaecology services in 2022
54	Table 32: Gynae Outpatient Waiting List
54	Table 33: Gynae Physiotherapy treatments
54	Table 34: Fertility Hub
55	Table 35: CUMH Gynaecology service - outpatient attendances 2022
55	Table 36 CUMH gynaecology service - inpatient and day case procedures 2022
56	Table 37: Numbers of attendances in gynaecology outpatient clinics at TippUH
57	Table 38: UHW Gynaecological surgical procedures 2022
58	Table 39: Numbers of attendances in gynaecology outpatient clinics at UHW
58	Table 40: Numbers of inpatient and day case gynaecology procedures at UHW
58	Table 41: Gynaecology waiting lists at UHW
59	Table 42: Numbers of attendances in gynaecology outpatient clinics at UHK
60	Table 43: Numbers of inpatient and day case gynaecology procedures at UHK
60	Table 44: Gynaecology waiting lists at UHK
61	Table 45: Complete SPMHS Multidisciplinary Team, Model of Care
62	Table 46: Headline numbers/clinical activity 2022
69	Table 47: Count of Mole Classification
86	Table 48: Overall staff numbers for Ireland South in 2022
86	Table 49: Health and Social Care Professions (HSCPs)

2022 at a glance

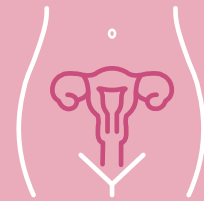


Births:
10,143

Women gave birth:
9,935



Only
Maternity
Directorate
in Ireland



Gynaecology Outpatients:
48,022

Gynaecology Inpatients:
5,376



34 Consultant Obstetrician
& Gynaecologists

8 Consultant Neonatologists

656.99 Midwifery

102 NCHD

34.65 HSCP

107.28 Admin

Academic partner:



UCC
University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

Our Mission

Together with women, babies and families, our academic healthcare network strives for clinical excellence and innovation.

Our Values

Our Values guide us as we strive to improve and advocate for the health & wellbeing of women, infants and families. They include:

Collaboration

The formation of the Directorate has changed how the hospitals relate to each other – and has built a collaborative partnership across the 4 hospitals to provide the best possible care to all mothers and their infants across the network.

Compassion

Everyone in Ireland South Women and Infants Directorate has a responsibility to be kind and compassionate and to respect the dignity of the women and families we care for and all of our co-workers.

Excellence

We remain committed to the highest standards of care, delivering higher quality services, more consistent access to care and stronger leadership.

Innovation

With UCC as our academic partner, we strive towards an academic health centre model, with the pillars of education, training, research and innovation closely integrated with clinical service across our Directorate.

Introduction



The Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate was established in 2017 to encourage collaboration and mutual support between the four maternity units in the South/Southwest region. It is still the only one of its kind in Ireland. For the first time, services for women and infants across Ireland South are under collective clinical leadership and governance, with a multidisciplinary team of clinicians and midwives involved at the highest levels.

The Directorate was made possible by the creation of the South/ South West Hospital Group in 2013. It embraces all the maternity and neonatal units in the hospital group - University Hospital Waterford, Tipperary University Hospital, University Hospital Kerry and Cork University Maternity Hospital.

Ireland South Women and Infants Directorate is in its fifth year of operation. The formation of our Directorate has changed how we relate to each other and has built a collaborative partnership across the four hospitals to provide the best possible care to all the women, infants and families we serve.

As we reflect on the events and achievements of the past year, we are reminded of the resilience and dedication of our healthcare professionals, staff members and community. 2022 brought about unique issues for the healthcare industry worldwide. As we navigated through the uncertainties brought by the global pandemic and the HSE Cyberattack, it also highlighted the many strengths within our Directorate.

In 2022, we delivered 10,143 babies across our four units: University Hospital Waterford (UHW), University Hospital Kerry (UHK), Tipperary University Hospital (TippUH) and Cork University Maternity Hospital (CUMH). Together, we delivered an average of 27 babies a day.

Gynaecology waiting list management is a key area of focus for the Directorate. As a result of clinic cancellations during the year resulting from COVID-19 and the 2021 HSE cyberattack, the waiting list was at 2,075 by the end of 2022.

Over the last five years, our staff have repeatedly risen to the challenge in extraordinary circumstances to deliver safe services to our patients. However, our work environment profoundly shapes our well-being. In 2022, we appointed Dr Coleen Cormack, a Senior Clinical Psychologist, as a psychologist for staff support and well-being to guide us in addressing these challenges and empowering our workforce. I know that Coleen will be a very welcome addition to our team.

Ireland South Women and Infants Directorate has made significant progress over the past five years and has been an early adopter of implementing a new model of care to provide access to safe, standardised, high-quality care to the women, infants, and families within our region. Our focus is to continue improving the patient experience and timely access to our

services to help build confidence in the healthcare system. In 2022, we saw several new services grow and develop across the group.

Throughout its existence, the Directorate has had consistent support from the South/South West Hospital Group, the National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWIHP) and the HSE. This support has enabled significant new service enhancements. Thanks to NWIHP for funding many initiatives across our Directorate, in particular, providing resources for a national centre for endometriosis, a national centre for MESH/ urogynaecology and the Directorate to become the national lead for publicly funded IVF service when rolled out in 2023. This funding also allowed construction on the Women and Infants Health Hub to commence in Kinsale Road Cork in 2022.

The funding and development of Regional Women and Infants health Hubs across Ireland South have been designed with women in mind. By listening to women's needs, we identify the deficits within our service and respond by providing a roadmap to developing high-quality resources and care to meet these needs. 2022 was an exciting time for women's health and I am proud that we are the leading the way.

Finally, thank you to our staff across the Directorate. I am privileged to work alongside our multidisciplinary team across Ireland South, which comes together every day to provide compassionate, responsive, and women-centred care to the women, infants, and families of Cork, Kerry, South Tipperary, and Waterford.

Ni neart go cur le cheile.

John R. Higgins
UCC Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Clinical Director

Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate Management Structures

Executive Management Committee

The Executive Management Committee (EMC) of the Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate supports the Clinical Director in the exercise of management oversight for maternity, neonatology and gynaecological services. It is chaired by the Clinical Director and meets weekly.

The EMC has a multidisciplinary membership (see Figure 1) and deals directly with the clinical service (operations), strategy and planning, and capital development within the maternity units of Ireland South (see Figure 2). The EMC delegates to standing committees in the areas of quality and patient safety information governance, education and training, and research and innovation (see Figure 3).



Figure 1: The multidisciplinary membership of the EMC

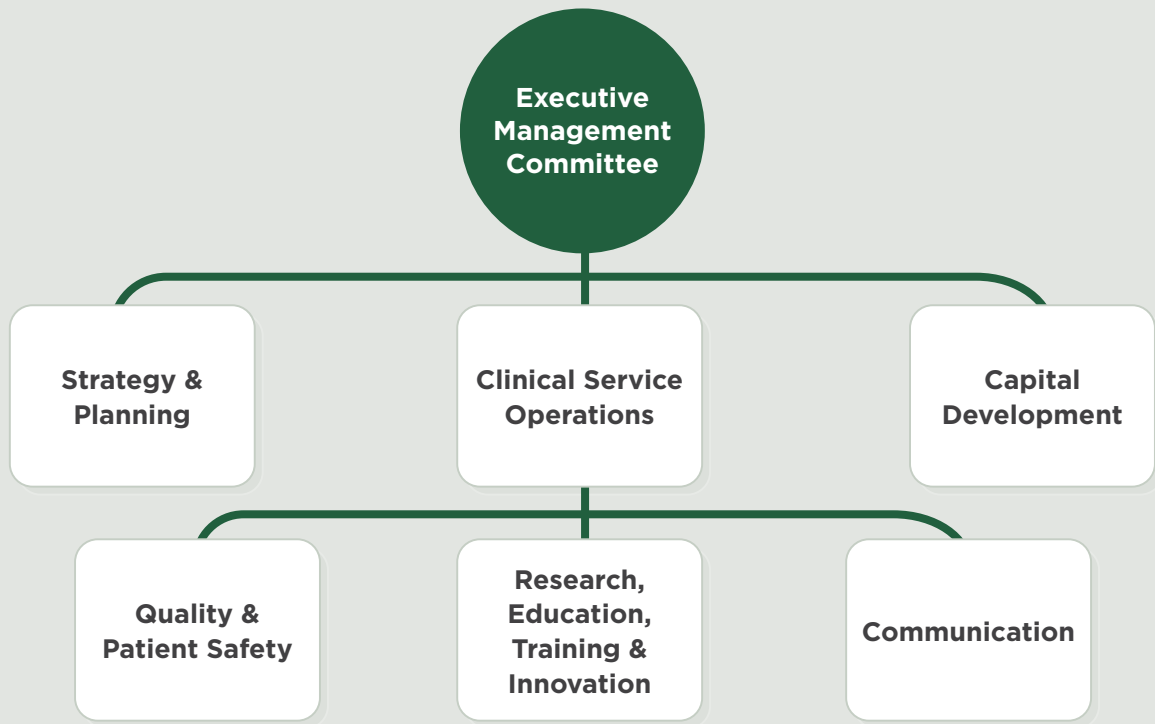


Figure 2: Ireland South EMC major work streams

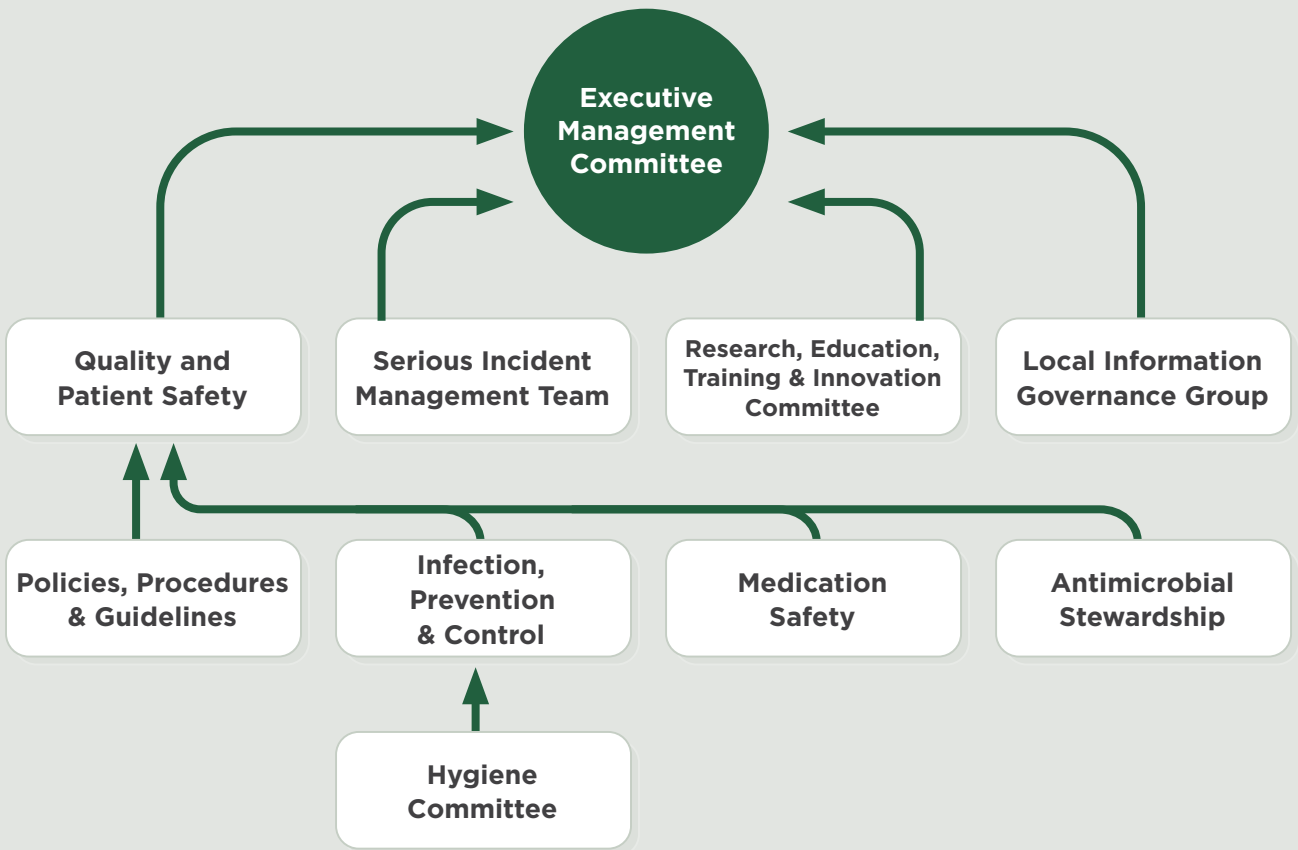


Figure 3: EMC subcommittee structures

Executive Management Committee



Professor John R. Higgins
Clinical Director



Dr Peter Filan
Clinical Lead Neonatology



Miriam Lyons
Head of Operations, Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate



Katie Bourke
Director of Midwifery, CUMH



Dr Paul Hughes
Clinical Lead, UHK



Dr Eddie O'Donnell
Clinical Lead, UHW



Dr Vijayashree Hiremath
Clinical Lead, TippUH



Paula Curtin
Director of Midwifery, UHW



Sandra O'Connor
Director of Midwifery, UHK



Maggie Dowling
Director of Midwifery, TippUH



Dr Mairead O'Riordan
Clinical Lead Quality & Patient Safety, Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate



Claire Everard
Quality and Patient Safety Manager, Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate



Professor Richard Greene
Chair, Local Information Governance Group



Maria Leahy
Health and Social Care Professions Representative



Ms Orfhlaith O'Sullivan
Clinical Lead Gynaecology, Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate



Stephen O'Connor
Finance Manager, Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate



Grainne Moloney
Business Manager, CUMH



Louise Riordan
Administrative Coordinator



Elaine Harrington
Communications Project Manager

Our Maternity Units



Prof. John R. Higgins, Clinical Director
Katie Bourke, Director of Midwifery
Miriam Lyons, General Manager

Cork University Maternity Hospital (CUMH) opened in 2007 and involved the amalgamation of maternity services from Erinville Hospital, St. Finbarr's Maternity Hospital, Bon Secours Maternity Unit and gynaecology services from Cork University Hospital.

In 2022, CUMH delivered maternity and gynaecology services comprising of:

- An 11 bedded delivery suite with an alongside 3-room induction suite.
- 110 inpatient antenatal and postnatal beds with a dedicated area for high-risk patients.
- A 31-bedded gynaecology ward (23 gynaecology and 8 dedicated pregnancy loss beds).
- A 7 bedded gynaecology surgical suite and ambulatory unit.
- A stand-alone outpatient ultra-sound department and fetal assessment unit.
- A dedicated early pregnancy assessment unit.
- A newly developed outpatient gynaecology suite for urogynaecology and fertility services (located offsite at the Lee Clinic).
- Outreach clinics for maternity and gynaecology services in St Mary's Health Campus, and Mallow, Mitchelstown, Carrigaline, and Carrigtwohill primary care centres providing

supportive care as outlined in the 2016 - 2026 National Maternity Strategy.

The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at CUMH has capacity 32 special care cots, 6 high dependency cots and 12 intensive care unit cots. CUMH accepts babies from TippUH, UHW and UHK for specialised treatments such as ventilation and therapeutic hypothermia. CUMH also accept babies requiring therapeutic hypothermia from University Hospital Limerick, and from other areas when an emergency neonatal unit bed is required.

During 2022, weekly preparation was ongoing to support the midwifery strategy in aligning women to 3 standards of care through our new Antenatal Pathways due for implementation in 2023.

In December 2022, the SSWHG took on the governance of the Homebirth Service. The Designated Midwifery officers have transferred as part of the governance change. We currently have an MOU with 6 SECMs (Self-employed Community Midwife) delivering services across SSWHG.

In July 2022 CUMH was awarded funding from NWIHP to open one of 5 funded postnatal hubs. The findings from the National Maternity Patient User Experience completed in 2021 was impetus for the development of postnatal hubs. CUMH had their first postnatal hub clinic in December 2022 providing postnatal services to women in their local community setting. It is planned in 2023 to expand into further community settings.

CUMH supported a new nurse specialist role for the



Newborn Individualised Developmental Care and Assessment program (NIDCAP). This was the first role for NIDCAP in Ireland.

Our specialist has established the NIDCAP service in CUMH to provide education and specific training in developmental observation and assessment for healthcare professionals, who have responsibility for the long- and short-term care of high-risk new-borns and preterm infants and their families, and for staff members, who are involved in the implementation of their care on a day-to-day basis.

In 2023 it is planned that CUMH will work in collaboration with the NIDCAP International Federation in establishing CUMH as a training centre in Ireland where our specialist role would become a master trainer in NIDCAP by 2024.

Services at CUMH support the education of

undergraduate nursing and midwifery students from University College Cork (UCC). Medical students from UCC also gain clinical experience as part of their placement and this leads to an interdisciplinary teaching environment.

Facilities in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at CUMH allow students to participate in lectures with study space and video conferencing facilities to link with their colleagues at other sites.

All staff are supported with ongoing education and training via the Centre of Midwifery Education to facilitate the ongoing development of clinical competencies and promote evidence-based care. New and qualified midwives and nurses are supported by clinical skills facilitators from the Practice Development Team, alongside highly qualified staff in each clinical area.



Education, CUMH

Undergraduate

- A total of 196 UCC final-year medical students received education and clinical training at CUMH and the maternity units of Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate in 2022, along with 209 fourth-year medical students over seven rotations during the academic year.
- The Practice Development Department provided education and clinical placement for 120 nursing students, 91 midwifery BSc students and 13 Public Health Nurses who were supported on placement in CUMH to ensure a consistent learning environment. Clinical assessments of midwifery students are completed in partnership with UCC.

Professional development

- 217 multidisciplinary staff trained in the Neonatal Resuscitation Programme (NRP).

These CUMH staff comprised 40 student midwives, 28 NCHDs and 149 RGNs/RMs/RSCNs. Training continued with COVID-19 guidelines in place where smaller workshops were facilitated. New equipment for NRP was updated for training, which included Panda machines throughout the delivery suite and NNU with the rollout of piped oxygen throughout clinical areas.

- Two nurses in Neonatal graduated with a postgraduate Diploma in Neonatology Nursing, having been facilitated online for the duration of the course.
- In September 2022, five further nurses from Neonatology enrolled and commenced the postgraduate one-year course online in collaboration with UCC.
- At CUMH, Nurse/Midwife Prescribers are supported by the Practice Development Coordinator. In 2022, two successful candidates undertook the prescribing programme in collaboration with UCC, and one commenced the programme with UCD.

CUMH Highlights 2022

Psychologist for Staff Support & Wellbeing

Our healthcare professionals are exposed to multiple factors within their work, which may impact their physical, mental and emotional well-being in negative ways. Public Health emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, can exacerbate these concerns and pose additional challenges to health workers.

In 2022, Ireland South Women and Infants Directorate appointed Psychologist, Dr Coleen Cormack, Senior Clinical Psychologist, to guide the Directorate in addressing these challenges and empowering our workforce going forward.

"I'm delighted to have taken up the role of Psychologist for Staff Support & Wellbeing in Ireland South Women and Infants Directorate. I look forward to contributing to the promotion of mental health and wellbeing and providing a supportive and responsive service to staff across the organisation". Dr Coleen Cormack, Senior Clinical Psychologist.

MaternityONESouth

Safe and effective maternity care within our maternity network is a key aim. It is also one of the key lines of enquiry of HIQA's approach to monitoring against the National Standards for Safer Better Maternity Services which commenced in 2018 and placed a particular focus on obstetric emergencies.

Following several recent HIQA inspections to our maternity units, it became clear that we needed a shared project across our maternity network to focus on our response to obstetric and neonatal emergencies.

As a result, the 'MaternityONESouth' project was born, with 'ONE' standing for Obstetric and Neonatal Emergencies, and 'South' reflecting our place in the South/South West Hospital Group (SSWHG). Following visits to our maternity units, what really struck me is the large volume of excellent, independent work that is being done and the opportunity to unify, standardise and streamline that knowledge.

We don't need duplication of effort, rather we need to standardise and share our knowledge into ONE approach for our maternity network for obstetric and neonatal emergencies.

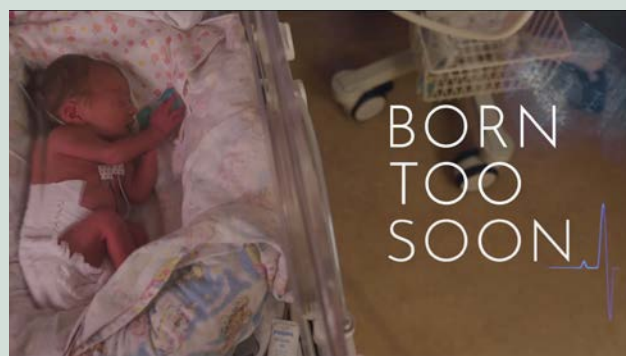
Katie Bourke, Director of Midwifery at CUMH says *"We are aiming for a standardised approach to governance, risk identification and response as well as resourcing and training across the Maternity*

Directorate. Timelines for achieving these aims were given and have largely been achieved. The last milestone is the full implementation of mandatory training across all four units by the end of Q3 in 2022."

Ireland South Communications Manager

Elaine Harrington was appointed Communications Manager for Ireland South Women and Infants Directorate in early 2022. Elaine oversees all internal and external communications across the Directorate, ensuring its message is consistent and engaging, with her focus being on the development of digital communications.

Born Too Soon



Production company, Tyrone Productions began filming "Born Too Soon", in CUMH in late October 2022, following the stories of families and medical teams looking after premature babies.

"Born Too Soon" will air on Virgin Media in 2023 giving an unprecedented look into lives of the hardworking staff who dedicate their lives to caring for vulnerable newborns at CUMH's neonatal unit.

CUMH appoints a GP Liaison Committee

The interface between doctors in primary care and those in secondary determines how effectively and efficiently the wider health service delivers care and meets patient needs. In 2022, CUMH increased its efforts to improve the relationship with GPs by encouraging greater communication, collaboration, and understanding.

A GP Liaison Committee was established with Dr Richard Horgan, Consultant Obstetrician Gynaecologist, appointed Chair and Dr Clare Cromwell as GP Liaison.

In May 2022, the committee hosted the first GP Networking and Education evening providing service updates and introductions to the team at CUMH which was a great success creating an appetite for more events going forward.

Uniform Subsidy for Staff

In 2022, CUMH staff were offered a 50% subsidy on new uniforms. This successful initiative ran for a year and was greatly received, with over 200 new uniforms ordered.

CUMH responds to the Ukrainian Humanitarian Crisis

In response to the Ukrainian Humanitarian Crisis, Cork University Maternity Hospital established a dedicated team of obstetricians and midwives supported by translators and a social work team to care for women who arrive here from Ukraine, requiring support and care during pregnancy.

At the clinic, regardless of gestation, patients are booked, scanned and given a clear care plan for their ongoing care. If patients have a good level of English and social support, they have the option to attend outreach or low-risk clinics if they are in a more convenient location for them.

However, for patients requiring additional language support or obstetric care, CUMH will facilitate their ongoing care.

Construction work commences on the Kinsale Road Women and Infants Health Hub

Thanks to the support of NWIHP and the HSE, construction work began mid-year on the state-of-the-art women and infants' health hub which will provide improved access to care to the women and infants across the region. The hub will initially facilitate the Early Pregnancy Unit and the Physiotherapy department.

The Early Pregnancy Unit (EPU) within CUMH Women and Infants Health Hub, is a dedicated specialist department that deals with problems in early pregnancy. Miscarriage or fetal loss is the most common complication of pregnancy and affects, on average, 20 per cent of all pregnancies.

Experiencing pregnancy loss in a maternity setting surrounded by women progressing in their pregnancy journey can only add to a family's distress. This new clinic will provide parents with a separate space to receive appropriate, relevant support and compassionate care.

Relocating the Physiotherapy Department clinic will have a significant positive impact, providing the treatment and management of various women's health problems sometimes brought on by pregnancy or other life events, such as menopause, that can affect women in a variety of ways. This care is vital to enhancing the quality of life for women.

CUMH: Key challenges 2022

COVID-19

The worldwide pandemic remained a key challenge at CUMH during 2022 with visiting restrictions remaining. At all times patient and staff safety remained critical to how the team at CUMH delivered our services in 2022.

Waiting list management

The team at CUMH worked tirelessly from 2017 to 2020 to eliminate the gynaecology outpatient waiting list backlog. The waiting list had been reduced from 4,700 in April 2017 to just over 900 in early March 2020 thanks to the extraordinary efforts of the multidisciplinary team at CUMH.

Due to the impact of COVID-19 and the HSE cyberattack in 2021 and resulting clinic cancellations, the waiting list continued to climb significantly in 2022.

Recruitment and retention

Once again in 2022, midwifery recruitment remained an ongoing challenge in CUMH, like other maternity hospitals across Ireland.

Absenteeism and sick leave due to COVID-19 added to pressures on staff at CUMH and compounded staffing challenges. With travel now an option once again, many midwifery candidates started to look abroad for career opportunities to combine travelling with careers.

Termination of Pregnancy Services

The Termination of Pregnancy Service commenced in CUMH on 1 January 2019 in line with the Health Act 2018 (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy).

A pathway of care was developed between key groups - nursing/midwifery, social work, consultants, ultrasound and general practitioners. Non-directional counselling has also been made available to women under the service.

In line with the pathway of care developed, the service facilitated a review of women from primary care providers for ultrasound; and/or medical review; and/or inpatient care for medical termination of pregnancy.



University Hospital Waterford



Dr Eddie O'Donnell, Clinical Lead, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist
Paula Curtin, Director of Midwifery

University Hospital Waterford (UHW) has been delivering babies as a maternity unit since 1995 and delivered 1,677 babies to 1,648 mothers in 2022.

UHW maternity unit comprises:

- 4 bedded delivery suite with a 3-bedded 1st stage room.
- Obstetric theatre on delivery suite with adjacent recovery room.
- Admission rooms x 2.
- 24 bedded Maternity Ward for antenatal & delivered women.
- 29 bedded gynaecology/women's health ward and a specifically nominated bereavement room and this ward caters for early pregnancy issues.
- An Early Pregnancy Treatment Unit is located adjacent to the gynaecology women's health ward.
- Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU)-18 cots in total.
- Stand-alone outpatients department for antenatal and gynaecology services including urodynamics, ambulatory gynaecology service, midwifery clinics, and specialist clinics for diabetes and perinatal mental health services. The midwifery-led scanning department is located in the OPD for ease of appointment flow.
- The Integrated Hospital and Community Midwifery Service (IHCMS) are also located in the OPD with an ability to deliver women in this purpose-built low risk room.

- The colposcopy service is in a separate, purposely equipped outpatient department (OPD 7) in UHW.
- The Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) is in a discrete location in UHW but with full support and access to maternity and gynaecology services as required.
- Maternity services outreach clinics in Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, City GP Clinic offer supportive care in a local setting as outlined in the National Maternity Strategy 2016-2026. These clinics are staffed by the Integrated IHCMS team and midwifery staff from OPD Services. In addition, a primary care setting is in the pipeline for 2022 for use by IHCMS and Early Transfer Home CMM2.

Specialist roles

There is a *Clinical Midwife Specialist (CMS) in Bereavement and Loss* services. This role has proven to be of great value to families and staff alike. The CMS also undertakes recurrent miscarriage clinics with Dr Azriny Khalid in addition to an educational role for staff.

UHW maternity services has a long history of *midwifery-led ultrasonography* services. There are three CMS in place providing the full programme of scanning for all attendees.

The role of *Oncology Liaison CMM2* was developed in 2021 and has proved invaluable in the streamlining of women attending Gynae oncology service in UHW and ensuring full psychological support during their surgery/follow up journey.

CMS lactation is in post since 2021 and has brought

cohesion to service and invaluable support to mothers. The role has a strong education focus for mothers and staff alike.

