

TRUVO – SUPPORTING OUR LADY’S HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN

Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin is committed to providing family centred health care in a compassionate and supportive environment where each child receives the highest standards of health care.

The hospital is an acute paediatric teaching hospital with 248 beds, employing over 1,500 staff. It is Ireland's largest paediatric hospital and is responsible for the provision of the majority of tertiary care service for children including the national centre for cardiac surgery and haematology/oncology, major burns, medical genetics and medical research for childhood illnesses.

The Hospital provides a high standard of care to the children availing of its service. The services provided are underpinned by a commitment to medical and nurse education and to the development of the skills of staff generally.

In November 1956 the Hospital opened and was specifically designed to care for and treat sick children. The hospital is built on a site of approximately 5 hectares which was provided by the Archbishop of Dublin.

The Hospital is involved in the teaching of all disciplines of healthcare staff. Undergraduate medical students from University College Dublin, The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and Trinity College Dublin receive their training in paediatric medicine at Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin.

In 2006, the provision of children's nurse registration education programmes transferred from the School of Nursing at Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin to the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems in University College Dublin. A report commissioned by the Health Service Executive then recommended that continuing education needs of children's nurses would be provided through a dedicated Centre using a 'hub and satellite' structure.

The hub of the Centre of Children's Nurse Education is located in Our Lady's with satellites in the Children's University Hospital, Temple Street and the National Children's Hospital, Tallaght. The Centre of Children's Nurse Education is to provide continuing education for children's nurses and appropriate staff in the three children's hospitals, the Dublin catchment area and specialist programmes related to children's nursing nationally

Research is a fundamental component of all paediatric disciplines and the provision of a specialised research facility must be an integral part of a modern comprehensive children's hospital. The Children's Research Centre at this hospital provides well-equipped laboratory facilities for the investigation of the biological basis of childhood disease. The quality of research carried out at the centre is best recognised by its international reputation in paediatric medicine and in its publications. The services and specialist medicine provided at the hospital have been significantly developed over the years.

The Children's Medical & Research Foundation <http://www.cmrf.org/> at Our Lady' is the fundraising umbrella for both the Hospital and the Research Centre and is dedicated to the improvement of children's health. The Foundation's function is to inspire and support the philanthropic spirit in individuals and organisations. It invests our communities' contributions in outstanding paediatric care, research and education to help children at Our Lady's, and throughout Ireland.

Since its establishment the Hospital continually expands and develops its services and infrastructure in the provision of optimal evidence based health care in order to meet the growing needs of the children and families.

The Hospital treats on a yearly basis over 24,500 inpatients and day cases, 30,100 Emergency Department attendances, 76,000 Out Patient attendances and performs over 13,500 operating procedures.

Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin is in discussion with the HSE and Department of Health & Children, Children's University Hospital and the National Children's Hospital on the merge and relocation of the three Dublin Paediatric Hospitals onto one site providing world-class expert acute paediatric care to the children of Ireland.

Over the past year 2007/2008 Our Lady's major new developments included:

- New MRI Facility
- New Haematology/ Oncology Day Unit
- New Gardens for the National Children's Burns Unit
- Extension to Our Lady's Hospital Special School
- New Cardiology Out patient Centre
- Children's Transition Care Unit
- Extension to Diabetes & Endocrine Centre
- Extension to the National Centre of Medical Genetics
- Extension to the Children's Diabetes & Endocrine Centre
- New Adolescent Den for CF Patients
- Improved Parents Accommodation

THE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL AND RESEARCH CENTRE

The Children's Medical and Research Centre at Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin has been at the heart of paediatric research in Ireland and internationally for over four decades. The Children's Medical & Research Foundation is the fundraising umbrella for both the Hospital and the Research Centre. The Children's Medical & Research Foundation is dedicated to the improvement of children's health.

Below are details of some of the projects the foundation are currently fundraising for:

A&E UPGRADE

The proposed development of the Emergency Department (ED) at Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin is a fundamentally important opportunity to improve the care we deliver to patients.