The *Advanced Midwife Practitioner (AMP)* role in UHW has been in place since 2011. This senior role brings many benefits to the service in terms of education, staff development and clinical supervision of midwifery-led services as well as to many women who attend the AMP with a specific pathway of care. A Candidate AMP who has vast experience including home birth care currently fills this role.

The clinical midwife manager 2 (CMM2) for *Perinatal Mental Health* offers a robust programme of support for women attending services under the Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Services Model of Care for Ireland.

The clinical midwife manager 2 (CMM2) for *Ambulatory Gynaecology* coordinates the termination of pregnancy services in a timely and sensitive manner. This role has evolved to include support for day hysteroscopy.

2022 saw the commencement of a candidate *Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP)* in ambulatory gynaecology to allow growth and development of these services to include suspicious cervix clinic in the Colposcopy Service.

In 2022, a *Clinical Midwifery Manager 2 (CMM2)* post for the Urodynamics service was put in place. This CMM2 had a wealth of experience in providing this service as part of her role as OPD CMM1 and the full-time role will develop the services over 2023 to include pessary clinics & pretibial nerve stimulation for overactive bladder.

The *CMS diabetes* post commenced in 2022 bringing a great cohesion to the Diabetes Service along with DR A Khalid. It is hoped to move towards on-line platform in 2023 for some of the follow up visits required.

The *Clinical Skills Facilitator CMM2* post was achieved in 2022 and has facilitated cohesion in the education & training programme in Maternity Services.

In line with The National Maternity Strategy Maternity Services has developed an Early Transfer Home service-initially in a pilot phase- and the *CMM2 Early Transfer Home/Outreach* has been a great asset to this service and will continue to grow and develop the initiative in 2023.

We hope to achieve an ANP post in 2023 for Neonatal Intensive Care.

Adaptation due to COVID-19

UHW's multidisciplinary teams responded by being flexible, adaptable, and committed to the continued delivery of high-quality care for women and babies during these times of uncertainty and apprehension. Staff have seen their service delivery method change and have responded with courage, determination and teamwork in supporting each other and the service through this global pandemic. The situation eased as 2022 progressed but continuing risk assessment became part of life of the services.

Visitor's restrictions eased with partner attendance at OPD visits along with existing flexible partner arrangements that were in place.

Antenatal education continued online with positive evaluation from women and partners - this will be reviewed in 2023.

Ultra News kept staff abreast of information from other Maternity Services in Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate.

Daily huddle: This short, socially distanced, 10-minute daily huddle continued in 2022 and included up to date COVID-19 information for attendees both around the Maternity and Neonatal Services and the wider hospital. Operational issues were discussed to mitigate the need for repeated meetings. During this time, staff adapted very well to communication changes, and this is being evaluated to see what changes may be required in 2023.

Visiting in the UHW NICU: Like other maternity hospitals in Ireland South, UHW continued with the use of a secure video messaging platform in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in partnership with the INFANT Research Centre at University College Cork. Called vCreate, this initiative allows families to remotely check in on premature babies amid COVID-19 visiting restrictions. Later in 2022, visiting was re-examined, and parents attended with ongoing risk assessment.

Outreach clinics: In a bid to minimise contact with the acute setting and reduce the risks when travelling, the demands on Waterford's outreach clinics grew. Extra efforts were put into keeping women attending these appointments safe, including reducing the number of people in waiting rooms. In Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, the clinic time was extended to allow for increased control of appointment times and surveillance. The antenatal clinic in a Community Centre in Waterford continued and ongoing use of space in a GP practice helped minimise footfall through the OPD.



UHW: Key achievements 2022

- Online professional development: the Centre successfully supported online platforms for Nurse and Midwifery Education- to continue to bring professional development to staff. The commencement of the Clinical Skills Facilitation saw the development of a very robust teaching and education programme to include PROMPT (in-person) for the multidisciplinary team.
- A robust database of all staff education was developed by the Clinical Skills Facilitator, which has supported the Director of Midwifery to determine education priorities for the service.
- A significant addition to our teaching resources/ equipment for training/skills and drills was financed by NWIHP.
- Successful parent craft education delivered online: Online education was increased and supplemented with online breastfeeding education and support. These initiatives will be continued and developed in 2023.
- MaternityONESouth: Ongoing participation in the MaternityONESouth project with the other hospitals/units in Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate. This project aims to improve the safety and quality of the service we provide to women and their babies when emergencies occur and to ensure all our staff have access to evidence-based up-to-date policies and training.
- UHW achieved contraception service aligned to Termination of Pregnancy Service. We give great thanks to our pharmacy colleagues for this quality initiative.
- There was a Quality Improvement Project undertaken by ADON with support from Decontamination Lead in UHW to commence use of Trophan/Nanosonics for scanning department trolley side decontamination. In addition, a Track and Trace system was introduced to the service for all reusable devices-full in-house education programme for all staff involved.
- In early 2022, the birthing pool was commenced for use for water immersion in labour. This has been a very well evaluated service. This complimented the ongoing home birth service provided by the Integrated Hospital and Community Midwifery service.
- A full infrastructure revamp of the Early Pregnancy Unit proved a great success with increased privacy and better working environment for staff.
- Senior Midwifery staff continued to represent Maternity & Gynaecology Services on UHW committees such as Clinically Deteriorating Patient, Medicines and Therapeutics including prescribing sub-group, VTE, Infection Prevention and Control, Blood transfusion, Quality & Patient Safety. The DOM is Chair of UHW PPPG committee and sits on UHW Ethics Group.
- The service (along with colleagues in TippUH, WGH, and SLK) made representation through NMPDU for a project to determine *Evidence to inform the development of innovative midwifery led postnatal services for women in the South East region*. This information will be examined in 2023 to see what resources may need to be sought for the postnatal setting.
- A number of staff undertook further education programmes with support and funding from NMPDU.

- SSWHG Maternal Sepsis Audit undertaken in Dec 2022 with some QIP developed to be completed in Q1 2023.
- 2022 saw the development of Newborn Work Stream committee to facilitate quality initiatives for the newborn journey.
- There was a staff drive to complete K2-on-line CTG education package moving towards 100% compliance.
- The staff were introduced to Coleen McCormack Clinical Psychologist ISWID in December with explanation of her role for the services. Coleen will be attending in 2023 and as a service it is felt that this role will be invaluable for staff support.
- The HIQA Bereavement Survey commenced in 2022 looking at bereavement care in Maternity settings in Ireland. We look towards the results in 2023 with an aim to grow and develop our services into the future.
- ADON & Lactation CMS presented at NWIHP conference May 2022 for International Day of the Midwife with the topic of Hybrid model of delivering care.
- Viewpoint project commenced in 2022 to introduce Viewpoint 6 to the Main scanning and Early Pregnancy Unit scanning departments. This package will facilitate a comprehensive storage solution for all scans undertaken and the work on this will continue into 2023.
- Neonatal Resuscitation Programme (NRP) Ed 8 was rolled out late 2022 with support from NWIHP (Margo Dunworth Project Lead) in collaboration NICU staff UHW.
- Postpartum Haemorrhage QIP 1 was commenced in 2022 (Q1) through NPEC. ADON coordinated the UHW data for this worthwhile initiative. This work will continue into 2023.
- NWIHP reached out for 3 groups to undertake work on the pathways of care (National Maternity Strategy) ADON & c/AMP commenced work on antenatal care guideline and this work is ongoing.
- Commencement on NWIHP audits (Breastfeeding and Antenatal Education) began with information session in Dec 2022 by Sinead Thompson and Claire Kennedy NWIHP. This work will be completed by Q2 2023 and will inform care in service.

Human Resources

New posts

- Ann Reilly – CMS Diabetes.
- Linda Coughlan – Clinical Skills Facilitator.
- Martina Wynne – CMM2 Urodynamics.
- Grace Walsh – CMM2 Early Transfer Home/ Outreach.
- Janet Murphy – ADONM Maternity Services

Retirements

Thank you to everyone; you will be missed by UHW maternity services.

- Bernie Brennan – Senior Staff Midwife.
- Kathleen Roche – Senior Staff Midwife.
- Mary Hooton – Senior Staff Midwife.
- Kathleen Gaule – Senior Staff Nurse.
- Catriona Boland – Senior Staff Nurse.
- Anne Browne – Health Care Assistant.

Education, UHW

Undergraduate

- UCC/RCSI medical students continued to receive clinical training in UHW in 2022.
- UHW provided clinical placements to BSc Nursing students from South East Technological University (SETU) and BSc Midwifery students from University of Limerick (UL) & UCC as well as elective placement to the Integrated Hospital and Community Midwifery Service (IHCMS) team from Cork and Dublin.
- Maternity placement site for Public Health Nurse Students from UCC.
- Occasional placement site for Paramedic Training (Delivery Suite).

Professional development

- Education and training were challenging due to COVID-19 restrictions in 2021. The move towards online education was necessary to allow staff to develop and for the service to



continue its strong practice of multidisciplinary training and development. During this time online educational platforms continued to develop and grow. Great support was given to staff by the IT department, UHW.

- UHW continued with PROMPT 3 obstetric emergency training in 2022. Training was delivered in person. This training has received a positive evaluation from the multidisciplinary team.
- A selection of online/in person programmes were undertaken by staff members including:
 - Legal aspects of midwifery practice
 - Diabetes in Pregnancy
 - Perinatal Mental Health
 - Fetal Monitoring
 - Final Journeys
 - Bereavement & Loss
 - Delivering bad news
 - Epidural analgesia
 - Breastfeeding
 - Care of the Critically Ill Patient (CIPP)
 - Biomechanics of Birth
 - Motivational Interviewing and Brief Interventions

Each of these programmes was well attended and evaluated. These education programmes are chosen

in line with service needs and staff interests and skills. Many thanks to the Regional Centre for Nurse and Midwifery Education (RCNME) for their ongoing support of UHW Maternity Services.

- In 2022, there was a continued drive for online Domestic Violence Awareness training, which several staff attended. It is planned to increase this programme content in 2023 and will remain a priority education piece for staff.
- ‘Children First’ continued to be a priority for all staff and online training for Mandated Persons was facilitated by HSE Training & Development Officer on a couple of occasions in 2022. This will continue into 2023.

UHW: Key challenges 2022

- *Recruitment and retention:* Staffing recruitment and retention remained a major focus throughout 2022.
- *Gynaecology waiting lists:* The strategy to deal with outpatient waiting lists for gynaecology services is multidimensional and ongoing.
- *Service delivery:* Delivering maternity and gynaecology services as close to normal despite the extraordinary challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic remained a challenge for all. The staff worked tirelessly to care for service users and always tried to be innovative in the delivery of care.



University Hospital Kerry



Dr Waleed Khattab, Clinical Lead, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist
Sandra O'Connor, Director of Midwifery

University Hospital Kerry (UHK) opened in 1984. The hospital provides acute general hospital services to the population of County Kerry, North Cork and West Limerick.

In 2022, UHK delivered 1,131 babies with perinatal morbidity and mortality rates well below the national average for the last 14 years. UHK provided antenatal, postnatal, neonatal, gynaecology inpatient and day case and outpatient services including ambulatory gynaecology and colposcopy outpatient clinics.

UHK maternity services comprises:

- 4 bedded delivery suite.
- 22 bedded postnatal.
- 6 bedded gynaecology ward.
- 8 bedded antenatal ward/3 bed admission space/ 4 delivery rooms.
- 10 cots - Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU).
- Stand-alone outpatients department for antenatal, gynaecology, urodynamics, sexual health/sexually transmitted infections and midwifery-led scanning.

2022 brought the arrival of additional clinical nurse/midwives' specialist positions covering Practice Development, a Clinical Placement Coordinator to support student midwives and a Clinical Skills Facilitator to support Nursing and Midwifery staff in Maternity Services. New midwives and nurses were also welcomed to the maternity services at UHK.

Midwifery outreach clinics commenced in Listowel for the women of North Kerry and West Limerick. Clinics in Killarney and Dingle supported and assisted pathway clinics like the Newborn Hearing

Screening outpatient clinics, the Infant feeding postnatal outpatient clinics and the Early Transfer Home Service continued. Plans include an additional location in Caherciveen

Maternity Services in UHK were delighted to celebrate the opening of the Home from Home room in quarter four 2022; facilitating water immersion in the first stage of labour providing support and buoyancy aiding women to relax during labour.

UHK maternity services commenced clinical placements for UCC Maternity Midwife student placement in May 2022 with a total of 32 students across direct entry, post graduate midwifery, post graduate midwifery H.Dip and PHN students. A clinical practice coordinator was appointed to UHK in 2022.

UHK maternity services support the education of undergraduate nursing students from the Munster Technological University Tralee. Medical students from UCC also gain clinical experience as part of their placement which leads to an interdisciplinary teaching environment.

Facilities at UHK allow students to participate in lectures with study space and video conferencing facilities to link with their colleagues at other sites.

UHK: Key achievements 2022

Breastfeeding in UHK

During 2022 breastfeeding services were led by A/CNM2 Infant Feeding Coordinator, Mairead O'Sullivan with the aim to increase exclusive breastfeeding at point of discharge. Breastfeeding services focused on education and providing support to both staff and service users. A Breastfeeding Management Programme was facilitated along with Breastfeeding Refresher



Programmes for staff in UHK and community-based staff in Kerry. Additional specific education was provided to the Paediatric Team and GP trainees regularly during the year. Antenatal Breastfeeding Classes were supported on a fortnightly basis through a virtual capacity with additional specialist classes facilitated for mothers expecting twins.

UHK breastfeeding rates for 2022 show initiation of 52.1%, a significant improvement in breast feeding rates in UHK.

The Perinatal Mental Health Service in UHK

The PMHS continues to progressively support women with mental health problems including their partners and families. The year 2022 saw an increase in service demand. The total number of deliveries in UHK was 1157, and the PMHS received 268 referrals with a total service activity of 580 appointments.

In addition to patient appointments the PMHS continues to work closely with Liaison Psychiatry, CMHT, GPs, Social Workers, Tusla, PHN's, the Hub and Addiction Services in relation to patients attending the service. The Service also had an increase in attendance requirement at Tusla Child Protection Case Conferences.

In October, the PMHS participated in the 'Well-being in Parenthood Festival' in co-operation with the Listowel FRC and the HSE Community Work Department to increase awareness of mental health

issues and offer support and interventions to women throughout the perinatal period.

The Perinatal Mental Health Service remains committed to education and training with a study day planned for 2023. Through the innovation funding, several staff are attending the Mellow Bumps Training Programme in November with the plan to offer Infant - Maternal Mental Health Promotion through this initiative.

Maternal and Newborn Clinical Management System: MN-CMS 2022 UHK

MNCMS had many workflow upgrades during 2022 which include the amalgamation of multiple Outpatient maternity pools to a single pool for easy management of lab results of the antenatal patients, HIE Gynae template for printing Gynae charts under FOI requests, adding epilepsy care plans to MNCMS, adding medications in the ANVS health link messaging to name a few.

New user training and planned classroom optimisation were given to staff monthly along with ad-hoc onsite training as need arose. A hardware update for Windows 10 was completed for many workstations along with CTG carts. Testing and server updates for the proposed Remote Hosting Option (RHO) move and server upgrade 2023 were undertaken during the year and continued to 2023. Bimonthly MDT meetings conducted under the direction of the Clinical Lead to discuss the local and national issues and upgrades related to MNCMS.



Team of the year for UHK 2022 was presented to Maternity Services University Hospital Kerry.

UHK Maternity Services win Team of the Year 2022

The People of UHK Awards celebrate the individual and teams who go the extra mile and make a real difference to patients, families and colleagues. They focus on showing appreciation to those who have strived to put the care of patients and their families first. Members of staff from all departments or services within UHK are eligible for nomination for an award.

UHK believe that people who go above and beyond and deliver an exceptional patient experience are worthy of this recognition. The categories for nomination came both from staff in UHK and the public and include areas such as:

- Patient Care Awards,
- Leadership Award.
- People of UHK Award.
- Unsung Champion Award.
- Team of the Year Award

Following on from hundreds of nominations the winners of the inaugural UHK People of UHK Awards were announced and the success of Maternity Services was well represented at the award ceremony which took place in Ballygarry House Hotel in Tralee in April 2022. Maternity Services received three awards; Team of the Year Award was presented to Maternity Services UHK, while Carrie Dillon CMS Bereavement and Mairead O’Sullivan Infant Feeding Co-Ordinator received Patient Care Awards. The Team of the Year award was accepted

by Dr Paul Hughes Clinical Lead on behalf the maternity services. Dr Hughes spoke about the team service improvements and the collaboration and support across the multi-disciplinary team to achieve high standards for patient centred care in maternity services at University Hospital Kerry.



Mairead O’Sullivan Infant Feeding Co-Ordinator



Carrie Dillon, CMS Bereavement

Home from Home Delivery Suite Opens June 2022.

UHK Maternity Services welcomed Stephen Donnelly, Minister for Health and Norma Foley, Minister for Education to formally open the “Home from Home” birth suite at University Hospital Kerry.

The vision was to provide an environment where women can labour and birth in a low technology setting.

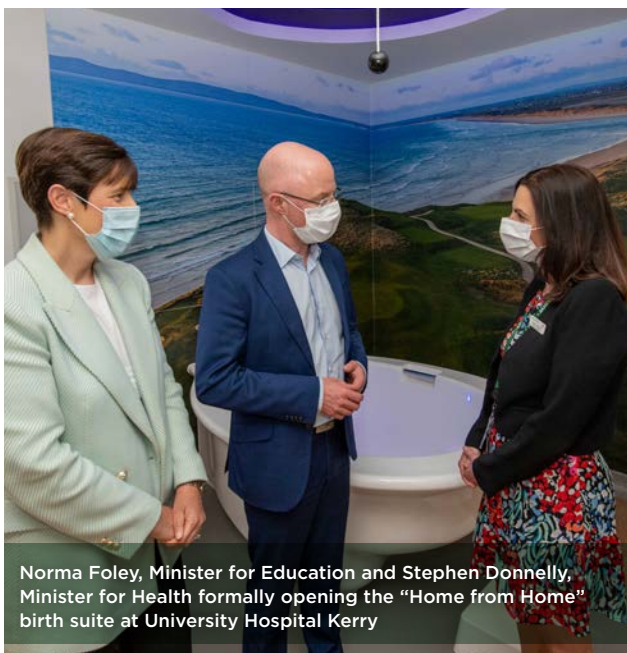
The National Maternity Strategy 2016-2026 ‘Creating a Better Future Together’ states that the physical infrastructure should be of a high standard, providing a homely environment and respecting the woman’s dignity and need for privacy during childbirth. Birthing aids and birthing pools should be available. A HIQA inspection recommended advancement in the ‘Home from Home’

environment, and this included refurbishment of the current birthing room as a priority.

The introduction of a hydrotherapy pool gives women between 37 and 42 weeks of pregnancy on the supportive care pathway (with no medical, surgical or obstetrical risk factors or complications) the choice to avail of pain relief via water immersion or hydrotherapy during the first stage of labour. It also gives women an environment with minimal medical intervention in a safe and calm environment.

This project was supported by a wide range of stakeholders local, regional and national. The cost of this endeavour came in at €206,670, with funding in the most part coming from NWIHP and the shortfall from Ireland South Women and Infants Directorate.

To complement this development, and with the further support of NWIHP, UHK are also currently undertaking refurbishment projects at ward and delivery suite level, especially in relation to bathroom facilities for women pre, during and post-delivery.



Norma Foley, Minister for Education and Stephen Donnelly, Minister for Health formally opening the "Home from Home" birth suite at University Hospital Kerry

Bereavement Services UHK

In the last year, the National Maternity Bereavement Experience Survey was rolled out and completed. The results were very favourable to our Bereavement service within the Maternity Services in UHK. We scored above the national average and have now developed quality improvement plan to explore what needs to be improved.

Working collaboratively with other specialities within the Maternity services to the benefit of the bereaved mother/parents, the concept of Lactation

after Loss is being explored with the support of the Infant Feeding Co-Ordinator and working with the CMS Perinatal Mental Health Midwife to establish a Pregnancy after Loss support clinic.

In recent weeks, our Snowdrop Room was officially opened. This room was needed because, as stated in the Bereavement Care Standards: *"The hospital facilitates access to rooms and spaces where breaking bad news, end-of-life care and bereavement care can take place in a quiet, comfortable environment where privacy is ensured."* Parker et al. (2014); IHF (2014); Gibson et al. (2011); SANDS (2016); ISANDS (2007). www.designanddignity.ie.



This space now achieves this need and offers bereaved parents access to a respectful, private, reflective and dignified space whilst experiencing pregnancy loss within our Maternity Services. Finance was provided by the National Women and Infants Health Programme and finance was also obtained from the Bereavement Fund which was fundraised by bereaved parents.

The Bereavement service in UHK continues to grow with the planned expansion to welcoming bereaved parents to a Miscarriage clinic, a Pregnancy After Loss support clinic and a recurrent pregnancy loss investigations clinic. These are all based within an allocated off-site clinic led by the CMS Bereavement and a dedicated Consultant.

Community Midwifery Services 2022

Parent Craft Education

In 2022, the expansion of the Parent Craft Education Services saw an addition of a virtual Mid-pregnancy class. This class is offered to women between 16-24 weeks gestation. The material discussed in the class details how to maintain a healthy pregnancy, a healthy diet, an introduction to Labour Hopscotch & more. In 2022, 129 attended the virtual Mid-pregnancy class.



Although, 2021 saw the introduction of virtual parent craft classes via WebEx, the following year saw the return of 'in person' classes in October 2022.

These classes offer women and families of UHK a hybrid approach to all their antenatal education needs. In 2022, virtual parent craft classes had a total of 266 expectant parents in attendance and a total of 19 couples that opted for the 'in person' delivery of antenatal education in the later months of 2022. Partners are welcomed and encouraged to attend all parent craft classes in UHK.

Following this model of education delivery, a hybrid hypnobirthing course was also established in October 2022. 26 couples attended the 'in person' five-day hypnobirthing course, and 74 couples attended the virtual hypnobirthing course.

In partnership with the commencement of the Birth Choices Clinic back in 2021, a two-part virtual

VBAC (Vaginal Birth After Caesarean) class was also established by the AMP. This class specialises in tailored information for those wishing to experience a vaginal birth following a previous caesarean section. 68 women were in attendance in 2022.

Twin pregnancy class was offered on a 1:1 basis in a virtual setting for those who required this specialised class. 5 families expecting twins availed of this specialised antenatal class.

Community Supported Care Pathway Clinics

The Dingle Supported Care Antenatal Clinic was established in January 2022. This clinic is ideally located in the Dingle Community Hospital. In 2022, 32 women from this location were cared for in this community outreach antenatal clinic.

Early Transfer Home Service (ETHS)

ETHS service expanded to cover a 7-day service.

This development saw ETHS numbers increase over the course of 2022. In total, 89 families availed of ETHS with a staggering 266 home visits completed by the Community team. Due to this increase in workload, telephone follow-up calls were introduced as part of ETHS care in October. 22 care calls were made in that period.

Community Team

cAMP continued with year 2 of the MSc in Advanced Practice. In September 2022, qualification upheld and is now as registered AMP.

- Maternity Services Diabetes: Maternity services at UHK include a Medical/Antenatal Clinic in association with a Consultant Endocrinologist and Clinical Nurse Specialist in diabetes. The number of women attending the clinic is steadily increasing. Maternity services continue to aim to guide, advocate for, and support women and their families throughout their journey within the services.

Overview of service.

- Combined medical/antenatal clinic weekly.
- Plan for pre-pregnancy clinic due to commence in 2023.
- All women with pre-existing diabetes referred to Diabetic Retina Programme.
- All women with pre-existing given continuous/flash blood glucose monitoring.
- Video enabled clinics incorporated into maternal diabetes clinic.

Antenatal Diabetic Clinics 2022.

- Total number of attendances: 1,302.
- Total number of face-to-face appointments: 470 (Medical Antenatal Clinic).
- Total virtual and face-to-face appointments: 832 (Marie Nolan Maternal Clinic).
- Patient attending with Thyroid Disease: 104 virtual.
- Total number of OGTT performed: 793

Termination of Pregnancy Service:

UHK ultrasound department facilitates early pregnancy dating scans for women to return to their General Practitioner to consider options.

Women accessing medical termination of pregnancy in the community less than 9 weeks gestation may require interaction with the Obstetrics and Gynaecology services on the gynaecology (Kells) ward for follow on care.

In circumstances of a pregnancy beyond 12 weeks' gestation where there is a diagnosis of fatal fetal abnormality or where a risk to the life of the mother has been identified a UHK Consultant Obstetrician/ Gynaecologist may facilitate a termination of pregnancy.

The gynaecology (Kells) ward has processes in place both legally and clinically when providing care to women in any of the above circumstances.

The related PPPG has been developed and rolled out locally.

Investment in infrastructure/Capital developments

New Maternity Development

UHK maternity services team with the support of estates and O'Connell Architects designed a new maternity building incorporating antenatal, delivery suite, postnatal, neonatal and gynaecology services. The design has been submitted to the SSWHG for consideration.

Women's Health Services: Funding has been approved for New Women's Health Service in the community setting with funding for additional associated posts (ANP/AMP, CNM3/CMM3, Staff Nurse, General Practitioner, HCA and Clerical Support).

UHK Maternity Services, Key Challenges 2022

Recruitment and retention

Recruitment and retention remained an ongoing challenge during 2022 and is being addressed by a workforce planning group that have put an action plan in place. Local, national and international recruitments drives are ongoing.

Expansion of facilities

Maternity facilities in UHK need to be expanded to cater for more choices for women. Work is ongoing for the development of a new maternity unit that will also offer women's health multi-professional facilities. A proposed new maternity development on site of the UHK campus has been submitted for consideration to SSWHG at year end of 2021.

Tipperary University Hospital



Dr Vijayashree Hiremath, Clinical Lead, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist
Maggie Dowling, Director of Midwifery

Tipperary University Hospital (TippUH) provides acute hospital services for the population of Tipperary and surrounding regions. In 2022, TippUH maternity services delivered 948 babies and provided inpatient and outpatient gynaecology services.

TippUH maternity services comprise:

- 2 bedded delivery suite including an obstetric theatre.
- 4 bedded assessment unit (1st stage).
- 5 bedded Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU).
- 20 bedded combined antenatal and postnatal ward.
- A shared outpatient area for antenatal, and gynaecology clinics. CNS-led diabetic maternity clinics are also now available.
- Self-contained colposcopy area.
- Plans to expand to Ambulatory Gynae service, location being sourced.
- The scanning unit for booking, anatomy, growth and reassurance scans with a consultation room available for use by social work, bereavement and perinatal mental health services every afternoon and all weekend.
- Maternity services outreach clinics in Tipperary Town, Carrick-on-Suir (commenced 16 August 2022) and Thurles, providing supportive care to the women of Tipperary.

The colposcopy department at TippUH undertakes colposcopy, LLETZ, insertion of Mirena coils and nurse-led smear clinics.

TippUH has had full accreditation with the WHO/ UNICEF Baby Friendly Health Initiative since 2015. It is the first unit in Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate to achieve this award, which recognises practices that protect, promote and supports breastfeeding.

Clinical Midwife Specialist posts continue in bereavement and loss, ultrasonography, infant feeding, diabetes, clinical skills facilitation and perinatal mental health services. The appointment of a candidate AMP was also achieved in 2022 to strengthen the supportive care pathways and progress service advancements in community settings. However, this post is currently vacant.

Postgraduate and undergraduate nursing students from UCC and undergraduate midwifery students from University of Limerick (UL). In 2022 UCC midwifery students were also placed in TippUH. RGN students undertake 2/52 placements from SETU.

Maternity services at TippUH support the education of undergraduate medical students from University College Cork (UCC). Facilities on site in the hospital allow students to participate in lectures with study space and video conferencing facilities to link with their student colleagues at other sites.

Tipperary University Hospital: Managing COVID-19

In 2022, COVID-19 continued to impact maternity services across the four hospitals/units in the Directorate. However, through combined approaches across the group, the impact of the virus was controlled.

Various methods of delivering patient-centred care were introduced to ensure both patients and staff were able to work together safely.

A designated area for all women who had contracted or had symptoms of COVID-19 was made available.

Women could avail of a scheduled approach to care where they were assessed and scanned, and a plan of care put into place to ensure appropriate care throughout their pregnancy.

Public health guidance alongside collaboration and



information sharing with the individual infection control teams across the Directorate shaped how our hospitals/units managed COVID-19 as safely as possible.

Staff continued to be redeployed or have their service delivery method changed. They responded with courage, determination and teamwork in supporting each other and the service through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Staff in TippUH continued to demonstrate their innovative ability to embrace technology with promptness. Examples are as follows:

The Ultrasonography Unit: 2022 saw the return of women attending for ultrasound scans with their partners. Every effort was made to ensure that everyone was kept as safe as possible. There was a greater demand for the ultrasonography service, not only with the time allocation for scanning, but also to ensure that the women and partners felt supported emotionally at what can be a very vulnerable time. All ultrasound clinics continued to function throughout 2022 facilitating comprehensive antenatal care.

The Specialist Midwifery staff continued to avail of the virtual appointment system to facilitate the

bereavement and Perinatal Mental Health Midwife, carrying out duties by phone.

While it has been largely business as usual in TippUH maternity services throughout 2022, all service changes which were made in 2020 had been reinstated e.g., hearing screening programme.

Meetings: Many briefings and meetings continued to take place online or in large meeting rooms where social distancing and large numbers of staff could still be accommodated.

Senior Executive Management in TippUH scheduled regular outbreak meetings via telecoms throughout 2022 for all Heads of Department, IPC, Occupational Health and Public Health around updates within the hospital to discuss the impacts of COVID-19 among staff and patients. The frequency of these meetings decreased over the year and was further reduced when an outbreak was detected in a ward.

Online Parent Education: The facilitation of antenatal education continued as an online experience through the delivery of live online antenatal classes. All pregnant women attending the hospital were informed of the online antenatal education resources. The multidisciplinary classes were very well received by our service users. The

Our Maternity Units: Tipperary University Hospital

popularity of online classes was evident in the number of those attending. A new scheduling appointment system was introduced to facilitate pregnant women to book classes that suited them.

Social distancing: TippUH continued to facilitate social distancing requirements. However, this also brought about the need to expedite the upgrade of facilities in the maternity ward and the Special Care Baby Unit. Therefore, a further push to release capital for the refurbishment of the unit was sought by senior management from the Directorate. Funding was secured from NWIHP, and works are due to be completed by 2024.

Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU): Visiting restrictions were lifted in 2022 and both parents were facilitated to visit their babies in the unit. The refurbishment of the area was signed off, allowing for an extra isolation room in the unit. This will be of utmost importance to facilitate the transferring of babies to and from the other units within Ireland South.

Outreach clinics: In a bid to minimise contact within the acute setting and reduce the risks when travelling, the demand for TippUH outreach clinics increased.

In 2021/2022 attendance at Thurles and Tipperary Town clinics exceeded 1,200 women. The new Carrick-on-Suir clinic proved to be very popular throughout 2022 and continues to grow.

Booking appointments by telephone: Our approach in 2022 was to combine both telephone and in-person booking visits to align with the suitability and availability of the women at the time. This system is ongoing and proves to be very convenient for the service users in TippUH.

COVID-19: Challenges

Bereavement: Where a bereavement occurred, supporting, and facilitating the needs of women and families was a priority throughout 2022.

Wearing masks: 2022 saw the changing of wearing masks from surgical masks to FFP2 masks and returning to surgical masks as the hospital and public adapted to the pandemic. Mask wearing can make it more difficult to reassure pregnant women coming in for appointments. As a result, eye contact and tone of voice played an important part in reassuring women throughout their pregnancy.

Visiting restrictions: Visiting restrictions remained in line with national policy, and while they had been very restrictive, the attendance of partners/support persons in 2022 was a welcome addition.

TippUH: Key achievements 2022

Dr Vijayashree Hiremath Clinical Lead, Obstetrics & Gynaecology: Dr Vijayashree Hiremath, Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist continues in her role as Clinical Lead for Obstetrics & Gynaecology in TippUH as part of the Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate alongside being part of the Executive Management Team in the Tipperary hospital. As TippUH Clinical Lead, Dr Hiremath is responsible for leading the multidisciplinary maternity team in Tipperary University Hospital in conjunction with Maggie Dowling, Director of Midwifery, to provide safe patient-centred care to all the women who attend the service.

University Hospital status: In 2022, South Tipperary General Hospital was elevated to University Hospital status. The hospital is partnered academically with UCC and is called Tipperary University Hospital (TippUH). In addition to being linked with UCC, the hospital has a strong history of students coming from UL, SETU and UCD for training.

Gynaecology: TippUH continued to operate a smooth-running service for gynaecology for both outpatients and inpatients in 2022. Consultants operated at a high level to ensure that gynaecology waiting lists were negligible and manageable throughout 2022.

Midwife, Consultant and HSCP recruitment: Additional midwives and healthcare assistants were recruited in 2022 following an ongoing recruitment initiative.

The maternity unit is also supported by a dedicated dietician, physiotherapist, pharmacist and social worker. The support given to the service by our HSCP colleagues is appreciated. Additional support has been given to support the service from our colleagues across the Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate during times of sick leave associated with COVID-19. We welcome all colleagues recruited to our maternity service in 2022, and we are proud to have a diverse and multicultural workforce at TippUH.

Impressive maternal smoking cessation quit rates: Supporting pregnant women to quit and stay quit in TippUH is run by Southeast Community Healthcare and supported by the Sláintecare Integration Fund. This scheme has been running for a couple of years now. However, Mary O'Donnell, retired CMM3, TippUH Maternity Unit, received a National Excellence Award regarding our cessation smoking campaign in Farmleigh House in 2022. One of our new smoke-free families recorded a YouTube video highlighting the positive effects of the programme.

Sláintecare QUIT Programme/Making Every Contact Count (MECC): The Sláintecare QUIT team



expanded their service to include colposcopy with the option for referral to the QUIT programme now included on the colposcopy data sheet (history form).

Termination of Pregnancy Service: TippUH Gynae Emergency Area continues to facilitate early pregnancy dating scans for women to return to their General Practitioner to consider options. Women accessing medical termination of pregnancy in the community at less than nine weeks gestation may require interaction with the Obstetrics & Gynaecology services on the gynaecology ward for follow on care.

In circumstances of pregnancy beyond 12 weeks' gestation where there is a diagnosis of fatal fetal abnormality, there is a care pathway in place to facilitate a review in CUMH.

The gynaecology ward has processes in place, both legally, and clinically when providing care to women in any of the above circumstances.

Education, TippUH

Undergraduate/Postgraduate

BSc midwifery students from the University of Limerick and general nursing students from Waterford Institute of Technology continued to successfully complete clinical placements in TippUH in 2022 despite placements pausing for several months.

A successful request by TippUH to be a recognised Adaptation Site was granted by NMBI for all international nurses who wished to register as a midwife on the live register. The adaptation status has been extended until 2028.

Professional development

There is significant education on going in TippUH. Supported by the NMPDU:

- Three midwives undertook an MSc in Midwifery and one midwife embarked on an MSc in Neonatal Care at UCC.
- One midwife completed a Midwife Prescriber's Course in the RSCI.
- PROMPT (PRactical Obstetric Multi-Professional Training). The benefits of PROMPT to staff include better response to emergencies and improved outcomes for mothers and babies. This training is every two years and is ongoing on site

TippUH: Key challenges 2022

Recruitment and retention

Recruitment is an ongoing challenge with midwifery posts vacant throughout 2022. COVID-19 has had a detrimental effect on staff with a lot of focus on mental health support through EAP and online HSE formats etc. These ongoing challenges are being addressed by a workforce planning group and action plans including innovative and collaborative measures between maternity hospitals/units across the Directorate.

Setting up community outreach clinics

The development of additional community outreach clinics is needed to enable women to access care in the community as per the National Maternity Strategy. Engagement is hoped to commence to utilise Cahir Primary Care Centre in 2024 to expand our outreach clinics.

Neonatology



The neonatal unit at CUMH is the tertiary neonatal center within the Directorate supporting the neonatal services at University Hospital Waterford (UHW), Tipperary University Hospital (TippUH), and University Hospital Kerry (UHK). CUMH also accepts infants requiring neonatal neurocritical care and therapeutic hypothermia from University Maternity Hospital Limerick and other centers when required. As a neonatal neurocritical care unit, CUMH is the only center providing therapeutic hypothermia outside Dublin.

There were significant changes to the leadership team at Ireland South Women and Infants Directorate within the neonatal service in 2022.

Dr Brendan Murphy, Consultant Neonatologist and Clinical Lead for Neonatology transferred to a new consultant paediatric post in University Hospital Waterford. Dr Murphy has been a neonatologist with the service since 2002. Brendan has overseen and driven the transformation of the neonatal service over the past two decades including the amalgamation and transfer to the new CUMH site in 2006, the introduction of the MNCMS in 2016 and the growth of the neonatal consultant group and the neonatal multidisciplinary team. He was the

first Clinical Lead for Neonatology for the ISWID and throughout his years maintained an interest in neonatal research and education, in particular neonatal nutritional research which he continues to be involved in.

Ms. Lucille Bradfield retired from the neonatal service in 2022. Lucille was the Clinical Nurse Manager in the neonatal unit at the Erinville Hospital and transitioned to the new role of CNM3 at the time of the amalgamation of the three maternity hospitals in Cork. In advance of the opening of CUMH she led the integration of three neonatal nursing teams. Through her interest in nurse education, neonatal neurodevelopmental care and her very personal support for every member of the neonatal team, Lucille retires leaving an indelible legacy and influence on the future care that newborn infants shall receive in our neonatal unit.

With these changes, Dr Peter Filan has been appointed to the role of Clinical Lead for Neonatology, ISWID and Ms. Grainne McNabola has been appointed as Neonatal CNM3, CUMH. The neonatal leads for our partner hospitals are Dr Brendan Murphy (UHW), Dr Daniel Onyekwere (UHK) and Dr John Walsh (TUH).

ISWID Neonatal Unit admissions, 2022

The following tables outline the clinical activity of the four neonatal units within ISWID. The tables have been collated from the monthly statistics collected by each unit.

Table 1: Summary data of neonatal unit activity across ISWID 2022

N (%) (total births)	CUMH (6543)	TUH (796)	UHK (1131)	UHW (1674)
Total admissions	1186	219	185	328
Primary admissions (% of births)	1137 (18)	219 (27)	173 (15)	326 (20)
Readmissions	49 (4)	0	12	2
Gestation (weeks)				
≤31 ⁺⁶	117	3	12	14
32 ⁺⁰ – 36 ⁺⁶	299	16	49	101
≥37 ⁺⁰	721	20	124	211
Birthweight (grams)				
≤ 1500	95	1	9	14
1501 – 2500	231	27	49	77
≥ 2501	811	191	124	235
Therapeutic Hypothermia (total 13, 7 inborn, 6 outborn incl. 1 infant from Limerick)	7	1	1	3

Table 2: Reason for admission

Reason for admission 2022 N (%)	CUMH	TUH	UHK	UHW
Total admissions	1186	219	185	328
Prematurity	250 (22)	19 (9)	37 (20)	59 (18)
Respiratory	376 (32)	45 (21)	44 (24)	83 (25)
Gastrointestinal	279 (23)	57 (26)	31 (17)	51(15)
Infection	62 (5)	39 (18)	16 (9)	22 (7)
Neurological	92 (8)	2 (1)	12 (6)	22 (7)
Low birth weight	17 (1)	22 (10)	9 (5)	5 (2)
Congenital abnormality	32 (3)	1 (0.5)	4 (2)	4 (1)
Cardiac	31 (3)	2 (2)	1 (.5)	6 (2)
Others	47 (4)	33 (15)	31 (17)	76 (23)

Criteria for deciding reasons for admission: this is the primary reason for admission at the time of admission, this is not the final diagnosis at time of discharge, and the criteria are as follows:

Prematurity:

Defined as <35 weeks, in CUMH all infants born at $\leq 34+6$ weeks are automatically admitted to the neonatal unit. In UHK TUH and UHW this is < 36 weeks, all infants $\leq 35+6$ weeks are admitted.

Respiratory:

Any cause respiratory distress eg TTN pneumonia, meconium aspiration, RDS in near term infants, apnoea/cyanotic spells.

Gastrointestinal:

Includes jaundice, poor feeding, vomiting, bilious vomiting, hypoglycaemia, concern re weight gain.

Infection related:

Infants admitted where the primary concern is infection, sepsis/suspected sepsis/significant risk of sepsis based on septic risk factors, positive maternal blood culture, skin/scalp/ bone infection, does not include infants with

respiratory distress who have a partial septic screen.

Neurological:

Where the primary concern is neurological either central or peripheral, encephalopathy (neurological causes) seizures, abnormal movements, low cord pH, low apgars, hypotonia, neonatal abstinence syndrome.

Low birth weight:

>35+0 weeks gestation and < 2.0kg.

Congenital abnormality:

Congenital anomalies either structural or genetic (chromosomal/deletions/gains/single gene), when known/suspected at time of birth.

Cardiac:

Infant with a known or suspected cardiac condition as the primary reason to admit

Others:

Miscellaneous category when infant does not fit into any of the above categories.

Cork University Maternity Hospital, Neonatal Unit admissions 2022

In 2022 there were 1,137 infants admitted to the neonatal unit. 24 of these infants were outborn. With 6,543 births in 2022, and 1113 inborn infants admitted, this equates to a 17% admission rate for inborn infants.

This represents a 10.5% reduction in total infants admitted compared to 2021 (n=1325).

After allowing for the reducing birth rate, the percentage of inborn infants admitted has marginally decreased from 17.8% in 2021.

In 2022 there was 1,186 total admissions. This includes 49 (4%) readmissions.

In 2022 there were 95 very low birth weight infants ($\leq 1500g$) admitted. There were 117 infants < 32 weeks' gestation admitted. Both the VLBW and <32 weeks' gestation numbers were an increase from 2021 despite the reducing birth rate.

13 infants received therapeutic hypothermia in CUMH in 2022. 7 of these infants were inborn and 6 were outborn.

Table 3: Number of infants admitted to the Neonatal Unit CUMH

Year	2022	2021
N	1137	1325

Table 4: Number of admissions to the Neonatal Unit (includes readmissions)

Year	2022	2021	2020
N	1186	1411	1442

Table 5: Number of admissions to the Neonatal Unit (includes readmissions)

Gestation (weeks)	2022 N (%)	2021 N (%)
≤28 ⁺⁶	45 (4)	44 (3)
29+0 - 31+6	73 (6)	52 (4)
32+0 - 36+6	299 (26)	371 (28)
≥37 ⁺⁰	720 (63)	858 (65)

Table 6: Admissions to Neonatal Unit (%)

Admissions to Neonatal Unit	(N)
Total admissions	1186
Primary admissions	1137 (94)
Labour ward	677 (60)
Postnatal ward	398 (35)
Home	38 (3)
Other hospital	24 (2)
Readmissions	49 (4)
Postnatal ward	20 (41)
Home	10 (20)
Other hospital	19 (39)

Table 7: Number of admissions to the Neonatal Unit (includes readmissions)

Gestation (weeks)	2022 N (%)	2021 N (%)
≤28 ⁺⁶	45 (4)	44 (3)
29+0 - 31+6	73 (6)	52 (4)
32+0 - 36+6	299 (26)	371 (28)
≥37 ⁺⁰	720 (63)	858 (65)

Table 8: Gestational age profile of primary admissions

Gestation (wks)																				Total	
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41		42
2022	5	3	7	10	10	10	25	20	28	24	43	59	63	110	176	171	165	152	56	0	1137
2021	8	5	4	7	10	10	10	17	25	25	45	87	91	123	208	213	210	133	92	2	1325



Table 9: Birthweight category profile of primary admissions

	Table 9: Birthweight category profile of primary admissions							Total
Birthweight	≤500g	501-1000g	1001-1500g	1501-2000g	2001-2500g	2501-4500g	≥4501g	
2022	2	40	53	101	130	797	14	1137
2021	3	33	45	95	162	967	20	1325

Table 10: Reason for admission (N=1186)

Category	N (%)
Prematurity	250 (22)
Respiratory	376 (32)
Gastrointestinal	279 (23)
Infection related	62 (5)
Neurological	92 (8)
Low birth weight	17 (1)
Congenital abnormality	32 (3)
Cardiac	31 (3)
Others	47 (4)

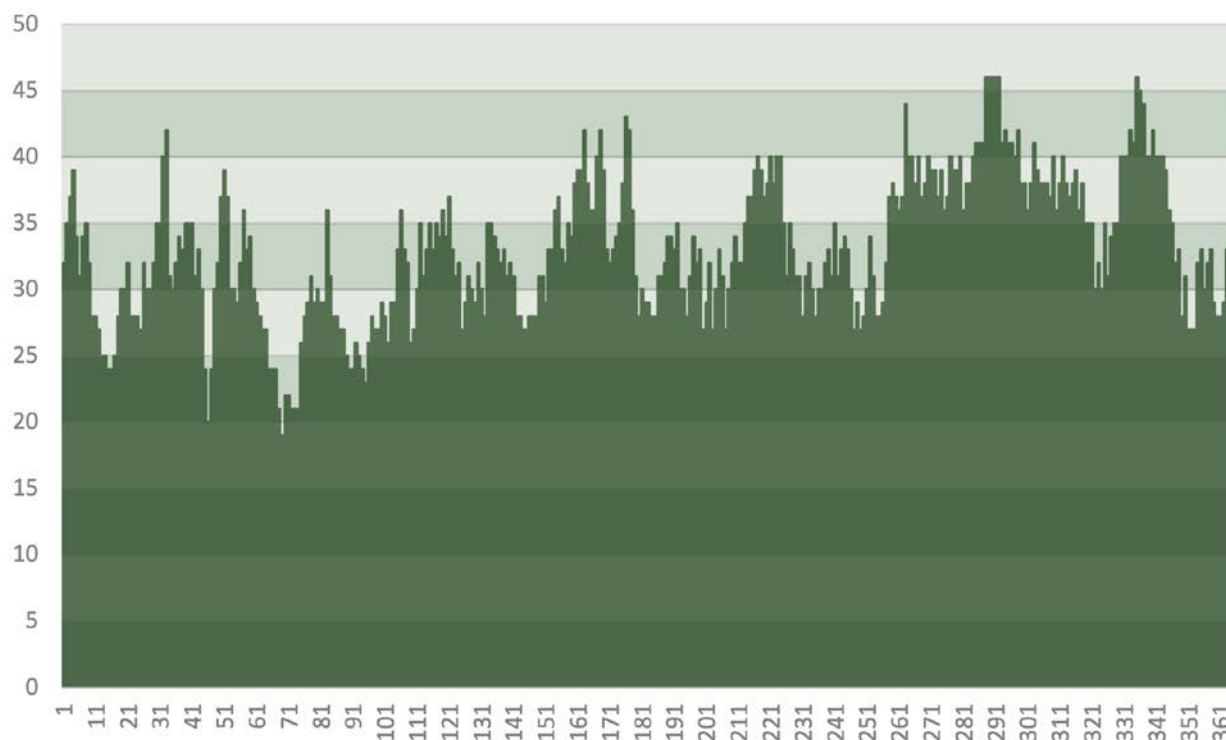


Figure 4: Neonatal Unit Cot Occupancy

Cot occupancy is measured as the number of infants in the neonatal unit at 08.00 each day. The median occupancy was 33 (IQR 29, 37), Minimum 14, Maximum 46.

CUMH Very Low Birthweight Infants, Vermont Oxford Network (VON) dataset

The Vermont Oxford Network (VON) is a voluntary collaboration of 1400 hospitals across the world, working together to improve neonatal care. Its mission is to improve the quality, safety, and value of care for newborn infants and their families through a coordinated program of data-driven quality improvement, education, and research.

Cork University Maternity Hospital contributes anonymised data to the VON Very Low Birth Weight database. Anonymised data on all live born infants whose birth weight is less than or equal to 1500 grams OR whose gestational age is less than or equal to 29 weeks 6 days who is admitted to CUMH within 28 days of birth are entered into the VON database.

This allows us to compare short-term outcomes and quality metrics to other centres globally, ensuring appropriate benchmarking of the care we provide.

Table 11: Number of infants reported to VON annually

Year	2022	2021	2020	20219	2018	2017	2016
N	97	83	84	71	86	79	91

Table 12: Survival to discharge by gestation (N=97)

Gestation (weeks)	N	CUMH 2022 N (%)	CUMH 2016-2021 (%)	VON 2022(%)
23	5	2 (40)	65	46
24	3	2 (67)	72	63
25	7	6 (86)	91	75
26	9	9 (100)	79	82
27	10	7 (70)	85	88
28	10	9 (90)	99	92
29	25	22 (88)	88	95
30	10	10(100)	95	96
31	9	8 (89)	97	96
≥ 32	9	9 (100)	92	95

Table 13: Survival to discharge by birthweight (N=97)

Birthweight (grams)	N	CUMH 2022 N (%)	CUMH 2016-2021 (%)	VON 2022 (%)
≤500g	2	0 (0)	50	23
501 - 750	18	14 (78)	78	65
751 - 1000	24	21 (88)	86	87
1001 - 1250	23	20 (87)	93	94
≥1251	30	29 (97)	94	96

Table 14: Clinical demographics of infants (N=97)

	2022 N (%)	VON 2022 %
Inborn	92 (95)	87
Male	47 (49)	51
Prenatal Care	96 (99)	96
Chorioamnionitis	19 (21)	13
Maternal Hypertension	24 (25)	38
Antenatal Steroids	92 (95)	83
C-Section	84 (87)	74
Antenatal Magnesium Sulphate	77 (79)	64
Multiple Gestation	43 (44)	24
Congenital Malformation	8 (8)	7
Small for Gestational Age	18 (19)	22

Table 15: Summary of respiratory support (N=97)

Intervention	2022 N (%)	VON 2022 %
Intubation in delivery suite	35 (36)	36
Surfactant (in delivery suite)	30 (31)	18
Surfactant (at any time)	60 (62)	56
Mechanical Ventilation	57 (59)	51
High Frequency Ventilation	16 (17)	23
CPAP (at any time)	82 (85)	78
Initial CPAP and subsequent intubation	33 (50)	41
Nitric Oxide	9 (9)	7

Table 16: Major morbidities amongst infants reported to VON (N=97 unless otherwise stated)

Morbidity	2022 N (%)	VON 2022 %
Mortality	13/97 (14)	16
Admission temperature < 36°C	6/95 (6)	11
Pneumothorax	1 (1)	4
Oxygen at 28 days	46/78 (59)	47
Oxygen at 36 weeks CGA	29/67 (43)	32
Postnatal steroid therapy	13/96 (14)	13
Home oxygen	2/65 (3)	12
Ibuprofen for PDA	1/96 (1)	6
Paracetamol for PDA	23/96 (24)	11
PDA ligation	1 (1)	3
NEC	2 (2)	5
NEC surgery	0 (0)	4
Coagulase negative Staph. in blood culture	14/93 (15)	5
Fungal infection	2/93 (2)	1
Grade 3 or 4 IVH	8/94 (9)	8
Cystic PVL	2/94 (2)	3
Neurosurgery	0 (0)	1
Retinopathy of prematurity (any stage)	17/79 (22)	31
Retinopathy Laser Surgery	1/95 (1)	2
Retinopathy anti-VEGF	5/95 (5)	3

Table 17: Summary of infants with neonatal encephalopathy (N=23)

	Inborn	Outborn
Hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy	11	6
• Severe (grade 3)	2 (both died)	1 (died)
• Moderate (grade 2)	4	5
• Mild (grade 1)	5	0
Non HIE encephalopathy	4	2
Therapeutic hypothermia	7	6

New clinical appointments to neonatal service

There have been a number of new appointments within the neonatal service at CUMH in 2022.

These appointments bring a variety of specialist roles to the service that will enhance the quality of service we provide within the inpatient journey, planning the discharge process and the longer term follow up of the infants we have cared for.

The appointments include;

- Consultant Neonatologists, Dr Mmoloki Kenosi, Dr Andreea Pavel, Dr Neidin Busmann (appointed 2021).
- Riona Cotter, ADOM with responsibility for Neonatal unit.
- Susan Vaughan, CNS Neonatal Individualised Developmental Care Coordinator.
- Amy O'Connell, CNM2 Discharge Coordinator.
- Josephine Murphy, Clinical Skills Facilitator.
- Roisin Reid, Senior Neonatal Clinical Psychologist.
- Lourda Kerin, Senior Speech & Language Therapist.
- Jackie Costelloe, CUMH Locum Social Worker.

Tipperary University Hospital 2022

As hospital services returned towards normal post Covid, we continued to provide the best care to our Newborns at our Special Care Baby Unit.

We operate a Level 1 Neonatal Unit (SCBU) providing care to term and preterm newborns, including growing preterms returning from tertiary Neonatal Units.

In 2022, the number of births at TippUH increased. As a result, more preterm deliveries were noted. Visitor restrictions to Special Care Baby Unit were lifted for parents at Tipperary University Hospital in line with other Maternity Units post Covid. Our SCBU was refurbished along with the adjacent Maternity Ward to create a single isolation room.

In 2022, a further number of our medical and nursing staff trained as NRP Instructors on site with the help of the National NRP coordinator to enable us to run a monthly NRP to keep all Medical and Nursing staff providing neonatal resuscitation up to date.

University Hospital Kerry

In 2022, the Neonatology Services in UHK continued to provide an extensive neonatology/newborn service against the backdrop and end of COVID-19 pandemic with all the resultant challenges relating to staff shortages due to illness/isolation and hospital visitor restrictions.

Neonatal services, UHK is a Level 1 neonatology service which includes 10 bedded Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) with facilities to care for, stabilise and ventilate up to two critically ill babies. There are two HDU cots in the unit, managed by a highly motivated baby and family friendly medical/Nursing team. The Unit was delighted to see the end of Covid restrictions and return to normal care for



Josephine Murphy, Clinical Skills Facilitator with Grainne McNabola, Neonatal CNM3

our babies. Many lessons were learned from two years of unprecedented new ways of healthcare in a pandemic. These were the catalyst for improving our quality care provision and person-centred care further with ongoing plan for redesign and development of a new unit.

The clinical teams in Neonatology engage in robust clinical educational activities with weekly neonatal resuscitation simulation as well as weekly maternity governance and quarterly perinatal morbidity and mortality meetings. UHK also supports the ongoing education of UCC medical students and nurses from both MTU and UCC.

University Hospital Kerry Neonatal Services celebrated World Prematurity Day, "Born Too Soon" on 17 November 2022. This day highlights awareness of preterm birth and the challenges associated for both infants and their families. To mark the event, a tree was planted on the hospital grounds for each premature baby born between 1st and 8th November 2022.

Another successful event held in 2022 was the "Read-a-Thon" from 4th - 15th September. This was well received by parents and members of the neonatal intensive care little readers book club.

The aim of the read-a-thon was to raise awareness of the importance of reading and language development in preterm babies, support parent-child bonding and instil a positive normal activity in the abnormal world of the NICU for parents.

For babies that had no parents visiting, the staff read to them. 2022 demonstrated a growing positive outlook in the unit with greater things to come.

University Hospital Waterford

UHW is the Level 2 centre within the Directorate. It catered for 1,674 births and cared for 327 infants in the Neonatal Unit 1 in 2022.

In line with the National Neonatal Model of Care, UHW offers inpatient care for neonates > 28 weeks' gestation, including referrals from Tipperary University Hospital (Tipp UH) within the Directorate and from Level 1 centres outside Directorate - within the Southeast Region - Wexford General Hospital and St. Luke's Hospital Kilkenny.

Dr Brendan Murphy, Consultant Neonatologist transferred from Cork University Maternity Hospital to University Hospital Waterford at the end of February 2022 and now acts as Clinical Lead for the Neonatology Service within the Department of Paediatrics at University Hospital Waterford.