The ED currently has 9 clinical spaces where we can examine patients. This is broken down into 3 resuscitation spaces, 4 single cubicles and 1 double examination room. We also have 1 small *triage* room which is used to assess patients when they first arrive to our department and categorise the extent of their illness or injury. A minimum of 1 resuscitation space needs to be available at all times in the event of an emergency arriving in the department so this leaves only 8 available clinical spaces at any one time.

These clinical spaces are not only examination rooms but also double as observation/ treatment rooms for taking blood tests, inserting a drip, dressings, plaster cast application and vaccinations etc. As a result the ED is frequently under pressure as a direct result of lack of physical space. This is much more apparent on occasions when the attendance figures are higher e.g. at weekends or through the winter, and the onward movement of patients to inpatient beds in the hospital is delayed.

In an effort to decrease waiting times, accelerate through put of patients and provide timely appropriate quality care to our patients the staff of the ED are always looking at ways to improve our service. We have a number of ideas which we are implementing but the basic

'building block' to help us improve the patient experience is the increase in our department size.

We anticipate that the increased space will be used as additional clinical/ short term observational type space where by the treatment or period of observation would not exceed 6 hours. Patients who we anticipate will not have completed their treatment in this time frame will be booked for inpatient admission as normal. As previously mentioned this additional space will also allow us to pilot and introduce other work practices, currently being used elsewhere in the world, to decrease our waiting times e.g. Team triage/ Rapid assessment.

The final new extension will include the following:

- 5 extra assessment/treatment rooms (total 14) and a dedicated area for the efficient management of patients with 'minor' injuries and illness
- Increased office spaces (1 consultant, 1 nursing, 1 secretarial)
- Large staff room
- Toilet/shower/locker area
- Cleaner store room
- Conference room to allow departmental meetings and education

We fully anticipate the above changes will enhance the quality of care that a patient receives in our department while also improving the working conditions and experience of our dedicated staff.

CANCER GENETICS PROGRAMME

Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin is the National referral hospital for paediatric cancer. This means that the children in the country are referred to the Oncology Service at Our Lady's for assessment and treatment. They may be treated in Crumlin or at their local hospital through the shared care service, but the overall management of the Service is in the hands of the Paediatric Consultant Oncologists based in the Hospital, most particularly in St John's Ward.

Because of this unified National approach, the cure rates in childhood cancer are particularly good and well up to best international standards, having moved from 5-10% in the 1960's to 80-85% today.

However, there are some cancers that are not that responsive to treatment and which still have an unacceptably high mortality rate. Neuroblastoma is a case in point. It is responsible for up to 15% of childhood cancer deaths. The way it progresses (or fails to progress) is not well understood and it has been of particular concern to clinicians in the Hospital.

The ideal tertiary Hospital not only treats serious illness and disease but also undertakes serious research to try to discover the reasons or cures for specific problems. The Children's Research Centre (CRC) at Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin is undertaking its most substantial research effort ever, to try to learn more about the genetics of childhood cancer. The programme is lead by Professor Raymond Stallings who is one of the world's leading authorities on childhood caners.

All forms of cancer involve a series of complex genetic alterations, which lead to the inability of a normal cell to control proliferation and/or undergo programmed cell death. These genetic alterations can be large or mutational events affecting genes. Recent technological

advances now permit the exploration of the cancer cell genome at unprecedented levels of resolution. The Programme of research into Cancer Genetics at the CRC will use and improve these technologies to throw light on this truly problem area. If the CRC is successful in identifying the key genes and genetics pathways, then medicine today holds great promise for the design of targeted, gene based therapies that will help to avoid or allay the highly toxic and risky chemotherapy regimes that are standard practice today.

This will be an expensive undertaking. We have estimated that the programme will cost €5m. Nonetheless, knowing the capacity and goodwill of all supporters and volunteers when it comes to our children, we have given the go ahead in the knowledge that we will be supported financially to put this vital programme of research into effect.

For more information please visit: www.olhsc.ie and www.cmrf.org