The Neonatal Unit at UHW has 10 NICU and 8 SCBU beds, with 3 isolation rooms and a 1 negative pressure room. The technical skill set available in UHW includes the ability to care for neonates who need advanced respiratory support including ventilation and nitric oxide inhalation, thoracostomy chest drains, Percutaneous Intravenous Central Catheter (PICC) insertion and care for PN nutritional support and neurological monitoring with Amplitude Integrated EEG (CFAM) and induction of therapeutic hypothermia pre-transfer for infants with Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy.

Our team also actively transfers out to Level 3 Neonatology centres and Children's Health Ireland as clinically indicated, whilst facilitating retro-transfers for step down care of babies who no longer need tertiary care.

The care of our infants is supported with access to a Paediatric Dietician, Paediatric Physiotherapist, a Lactation Consultant, and a Liaison Perinatal Mental Health CNS. Our department is also supported with collaboration of on-site specialist services, including Paediatric Radiology for cranial ultrasound screening, Paediatric Ophthalmology for ROP screening and Paediatric Orthopaedics through the Regional DDH clinic.

Over 2022, a multidisciplinary Newborn Workstream established under the chairmanship of Assistant Director of Midwifery Ms Janet Murphy has developed and implemented a Newborn Record for infants (separate from the maternal chart) on the postnatal ward.

This Newborn Chart brings together documentation of care for the newborn infant. Ongoing collaborative Quality Improvement projects are supported by the Newborn Workstream and led by our newly appointed Candidate Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, Ms Marie Breathnach. These include optimisation of monitoring and management of neonatal hypoglycaemia, early onset neonatal sepsis and evaluation of a Neonatal Early Warning Score for improved monitoring and communication with clear escalation pathways for at risk infants on the postnatal ward.

An active cohort of NRP Trainers have updated their NRP 8th Edition NRP Instructor Status in 2022. Under the careful stewardship of our Clinical Skills Facilitator Ms Linda Coughlan, multidisciplinary NRP courses have been provided onsite throughout the year.

This ensures that all staff caring for mothers and newborns have the opportunity to complete and recertify their NRP 8th Edition training with its emphasis on communication and teamwork for optimal outcomes for our infants.



Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, UCC

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology aims to lead the development of teaching and research in obstetrics and gynaecology in Ireland and to become a centre of excellence internationally.

This academic agenda is fully integrated with the delivery of clinical care in Cork University Maternity Hospital, and the maternity units in Tipperary University Hospital, University Hospital Waterford and University Hospital Kerry, thus providing a high-quality academic service across a broad range of clinical, educational and research activities.



The department is located on the fifth floor of Cork University Maternity Hospital. It provides formal undergraduate teaching to UCC medical students. The department also provides postgraduate and continuous professional development opportunities in Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate.

Teaching post COVID-19

The delivery of teaching and examinations for fourth year and final-year medical students was altered significantly due to the onset of the COVID-19 global pandemic in 2020.

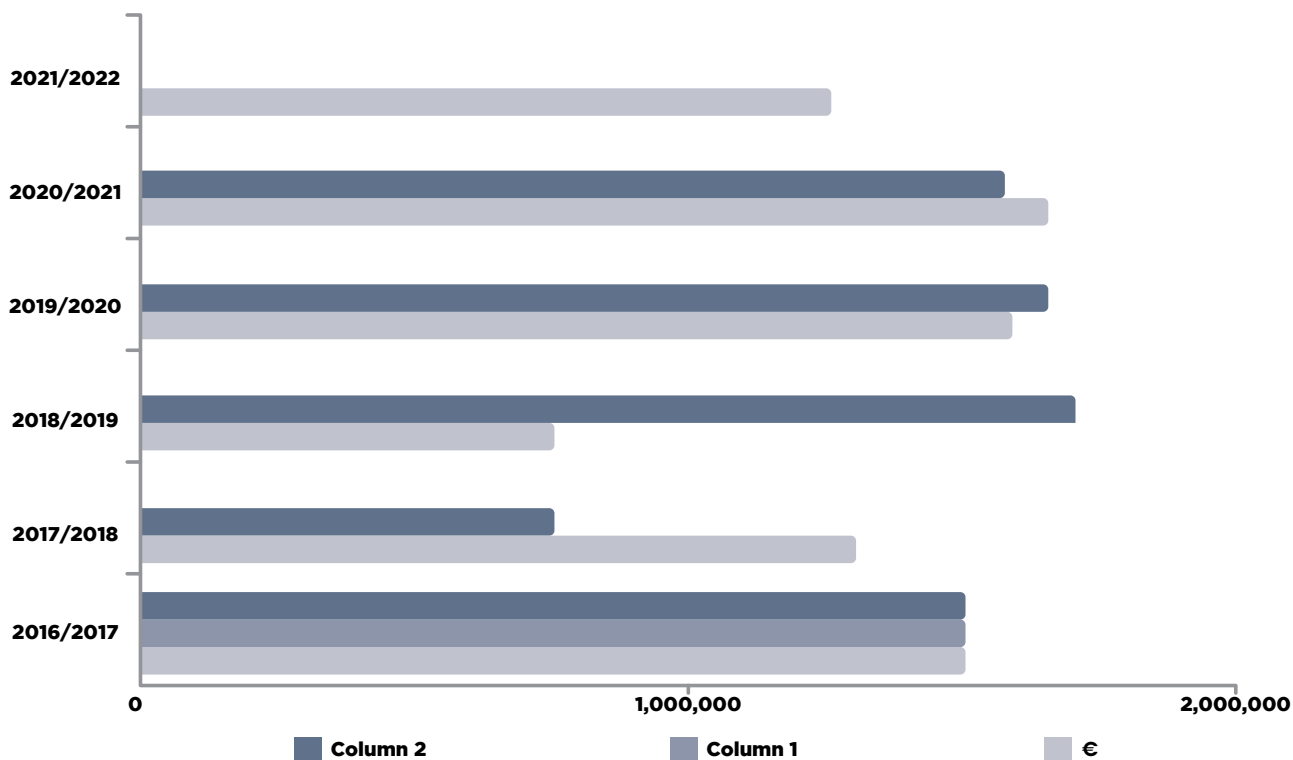
The teaching for 2022/2023 fourth and final-year medical students was in its third year of a hybrid online and in-person teaching approach. This included strict scheduling of students to wards, floors and areas to ensure remained in place.

Students and staff were now much more familiar and confident with this approach. Canvas, the online learning environment, continued to be an essential resource for students. Tutorials from many of our consultants are readily available for students to study on the platform, as well as quizzes to help students test their knowledge.

The final year obstetrics and gynaecology exam (incorporating clinical and written questions) took the form of an OSCE exam held in one day, with various stations set up for the students in the Brookfield Health Science Complex (BHSC).

All safety measures were adopted – face masks, hand hygiene and social distancing. Consultant examiners came from across the Directorate to support this effort.

Figure 6: Research Income in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, 2010-2021



Awards

Anu Undergraduate Gold Medal in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University College Cork, 02 September 2022

Mr Oscar Dennehy

Anu Undergraduate Scholar Medal in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University College Cork, 02 September 2022

Ms Aoife Golden

PhD Graduates

Joye McKernan was awarded her PhD for her thesis “Impact of Irish Maternal & Newborn Clinical Management System”.

Aenne Helps was awarded her PhD for her thesis “Review of Confidential Enquiries into Perinatal Deaths Focusing on intrapartum deaths”.

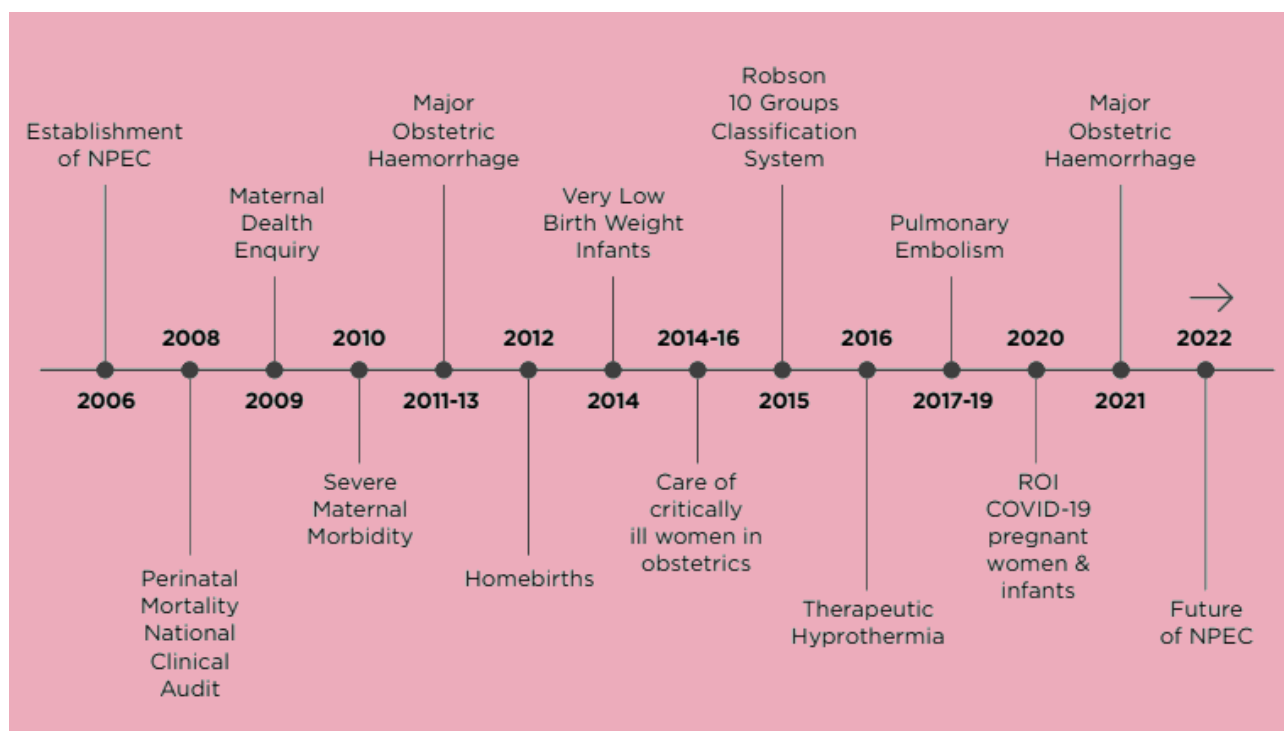


Professor John R. Higgins and Dr Mairead O’Riordan were delighted to award the prestigious Anu Undergraduate Gold Medal to Oscar Dennehy and the Anu Undergraduate Scholar medal to Aoife Golden.

The National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre (NPEC)

The mission of the National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre (NPEC) is to collaborate with Irish maternity services to translate clinical audit data and epidemiological evidence into improved maternity care for families in Ireland.

Figure 7: Timeline of the National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre



The NPEC has a national focus, working in collaboration with all 19 of Ireland's maternity units: it audits and reviews the practice of the Irish maternity services with a view to deriving learning and make recommendations based on that learning.

The NPEC is a team of midwives, researchers, administrators, and clinicians and is directed by Professor Richard Greene.

The NPEC produces annual national clinical audit reports on perinatal mortality in Ireland, maternal morbidity in Ireland, home births in Ireland, neonatal care of very low birth weight babies in Ireland, and therapeutic hypothermia in Ireland, subject areas that constitute key indicators of quality of maternity and neonatal care.

The Lourdes Hospital Inquiry report of 2007 recommended that an electronic record of every maternity in Ireland be maintained: to this end the NPEC, and its Director has been instrumental in the development of the Maternal Newborn Clinical Management System (MN-CMS).

The Centre continues to build on its existing portfolio of audits and research. Every time a mother gives birth in Ireland, the important interventions, the good outcomes and the complications are recorded and analysed at a national specialist centre. Unusual trends are easily and quickly observed and most importantly acted on.

The NPEC makes recommendations in its annual audit reports. However, it recognises that recommendations are ineffective if they are not



implemented. To ensure that its recommendations are acted upon, and that learning is achieved from its audits at both hospital level and national level, the NPEC works with the National Office of Clinical Audit (NOCA) and more recently, the National Centre for Clinical Audit (NCCA).

The NPEC has always strategically aimed to close the audit loop and since the establishment of the National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWIHP) in January 2017, a number of the NPEC recommendations have progressed. The NPEC works in collaboration with NWIHP and acknowledges the key relationship that has developed between the two organisations.

At local hospital level, the NPEC provides customised feedback to individual hospitals on

how they compare and what areas of their care they might review in the context of benchmarking against the national average.

To this end, it publishes annual individual hospital reports and presents its findings at individual hospitals. The NPEC actively encourages the use of data in the units and appreciates the importance of working with the units to ensure they know their data and understand how this data can be used in their units.

Data is submitted to the NPEC throughout the year in Perinatal Mortality, Severe Maternal Morbidity, Very Low Birth Weight Audit, Home Births, Robson Ten Group Classification System, Neonatal Therapeutic Hypothermia and Maternal Death Enquiry.

Obstetrics Report

Table 18: Frequency (N) of maternities and births 2014-2022

	Ireland South	CUMH	TippUH	UHK	UHW
Mothers delivered					
2022	9935	6382	785	1120	1648
2021	11210	7273	935	1270	1732
2020	10398	6876	771	1141	1610
2019	10773	7023	875	1177	1698
2018	11359	7401	960	1230	1768
2017	11354	7224	979	1349	1802
2016	11745	7442	1017	1389	1897
2015	12343	7903	1054	1389	1997
2014	12473	7878	1434	1087	2074
Babies born >500g					
2022	10143	6539	796	1131	1677
2021	11435	7438	948	1284	1765
2020	10612	7040	782	1155	1635
2019	11010	7204	885	1193	1728
2018	11601	7577	969	1254	1801
2017	11577	7386	982	1368	1841
2016	12011	7629	1032	1410	1940
2015	12620	8113	1062	1406	2039
2014	12746	8071	1454	1102	2119

Table 19: Distribution of maternal and delivery characteristics

	Ireland South N(%) (N=9935)	CUMH N(%) (N=6382)	TippUH N(%) (N=785)	UHK N (%) (N=1120)	UHW N (%) (N=1648)
Nulliparous	3871 (39.0)	2535 (39.7)	273 (34.8)	430 (38.4)	633 (38.4)
Multiparous	6064 (61.0)	3847 (60.3)	512 (65.2)	690 (61.6)	1015 (61.6)





Table 20: Frequency (N) of maternities and births 2014-2022

	Ireland South N(%) (N=9935)	CUMH N(%) (N=6382)	TippUH N(%) (N=785)	UHK N (%) (N=1120)	UHW N (%) (N=1648)
Inductions of labour (Total)	3939 (39.6)	2634 (41.3)	271 (34.5)	314 (28.0)	720 (43.7)
Inductions nulliparas (% of total nulliparous women delivered)	1846 (47.7)	1224 (48.3)	112 (41.0)	175 (40.7)	335 (52.9)
Inductions multiparas (% of total multiparous women delivered)	2093 (39.6)	1410 (41.3)	159 (34.5)	139 (28.0)	385 (43.7)

Table 21: Distribution of maternal and delivery characteristics - Vaginal delivery

	Ireland South N(%) (N=9935)	CUMH N(%) (N=6382)	TippUH N(%) (N=785)	UHK N (%) (N=1120)	UHW N (%) (N=1648)
Vaginal Delivery (Total)	6088 (61.3)	3772 (59.1)	481 (61.3)	668 (59.6)	1167 (70.8)

Table 22: Distribution of maternal and delivery characteristics - Instrumental delivery

	Ireland South N(%) (N=9935)	CUMH N(%) (N=6382)	TippUH N(%) (N=785)	UHK N (%) (N=1120)	UHW N (%) (N=1648)
Instrumental Delivery (Total)	1448 (14.6)	894 (14.0)	94 (12.0)	168 (15.0)	292 (17.7)
Instrumental Delivery nulliparas (% of total nulliparous women delivered)	1047 (27.0)	635 (25.0)	66 (24.2)	128 (29.8)	218 (34.4)
Instrumental Delivery multiparas (% of total multiparous women delivered)	401 (6.6)	259 (6.7)	28 (5.5)	40 (5.8)	74 (7.3)

Table 23: Incidence of caesarean delivery per total mothers delivered

	Ireland South N(%) (N=9935)	CUMH N(%) (N=6382)	TippUH N(%) (N=785)	UHK N (%) (N=1120)	UHW N (%) (N=1648)
Caesarean delivery	3847 (38.7)	2610 (40.9)	304 (38.7)	452 (40.4)	481 (29.2)
C-sections nulliparas (% of total nulliparous women delivered)	1596 (41.2)	1138 (44.9)	103 (37.7)	181 (42.1)	174 (27.5)
C-sections multiparas (% of total multiparous women delivered)	2251 (37.1)	1472 (38.3)	201 (39.3)	271 (39.3)	307 (30.2)

Table 24: Distribution of labour epidurals

	Ireland South N(%) (N=9935)	CUMH N(%) (N=6382)	TippUH N(%) (N=785)	UHK N (%) (N=1120)	UHW N (%) (N=1648)
Labour Epidurals	3924 (39.4)	2476 (38.8)	260 (33.1)	376 (33.6)	812 (49.3)

Table 25: Inutero transfers admitted

	Ireland South N(%) (N=9935)	CUMH N(%) (N=6382)	TippUH N(%) (N=785)	UHK N (%) (N=1120)	UHW N (%) (N=1648)
Inutero transfers admitted	46	20	0	0	26

Table 26: Inutero transfers sent out

	Ireland South N(%) (N=9935)	CUMH N(%) (N=6382)	TippUH N(%) (N=785)	UHK N (%) (N=1120)	UHW N (%) (N=1648)
Inutero transfers sent out	22	0	4	9	9

Table 27: Maternal transfers for critical care

	Ireland South N(%) (N=9935)	CUMH N(%) (N=6382)	TippUH N(%) (N=785)	UHK N (%) (N=1120)	UHW N (%) (N=1648)
Maternal transfers for critical care	340	324	6	7	3

Total number of women transferred for critical care to Level 2 and/or Level 3 care facilities (i.e., ICU, HDU, or CCU). Transfers may include those within the same maternity hospital/unit or to another hospital/unit. In the event of a woman being transferred to another hospital/unit, these should be recorded by the hospital where she gives birth. There is no gestation parameter on this metric - it may include transfers from early pregnancy through post-natal re-admissions.

Table 28: Severe maternal morbidity

	Ireland South Frequency N	CUMH Frequency N	TippUH Frequency N	UHK Frequency N	UHW Frequency N
Major obstetric haemorrhage (MOH)	37	22	3	6	6
Uterine rupture	1	1	-	-	-
Peripartum hysterectomy (PH)	-	-	-	-	-
Eclampsia	1	-	-	1	-
Renal or liver dysfunction	1	-	-	1	-
Pulmonary oedema	-	-	-	-	-
Acute respiratory dysfunction	-	-	-	-	-
Pulmonary embolism	-	-	-	-	-
Cardiac arrest	-	-	-	-	-
Coma	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-vascular event	-	-	-	-	-
Status epilepticus	-	-	-	-	-
Septicaemic shock	4	3	1	-	-
Anaesthetic problem	-	-	-	-	-
Other severe morbidity	-	-	-	-	-
Interventional radiology (IR)	-	-	-	-	-
ICU/CCU admission	18	5	6	6	1

***Note:** the specific SMM numbers represent the number of women affected by the specific morbidity; more than one morbidity may apply per woman

Maternal Mortality

Maternal mortality is a devastating outcome for a family left without their mother/daughter/ partner. Maternal deaths have a significant effect on the staff also. There was one case of maternal death in Ireland South Women and Infants Directorate.

Definition and classification of maternal death

A maternal death is the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and the site of the pregnancy,* from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management, but not from accidental or incidental causes.

Maternal deaths are subdivided into two groups, direct and indirect obstetric deaths.

Classification of maternal deaths

Direct obstetric deaths: direct obstetric deaths are those resulting from obstetric complications of the pregnancy state (pregnancy, labour and the puerperium), from interventions, omissions, incorrect treatment, or from a chain of events resulting from any of the above.

Indirect obstetric deaths: indirect obstetric deaths are those resulting from previous existing disease or disease that developed during pregnancy and which was not due to direct obstetric causes, but which was aggravated by physiologic effects of pregnancy.

Coincidental maternal deaths: deaths from unrelated causes which happen to occur in pregnancy or the puerperium

Reference

International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision, Geneva, World Health Organization, 2004

Table 29: Perinatal Mortality

	Ireland South 10143	CUMH 6539	TippUH 796	UHK 1131	UHW 1677
Overall perinatal mortality numbers	55	47	2	2	4
Overall perinatal mortality rate per 1000 births	5.4	7.1	2.5	1.7	2.3
Stillbirth deaths	39	33	1	2	3
Stillbirth rate per 1000 births	3.8	5.0	1.2	1.7	1.7
Early neonatal deaths	16	14	1	-	1
Early neonatal death rate per 1000 births	1.5	2.1	1.2	-	0.5

Gynaecology Report

During 2022, Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate continued to provide extensive gynaecology services to the women of our region in addition to expanding and further developing service offerings. Building on learnings from 2021, the multidisciplinary teams across the four hospital/units in Ireland South continued to work innovatively and collaboratively to deliver gynaecology services in the safest way possible.



During 2022, Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate continued to provide extensive gynaecology services to the women of our region in addition to expanding and further developing service offerings.

Building on learnings from 2021, the multidisciplinary teams across the four hospital/units in Ireland South continued to work innovatively and collaboratively to deliver gynaecology services in the safest way possible.

General and specialist gynaecology care is provided across the Directorate. Gynaecology clinics are run at the four main hospitals/units as well as outreach clinics in different areas. More specialised areas such as urogynaecology, colposcopy, oncology and ambulatory services, which also include outpatient hysteroscopy and cystoscopy are also included.

Despite challenges, further gynaecology services across the Directorate were introduced or enhanced. Throughout the year patients were welcomed into the Outpatient Hysteroscopy Clinic in University Hospital Waterford (UHW).

The clinic is an initiative to improve access to diagnostics and treatments for women with heavy menstrual bleeding, abnormal uterine bleeding

and postmenopausal bleeding. There are plans to provide a wider range of treatments suitable to an ambulatory setting in the future.

At CUMH, the new Ambulatory Gynaecology Suite allowed for service to continue 5 days a week. Following the opening of a new urogynaecology and fertility outpatient suite for CUMH at the Lee Clinic, all urogynaecology clinics were held at the Lee Clinic in 2022.

There were two major developments in funding in 2022. Funding was granted to CUMH to develop a Complex Menopause service in 2022. The Service will be rolled out in 2023 in the Lee Road Clinic. In 2022 CUMH was selected to develop one of two Supra-Regional Endometriosis centres in Ireland to develop a multidisciplinary care pathway for women suffering with Endometriosis.

The aim of the service is to improve management and treatment of patients with endometriosis by creating a structured, streamlined service. The service will be rolled out in 2023 in the CUMH Lee Road Clinic.

The range of general and specialist services and clinics offered at the four main hospital/unit sites are outlined in this report.

CUMH gynaecology services

Outpatient gynaecology services are provided at CUMH, South Infirmar Victoria University Hospital (SIVUH), and across a number of outreach clinics in Primary Care Centres (PCCs) including Mitchelstown PCC, Mallow PCC and Carrigaline PCC. The Mallow, Mitchelstown and Carrigaline gynaecology clinics are operated in partnership with local GP surgeries and are proving to be an effective way of providing gynaecology services in the community. Bantry General Hospital also plays host to CUMH staff to provide gynaecology services.

In addition to general gynaecology services, specialised care is also provided. These include endometriosis, fertility, oncology, post-menopausal bleeding and urogynaecology.

CUMH opened a new urogynaecology and fertility outpatient suite at the Lee Clinic in late 2021. CUMH nurse led urogynaecology clinics were held in the new Lee Clinic from 2021, however all other urogynaecology clinics commenced in the Lee Clinic in 2022. The specialised urogynaecology service provides; urodynamics, perineal clinic, pessary management, intravesical treatments and continence advice.

Following funding received in 2020, CUMH became one of two National Mesh Complications Centre's in Ireland (with the other being at the National Maternity Hospital, Dublin), with its first patients treated in the Lee Clinic in 2022.

CUMH's weekly fertility clinics were moved to the Lee Clinic in 2022. Funding was received in 2020 to set up a Regional Fertility Hub and plans advanced during 2021 to develop this service including the appointment of a Clinical Nurse Manager.

The colposcopy service is run from the St. Finbarr's Hospital campus, providing smears and a colposcopy service for women who have abnormal cervical smears. These services form part of the national CervicalCheck screening programme. Additionally, CUMH commenced Cervical One Stop Assessment clinics (COSAC) at the colposcopy unit in March 2021 as an initial 'proof of concept' with 4 clinics and continued these clinics throughout 2022.

The clinics see patients who have an abnormal looking cervix or post coital bleeding and rule out an invasive malignancy by looking at the cervix. This is not related to screening; colposcopy is not performed and the patients are informed that they still need regular smears. These new COSAC clinics have proven very successful in the efficient and effective management of this cohort of patients.

Chartered physiotherapists in CUMH specialise in the area of women's health and offer individualised

assessment and treatment for a number of complex gynae conditions. Where appropriate, patients are also referred on to pelvic health physiotherapy services in the community.

Gynaecology surgeries are performed in CUMH, SIVUH and the Bons Secours Hospital Cork.

At the end of 2022, the waiting lists in CUMH stood at:

Outpatient waiting list number	2075
Ambulatory Gynae Waiting List	181
Inpatient & Day Cases Waiting List Number	787

The total number of referrals to gynaecology services in 2022 were:

General gynae	3369
Fertility	299
Urogynae	1151
PMB	876
Paediatric gynae	96
Oncology	370
Total	6161

Ambulatory	1678
Total	1678

UDS	659
Continence	39
Pessary	663
Scans	3383
Referrals rejected	0

Table 32: Gynae Outpatient Waiting List

Gynae OPWL	Has appointment date	No appointment date
0-3 Months	261	963
3-6 Months	80	310
6-9 Months	73	19
9-12 Months	66	40
12-15 Months	20	29
15-18 Months	7	13
18-21 Months	4	6
21-24 Months	0	7
24-36 Months	3	2
Grand Total	514	1561

Physiotherapy

CORU Registered Physiotherapists assess and treat Gynaecology Inpatients and Outpatients.

The Physiotherapy service for patients attending the complex Urogynae/Mesh complications clinic commenced in 2022.

Table 33: Gynae Physiotherapy treatments

Inpatients	New patients seen	No. of Physiotherapy Treatments
Gynaecology	57	94
Neonatology	279	889
Obstetrics	2237	2880
Outpatients		
Gynaecology	920	3772
Neonatology	274	873
Obstetrics	2726	6488

The Fertility Hub

The public Fertility Hub at CUMH offers a multidisciplinary service to individuals and couples who are experiencing fertility issues.

The Fertility Hub is part of an initiative supported by the NATIONAL Women and Infants Health Programme and the Ireland South Hospital Group.

The team at the CUMH Fertility Hub aim to maximise the outcome for women and their partners undergoing investigations for infertility, by offering an assessment and management of their care, that will streamline the process and minimise delays in access to fertility services.

The CUMH Fertility Hub offers a comprehensive service that treats individuals and couples, where appropriate to optimise their chance of achieving a pregnancy.

The CUMH Fertility Consultant Team is led by Dr Moya McMenamin, along with Dr Minna Geisler and Dr Manal Younis.

The Nursing team for the Fertility Hub are Eilis McCarthy CMM 3 Fertility, Ann Long Staff Nurse Fertility and Ann St Ledger Staff Nurse Fertility.

Table 34: Fertility Hub

New appointments	325
Return appointments	424
Ovulation Induction Treatment Cycles	61
Referral for HSG	124
Referral for Semen Analysis	76
Referral for IUI treatment	51

CUMH gynaecology services: Outpatient and Inpatient numbers

CUMH gynaecology services recovered in 2022 after the impact of COVID-19 and the HSE cyberattack during 2021. Overall attendance numbers are reflected in the table below.

Table 35: CUMH Gynaecology service – Outpatient attendances 2022

Table 35: CUMH Gynaecology service – Outpatient attendances 2022	
Sub-specialty/clinic:	
General Gynaecology (includes outreach clinics SIVUH clinics and telephone clinics)	6790
Oncology	2039
Post-menopausal bleeding (PMB)	1456
Post-menopausal bleeding (PMS) scans	425
Colposcopy (consultant led)	2800
Colposcopy (nurse led)	3276
Colposcopy (smears)	814
COSAC clinic	435
Gynae ultrasound scanning	1961
Urogynaecology (consultant led clinics)	1326
Urogynaecology Specialty Clinic	36
Urogynaecology (nurse led clinics)	3635
Perineal clinic	304
Physiotherapy for Gynaecology patients	151
Fertility	749
Fertility Scanning	244
Gynae pre-operative assessment	1329
Ambulatory Gynaecology	1489
Endometriosis	484
Adolescent Gynaecology	166
Total	29909

Table 36 CUMH gynaecology service - Inpatient and day case procedures 2022

Total inpatient and day case procedures	3195
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TippUH gynaecology services

Women's health services continued to expand with increasing activity in the colposcopy and gynaecology outpatient clinics through 2022.

Despite this, outpatient services continued to deliver a high standard of patient-centred care.

Key activity in 2022 included:

- 3,914 attendances in gynaecology clinics.
- 1,249 attendances at the colposcopy clinics (New and Follow up).
- 302 nurse led smear clinics

TippUH gynaecology waiting lists

At the end of 2022, the waiting lists stood at:

- Outpatients: 449.
- Inpatient: 119

Gynaecology waiting list management

TippUH continued to operate a smooth-running service for gynaecology in outpatients and inpatients during 2022.

The consultants under the leadership of Dr Vijayashree Hiremath have worked very hard at ensuring that gynaecology waiting lists are kept at a manageable level. In particular, the provision of three full day theatre lists per week have helped to keep down waiting times for treatment.

Key Achievements

Colposcopy service

TippUH experienced above average numbers of new referrals to the colposcopy service in 2022, exceeding recommended numbers by CervicalCheck. The appointment of Gemma Hennessey, CNM2 and Annemarie Hayes, Staff Midwife further enhanced the gynaecology services at TippUH.

Minimal access surgery

More gynaecological procedures than ever were performed through minimal access surgery, which has allowed a greater turn-over of hospital beds.

Table 37: Numbers of attendances in gynaecology outpatient clinics at TippUH

Outpatient activity	TippUH
Gynaecology	3914
Ambulatory gynaecology (including hysteroscopy at UHW)	0
Colposcopy (including smears at UHW)	1,249
Smears	302
Urodynamics	0
STI/SATU	0
Reproductive Clinic	-
Total	5,465

Surgery activity	TippUH
Inpatient procedures	169
Day case procedures	533
Total	702

Gynaecology waiting lists	TippUH
Outpatients	449
Inpatients/day cases	119

UHW Gynaecology services

Gynaecology outpatient clinics experienced another very busy and challenging year in 2022. General and gynaecology oncology services are provided in UHW with an expert, multidisciplinary approach in line with the best evidence-based practice. The Gynaecology OPD is adjacent to Maternity Services for ease of use.

Other specialist services include colposcopy, Sexual Assault Treatment Unit (SATU) and Urodynamics clinics and Ambulatory Gynaecology Services. All gynaecology in-patient services are provided in the UHW hospital campus on the gynaecology ward or the Ambulatory Day Care Unit (ADCU).

Colposcopy services are in a purpose designed clinic within the wider OPD setting in UHW and SATU is in a discrete location in UHW, but with full support and access to maternity and gynaecology services as required.

UHW: Key achievements in gynaecology 2022**Oncology**

The Gynae oncology service led by Dr John Stratton, Consultant Obstetrician & Gynae Oncologist is supported by Aoife Hartwell, CMMII Gynae Oncology Liaison.

Throughout 2022 the service reviewed 984 patients in the Gynae/Oncology outpatient clinic, this included rapid access, Gynae/Oncology follow up.

- 220 of these women were discussed at the bimonthly MDT meetings resulting in the delivery of individualised patient pathways, including medical oncology treatment on site in UHW and onward referral for Radiation therapy provided in UPMC Whitfield and St Luke's Hospital Rathgar Dublin.
- Treatments provided included 118 surgeries (78 Majors & 40 Minors). 29 patients had adjuvant chemotherapy, 3 neoadjuvant, and 6 adjuvant radiotherapy.
- 9 Patients were referred onward for Portec 3 trial between UHW, St Luke's Rathgar and the Mater Hospital Dublin.
- 27 cervical cancer patients were under the care of Dr Stratton. 6 had surgery, 11 patients went for primary chemo-radiotherapy and the remaining patients had LLETZ, Chemotherapy and Palliative care.
- 228 patients that attended the Gynae/ oncology clinic were seen by Aoife Hartwell CMM2 Gynaecology Oncology Liaison for provision of education, supports and specialist nursing input for patients and families. The role also assists in managing patients on their primary surgical pathway.

Table 38: UHW Gynaecological surgical procedures 2022

Gynaecology surgical procedure	Number of women
Cervical/uterine	1
Ovarian cancer	31
Uterine cancer	19
Vulval cancer	8
Vaginal cancer	1

Colposcopy service

The Colposcopy Service in UHW offers a multidisciplinary team approach to care of women attending the service under the auspices of CervicalCheck, the national cervical screening programme. The service is provided by Dr Stratton, Dr Bermingham and Dr Butler along with the nursing team. In 2022, UHW had 3,532 (colposcopy and smears) attendances in colposcopy clinics, including larger than projected numbers of new patient referrals. KPI data is collected and returned in line with CervicalCheck guidelines.

Minimal access surgery

2022 saw the continuation of gynaecological procedures being performed through minimal access surgery, this in turn has allowed for a greater hospital bed availability and faster patient recovery. With this service we are continuously reviewing our waiting lists for patients who can benefit from this service. We look forward to continued expansion of this service into 2023.

Outpatient Hysteroscopy Clinic

The OHC is run weekly by Dr Azriny Khalid, Consultant Obstetrician/Gynaecologist, Ms. Elaine Roche, CMM2, Ambulatory Gynaecology, Lorna Grace c/ANP Ambulatory Gynaecology and the wider gynaecology team on a demand basis.

288 patients were treated at the OHC clinic in 2022. Access to this clinic means that patients can be seen, have a diagnosis, and treatment as required all in the one day. This negates the need for attendance at a general gynaecology clinic, a second attendance for a scan and a third attendance for treatment. This service is time saving for both the patient and the hospital. Referrals to the service continue to rise and we look forward to expanding and developing the service as per the demand.

Gynaecology Outpatient Waiting Lists

1,675 referrals were made to the gynaecology service in 2022.

At the end of 2021 the longest wait time for a gynaecology outpatient appointment was 24 months. As of December 2022, there were no women waiting over 9 months for a gynaecology appointment. This wait time continues to decrease with continued support from NTPF.

Table 39: Numbers of attendances in gynaecology outpatient clinics at UHW

Outpatient activity	UHW
Gynaecology	879
Ambulatory gynaecology (including hysteroscopy at UHW)	366
Colposcopy (including smears at UHW)	3532
Smears	-
Urodynamics	254
STI/SATU	75
Reproductive Clinic	N/A
Total	5106

Table 40: Numbers of inpatient and day case gynaecology procedures at UHW

Surgery activity	UHW
Inpatient procedures	263
Day case procedures	419
Total	682

Table 41: Gynaecology waiting lists at UHW

Gynaecology waiting lists	UHW
Outpatients	662
Inpatients/day cases	341

UHK Gynaecology & Ambulatory Services 2022

General and specialist gynaecology care from minor to major inpatient procedures are provided in UHK on the gynaecology (Kells) ward. Care is provided under the umbrella of a Women's Health Service consisting of a colposcopy clinic, hysteroscopy outpatient services, ambulatory gynaecology services, COSAC (Cervical one stop assessment clinic) sexual health/STI Clinics and urodynamics clinics. Care provided is in line with the best evidenced based practice and is carried out with a multidisciplinary approach.

The Gynaecology ward takes care of pregnant

women up to 19+6/40 in agreement with patients' consultant and close collaboration with antenatal/delivery suite staff. If a postnatal woman is reviewed in the Emergency Department and requires admission, the gynaecology ward will accommodate this admission.

A reproductive service is also provided for new and ongoing patients incorporating a nursing led clinic that works in conjunction with the reproductive service consultant. In addition, the gynaecology services also oversee the Urodynamics Clinic Service for UHK. This is an outpatient clinic that assesses bladder function.

The following clinics/services are provided in gynaecology services in UHK:

- Ambulatory gynaecology.
- Women's Health Service: colposcopy/hysteroscopy/smear clinics/sexual health clinics/urogynaecology.
- Continence advice.
- Endometriosis.
- General gynaecology and telephone follow up.
- Reproductive service.
- Paediatrics/Adolescent gynaecology.
- Perineal clinic.
- Postmenopausal bleeding clinic.
- Pre-operative assessment.

UHK gynaecology waiting lists

At the end of 2022, the waiting list stood at:

- OPD: 509 (Active waiters 410).
- Inpatient/day cases urgent: (Incorporated as total 138 (75 active)).
- Total inpatient/day cases: 138 (75 Active waiters)

UHK: Key achievements in gynaecology 2022

UHK Gynaecology service established additional outpatient gynaecology clinics to manage the Gynaecology waiting list that at the end of 2021 had 1,014 patients waiting for OPD Gynaecology Assessment. UHK, supported by the scheduled care team, administration, clinicians, nursing and HCA held additional Gynaecology clinics from June 2022 until November 2022 to focus on patients in the waiting list categories of 18-24 months and 12-18 months.

This reduced the waiting list from 1,014 at the end of

2021 to 509 (410 active waiters) at the end of 2022.

COSAC clinic was developed in the ambulatory setting with UHK commencing Cervical One Stop Assessment clinics (COSAC) at the colposcopy unit in March 2022 and continued these clinics throughout 2022. The clinics see patients who have an abnormal looking cervix or post coital bleeding and rule out an invasive malignancy by looking at the cervix.

This is not related to screening; colposcopy is not performed, and the patients are informed that they still need regular smears. These new COSAC clinics have proven very successful in the efficient and effective management of this cohort of patients.

In addition, there are more gynaecological procedures than ever being performed through minimal access surgery, which has allowed for greater hospital bed availability.

The Ambulatory Gynaecology Clinic at UHK, Cill Ide Unit is ongoing and operates as a 'one-stop & see-and-treat' approach clinic for gynaecological procedures provided in an outpatient setting, thereby reducing the demand on the inpatient beds.

The ambulatory gynaecology service in University Hospital Kerry is undergoing significant development which is very exciting for service users and providers here in Kerry.

The current ambulatory service consists of an umbrella of specialised outpatient clinics including hysteroscopy, suspicious cervix, sexual health and urogynaecology. This includes pelvic organ prolapse, continence assessment, self-management of pessary, painful bladder syndrome and urodynamic studies. The team is multidisciplinary with HCA's, Staff Nurses, CNM2s, CNM'3 and RANP, Administration staff as well as the gynaecology medical team. This is a very vibrant team with great energy and commitment to progressing the ambulatory gynaecology model.

While currently capacity to increase roll out of further clinics is curtailed, the proposed development of a Women's Health Service in the community setting is predicted to be a beneficial influence on the gynaecology waiting lists.

Up to October 2022 the ambulatory gynaecology workload consisted of approximately 450 care encounters while separately the RANP has seen more than 360 urogynaecology patients. This has potential to expand significantly once the designated facility is available.

A new purpose-built Women's Health Centre will house all the ambulatory gynaecology service on

the ground floor along with a midwifery led ante-natal and post-natal community maternity service on the first floor. The ambition for clinics to co-exist will enhance the delivery of care to women visiting the ambulatory gynaecology service. The provision of a 'one stop see and treat' service is firmly embedded in the UHK commitment to achieving goals set out in the Slaintecare Implementation Strategy to enhance women's health.

The impact of Covid 19 on out-patient gynaecology care was a great challenge. Improvisation and forward thinking successfully moved many outpatient clinics to a virtual platform.

However, some care encounters that required face to face meant women waited longer than is recommended especially in the context of the urogynaecology service. Pessary changes and reviews were inevitably delayed, emergency cases continued albeit at a reduced level. NTPF clinics enabled a swift catch up and the service is now actively managing current waiting lists.

Deirdre Moss commenced as a cANP for women's health as services were recovering from the Covid pandemic. Her role became integral in the urogynaecology service where there was a backlog of women requiring review, as well as new referrals waiting for their first consultation and assessment.

The Covid pandemic had taken its' toll on QOL for a lot of women, with some reporting isolation due to prevailing urinary symptoms that curtailed their lifestyle while they waited to be seen in urogynaecology clinics.

Table 42: Numbers of attendances in gynaecology outpatient clinics at UHK

Outpatient activity	UHK
Gynaecology	2304
Ambulatory gynaecology (including hysteroscopy & COSAC at UHK)	458
Colposcopy (including smears at UHK)	1429
Smears	-
Urodynamics	0
STI/SATU	157
Reproductive Clinic	433
Total	4781



Table 43: Numbers of inpatient and day case gynaecology procedures at UHK

Surgery activity	UHK
Inpatient procedures	153
Day case procedures	644
Total	797

Table 44: Gynaecology waiting lists at UHK

Gynaecology waiting lists	UHK
Outpatients	1014
Inpatients/day cases	77



Architect drawing of New Women's Health Building Tralee, Co. Kerry.

Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Service (SPMHS)

Perinatal mental health problems are those that arise during pregnancy and in the postnatal period (up to 12 months).

Epidemiology.

- 10-15% of women suffer from mild to moderate postnatal depression.
- 3% of women suffer from moderate to severe mental health illness.
- Similar number with anxiety.
- 2/1000 women delivered are likely to suffer from a postnatal psychosis.
- 3% with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.
- Adjustment or Acute Stress reactions/disorders are even more common.

There is a wide range of mental health morbidity that can occur during the perinatal period and timely access to a specialist service is of the utmost importance.

Dr Deirdre Muller Neff, Consultant Perinatal Psychiatrist is the Clinical Lead for the Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Service (SPMHS) in Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate. The Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Service is being developed in line with the National Model of Care for SPMHS launched in November 2017.

The delivery of specialist perinatal mental health services is via a hub and spoke model. Within the Directorate, CUMH is the hub site where the multidisciplinary team are based.

Staffing

Table 45: Complete SPMHS Multidisciplinary Team, Model of Care	
Consultant Perinatal Psychiatrist	Dr Deirdre Muller Neff (0.6) Dr Tom Ryle(0.4)
Senior Registrar	Dr Syeda Gardezi (NCHD)
Clinical Nurse Specialist	Rachel O'Donoghue
Clinical Nurse Specialist	Elaine Healy
Mental Health Midwives	Breda Bird & Louise Chawke* (post vacant)
Senior Mental Health Social Worker	Post vacant
Senior Occupational Therapist	Eithne Lynch
Senior Clinical Psychologist	Dr Freda Wynne
Administrative Officer	Carrie O'Brien

The above table includes the current full SPMHS team complement as of the end of 2022.

Figure 8: Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Team staffing



Table 46: Headline numbers/clinical activity 2022	
Referrals to SPMHS 2022:	Total referrals 529 *does not include perinatal liaison referrals

***Note no permanent perinatal consultant in place during 2022, locum consultant cover only**

Of the 529 referrals, 179 were from primary care, 57 from Community Mental Health Team and 36 were from private psychiatrists.

Referrals to the SPMHS have increased significantly and it is worth noting that to date, from January to December 2022, SPMHS have received 1060 referrals.

It is important to note that each member of the SPMHS MDT carries a caseload of up to 40 patients

in addition to triaging and assessing new referrals. Triage of referrals occurs daily and is done by all team members.

Referrals to the SPMHS are received from a variety of sources including booking and antenatal clinics, ED CUMH, private rooms, Community Mental Health Teams, GPs and private psychiatrists.

Referrals are triaged by the SPMHS at a weekly MDT meeting to ensure the most appropriate member of the team assesses the patient in the first instance. The workload associated with increasing numbers of referrals is substantial.

Once a patient is accepted to the SPMHS, a variety of interventions are offered including, but not limited to, psychoeducation, medication review, pre-conception counselling and on-going assessment of need.

Clinical team members continue to work with women based on need and a typical caseload per team member is 35-40 at any given time.

The SPMHS provides a timely and responsive service. Urgent or emergency presentations (i.e., unscheduled care) are seen within 48 hours following a risk assessment. To date, the vast majority of urgent referrals are seen on the same day.

The role of the Mental Health Midwife is to promote parity of esteem between mental and physical health difficulties during the perinatal period. Mental Health Midwives (MH), alongside their health promotion and educational roles, assess and follow up women presenting with a wide variety of mild to moderate mental health difficulties.

The Mental Health Midwife has a crucial role in ensuring routine screening, and early identification of women with mental health difficulties is carried out in booking and antenatal clinics.

Over the course of the last 18 months, SPMHS has developed and rolled out various therapeutic interventions, most notably, groups including baby massage, various psychoeducational groups such as emotion regulation groups. This is a key priority for the team going forward.

Development of the hub and spoke model across the Directorate

To date in Ireland South, there is one spoke MH Midwife based in UHW - Mary Frisby, and in TippUH- Janice O'Donoghue and in UHK - Zodwa Lenihan.

The SPMHS hub teams accept referrals for second opinions from Community Mental Health Teams (CMHTs) and liaison psychiatrists for women attending for antenatal care in the spoke hospitals. Any urgent concerns in relation to a perinatal mental health issue arising in the spoke hospital can be discussed with the consultant perinatal psychiatrist in the hub team.

Further development and integration between the hub and spokes planned for 2023 include continuation of monthly meetings which are organised by the SPMHS hub team. The focus of these meetings is education in perinatal mental health presentations. These meetings are for health professionals directly involved in perinatal mental health in the spoke hospitals including liaison psychiatrists, midwives and obstetricians.

Apart from availability for 2nd opinion assessments, any further input from the SPMHS Hub perinatal

psychiatrist has not been possible to date given the numbers of referrals from within the hub site to date. This would only be addressed with additional consultant WTE and ideally, MDT within the spoke maternity hospital to work alongside the MH midwife.

Education and Training

Education and training is a core component of the Specialist Perinatal Mental Health Service given our interface with a wide variety of healthcare professionals.

The SPMHS in CUMH began rolling educational sessions for midwives in OPD and the wards in CUMH in September 2020. These sessions were delivered in small group settings to take social distancing into account, but more importantly to facilitate and encourage interactive learning.

Peer teaching has also taken place whereby the team have presented on various topics of interest as well as guest speakers that provided us with information on their areas of interest in CUMH and in UCC.

Student midwives and nursing students regularly have placements in the SPMHS throughout the academic year.

The SPMHS produced a video for online parent education in CUMH outlining the importance of Mental Health in Pregnancy and highlighting our service available here in CUMH.

Our team have also facilitated education sessions for Intern Student Midwives in PREP as well as sessions for newly appointed staff as part of the Induction Programme.

An Education Day took place in November 2022 which was very successful, and a further education day is planned for 2023.

Education on both a formal and informal basis remains a priority for the SPMHS. Key priorities going forward will be community HCPs, most notably GPs and PHNs.

It is important to note that a large proportion of perinatal mental health care is delivered within the primary healthcare setting and SPMHS play key role in education, particularly around issues such as prescribing and to provide advice to GPs to facilitate milder presentations being managed at primary care level. This is a priority for the year ahead in addressing the significant burden of large volumes of referrals to the SPMHS.



Key challenges in SPMHS across the Directorate

An on-going challenge for the team has been limited access to rooms to allow for further development of subspecialist clinics including preconceptual counselling clinics, 2nd opinion clinics for complex cases (2nd opinions would include whole directorate).

Accommodation for the SPMHS remains suboptimal but with continuing development as previously mentioned, the development of further clinics and space for therapeutic interventions will grow as the service expands over time.

Staff shortages remain a significant issue as a result of the loss of particular expertise from the MDT as well as the increasing burden of work. There is also the concern that due to increasing burden of workload, team innovation and availability for education will be negatively impacted. To date the senior MH social work post and the mental health midwife post remain vacant.

The SPMHS administrative officer is 0.8 WTE where the team would require 1.5 WTE. This again has a negative impact on team workload and clinical activity.

CUMH Pharmacy

The CUH Pharmacy Department provides clinical pharmacy and dispensary services across the CUH campus including CUMH, with the primary aim of safe, effective and economical use of medications for patients.

Dispensary services include the purchasing, supply, dispensing and delivery of medications, intravenous fluids, and parenteral nutrition. Dispensary services are provided by a team of pharmacists, pharmaceutical technicians, and porters. All staff supporting the pharmacy service for CUMH have dispensary commitments.

Dedicated pharmacy support to CUMH in 2022 was provided by:

- Chief Pharmacist for Maternity Services.
- Antimicrobial Stewardship Pharmacist.
- Senior Clinical Pharmacist (Obstetrics & Gynaecology).
- Basic Grade Pharmacist (Obstetrics & Gynaecology).
- Senior Clinical Pharmacist (Neonatology) from November 2022.
- Clinical Informatics MN-CMS Pharmacist.
- Senior Pharmaceutical Technician.

The Chief Pharmacist for Maternity Services, in conjunction with the Senior Pharmaceutical Technician, has responsibility for CUMH pharmacy stock supply and management. A technician-led stock service is provided to the Neonatal Unit and the 5 adult wards. This ensures an appropriate stock of medication and intravenous fluids is readily available and reduces nursing and midwifery stock management time.

Clinical pharmacy services to adult patients

The clinical pharmacy service to Obstetrics and Gynaecology is provided by two clinical pharmacists with daily medication reviews on 2 South (gynaecology, gynae-oncology, palliative care, pregnancy loss), and 4 South (antenatal) wards. The following patients are also reviewed by a clinical pharmacist: patients in the High Dependency Unit; patients referred by the medical team/MDT; patients with a history of epilepsy or seizures; patients prescribed anti-epileptic medication, those on complex medications, or prescribed warfarin or direct oral anticoagulants (DOACs).

A locally developed Clinical Pharmacist Prioritisation

Tool guides the prioritisation of patients for pharmacist review each day, with over 900 patients prioritised for clinical pharmacist review in 2022. Medication histories were verified with patients, GPs or community pharmacies, with medicines reconciliation undertaken for 1,600 patients in 2022. Over 12,000 medications were reviewed on the MN-CMS system by a clinical pharmacist.

Advice on medicines optimisation is provided to the medical, nursing & midwifery teams by means of clinical pharmacist interventions, with over 1,000 interventions undertaken in 2022. More than 7,000 pharmacist notes were documented on EHRs, including medication reconciliation reviews and medicines optimisation advice.

The High-Risk Obstetrics Clinic is supported through the provision of specialist medicines information and advice regarding safety of medicines pre-conception, during pregnancy and breastfeeding, and for patients with complex medical conditions. The clinical pharmacists attend the weekly Obstetric Multidisciplinary Team meeting and contribute to the discussion and review of complex patients.

52 general medicines information queries from CUMH staff were responded to in 2022, primarily relating to medication choice and appropriateness for specific patient circumstances. Dose related queries were the second highest medicines information request.

Neonatal Unit clinical pharmacy service

Resourcing for the appointment of a senior clinical pharmacist for Neonatology was provided by ISWID in 2022, with an experienced clinical pharmacist, Sarah Fenton, commencing in the role in November 2022. Up to November 2022, the clinical pharmacy service to the Neonatal Unit was provided by the Chief Pharmacist for Maternity Services, supported by pharmacists from the CUH Paediatrics clinical pharmacy team.

CUMH Pharmacy

Throughout 2022, the clinical pharmacy service focused primarily on the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), where our most premature and unwell infants are cared for. A clinical pharmacist attends the daily NICU ward round, reviewing all medications and providing specialist information on the prescribing and administration of intravenous and oral medications. The clinical pharmacist also supports the multidisciplinary team in the prescribing of individualised parenteral nutrition (IPN), and is responsible for coordinating the ordering, stability review, and delivery, of IPN with the parenteral nutrition manufacturers. Medication management support is provided for neonatal clinical trials led by the INFANT research team.

We are delighted to welcome Sarah to the CUMH clinical pharmacy team. The appointment of a senior clinical pharmacist for Neonatology provides the opportunity to further develop clinical pharmacy services to the Neonatal Unit and for greater pharmacist input into neonatal medication monographs review and guidelines development in 2023.



Sarah Fenton, Senior Clinical Pharmacist Neonatology who brings broad experience to this new clinical pharmacist post including, obstetrics, neonatology, antimicrobial stewardship and clinical informatics. Sarah has completed Masters in Clinical Pharmacy (UCC) and in Healthcare Informatics (UL), and during 2022 commenced an Employment Based PhD with INFANT; 'Health Technology Assessment of the New Model of Preterm Parenteral Nutrition in Ireland'.

Antimicrobial Stewardship

The CUMH Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) pharmacist provides specialist information and

support to the multidisciplinary team on the optimal management of antimicrobial therapies for adult and neonatal inpatients. The AMS pharmacist works closely with the CUMH consultant microbiologist, undertaking regular antimicrobial stewardship rounds, and collaborates with the AMS pharmacists in CUH to co-ordinate and promote antimicrobial stewardship across the campus.

The AMS pharmacist is an active member of the CUMH Infection Prevention & Control, Antimicrobial Stewardship, and Deteriorating Patient, committees, contributing to the ongoing work of these committees.

The CUMH adult and neonatal antimicrobial guidelines are kept under review with interim guideline updates undertaken as required, including responding to temporary supply shortages of some antibiotics in 2022. A full guideline review is planned for 2023.

Audits undertaken in 2022 included: antimicrobial prescribing for pyrexia in labour; use of a de-escalation tool; antimicrobial prophylaxis for assisted/operative vaginal delivery; vancomycin prescribing in neonates.

CUMH participated in the annual National Antimicrobial Point Prevalence Survey in September 2022 with excellent compliance with CUMH Antimicrobial Guidelines recorded.

In 2022, education and training for medical, nursing & midwifery staff was delivered by the AMS pharmacist at in-person education sessions on topics including; overview of antimicrobial stewardship; updates on CUMH Antimicrobial Guidelines; penicillin allergy; audit feedback.

The European Antibiotic Awareness Day took place on 18 November 2022 and was marked in CUMH with a display stand in the CUMH lobby and an antimicrobial quiz for staff.



European Antibiotic Awareness Day CUMH 2022



Medication Safety

All pharmacists are members of the multidisciplinary CUMH Medication Safety Committee and contribute to the advancement of a positive medication safety culture at CUMH. The pharmacy team collaborates with the wider multidisciplinary team on medication safety initiatives.

CUMH had an announced HIQA inspection on October 26th and 27th 2022 to monitor compliance with the National Standards for Safer Better Healthcare. The published report observed that the Medication Safety Committee had oversight of high-alert medications, medication related patient-safety incidents and risks, relevant service improvements, and medication related policies, procedures and guidelines. The report stated that building comprehensive clinical pharmacy services across the hospital was progressing and recommended its ongoing development.

The National Clinical Guideline ISBAR communication tool was adapted in 2022 by the CUMH clinical pharmacists as a communication handover tool between the pharmacists in CUMH and their colleagues in CUH. Its purpose is to optimise medication safety and reduce the risk of medication error or miscommunication between different electronic healthcare records when critically unwell patients are transferred from CUMH to the ICU in CUH. The effectiveness of the tool will be assessed and presented in 2023.

Education and Training

Clinical pharmacists presented at a number of Study Days in 2022, including the Maternity Critical Care Module, Epidural Study Day, Managing Diabetes in Pregnancy, and the Postgraduate Diploma in Neonatal Nursing.

A DOAC Counselling Checklist for CUMH Healthcare Professionals was developed by the clinical pharmacists in 2022 and is used for patients who are newly prescribed oral anticoagulants on the gynaecology ward.

Training was provided for NCHD induction. Ward based educational updates were provided for frontline medical and midwifery & nursing staff.

Clinical Informatics at CUMH

The Clinical Informatics pharmacist has a dual role as a local expert for medication-related issues on the EHR, and as a core member of the national MN-CMS Medications Workstream. The Clinical Informatics pharmacist supports the local multidisciplinary team through education and

training and responds to queries and suggestions relating to medications functionality on the EHR.

Induction training for new staff, and optimisation training for existing staff, was delivered in 2022, as well as specific training for individual staff groups, including MN-CMS documentation of PN for neonatal nurses.

The national role on the MN-CMS Medications Workstream includes collaboration on the development and expansion of system functionality and clinical decision support. This allows optimisation of system functionality to enhance medication safety and patient care.

We were very sorry to say farewell to Clinical Informatics Pharmacist Elmarie Cottrell at the end of 2022 as she left CUMH to take up a national role on the HSE Hospital Medicines Management System (HMMS) project. We wish Elmarie all the very best in her new role!

Future Developments

The ongoing development of clinical pharmacy services to our adult and neonatal inpatients will continue in 2023, with medication safety and medication-focused audit and research a priority for the pharmacy team.

During 2023 the clinical pharmacists will contribute to the development and implementation of new guidelines for our high alert medications; Methotrexate, Oxytocin, and Insulin; and for VTE prophylaxis post gynae-oncology surgery.

Pharmacy Service to CUMH 2022: Staff

- Chief Pharmacist (Maternity Services): Joan Ryan.
- Senior Clinical Pharmacist (Obstetrics & Gynaecology): Alana Dineen.
- CUMH Antimicrobial Stewardship Pharmacist: Susan Potter.
- Senior Pharmaceutical Technician: Suzie Copps, Lydia Murphy (Maternity Leave cover).
- Clinical Pharmacist: Helen O'Neill (to May 2022), Maria Mulrooney (from May 2022).
- Senior Clinical Pharmacist (Neonatology): Sarah Fenton (from November 2022).
- Clinical Informatics Pharmacist: Elmarie Cottrell (to November 2022).
- CUH Clinical Pharmacists (Paediatrics) who provided NICU clinical pharmacy cover: Marianne O'Callaghan, Triona O'Sullivan, Béibhinn O'Leary.

The National Gestational Trophoblastic Disease Registry, Monitoring & Advisory Centre

The National Gestational Trophoblastic Disease (GTD) Registry, Monitoring and Advisory Centre was established in May 2017 to monitor and coordinate the follow up of women who have been diagnosed with a molar pregnancy.

The Centre is coordinated by the Health Service Executive, the National Cancer Control Programme and Cork University Maternity Hospital (CUMH).

The GTD service is led by Dr John Coulter, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist and includes a team of multi-disciplinary specialists.

Since 2017, the National Gestational Trophoblastic Disease Centre has managed over 700 patients around Ireland. This includes 201 complete and 465 partial moles, 9 choriocarcinomas, 6 atypical placental site nodules, and 1 epithelioid trophoblastic tumour. 46 patients who developed persistence/ gestational trophoblastic neoplasia (GTN) have been treated with chemotherapy with 100% cure rate.

Table 47: Count of Mole Classification

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand Total
Mole Classification							
CHM	11	30	31	47	44	38	201
Choriocarcinoma		1	2	1	1	4	9
ETT					1	1	2
PHM	35	79	81	83	85	102	465
Suspicion of Molar Pregnancy				1		1	2
PSN (Placental Site Nodule)				3	1	2	6
PSTT	1				1		2
Suspicion of Molar Pregnancy	1	2	2	12	4	2	23
Grand Total	48	112	116	147	137	150	710

Pregnancy Loss Research Group

The Pregnancy Loss Research Group (PLRG) is led by Professor Keelin O'Donoghue and is based at CUMH. The group encompasses a multidisciplinary team of doctors, researchers, scientists, midwives, nurses, social workers, pathologists and chaplains alongside medical, Masters and Doctoral students.

They work collaboratively with the common goal – to provide support and information to parents bereaved by early and late pregnancy loss, promote their emotional, psychological, spiritual and physical well-being. They also aim to improve professional practice and clinical care, influencing health-care policy and facilitating research in all areas of pregnancy loss and perinatal mortality.

The PLRG leads national research, the development of resources and evidence-based advice and interventions, to prevent pregnancy loss, improve health care (quality) and health and social outcomes for women, babies and their families.

Its research focuses on all types of pregnancy and infant loss, including first and second trimester miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, molar pregnancy, stillbirth, termination of pregnancy, neonatal death and pregnancy after loss.

Research activities are funded by a range of organisations, including the Department of Children, Equality, Integration and Youth, Health Research Board, Irish Research Council and Science Foundation Ireland. Partnerships and collaborations are integral to the PLRG's work, and include national and international academic institutions, public bodies, and non-governmental organisations.

The Pregnancy Loss Research Group was formally established in 2012 and meets monthly at CUMH. Research from the group has been presented at a wide variety of international conferences around the world. Members of the group have also been involved in a large number of national and international publications as well as national guidelines and reports.

Key achievements during 2022 include:

- The PLRG was awarded UCC Best Team of the Year 2021, at a Ceremony held in the Glucksman Gallery, UCC, in June 2022.
- Professor Keelin O'Donoghue continued her role as Clinical Lead for Guideline Development (Maternity & Gynaecology). www.rcpi.ie/faculties/obstetricians-and-gynaecologists/national-clinical-guidelines-in-obstetrics-and-gynaecology/
- Professor O'Donoghue continued to lead the development of the National Standards for Bereavement Care Following Pregnancy Loss and Perinatal Death in all 19 Irish maternity units on behalf of the HSE's National Women and Infants Health Programme.

Co-authored by Professor O'Donoghue and Ríona Cotter, a revised version of the Standards was published in July 2022 www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/3/maternity/bereavement-care/
- Professor O'Donoghue continued in her role on the National Screening Advisory Committee at the Department of Health www.gov.ie/en/publication/c0d9f8-about-the-national-screening-advisory-committee/
- In May 2022, Professor O'Donoghue was appointed to the Royal Irish Academy Life and Medical Sciences Committee. www.ria.ie/news/humanities-and-social-sciences-committees-science-committees/ria-multidisciplinary-committees
- Baby Loss Awareness Week supported by members of the PLRG from 09-15 October, with the first in-person Service of Remembrance since COVID-19 pandemic began, held on 14 October.

Website: www.ucc.ie/pregnancyloss

Twitter/X: @PregnancyLossIE

Instagram: @pregnancylossresearchgroup

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/pregnancy-loss-research-group-plrg-ab7128285/



Funding and award successes in 2022

Funding

- In July, the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) commissioned a team, led by Professor Keelin O'Donoghue, to examine the workplace pregnancy loss experiences to inform recommendations for formal or informal support mechanisms that could be introduced. www.ucc.ie/en/pregnancyloss/researchprojects/places/
- Professor O'Donoghue was awarded a Health Research Board Knowledge Translation Award in December for the RE:CURRENT-KTA project to deliver knowledge translation activities that will improve the exchange of the RE:CURRENT project findings into policy and practice. www.ucc.ie/en/pregnancyloss/researchprojects/recurrent/
- In December 2022, Professor O'Donoghue was awarded an Irish Hospice Foundation Seed Grant to work with illustrator Amy Lauren to develop a graphic narrative "Why my baby died".



- This is based on the research study "Bereaved parents" involvement in maternity hospital perinatal death review processes: "Nobody even thought to ask us anything" by Dr Anne Helps, Professor O'Donoghue, Orla O'Connell and Dr Sara Leitao. www.ucc.ie/en/pregnancyloss/researchprojects/whymybabydied/



Awards

- Dr Laura Linehan received 'Best in session poster prize' at the RCOG World Congress in London for work on developing guideline-based key performance indicators for recurrent miscarriage care, conducted as part of the RE:CURRENT study. www.researchinvolvement.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s40900-022-00355-9
- Mr Peter Jackson received oral presentation prizes at the Inaugural UCC College of Medicine and Health Research Conference, "From Molecules to People". He was also awarded the Junior Obstetrics and Gynaecology Society Annual Scientific Meeting (Dublin) for research he conducted for his MSc in Public Health on the care experiences of parents whose pregnancy was diagnosed with a fatal foetal anomaly following the legalisation of termination of pregnancy in 2019 in Ireland. Dr Stacey Power also received an oral presentation prize for this work at 5th All Island Children's Palliative Care Conference (Belfast). Paper published in January 2023: obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/pd.6311
- Marita Hennessy, Postdoctoral Researcher in the PLRG received the Hermann Schaalma PhD Award at the 36th Annual Conference of the European Health Psychology Society in August.

Research project updates

- Dr Emily O'Connor joined the Group in January 2022 to undertake a PhD, funded by Féileacáin, entitled 'ACHIEVE - Appraise and CHange Perinatal Mortality EVEnts: Structured evaluation and implementation of a national perinatal mortality review tool for Ireland'. Supervisors: Professor O'Donoghue, Dr Sara Leitao and Professor Richard Greene. www.ucc.ie/en/pregnancyloss/researchprojects/achieve/
- Following her successful viva defence in March, Dr Anne Helps graduated with her PhD in June 2022 for her thesis entitled: "Study of methods, systems, recommendations and bereaved parents' involvements in perinatal death reviews, inquiries and audits". Supervisors: Professor Keelin O'Donoghue, Dr Sara Leitao and Professor Richard Greene. www.ucc.ie/en/pregnancyloss/researchprojects/perinataldeathreviewsinquiriesandaudits/
- The RE:CURRENT Team continued to actively disseminate findings from the project. Ms Hannah O'Leary joined the team, as Research Assistant, in November 2022. RE:CURRENT

Project updates: www.ucc.ie/en/pregnancyloss/researchprojects/recurrent/

- The PLACES (Pregnancy Loss in Workplaces) Project, funded by the DCEDIY commenced in September 2022; Ms Ruadh Kelly Harrington joined the PLRG as Research Assistant on this project. www.ucc.ie/en/pregnancyloss/researchprojects/places/

Patient and public involvement

At the Pregnancy Loss Research Group, we work alongside people with lived experience of pregnancy and baby loss across all of our activities. Members of the public can become involved in all stages of the research process including deciding on what, and how, research is conducted, as well as helping to share the findings of the research.

People with lived experience of pregnancy loss are members of the overall Pregnancy Loss Research Group and/or join specific projects. The Group welcomed two new lived experience contributors in 2022 - Anne-Marie Farrell and Tara Woulfe. www.ucc.ie/en/pregnancyloss/aboutus/patientandpublicinvolvement/

Training programme

- In 2022, 55 members of staff from the four maternity units in the South/South West Hospital Group participated in the TEARDROP (Teaching, Excellent, pARent, peRinatal, Deaths-related, inteRactions, tO, Professionals) multidisciplinary bereavement training programme, developed by the PLRG. Two workshops were delivered; 24 May and 07 October. www.ucc.ie/en/pregnancyloss/aboutus/whatwedo/educationandworkshops/

Dissemination activities

- Members of the group authored 27 peer-reviewed journal articles published in the international literature throughout 2022.

Members also co-authored four book chapters, published in 2022:

- Dr Daniel Nuzum and Professor Keelin O'Donoghue co-authored a chapter on Perinatal Palliative Care in the Oxford Textbook of Palliative Care for Children.
- Dr Nuzum, Professor O'Donoghue and Caoimhe Ní Éalaithe co-authored chapters in 'Birth

Pregnancy Loss Research Group



and the Irish' (Pregnancy loss: A silent loss & challenging birth; Birth when life is short) published by Wordwell Books.

- Dr Margaret Murphy co-authored a chapter on stillbirth in the Oxford Handbook for Systems-Thinking in Global Health.
- The Group published eight policy briefs, available at www.ucc.ie/en/pregnancyloss/publications/policybriefs/: (1) Exploratory analysis of the costs associated with receiving recurrent miscarriage care in Ireland; (2) How we define recurrent miscarriage matters; (3) Men and recurrent miscarriage: Urgent inclusion needed; (4) Recurrent miscarriage in Ireland: A national service evaluation; (5) Experiences of pregnancy with fatal fetal anomaly; (6) Termination of pregnancy: Training and clear guidance can have a meaningful impact on services; (7) The RELEVANT study: Rethinking stillbirth through behaviour change; (8) Bereaved parents and maternity hospital perinatal death reviews: a respectful and collaborative process is needed.
- The Group commenced development on its new

website via the PLATFORM (Pregnancy Loss knowledge trAnslaTion FOR iMPact) project - www.ucc.ie/pregnancyloss

- The Group continued to maintain and develop its affiliated websites: pregnancyandinfantloss.ie and corkmiscarriage.com

Newsletters/News items

- Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate. Meet Dr Emily O'Connor, PhD student with INFANT and NPEC at UCC. UltraNews eNewsletter of Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate, Spring 2022. Available at irelandsouthwid.cumh.hse.ie/news-events-at-cumh/ultranews-newsletters/spring-2022-ultranews.pdf
- O'Donoghue K. Work on SARS-CoV-2 Placentitis. UltraNews eNewsletter of Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate, Spring 2022. Available at irelandsouthwid.cumh.hse.ie/news-events-at-cumh/ultranews-newsletters/spring-2022-ultranews.pdf

- College of Medicine and Health (2022, November 22) UCC researchers' success in HRB Knowledge Translation Awards 2022. www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/ucc-researchers-success-in-hrb-knowledge-translation-awards-2022.html

Media coverage

- Griffin N. (2022, January 19) Five stillbirths, two newborn deaths conclusively linked to Delta variant in unvaccinated mothers. Irish Examiner, www.irishexaminer.com/news/arid-40787709.html
- Horan A. (2022, January 19) New research links five stillbirths and two newborn deaths to Delta variant in unvaccinated mums. Irish Sun, www.thesun.ie/news/8229474/new-research-stillbirths-newborn-deaths-covid/
- Walker M. (2022, February 14) One of Ireland's foremost pregnancy loss clinicians, Professor Keelin O'Donoghue on coping with multiple miscarriages. Image Magazine, www.image.ie/self/one-of-irelands-foremost-pregnancy-loss-clinicians-professor-keelin-odonoghue-on-coping-with-multiple-miscarriages-383444
- Sheridan C. (2022, March 24) Researchers on path to help reduce numbers of miscarriages. Irish Examiner, www.irishexaminer.com/sponsored/arid-40830269.html
- Sheridan C. (2022, March 24) Couple's joy at forming a family despite nine miscarriages. Irish Examiner, www.irishexaminer.com/sponsored/arid-40830290.html
- Psychological Society of Ireland Annual Conference, Portlaoise, 09-11 November 2022.
- 9th World Congress on Women's Mental Health, Maastricht, 06-09 November 2022.
- ASRM 2022 Scientific Congress & Expo, Anaheim, California, 22-26 October 2022.
- XXI World Congress on Gestational Trophoblastic Diseases, Sydney, 19-22 October 2022.
- McGill International Palliative Care Congress, Montreal, 18-21 October 2022.
- START (Southern Taskgroup on Abortion & Reproductive Topics) Doctors AGM, Dublin, 01 October 2022.
- College of Medicine and Health Research Conference "From Molecules to People", UCC, 22 September 2022. Peter Jackson, fourth year medical student, was awarded a prize for his oral presentation.
- International Stillbirth Alliance (ISA) 17th Annual Conference, Salt Lake City, 15-17 September 2022.
- Society for Reproductive and Infant Psychology (SRIP) International Conference, 15-16 September 2022 [Online].
- Society for Social Medicine & Population Health Annual Scientific Meeting and Conference, Exeter, 07-09 September 2022.
- 36th Annual Conference of the European Health Psychology Society, Bratislava, 23-27 August 2022. Marita Hennessy awarded Herman Schaalma Award.
- HSR (Health Services Research) UK Conference, Sheffield, 05-07 July 2022.
- ESHRE 38th Annual Meeting, Milan, 03-06 July 2022.
- 26th International Conference on Prenatal Diagnosis and Therapy. Montreal, 19-23 June 2022.
- RCOG World Congress 2022, London, 13-15 June 2022. Dr Laura Linehan won Best in Session Poster Prize.
- SPHeRE 8th Annual Conference, 09 March 2022 [Online].
- NPEC Study Day 2022: "Clinical Audit: From recommendation to implementation", 21 January 2022 [Online].

Research from the Pregnancy Loss Research Group was presented at the following National and International conferences in 2022

- Junior Obstetrics and Gynaecology Society Annual Scientific Meeting, Dublin, 25 November 2022. Peter Jackson, fourth year medical student, was awarded a prize for his oral presentation.
- 5th All Ireland Children's Palliative Care Conference, Belfast, 17-18 November 2022. Dr Stacey Power awarded prize for her oral presentation.
- British Maternal & Fetal Medicine Society (BMFMS) Annual Conference, Birmingham, 17-18 November 2022.
- Association of Early Pregnancy Units (AEPU) Annual Scientific Meeting, Bristol, 17-18 November 2022.



In addition, members of the Group gave a variety of invited talks/webinars throughout the year:

- Dr Anne Helps, Tamara Escañuela Sánchez and Caroline Joyce presented updates on their research projects within the pregnancy loss research group at the Ireland South Grand Rounds on 14 January.
- Professor O'Donoghue and Dr Brendan Fitzgerald delivered keynotes at the RCPI IOG Spring Conference on 04 March. Professor O'Donoghue spoke on "Fetal Outcomes after COVID-19 Infection" and Dr Fitzgerald presented on "COVID-19 Placentitis".
- On 29 April, Professor Keelin O'Donoghue and Dr Deirdre Hayes Ryan participated in a study day webinar on Termination of Pregnancy, hosted by the IOG and RCPI.

Professor O'Donoghue presented on 'Termination of Pregnancy for Life-Limiting Conditions,' while Dr Hayes Ryan spoke about 'Potential Complications of Termination of Pregnancy - Diagnosis and Management'. www.ucc.ie/en/pregnancyloss/aboutus/whatwedo/researchdisseminationandoutreach/termination-of-pregnancy-study-day.html

- PLRG held a Recurrent Miscarriage Study Day in conjunction with the IOG and RCPI on 27 May. Over 335 people registered for this webinar.

During the event, the RE:CURRENT Project team, including members of the Research Advisory Group, provided an overview of recurrent miscarriage and discussed research findings concerning the definition and terminology, service provision in Ireland, and what needs to change in how care is delivered. www.ucc.ie/en/pregnancyloss/researchprojects/recurrent/

- Dr Sara Leitao presented at the 'Virtual Symposium on the Journal of Perinatal Medicine

Special Issue on Stillbirth. Understanding and preventing stillbirth: a global task' on 09 September. This was based on the article "Perinatal mortality audits and reporting of perinatal deaths: systematic review of outcomes and barriers" available at www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.1515/jpm-2021-0363/html

- On 29 September, Professor Keelin O'Donoghue, Dr Daniel Nuzum and Marita Hennessy delivered an hour-long webinar to the Women's Health Taskforce titled 'Recurrent Miscarriage Matters: Evidence to inform policy & practice' based on findings from the RE:CURRENT Project.

www.ucc.ie/en/pregnancyloss/aboutus/whatwedo/researchdisseminationandoutreach/womens-health-taskforce-webinar--recurrent-miscarriage-matters-evidence-to-inform-policy--practice.html • Dr Deirdre Hayes-Ryan presented at the START (Southern Taskgroup on Abortion & Reproductive Topics) Conference/AGM, on 01 October (Dublin), with Professor Keelin O'Donoghue and Dr Stacey Power participating in a panel discussion.

- Professor Keelin O'Donoghue and Ms Riona Cotter of the Pregnancy Loss Research Group, and Ms Mairie Cregan, Chair and Co-Founder of Féileacáin delivered a joint presentation to the Oireachtas on 19 October, titled 'Pregnancy loss matters: Evidence & impact to inform policy & practice'.

www.ucc.ie/en/pregnancyloss/aboutus/whatwedo/researchdisseminationandoutreach/oireachtas-briefing--pregnancy-loss-matters-evidence--impact-to-inform-policy--practice.html

School of Nursing & Midwifery

Located in the Brookfield Health Sciences Complex, the School of Nursing & Midwifery offers three midwifery registration programmes in partnership with the Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate: a 4-year BSc (Hons) Midwifery, an 18-month post-registration Higher Diploma in Midwifery and the Advanced Midwifery Practice programme (MSc Advanced Practice Nursing/Midwifery).

All students are supported by the midwifery academic staff: Dr Rhona O'Connell, Dr Geraldine McLoughlin, Dr Margaret Murphy, and Ms Agnes Phelan. The CUMH is the main site for the practice experience of UCC midwifery students.

Since 2022, midwifery students have also had placement in the Maternity Unit at UHK, UHW and TippUH. These were very successful placements, and the students valued their experience.

The first two AMPs completed their programme under the supportive care pathway for maternity care. In addition, there are two cANPs in urogynecology.

The CUMH also accepts BSc General Nursing students and Public Health Nursing students for their required maternity placements. Student midwives are supported in practice by the midwifery practice development officer, clinical placement coordinators, postgraduate clinical coordinators, allocations liaison officer and link lecturers.

The School supports a postgraduate skills facilitator for the Higher Diploma programme. Midwives are valued as they provide preceptor support to students and support their learning to ensure that their midwifery competencies are achieved.

Students throughout the health services contributed to health care needs while the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact their practice experience. This was mainly due to staff absences and the need for the student support team to cover midwifery shortages.

Though the teaching space in CUMH was limited, in 2021-2022, the School provided postgraduate and continuing education, including the MSc Midwifery and Continuing Professional Development Parentcraft module.

Student Achievements 2022

BSc (Hons) in Midwifery 2018 – 2022

Precious Amadasun, Lisa Ann Boddington, Christina Brackett, Rachel Campbell, Katie Coleman Moore, Kayleigh Enright, Taylor-Rose Foley, Shauna Girasole, Madelyn Hughes, Sarah Kiely, Giulia Marinelli, Kathryn Noonan, Rachel O'Brien, Ciara O'Connor, Mary Teresa O Farrell, Aoife Thomas, Sara Vallejo, Joanne Walsh, Caoimhe Watts.

Higher Diploma in Midwifery September 2022

Niamh Arthurs, Chloe Byrne, Sarah Connolly, Niamh Hickey, Caroline Holleran, Honor King, Michelle Mangan, Louise McGillicuddy, Victoria Miskell, Alannah Moss, Katie O Shea, Michelle O'Sullivan, Roisin O Sullivan, Ola Oke, Sarah Jane Phelan, Ana Celia Sarria Montiel, Aine Sheehan, Ana White.

MSc Midwifery 2022

Sinead Bracken, Sharon Clarke, Claudia Damiani, Rayann Murray, Roisin O Connor, Ciara O'Dwyer

HH Stewart Medical Scholarship in Midwifery Award 2022

3rd Prize – Joanne Walsh BSc Midwifery, UCC.

COMH Quercus Scholarships 2022

BSc (Midwifery) 1 Claire McCarthy
BSc (Midwifery) 2 Natalie Moore

UCC Quercus Entrance Scholarships 2022

Orla O'Mahony
Emma Stanley



#MidwifeMemories



National NMBI Student Midwife Debate 4th November 2022 UCC

This was hosted by the School of Nursing and Midwifery, with midwifery students from UCC, UCD, TCD, NUIG, UL and DKIT participating. We were very proud of Laura O'Sullivan, representing University College Cork. The event received full in-person attendance, with more than 300 viewing the event online.

This year's motion for the debate was: *This House Believes that the Diminishing 'Normal Birth' Rate is a Threat to the Midwifery Profession.*

Team for the motion

- DKIT
- University College Cork
- Trinity College Dublin

The team against the debate

- University College Dublin
- University of Limerick
- University of Galway

We were honoured to welcome two amazing guest speakers: Sarah Benson, CEO of Women's Aid, who gave a talk titled *Creating Zero Tolerance of Domestic Abuse: The Strength of Community Action*, and Fran McConville, Midwife Adviser WHO HQ, who gave a talk titled *Why the Profession of Midwives Will Be Critical in the 21st Century: Saving Lives, Ensuring Compassion.*

President of the NMBI, Essene Cassidy, also addressed participants and attendees heard from Sheila McClelland, CEO of NMBI; Dawn Johnston, Director of Midwifery at NMBI; and Dr Geri McLoughlin, Midwife Lecturer, School of Nursing and Midwifery, UCC.

NMBI Focus on Midwifery 3rd November 2022 MTU Kerry Campus

The NMBI hosted a Midwifery Event in Tralee at MTU Kerry Campus, supported by UHK Maternity Services, Ireland South Women and Infants Directorate, School of Nursing and Midwifery UCC, and School of Nursing MTU Kerry. Speakers at the event were Sheila McClelland, CEO of NMBI, and Rachel McKenna, Chief Nursing Officer DOH.

Dr Ray Healy provided a report on the demographics of midwives registered with the NMBI. Professor Patricia Leahy Warren, School of Nursing and Midwifery UCC, gave an interesting presentation on *Midwifery, Sustainability and Breastfeeding.*

An excellent panel debate on the *Evolving Role of the Midwife* followed this. Participants were Katie Bourke DOM CUMH, Sandra O'Connor DOM UHK, Joann Malik RAMP Maternity Services UHK, Louise Chawke, CMM2 Perinatal Mental Health CUMH, Nicola O'Brien midwife UHK, Kirsty Hawthorn SE Community Midwife.

A second-panel debate was equally challenging and focused on *Breastfeeding: Getting it over the line.* Panellists were Louise Gallagher, a BF mum and Kerry Footballer, Laura McHugh, National BF Coordinator, and Mairead O'Sullivan, Infant feeding Coordinator UHK.

Closing comments were provided by Denise Lawler, Chair of the Midwives Committee NMBI and Essene Cassidy, President of NMBI.



Centre of Midwifery Education

The Centre of Midwifery Education (CME) works to strategically lead and support the development and provision of programmes of education and training for registered midwives, nurses and the multidisciplinary team within Cork University Maternity Hospital (CUMH).

The CME support service delivery and is responsive to continuous service development. All education programmes support the development and ongoing maintenance of clinical competence promoting high-quality and person-centred care. The CME coordinated a total of 153 programmes with 1,283 staff attending education and training in 2022.

University Hospital Waterford (UHW), Tipperary University Hospital (Tipp UH) and University Hospital Kerry (UHK) have access to continuing education through the Nursing and Midwifery Planning and Development Unit (NMPDU) in Kilcreene, Kilkenny and the Regional Centre for Nurse and Midwifery Education (RCNME) and the Centre of Nursing and Midwifery Education, UHK. A range of the programmes provided by the CME, CUMH are open to staff in UHK and Tipp UH

- In December 2022, the CME coordinated the STABLE Instructor programme of which 6 CUMH Neonatal Nurses/Midwives & 2 CUMH Neonatologist completed.

The Centre of Midwifery Education Team

- In March 2022, 1 NRP coordinator successfully completed the NRP 8th Edition lead Instructor programme.
- In September 2022, 1 Specialist Coordinator, Midwife completed the Making Every Contact Count (MECC) facilitator programme.
- In September 2022, 1 Specialist Coordinator, Midwife completed "Leading an Empowered Organisation" (LEO) train the trainer programme.

Classroom Management System

- All the CME continuous professional development and training can be accessed through the classroom management system in HSeLanD.

Development and Introduction of New Programmes & Workshops 2022

- Blood Transfusion Education.
- Caring for Women with an Epidural Infusion post Gynaecological Surgery.
- Caring for the mother and new-born in theatre recovery.
- Deteriorating Patient.
- Hand Hygiene Direct Observation Training Programme.
- Heart saver CPR & AED Training.
- Introduction Programme for 3rd Trimester

CME Appointments during 2022

- 1WTE I/Director for the Centre of Midwifery Education, CUMH commenced post on the 17th of January 2022.
- 0.5 WTE CMM2 NRP Coordinator commenced in the CME on the 3rd of July 2022.
- 0.5 WTE A/Midwife Tutor commenced post 10th of October 2022.
- 1WTE Director for the Centre of Midwifery Education, CUMH commenced on the 23rd of October 2022.

CME Activity and Achievements

- Coordinated the PROMPT 3 Instructor train the trainer programme in May 2022, with 22 CUMH staff attending and completing.
- In March 2022, The NRP 8th Edition instructor training programme commenced with 19 NRP instructors completing successfully.
- In September 2022, the CME were successful in their application with the Irish Heart Foundation. The Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate (ISWID) Training site commenced.
- In November 2022, the CME coordinated the Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare providers Instructor Training Programme with 11- CME/CUMH staff completing successfully.



#MidwifeMemories

Ultrasound Scanning for Registered Midwives CUMH.

- Introduction to healthcare databases & resources available via the HSE Library CUH CUMH.
- Labour Hopscotch.
- Neonatal Development Care.
- Parenteral Nutrition use in the Neonatal unit.
- Management of Diabetes in Pregnancy-A Multidisciplinary Approach.
- Making Every Contact Count (MECC).
- Management of “Impacted Fetal Head at Caesarean Section” (PROMPT 3 workshop).
- Management of “Vaginal Breech Birth” (PROMPT 3 workshop).
- MN-CMS Optimisation Training.
- National Healthcare Communication Programme Module 1 Making Connections.
- Neonatal Resuscitation Programme 8th Edition.
- Perinatal Mental Health Education.
- Ultrasound update education.

- Irish Maternity Early Warning System (IMEWS) V2.
- New-born Bloodspot Screening Training.
- People Moving and Handling Programme.
- Perineal Repair.
- Preceptorship.
- Policies Procedures & Protocols.
- Preparation for Birth and Parenthood (UCC accredited).
- PROMPT 3.
- Prostin Workshop.
- Seasonal Influenza Peer Vaccination Programme.
- STABLE.
- TEARDROP.
- Venepuncture and Peripheral IV Cannulation Workshop

All programmes provided by the CME carry Continuing Education Units (CEUs) from the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) and some hold academic accreditation.

Thank you to the management in Cork University Maternity Hospital (CUMH); Nursing and Midwifery Planning Development Unit (NMPDU), Cork/ Kerry and the National Women and Infants Health Programme who have supported the Centre of Midwifery Education with funding to facilitate instructor training education and the purchase of new equipment.

Thank you to the dedication and hard work of all the Centre of Midwifery Education team in developing education to meet the CUMH service requirements. Thank you for providing a quality culture of learning to staff through the provision of ongoing Continuous Professional Development education and training, to support excellence in patient-centred care delivery throughout 2022. The CME acknowledges and wishes to thank all CUMH staff who collaborated with the CME to develop and facilitate education and to thank all staff who attended education in 2022.

The following education programmes also on offer in the CME in 2022 included:

- Anaphylaxis for Healthcare Professionals.
- Breastfeeding 6 Hour Refresher Programme.
- Baby Security Training.
- Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers.
- Domestic Violence Education.
- Intravenous Therapy Programme.
- Induction programme for Midwife & Nurses.
- Induction Programme for Maternity Healthcare Assistants.
- Introduction programme for 3rd Trimester Ultrasound Scanning for Registered Midwives.
- Irish National Early Warning System (INEWS).

INFANT

INFANT is a leading translational Research Centre in maternal and child health. INFANT's mission is to deliver pioneering translational research to improve health outcomes in pregnancy, birth, newborn and early childhood phases of growth and development.

INFANT is hosted by University College Cork (UCC) and is co-located with clinical partners Cork University Hospital and Cork University Maternity Hospital (CUH/CUMH). INFANT's state-of-the-art, co-located facilities serve the centre's research goals and support multi-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary collaboration between the university and hospitals.



The INFANT strategy is to strive for scientific excellence and disruptive innovation in our quest to become a leading Institute of Maternal and Child Health of international renown. We have a clear vision of how we will achieve this, enabling us to deliver scientific excellence, innovation, and societal and economic impact now and for the next generation.

Some key achievements for INFANT during 2022 were:

- **Funding** – secured over €2.65M of new funding in 2022 from exchequer and non-exchequer sources including Horizon Europe (as coordinator of the multi-centre, international Ethereal Project which is developing a Personal Digital Nurse app for autistic adolescents to help prevent mental illness) HRB, HSE, HEA North-South, Cerebral Palsy Foundation, Wellcome Leap, Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, and the Patient-Centred Outcomes Research Institute.
- **Publications** – INFANT published over 90 peer-reviewed journal publications in 2022 – with several key breakthroughs published in high-impact journals such as BMJ Journals, Trends in Microbiology, JAMA and PLOS Medicine.
- **PhD Graduates** – INFANT had 3 PhD graduates and 1 MSc graduate in 2022.
- **PhD/MD Registrations** – INFANT had 33 postgraduate (PhD/MD) students registered during 2022 across all disciplines.

- **Research Leadership** – INFANT was delighted to appoint two additional lead investigators in 2022 - Dr Simon Woodworth and Dr Fiona McDonald.
- **3 INFANT Principal Investigators** were appointed as Editors or Associate Editors to 3 further international journals.
- **12 INFANT Investigators** were members or leaders of 15 national and international organisations that influence research, clinical practice, and policy.
- **Global Health** – In partnership with Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute, researchers at INFANT have created a ground-breaking digital delivery register for reproductive health in low-resource settings in Northern Tanzania. By the end of 2022, the digital register, Kilimanjaro Ultra 2020, which will help reduce maternal and perinatal mortality rates in developing countries, was developed and used at three dispensaries and two health centres with 50 healthcare workers trained. The roll-out of the register is ongoing.
- **Spinouts** – INFANT launched a spin-out company in June 2022. CergenX, co-founded by INFANT Director Prof Geraldine Boylan, is developing a system that uses artificial intelligence to screen newborns for signs of brain injury in less than 15 minutes.

Awards

- Post-doctoral Researcher Dr Marita Hennessy was presented with a European Health Psychology Society Herman Schaalma Award for the PhD work she conducted up to 2020 – “Obesity prevention during early life: Developing the evidence base to maximise the effectiveness of interventions delivered by health professionals.”



- The Pregnancy Loss Research Group (PLRG), led by INFANT PI Prof Keelin O'Donoghue, was awarded 'Research Team of the Year 2021' at the UCC Research Awards in June 2022.
- INFANT Lead Investigator Dr Mark O'Sullivan won the Parkview Health and MATTER 2022 Healthy Mom and Baby 3.0 Innovation Competition with the Neurobell project. Neurobell is developing a novel medical device that provides portable EEG monitoring with real-time & automated neonatal seizure alerts at the bedside.
- Ideate Ireland Competition: INFANT Lead Investigator Dr Mark O'Sullivan of the Neurobell project won the 2022 Ideate Ireland competition.
- INFANT researcher Sarusha Pillay and INFANT PI Dr Fergus McCarthy won the first runner-up prize for the pHetalSafe project, which seeks to detect and prevent fetal hypoxia and assess fetal well-being during labour.
- World Allergy Organisation & BSCAI 2022 - Dr Dhanis Lad won the Barry Kay 2022 prize for best Paediatric Clinical oral presentation for STOP-AD study results.
- INFANT Spinout - Liltoda won the GatewayUCC Sprint Award for CogniTOT application.
- INFANT ICAT Scholar Dr Cathal O'Connor was selected by the European Society of Paediatric Dermatology executive board as a Future Leader in Paediatric Dermatology.

An Introduction to Clinical Pastoral Education for Healthcare Professionals



The UCC CPD short course 'An Introduction to Clinical Pastoral Education for Healthcare Professionals' was run successfully again in 2022.

Now in its sixth year, this 10-week short programme is run by the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology by Dr Daniel Nuzum. The course continues to be popular with a wide range of healthcare professionals and is now provided exclusively online.

Based on the principles of Clinical Pastoral Education, which Daniel provides through CUH and CUMH for training professionals in pastoral ministry and healthcare chaplaincy, this shortened programme for other healthcare professionals has proved popular for personal and professional growth and well-being in healthcare practice.

The areas covered in the programme include:

1. Introduction to action/reflection model of learning.
2. What is spirituality?
3. Personal, pastoral and professional identity.
4. Communication, listening and responding skills.
5. Intra-personal and Interpersonal skills, empathy, self-care and teamwork.

6. Introduction to grief and loss.
7. Introduction to Reflective Practice.
8. Scope and impact of the pastoral role, including boundaries, confidentiality and privacy.
9. Spiritual Care, what is it? Who does it? Spiritual pain; assessment and referral in clinical practice.
10. Integrating the course components into clinical practice.

This accessible course provides multidisciplinary healthcare professionals with an opportunity to focus on the relational aspects of clinical practice and healthcare, as well as an opportunity to explore self-care and well-being.

The course has received consistently positive feedback from participants. The course has also been accredited and is available as an elective 5-credit module for undergraduate students in the School of Nursing and Midwifery beginning in 2023.

Further information can be found here: www.ucc.ie/en/cpd/options/medhealth/cpd1621/

Health Innovation Hub Ireland (HIHI)



Our Neonatal Clinical Nutrition Research Group were one of four winners of an inaugural Clinical Innovation Award in November 2022.

The award hosted by Health Innovation Hub Ireland (HIHI) in association with Enterprise Ireland awarded €15,000 each for innovations to improve patient outcomes.

Winning teams were also given the unique opportunity to engage with the NHS Clinical Entrepreneurship Programme.

The team's preterm nutrition innovation, PremSmart® 2.0, will build on their previous work to continue to deliver improved clinical and economic outcomes and address a global unmet need for our most vulnerable patients.



L - R Dr Ann-Marie Brennan (PhD) is the Clinical Specialist Neonatal Dietitian at CUMH. Dr Brendan Murphy is a Consultant Paediatrician/Neonatologist at University Hospital Waterford. Sarah Fenton is the Senior Neonatal Pharmacist at CUMH.

Staffing across Ireland South Women and Infants Directorate

Table 48: Overall staff numbers for Ireland South in 2022

Staff	Ireland South	CUMH	UHK	TippUH	UHW
Consultants Obs & Gynae	41	27	5	4	5
Consultant Neonatologists	11.5	11	0	0	0.5
NCHDs	118.5	71	16	13	18.5
Nurses/Midwives	656.99	423	86.42	41.69	105.88
HSCP	34.65	23.25	2.6	3.3	5.5
Admin	107.28	77.78	14.2	4.15	11.15
Total	969.92	633.03	124.22	66.14	146.55

Table 49: Health and Social Care Professions (HSCPs)

	Ireland South	CUMH	TippUH	UHK	UHW
Dietetics	5	3	0.5	-	1
Occupational Therapy	0.6	0.6	-	-	-
Pharmacy	5.6	4.6	0.4	0.6	1
Physiotherapy	13.15	7.75	1.9	1	2.5
Social Work	8.3	5.8	0.5	1	1
Speech & Language Therapy	1.5	1.5	-	-	-



Health and Social Care Professions (HSCPs)

Health and Social Care Professions (HSCPs) are a diverse group of professionals. In Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate, the following six professions provide direct services to mothers and their infants: dietetics, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physiotherapy, social work and speech and language therapy.

One profession nominates a standing member of the Executive Management Committee. Maria Leahy, Acting Manager of Social Work Services, CUH/CUMH has been a representative HSCP member since 2018. While a number of these professions are dedicated to maternity services, the majority provide services to both maternity service users as well as patients in the general hospital setting.

Health and social care professionals play a key part in the care provided to families, ensuring that babies get the best start in life and that mothers and families are supported and empowered to improve their health and wellbeing.

The Directorate has prioritised the development of HSCP services and has recruited a number of additional staff for 2022.

While it will take some time to fully resource all professions to enable the provision of an optimal service, this is a huge step forward and an exciting time for HSCPs in Ireland South.



2022 Highlights



UHK opens a new Home from Home room offering choice to women in region

By Janice McHugh

Maternity services staff in University Hospital Kerry (UHK) were delighted to celebrate the official opening of the Home Away from Home room on the 3rd of June 2022 attended by Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly and Minister of Education, Norma Foley.

The new birthing room, named Saolú, features a Hydrotherapy pool providing a calm and relaxing environment in a low technology setting for women in the first stage of labour. The name was chosen by Eimear Galvin (pictured with her baby Ailbhe) a service user and Community Midwife. Saolú means “childbirth” in Irish.

This modern space provides an environment that moves away from the clinical setting, whilst still providing a safe environment for normal risk for women to birth their babies.

Sandra O’Connor, Director of Midwifery, UHK, thanked all the key stakeholders instrumental in bringing this service to fruition. *“It is a wonderful milestone which provides choice to the women who use our service. This is one of several exciting projects in the pipeline, aligning with the National Maternity Strategy, that will ensure women availing of the services in UHK have access to better and more timely care with tailored services across all age groups.”*





An Taoiseach, Mr Micheál Martin TD, launches Health Innovation Hub Ireland's healthtech innovation showcase

On Thursday February 24th 2022, the Health Innovation Hub Ireland (HIHI) launched "20 Healthtech Innovations to Watch in 2022". This showcase is a snapshot of 20 of Ireland's inspiring healthtech innovations.

Applying these home-grown innovations in healthcare leads to better patient outcomes, efficiencies, and a supported healthcare system. These projects have been delivered through HIHI in Irish healthcare sites nationally – in HSE acute, primary, and community sites, private healthcare, pharmacies and GP practices and directly to the public. HIHI provides a vital link between Irish companies and leading health professionals and clinicians to pilot and test these innovative solutions, an essential step on their innovation journey to ultimately improve the health and the lives of people.

Speaking at the event, An Taoiseach, Mr Micheál Martin TD said: *"Supporting Ireland's highly innovative indigenous companies is imperative in growing our economy and delivering jobs for our future. Health Innovation Hub Ireland plays an important role in our start-up ecosystem, enabling clinical access and delivering clinical pilots of innovative healthcare products. Last week we the government announced a €90 million fund to support Irish start-ups and I'm delighted to see this showcase of strong Irish healthcare companies who, in working with Health Innovation Hub Ireland, have already demonstrated potential".*

Professor John Higgins commented: *"Having An Taoiseach, Mr Micheál Martin here today shows how critical innovation is to reforming the healthcare system. Through HIHI, the 20 companies showcased have already demonstrated impact and value in healthcare. They have availed of the unique HIHI*

innovation pathway for companies seeking pilot or validation studies in an Irish healthcare setting".

The "Healthtech Innovations to Watch" features 10 HIHI clinical pilots – Ostoform, MY OT&Me, Zendra Health, Wellola, Hygiene Audits, Syncrophi, ViClarity, Hibergene Diagnostics, Dental Tech Group, Salasso and Yellow Schedule. The clinical product evaluations spotlighted include Gasgon Medical, PacSana, Novus Diagnostics, Symphysis, Think Biosolution, MedDeus, xwave, Feeltect, PPR Healthcare. The showcase companies and their innovative products and solutions can be found on this link: hih.ie/downloads/HIHI-Innovation-Showcase-eBrochure.pdf

Dr Tanya Mulcahy – Director Health Innovation Hub Ireland, explained the role of the health tech innovation sector: *"There is a real buzz in the health*



2022 Highlights

technology innovation sector in Ireland today, with new ideas and start-ups being developed throughout the country. It is imperative that these companies are supported at the critical stages of their product development to access our healthcare system and engage with clinical experts. Through our strong collaboration with the HSE, and Enterprise Ireland and our academic case in UCC, NUIG, MTU and TCD, we make it easier and faster for these companies to develop their products. We are immensely proud of the companies we've chosen for our showcase; in working with these companies, we have seen the value they bring to healthcare and Ireland."

Health Innovation Hub Ireland (HIHI) supports and guides Ireland's healthcare innovation industry. Over the past five years, HIHI has supported more than 400 healthtech companies, guiding their innovation journey, providing clinical assessment and feedback and delivering pilot studies of their products in healthcare.

Driving healthcare innovation is in the hub's DNA as it works with emerging and growing Irish companies. Those who succeed will impact healthcare outcomes, export their products, create jobs and improve patient care. HIHI continues to assist new innovators, start-ups and SME's helping ensure that Ireland is a world leader in the delivery of healthcare and the development of innovative healthtech.

HIHI is looking to the future, further seeking new products and solutions and has just launched the HIHI Open Call 2022 and is now seeking applications from companies with market-ready healthcare solutions who are ready to pilot in healthcare. The call closes on March 7th, and application details are available on <https://hih.ie/engage/open-call/>

By working with HIHI, companies are supported through their innovation journey and are in a stronger position to leverage investment and future sales.



Cork Nurse Wins Prestigious Prize

Article featured in The Echo,
9th February 2022

A Cork nurse has been awarded a prestigious prize for patient care. Anne Buckley was presented with an award from the WaterWipes Pure Foundation Fund for her "beyond incredible" work as a neonatal nurse. Ms Buckley was nominated for caring for a newborn baby named Nell, who weighed just 660g at birth.

The baby girl was born in Cork University Maternity Hospital (CUMH) in June 2020 at 24 weeks and spent four months in the hospital's neonatal ward.

The baby's parents put Ms Buckley forward for the award based not only on her work ethic but also on her kindness and compassion, which they said often got them through incredibly tough days.

"It's a huge honour for my colleagues and me as we work as a team," Ms Buckley said of her win. "I am deeply honoured Ela would go to the trouble of nominating when she is so busy with her new baby Nell and chuffed to have made a good impression in what was a difficult time for them as a family."

As part of the award, WaterWipes will donate €2,500 to CUMH, which Ms Buckley said will benefit the babies on the wards and their families. The Pure Foundation Fund was launched in 2020 to celebrate the achievements of neonatal nurses and midwives in Ireland.

Ms Buckley was one of three nurses to be honoured this year nationwide. *"We were delighted to launch the second Pure Foundation Fund in 2021, to celebrate the dedication of our healthcare heroes who have provided beyond incredible care for expectant or new parents and their babies."*

"We were thrilled to see such fantastic and remarkable entries," said Ailbhe O'Briain of WaterWipes. "Stories of those nominated included devoted nurses, midwives and public health nurses, including Anne Buckley, who supported parents throughout the pandemic, helping with difficult births, homebirths, and upping the ante to take care of unwell babies and struggling parents during a particularly difficult year for the world."



Ireland South launches Recipe Book for women with Gestational Diabetes

Congratulations to Linda Culliney, Clinical Specialist Diabetes Dietician, CUMH, Laura O'Driscoll, Nutritional Sciences student at UCC, Ali Morrison, Nutritional Sciences student at UCC and Aoife Ryan, Registered Dietician & Senior Lecturer at UCC who recently launched a Home Cooking for Gestational Diabetes Recipe Book, a fantastic resource that provides simple everyday meal and snack recipes for women with Gestational Diabetes.

Many women feel so much uncertainty about what to eat and when to eat when they first get a diagnosis of gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM).

They understand that the most important way to control their blood glucose levels is using food and physical activity but knowing how to put this into practice can be more challenging.

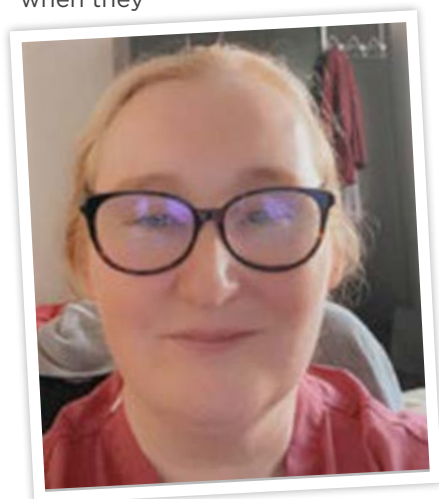
Every woman should be offered the opportunity to see a dietician when they

are diagnosed with GDM which will help them to understand how good food choices can help to control their blood glucose levels and at the same time meet their nutritional needs and those of their growing baby.

Following the dietary advice for gestational diabetes does not mean food choices should be boring, bland, or repetitive. With some advanced planning and sensible shopping, it is possible to enjoy a varied, nutritious, and satisfying diet – during and after pregnancy.

“This book is an excellent resource for anyone that is pregnant and indeed anyone with an interest in healthy eating and specifically those that are trying to maintain a low GI diet. These recipes have been designed for busy women and their partners and are suitable for all the family to enjoy.”

The recipe book is available on our website: <https://irelandsouthwid.cumh.hse.ie/maternity-care/diabetes-and-pregnancy/>



Ireland South responds to Ukrainian Humanitarian Crisis



In response to the Ukrainian Humanitarian Crisis, our maternity units across Ireland South are working to care for women who arrive here from Ukraine, requiring support and care during pregnancy.

CUMH has established a dedicated team of obstetricians and midwives supported by translators and a social work team. At the clinic, which takes place every Friday morning, regardless of gestation, patients will be booked, scanned, and given a clear care plan for their ongoing care. If patients have a good level of English and social support, they have the option to attend outreach or low-risk clinics if they are in a more convenient location for them. However, for patients requiring additional language support or obstetric care, CUMH will facilitate their ongoing care.

It is critical that we rapidly establish contact between maternity services and women who need care as soon as they arrive. Pregnant women fleeing violence face innumerable challenges, given their unique health status. Many of these women have left their partners and loved ones behind. Thanks to Olena Lapovets, Staff Midwife at CUMH who is originally from Ukraine, for supporting the initiative by reaching out to the Ukrainian community in Cork directly and providing them with information and support.

As we prepare to celebrate this year's theme of '100 years of progress' on International Day of the Midwife 2022, reports from Ukraine indicate women are giving birth in makeshift shelters in basements and subway stations. Equipment, facilities, and qualified healthcare workers are scarce. We offer solidarity to our colleagues in Ukraine working in unimaginable circumstances, and across Ireland South, we will ensure we support those who have been displaced at this time.



Midwife in the Making 2022 meets with the President of Ireland

It was a great privilege for Jess Sheahan (Health Care Assistant in Maternity Services University Hospital Kerry) to be invited to the President's reception for St Patrick's Day. Jess was over the moon when she received the emailed invitation to represent future Midwives from Ireland South Women and Infants Directorate.

The reception was held to recognise and acknowledge all the heroic work our frontline Nurses, Midwives and Carers have done in the last two years. It was a wonderful setting in Aras on St. Patrick's Day, and it was much appreciated by all who attended. *"To meet the President was so humbling, and I feel so privileged,"* Jess says. Working alongside her colleagues was inspired her to undertake midwifery training in 2022. She wished to thank Sandra O'Connor (Director of Midwifery), Mary Stack Courtney (Clinical Midwife Manager 3) and her Midwifery/Nursing colleagues for their support and belief in her.

President Michael D. Higgins gave the opening address at the reception:

"Tá áthas orm agus ar Sabina fáilte a chur romhaibh go léir ag Áras an Uachtaráin agus muid ag ceiliúradh ár Lá Náisiúnta, Lá Fhéile Pádraig, Patrún Naomh Pádraig Éarlamh nah Éireann.

Sabina and I are delighted to welcome you all here today to Áras an Uachtaráin as we celebrate our National Day - St. Patrick's Day - the feast day of our patron Saint, Patrick.

St. Patrick's Day is an important occasion for Irish people around the world as we come together as one global family to celebrate our shared culture and heritage, and to reflect on the life of St. Patrick - himself a migrant like so many other Irish.

It is also a day when Sabina and I welcome here to the Áras, in order that we might celebrate together this significant day and the values embodied in the life of St. Patrick, groups of citizens who have impacted generously on our society.

Those values are, of course, the values of solidarity, friendship and concern for his fellow citizen, values that I know are a driving force in the lives and careers of those who join us here today.

Indeed, this year we are delighted to welcome representatives of a profession whose work and contribution throughout the Corona Virus pandemic has been extraordinary. The past two years have highlighted the remarkable and vital impact that nurses, midwives, carers, and indeed all those who work in the healthcare sector have in our society.

In 2020, at the very outset of the Pandemic, the first event in Aras an Uachtaráin to be cancelled was our St. Patrick's Day Reception intended to mark the Year of the Nurse and Midwife. It is a great if belated pleasure to now have the opportunity to honour that commitment, and to meet with you all here today.

I am delighted that representatives from the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland are among those in attendance at this event. Sabina and I have, for

a number of year, hosted an annual 'Latching On' morning at Áras an Uachtaráin as part of National Breastfeeding Week, to which we invite up to 100 breastfeeding mothers and their babies.

We welcomed, last month, the significant and important report from the World Health Organization and UNICEF examining how marketing influences decisions on infant formula.

We have long been concerned about the enduring repercussions of a sustained marketing campaign throughout the earlier part of the twentieth century aimed at promoting formula feeding.

This seminal report, the largest of its kind to date, with data from 8,500 women across eight countries, will, we greatly hope, assist the dissemination of honest and factual information around the benefits of breastfeeding and a reversal of the damaging consequences of a marketing practice guided by industry interests.

I also thank all of our nurses here today, and those who work directly with our patients and keep our institutions healthy, for the values of courage and compassion they have demonstrated time and time again throughout the unprecedented challenge of COVID-19.

Your professionalism and great dedication has been critical in helping us to meet that challenge, and you are so deserving of our gratitude and appreciation. Some of you may have been called on to play a very visible role in our hospitals, battling at the front line through our struggle against COVID.

Others amongst you may have been less visible but have played an equally altruistic and critical role during this challenging time, putting your health and lives at risk as you cared for others.

The spirit of compassion and care continues to lie at the core of the nursing profession, despite the rapidly evolving role of nurses in the Irish healthcare system in recent times. Yours is a role that has grown and developed, and you are now charged with responsibilities and the making of complicated clinical decisions that were once the strict preserve of doctors.

Once viewed inaccurately as assistants to medical professionals, nurses today are recognised as healthcare professionals in their own right. The qualifying pathway you must follow, the scope of policies and practices to which you must adhere, the structures within which you work, and the principles of care which guide that work have all changed quite dramatically in recent decades.

Today, nursing is a profession which plays a critical role in the implementation of patient-centred care and the delivery of effective primary care services.

There are many specialised areas of nursing which you can pursue, and a wide variety of nursing programmes, further degrees and certifications required as you continue to follow your chosen vocation. Indeed, the World Health Organisation has cited Ireland as an important example of how nurses and midwives can help expand access to health services, while also reducing the work burden on primary care doctors, leading to better delivery on patient needs. That is an endorsement of which you can all be very proud.

Technological and scientific advances, and the changing health needs of our citizens, have also brought significant change to the role of nurses in our healthcare settings. With such advancements come complex ethical questions, dilemmas, and decisions. You are therefore required to work in increasingly multifaceted environments, while continuing to put patient care at the centre of all you do.

While the role of nursing may have changed considerably, the instinct that prompts those to enter this profession remains unchanged. That great spirit of compassion that has always lain at its heart remains, and will always be I hope, one of its most important attributes.

As we come together on this day of celebration, I am so delighted to have the opportunity to pay tribute to you for the dedication and commitment you continue to bring to your vital work in our constantly changing and evolving society.

I have no doubt, as we begin to take tentative steps towards a post-pandemic world, that your role will once again evolve and adapt to that different world. I

also have no doubt that you will rise to those new challenges with the generosity of spirit and great sense of solidarity that defines all you do.

May I conclude by thanking you all for coming here today and wishing you a very happy St. Patrick's Day.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who have made today such a special experience and enabled us to once more have such a celebratory experience in Áras an Uachtaráin on our national Saint's Day. I thank members of Jiggy for the beautiful music performed today, as well as Mary Beth Taylor who will be performing sean-nós dancing later, and harpist Denise Kelly, as well as our first-aiders, and the staff here at the Áras who have all worked so hard to make today a success.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir".

You, of course, have done significant work to encourage and support more women to breastfeed their babies and to create an environment where the healthy development of our children is not endangered by the economic goals of large international industries, or by cynical and aggressive advertising and promotions, aimed at young mothers and peddling nutritionally inaccurate information.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for that generous work



New Femtech Ecosystem Planned for State

Article originally featured in The Irish Times, 2nd June 2022

A new initiative aimed at stimulating the development of products, services and start-ups among femtech founders is being backed by the Health Innovation Hub Ireland, which is based in University College Cork. The State-backed organisation is trying to stimulate the creation of an ecosystem of experts & entrepreneurs, leading to more women founders in Ireland and attracting more investors here.

The initiative will provide access to clinical, research and business expertise, through the Ireland South Women and Infants Directorate for clinical expertise, and UCC Innovation for research expertise. A team of advisors will be on hand to provide business and enterprise support.

"In the last couple of years, we have noticed quite a few companies coming in with technologies that address women's health," said Dr Tanya Mulcahy, director of Health Innovation Hub Ireland.

"We can provide a lot of support, but there is a whole change

worldwide in the femtech space. Women are now starting their own companies, which is brilliant to see. When you combine identifying healthcare needs with women wanting to start their own companies, there's a whole explosion of femtech worldwide."

The organisation is calling on people to join the femtech network, with an official gathering planned for September.

"We want to bring the right groups of people together: people interested in starting their own companies, women who have problems they want to see addressed, and then people who are interested in creating companies, supporting companies and funding companies," said Dr Mulcahy.

"Get a few people together in a room and the next thing is you have a problem and a solution that works, but they really need the clinical and business input. That's where we are going to come from."

Femtech is predicated to take off globally, with a Frost & Sullivan report foreseeing global venture capital funding and investments will grow to \$9 billion (€8.3 billion) by 2024, up from \$1.69 billion (€1.57 billion) in 2019. By 2025, the market globally is expected to exceed \$275 billion (€256 billion).





Work on SARS – CoV-2 Placentitis

By Professor

Research led by Dr Brendan Fitzgerald and Professor Louise Burke at CUH with Professor Keelin O'Donoghue was published in the prestigious Archives of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine by the College of American Pathologists in January 2022.

This research has led the world's knowledge about the risks to pregnant women associated with COVID-19 and the importance of vaccination.

<https://meridian.allenpress.com/aplm/article/146/5/529/476783/Fetal-Deaths-in-Ireland-Due-to-SARS-CoV-2>

These findings, which arose from an initial cluster of six cases of stillbirth and one case of second trimester miscarriage caused by SARS-COV2 placentitis in early 2021, was shared by the RCPI Faculty of Pathology and

the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists through the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and informed the recommendations by the National Immunisation Advisory Committee for COVID-19 vaccination pregnant women in April 2021.

www.rcpi.ie/news/releases/COVID-placentitis-statement-from-the-rcpi-faculty-of-pathology-and-the-institute-of-obstetricians-and-gynaecologists/

Professor O'Donoghue has authored updates to national COVID-19 in pregnancy guidance which the RCPI and HSE-Library have published.

<https://rcpi-live-cdn.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Stillbirth-Fetal-Wellbeing-and-SARS-CoV-2-120222.pdf>



Research Team of the Year 2022 awarded to Pregnancy Loss Research Group

Congratulations to the Pregnancy Loss Research Group at University College Cork and Cork University Maternity Hospital led by Professor Keelin O'Donoghue who were awarded Best Research Team of the Year at the UCC Research awards in June.

The Pregnancy Loss Research Group (PLRG) leads national research and the development of resources and evidence-based advice and interventions to prevent pregnancy loss and improve health care, health and social outcomes for women, babies and their families.

Its research focuses on all types of pregnancy and infant loss, including first and second-trimester miscarriage, ectopic and molar pregnancy, stillbirth, termination of pregnancy, neonatal death and pregnancy after loss. The Group is co-located within Cork University Maternity Hospital, the INFANT Research Centre and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University College Cork. Research

activities are funded by a range of organisations, including the Health Research Board, Irish Research Council and Science Foundation Ireland. Partnerships/collaborations are integral to the PLRG's work and include national and international academic institutions, public bodies/agencies, and non-governmental/support organisations.

Professor Keelin O'Donoghue says of the award: *"The PLRG was established in 2012 at CUMH and it is wonderful for all the team to receive this acknowledgement from UCC on our 10th anniversary. I am very grateful to all team members, previous and current, as well as funders and, of course, all those who engage with and support our work."*



UHK Maternity Services win Team of the Year

Janice McHugh, UHK

Team of the Year for UHK 2022 was presented to Maternity Services University Hospital Kerry. The award was accepted by Dr Paul Hughes Clinical Lead on behalf of Maternity Services and Ms Sandra O'Connor Director of Midwifery.

Dr Hughes spoke about the team, service improvements and the collaboration and support across the multi-disciplinary team to achieve the high standards for patient-centred care in maternity services at University Hospital Kerry.

Below are quotes from patient testimonials regarding Carrie from women and families who have experienced pregnancy loss and were supported through this loss by Carrie.

"My husband and I sadly required the services of Carrie on two occasions last year. We never would have wanted the misfortune of needing this service, but how fortunate we were that Carrie was the person we met. She provided exemplary care for myself and my husband during some of the most devastating and heart-breaking moments in our lives. She provided her time and care in the most graceful, supportive, and non-judgemental, gentle, kind and delicate manner. I never ever felt I was burdening her and whenever I talked to her, I always felt like she had an abundance of time for me. I never felt rushed or hurried. She always returned my calls promptly and was my go-to person when I ran into some complications after my second miscarriage. I felt so safe in her care and always felt comforted after out conversation. She possesses the unique yet essential skill of balancing medical information, practical care, reality, and hope. I can't thank her enough for the help and care she gave me at the time of my miscarriages and even long after when I required further support due to complications. She would be truly deserving of this award."

"She was a light to us in one of the darkest moments

of our lives when we lost our baby to miscarriage. It was our second miscarriage and mentally and emotionally was so hard for us, me especially. She was so compassionate, and supportive and went above and beyond for us and our little baby. We will never forget your generosity and support to us and our family, we will be eternally grateful."

"Mairead has been the best support I could have ever wished and hoped for as I chose to breastfeed my baby. She went over and above helping us on our journey. She is so passionate and is so obvious in everything she does, I would not be nearly 12 months into this breastfeeding journey if it was not for her. She embodies drive, determination, change and most of all passion in everything she does and beyond. She deserves recognition for all the work she does. You are more than a patient with her, she gets to know you and your baby and remember so much about you no matter how long it has been. The level of care is second to none."

The awards were in conjunction with the other categories awarded to our colleagues in the other specialities across the UHK campus. We recognise the whole team effort and approach across all multidisciplinary teams in UHK which made these inaugural awards successful and special. The award winners' photographs will be on the "wall of fame" in University Hospital Kerry. Great credit goes to the management team for bringing the inaugural UHK awards from the table to reality.

Congratulations to all award nominees and winners were offered by Dr Paul Hughes Clinical Lead in Obstetrics and Ms Sandra O'Connor, Director of Midwifery University Hospital Kerry, who offered thanks to all staff within maternity services for their unwavering dedication and commitment to the provision of care to ensure women, babies and their families remain at the centre of high-quality care in Maternity Services UHK.



Meet Maggie Dowling, TippUH's new Assistant Director of Midwifery

Maggie Dowling was announced as Director of Midwifery in 2022, having worked in TippUH since November 2004. Maggie became a CMM2 shift leader in 2016 and CMM3 in 2021 and represents Maternity in many hospital governance groups.

On taking up her new role, Maggie said, "I look forward to working closely with the management team in TippUH."

The unit is a hub of activity with a very close-knit team

on CNM2 in the postnatal/ antenatal unit. It's bustling in TippUH, but we have an excellent team here and lots of exciting stuff in the pipeline.

"I'm delighted to congratulate Sinead Bracken, who has just taken up the role of CNM2 Shift Leader in the Labour Ward."

"Sinead is taking over from Eileen Mulcahy, who retired in June after nearly 20 years. Catherine Quirke has also just taken on the role of CNM2 in our Special Care Baby Unit, and Karina Nugent is Acting

I work 5 days weekly, so hobbies are essential for my physical and mental health! I have three grown-up children with whom I enjoy spending quality time. I am a new gym user, and it really helps me de-stress after work. I love the outdoors also and enjoy gardening".



The First Lady of New Jersey visits CUMH

On April 26th, we were delighted to welcome the First Lady of New Jersey, Tammy Snyder Murphy, to CUMH to meet with members of the Neonatal team and Infant Centre.

First Lady Mrs Murphy and New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy led a trade delegation to Ireland in April to explore the potential for strengthening business ties between New Jersey and the Cork region.

With a shared commitment to women, babies and families, Mrs Murphy was keen to visit CUMH to discuss areas of research and potential collaboration between Nurture NJ, CUMH and Infant Centre.

An advocate for maternal and infant health, Mrs Murphy launched Nurture New Jersey in early 2019 as a state-wide initiative committed to ensuring equity in maternal and infant health outcomes for black and brown women and reducing overall maternal and infant mortality and morbidity in the state.

On the day, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between New Jersey Economic Development Authority and University College Cork which will provide a general framework for future collaboration between Nurture NJ and INFANT.

Complex Pelvic Surgery Fellowship in UHW

In 2021, an RCPI Fellowship in 'Complex Pelvic Surgery' under Dr John Stratton was awarded to Dr Sabina Tabirca at University Hospital Waterford.

The Complex Pelvic Surgery Fellowship post was located in UHW and funded for 12 months by Ireland South Women and Infants Directorate from July 2021 to July 2022.

Post CSCST Fellowships are designed for doctors who need to acquire additional training or experience which is not available in their Higher Specialist Training

programme and may be required for a consultant post.

The training provides exposures for doctors to subspecialties and advanced clinical skills in centres of excellence under an approved trainer.

Following Dr Sabina Tabirca's successful 12-month fellowship, Dr Mary Barrett was awarded for the July 2022 - July 2023 period.

Publications

1. Thiim KR, Garvey A, Singh E, **Walsh B**, Inder TE, El-Dib M. *Brain Injury in Infants Evaluated for, but not Treated, with Therapeutic Hypothermia*. J Pediatr. 2022 Sep 27; S0022-3476(22)00849-6. doi: 10.1016/j.jpeds.2022.09.027. Online ahead of print. PMID: 36179889
2. Garvey AA, O'Toole JM, Livingstone V, **Walsh B**, Moore M, Pavel AM, Panaite L, Ryan MA, Boylan GB, Murray DM, **Dempsey EM**. *Evolution of Early Cerebral NIRS in Hypoxic Ischaemic Encephalopathy*. Acta Paediatr. 2022 Oct;111(10):1870-1877. PMID: 35869794
3. Giraud A, Stephens CM, Boylan GB, **Walsh BH**. *Conventional electroencephalography for accurate assessment of brain maturation in preterm infants following perinatal inflammation*. Pediatr Res. 2023 Apr;93(5):1118-1119. PMID: 35854083 Epub 2022 Jul 19
4. Munster CB, El-Shibiny H, Szkamar E, Yang E, **Walsh BH**, Inder TE, El-Dib M. *Magnetic resonance venography to evaluate cerebral sinovenous thrombosis in infants receiving therapeutic hypothermia*. Pediatr Res. 2023 Mar;93(4):985-989. PMID: 35854084 Epub 2022 Jul 19
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6. Giraud A, Stephens CM, Boylan GB, **Walsh BH**. *The impact of perinatal inflammation on the electroencephalogram in preterm infants: a systematic review*. Pediatr Res. 2022 Jul;92(1):32-39. PMID: 35365760
7. Thoreby CV, and **Walsh BH**. *The Periorbital Rash of Neonatal Lupus*. J Pediatr. 2022 Mar; 242:258-259. doi: 10.1016/j.jpeds.2021.11.064 PMID: 34864051- Chosen for J Peds online monthly Image Quiz
8. **Walsh BH**, El-Shibiny H, Munster C, Yang E, Inder TE, El-Dib M. *Differences in standardized neonatal encephalopathy exam criteria may impact therapeutic hypothermia eligibility*. Pediatr Res. 2022 Sep;92(3):791-798. PMID: 34754094
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12. Pavel AM, O'Toole JM, Proietti J, Livingstone V, Mitra S, Marnane WP, Finder M, **Dempsey EM**, Murray DM, Boylan GB; ANSeR Consortium. *Machine learning for the early prediction of infants with electrographic seizures in neonatal hypoxic-ischaemic encephalopathy*. Epilepsia. 2022 Nov 17. doi: 10.1111/epi.17468. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 36398397
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and Transthoracic Echocardiography in Very Preterm Infants. *Neonatology*. 2022 Jul 27:1-8. doi: 10.1159/000525755. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35896077

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Books and Book Chapters:

1. Adam F, **Dempsey E**, Walsh B, Kenosi M. *Intuition in Decision Making – an investigation in the Delivery Room*. In Adam F, Kuchta D, Stanek S. *Rational Decisions in Organisations- Theoretical and Practical Aspects* 1st Edition. Auerbach Publications. Boca Raton, Fa. 2022
2. *Towards a blueprint for decision support in connected health: scenarios in maternal and child health*. Richard Harris, **Eugene Dempsey**, Deirdre Murray, Simon Woodworth, Paidi O'Raghallaigh & Frédéric Adam (2022) *Journal of Decision Systems*, DOI: 10.1080/12460125.2022.2083049

Invited lectures 2022:

1. INFANT November 2022: INFANT Research Symposium- Clinical Trials in Neonatology- *Is it time to start cooling Mild HIE infants?* November 2022: **Brian Walsh**
2. Neonatal Haemodynamics Research Centre discussion forum. Panel Discussion. Noninvasive cardiac monitoring. Dec 2022. **Eugene Dempsey**
3. Irish Pediatric Association Meeting. Update on Umbilical Cord Management Strategies. Athlone Dec 2022 **Eugene Dempsey**
4. International Neonatal Association Conference. Inotropes in the NICU. Dubai Nov 2022 **Eugene Dempsey**
5. International Neonatal Association Conference. Enhanced monitoring in the delivery Suite. Dubai Nov 2022 **Eugene Dempsey**
6. International Neonatal Association Conference. Cerebral NIRS in Newborn Care. Dubai Nov 2022 **Eugene Dempsey**
7. Faculty of Paediatrics 40th Annual Meeting. Panel discussion on neonatal care nationally. Oct 2022 **Eugene Dempsey**



8. 48th Guinness Lecture. Management of the umbilical cord at birth: Getting the timing right. Oct 2022 **Eugene Dempsey**
9. Transitional Hypotension. Clinical Cardiopulmonary Physiology for the Care of the Sick Newborn. Oct 2022 **Eugene Dempsey**
10. Update on Cord Management. European Academy of Paediatrics Meeting. Barcelona Oct 2022 **Eugene Dempsey**
11. Neonatal Haemodynamics Research Centre discussion forum. Panel Discussion. Inotropes in Neonatal Care. Oct 2022 **Eugene Dempsey**
12. Delivery Room and Transitional Period Monitoring for the Extremely Preterm. Neoheart. Aug 2022 **Eugene Dempsey**

Research Presentations 2022:

- Healy DB, Chioma R, Panaviene J, **Walsh BH, Dempsey EM**. "Blood sampling from umbilical arterial catheters may be associated with decreased flow in the superior mesenteric artery." European Academy of Paediatric Sciences, Barcelona, 2022
- Clifford D, O'Boyle DS, Garvey AA, **Dempsey EM**, Costelloe SJ, Bierau J, Boylan GB, **Walsh BH**, Murray DM. "Serum Alanine Alteration in Perinatal Asphyxia and Neonatal Hypoxic-Ischaemic Encephalopathy" European Academy of Paediatric Sciences, Barcelona, 2022
- Stephens CM, McNamara B, Mc Sweeney N, Murray DM, O'Mahony O, **Walsh BH**, Boylan GB. "Postnatal Epilepsy Following EEG Confirmed Neonatal Seizures" European Academy of

Paediatric Sciences, Barcelona, 2022

- Stephens CM, Boyle DO, **Walsh BH**, Boylan GB, Murray DM. "The Use of Machine Learning Algorithm in the Early Prediction of Hypoxic Ischaemic Encephalopathy in Infants" European Academy of Paediatric Sciences, Barcelona, 2022
- Stephens CM, McNamara B, Mc Sweeney N, Murray DM, O'Mahony O, **Walsh BH**, Boylan GB. "Post-neonatal Epilepsy following Electrographic confirmed Neonatal Seizures." British Paediatric Neurology Association Meeting 2022

Grants 2022:

Title:
Early Detection and Intervention for Cerebral Palsy in Ireland

Funding Body:
Cerebral Palsy Foundation

Role:
Primary Investigator

Award:
\$457,920.99 for CUMH/INFANT
(Total \$1,500,000)

<https://clinicaltrials.gov/study/NCT05907837>

Editorial Roles:

1. Brian Walsh Associate Editor, Frontiers in Pediatrics. Neonatology section
2. Eugene Dempsey, Chief Editor, Frontiers in Pediatrics, Neonatology section

Dr Suzanne O'Sullivan:

- McCarthy CM, Meaney S, **O'Sullivan S**, Horgan M, Bennett D, O'Donoghue K. **A qualitative review of challenges in recruitment and retention in obstetrics and gynecology in Ireland: The consultants' solution-based perspective.** PLoS One. 2022 Dec 28;17(12):e0279635. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0279635. PMID: 36576936; PMCID: PMC9797065
- **Factors influencing medical students' decision to pursue a career in obstetrics and gynaecology** Ní hÉalaithe C, Howard A, Corcoran P, McCarthy CM, Horgan M, Bennett D, O'Donoghue K, **O'Sullivan S.** (2023) PLOS ONE 18(12): e0288130. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0288130>

Dr Andreea Pavel:

- **Neonatal Seizure Management: Is the Timing of Treatment Critical?** Andreea M Pavel¹, Janet M Rennie², Linda S de Vries³, Mats Blennow⁴, Adrienne Foran⁵, Divyen K Shah⁶, Ronit M Pressler⁷, Olga Kapellou⁸, Eugene M Dempsey¹, Sean R Mathieson¹, Elena Pavlidis¹, Lauren C Weeke³, Vicki Livingstone¹, Deirdre M Murray¹, William P Marnane⁹, Geraldine B Boylan¹⁰ PMID: 34626667; PMCID: PMC9067353; DOI: 10.1016/j.jpeds.2021.09.058
- **Non-invasive continuous cardiac output monitoring in infants with hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy** Aisling A Garvey^{1,2,3}, Roisin O'Neill¹, Vicki Livingstone^{2,3}, Andreea M Pavel^{1,2,3}, Daragh Finn^{2,3}, Geraldine B Boylan^{2,3}, Deirdre M Murray^{2,3}, Eugene M Dempsey^{4,5,6} PMID: 36056257; PMCID: PMC9712087; DOI: 10.1038/s41372-022-01495-2
- **Evolution of early cerebral NIRS in hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy** Aisling A Garvey^{1,2,3}, John M O'Toole^{1,2}, Vicki Livingstone^{1,2}, Brian Walsh^{1,2,3}, Michael Moore⁴, Andreea M Pavel^{1,2,3}, Lavinia Panaite^{1,2,3}, Mary Anne Ryan^{1,2,3}, Geraldine B Boylan^{1,2}, Deirdre M Murray^{1,2}, Eugene M Dempsey^{1,2,3} PMID: 35869794; PMCID: PMC9545024; DOI: 10.1111/apa.16493
- **Does Early Cerebral Near-Infrared Spectroscopy Monitoring Predict Outcome in Neonates with Hypoxic Ischaemic Encephalopathy? A Systematic Review of Diagnostic Test Accuracy** Aisling A Garvey^{1,2}, Andreea M Pavel^{3,4}, Deirdre M Murray^{3,4}, Geraldine B Boylan^{3,4}, Eugene M Dempsey^{3,4} PMID: 34818237; DOI: 10.1159/000518687
- **Case Report: Early Neonatal EEG in Two Infants with Pallister Killian Syndrome (PKS)** Carol M Stephens^{1,2}, Andreea M Pavel^{1,2,3}, Sean

R Mathieson^{1,2}, Niamh McSweeney^{2,4}, Brian McNamara⁵, Michael Moore⁶, Geraldine B Boylan^{1,2} PMID: 36249954; PMCID: PMC9530620; DOI: 10.12688/hrbopenres.13493.1

Dr Brian Henry Walsh:**Journal Articles:**

- 1 Thiim KR, Garvey A, Singh E, **Walsh B**, Inder TE, El-Dib M. **Brain Injury in Infants Evaluated for, but not Treated, with Therapeutic Hypothermia.** J Pediatr. 2022 Sep 27:S0022-3476(22)00849-6. doi: 10.1016/j.jpeds.2022.09.027. Online ahead of print. PMID: 36179889
- 2 Garvey AA, O'Toole JM, Livingstone V, **Walsh B**, Moore M, Pavel AM, Panaite L, Ryan MA, Boylan GB, Murray DM, Dempsey EM. **Evolution of Early Cerebral NIRS in Hypoxic Ischaemic Encephalopathy.** Acta Paediatr. 2022 Oct;111(10):1870-1877. PMID: 35869794
- 3 Giraud A, Stephens CM, Boylan GB, **Walsh BH.** **Conventional electroencephalography for accurate assessment of brain maturation in preterm infants following perinatal inflammation.** Pediatr Res. 2023 Apr;93(5):1118-1119. PMID: 35854083 Epub 2022 Jul 19.
- 4 Munster CB, El-Shibiny H, Szkamar E, Yang E, **Walsh BH**, Inder TE, El-Dib M. **Magnetic resonance venography to evaluate cerebral sinovenous thrombosis in infants receiving therapeutic hypothermia.** Pediatr Res. 2023 Mar;93(4):985-989. PMID: 35854084
- 5 Garvey AA, **Walsh BH**, Inder TE. **Pathogenesis and prevention of intraventricular hemorrhage.** Semin Perinatol 2022 Mar 12;151592. PMID: 35450738
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- 7 Thoreby CV, and **Walsh BH.** **The Periorbital Rash of Neonatal Lupus.** J Pediatr. 2022 Mar;242:258-259. doi: 10.1016/j.jpeds.2021.11.064 PMID: 34864051- Chosen for J Peds online monthly Image Quiz
- 8 **Walsh BH**, El-Shibiny H, Munster C, Yang E, Inder TE, El-Dib M. **Differences in standardized neonatal encephalopathy exam criteria may impact therapeutic hypothermia eligibility.** Pediatr Res. 2022 Sep;92(3):791-798. PMID: 34754094

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Book Chapters:

- 1 Adam F, Dempsey E, Walsh B, Kenosi M. **Intuition in Decision Making – an investigation in the Delivery Room.** In Adam F, Kuchta D, Stanek S. Rational Decisions in Organisations- Theoretical and Practical Aspects 1st Edition. Auerbach Publications. Boca Raton, Fa. 2022

Prof Keelin O’Donoghue, Dr Suzanne O’Sullivan:

- C Flannery, LA Burke, P Gillespie, K O’Donoghue **Estimating the costs associated with the implementation of a best practice model of care for recurrent miscarriage clinics in Ireland: a cost analysis** HRB Open Research 2022; published 16 November
- CM McCarthy, S Meaney, S O’Sullivan, M Horgan, D Bennett, K O’Donoghue **A qualitative review of challenges in recruitment and retention in obstetrics and gynecology in Ireland: The consultants’ solution based perspective.** PLoS One. 2022 Dec 28;17(12):e0279635. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0279635. eCollection 2022. PMID: 36576936
- C Joyce, B Fitzgerald, T McCarthy, J Coulter and K O’Donoghue **Advances in the Diagnosis and early Management of Gestational Trophoblastic Disease** BMJ Med. 2022 Dec 16;1(1):e000321. doi: 10.1136/bmjmed-2022-000321. eCollection 2022. PMID: 36936581
- K McNamara, A Smith, B Smith, M Cregan, L Pridhova, A O’Shaughnessy, A Martin, J MacDonald, P Kingston, C Fitzgerald, M Hennessy, K O’Donoghue **Addressing obstetricians’ awareness of compassion, communication and self-care around the time of stillbirth: Evaluation of a novel educational workshop using applied drama techniques, developed in collaboration with the national theatre, training body and patient groups** PLoS One. 2022 Nov 17;17(11):e0277496. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0277496. eCollection 2022. PMID: 36395201
- LA Linehan, I San Lazaro Campillo, M Hennessy, C Flannery, K O’Donoghue **Reproductive Outcomes Following Recurrent First Trimester Miscarriage: A Retrospective Cohort Study** Hum Reprod Open. 2022 Oct 11;2022(4):hoac045. doi: 10.1093/hropen/hoac045. eCollection 2022. PMID: 36339248

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- Murphy DJ, Shahabuddin Y, Yambasu S, O’Donoghue K, Devane D, Cotter A, Gaffney G, Burke LA, Molloy EJ, Boland F. **Digital fetal scalp stimulation (dFSS) versus fetal blood sampling (FBS) to assess fetal wellbeing in labour-a multi-centre randomised controlled trial: Fetal Intrapartum Randomised Scalp Stimulation Trial (FIRSST NCT05306756).** Trials. 2022 Oct 4;23(1):848. doi: 10.1186/s13063-022-06794-9. PMID: 36195894
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- Escañuela Sánchez T, Meaney S, O’Connor C, Linehan L, O’Donoghue K, Byrne M, Matvienko-Sikar K **Facilitators and barriers influencing weight management behaviours during pregnancy: a meta-synthesis of qualitative research.** BMC Pregnancy Childbirth. 2022 Sep 5;22(1):682. doi: 10.1186/s12884-022-04929-z. PMID: 36064379
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- S Leitao, E O'Shaughnessy, I San Lazaro, **K O'Donoghue Healthcare professionals' knowledge on termination of pregnancy legislation and surgical and medical abortion: a systematic review** Sex Reprod Health 2022 Aug 6;33:100762. doi: 10.1016/j.srhc.2022.100762. Online ahead of print. PMID: 35963202
- E O'Connor, R Greene, **K O'Donoghue, S Leitao A protocol for a systematic review of standardised tools used in perinatal death review programmes;** HRB Open Research; published 13 July 2022
- M Hennessy, R Dennehy, J Doherty, **K O'Donoghue Outsourcing transcription: Extending ethical considerations in qualitative research** Qual Health Res. 2022 May 21;10497323221101709. doi: 10.1177/10497323221101709. Online ahead of print. PMID: 35599615

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- M. Mohamed, C McCormick, A. Foo, S. Meaney, **K. O'Donoghue Dating ultrasounds are fundamental to modern obstetric care: evidence from a tertiary centre;** Ir Med J; April 2022; Vol 115; No. 4; P582
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Dr Deirdre Hayes Ryan:

“Investigation and Management of Complications of Early Termination of Pregnancy” S Boyd, S Feeney, K Harte, S Hayes, C McCarthy and D Hayes-Ryan. National Clinical Practice Guideline, National Women and Infants Health Programme and The Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. December 2022. https://www.rcpi.ie/Portals/0/Document%20Repository/Institute%20of%20Obstetricians%20and%20Gynaecologists/National%20Clinical%20Guidelines/2023/Full%20guidelines/IOG_NCG_Investigation%20Management%20Complications%20Early%20Termination%20of%20Pregnancy_2023.pdf?ver=mUxHF19G4KVAgij_lp7SGg%3d%3d

- **“Vulval Necrotising Cellulitis: An Unusual Presentation to the Emergency Room”** S Boyd, J Dorairaj, C Burke and D Hayes-Ryan. Ir Med J. 2022 Sep 15;115(8):662. PMID: 36327993
- **“Early pregnancy teaching and training amongst obstetric trainees in a tertiary maternity hospital”** A Rowan, D Hayes-Ryan, J Hogan, S Cooley and M Geary. EJOG, March 2022, DOI:10.1016/j.ejogrb.2021.12.013



Cork University Maternity Hospital



University Hospital Waterford



Tipperary University Hospital



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