



The Meath Foundation

Healthcare Research and Education at the Hospital in Tallaght

Newsletter Edition 8:
Summer 2007

WELCOME to the Summer edition of The Meath Foundation newsletter. In this edition we feature part two of Mr Michael Butler's TJD Lane Lecture 2005. Also featured is the Chairman's address to the Annual General Meeting which was held on Friday 30th March 2007. From your comments a very enjoyable day was had by all and we look forward to seeing you again next year.

The Meath Foundation Research Symposium

The Meath Foundation's first annual Research Symposium was held following lunch on Annual General Meeting day. The purpose of the symposium was to highlight the research being undertaken in the Hospital at Tallaght funded by The Meath Foundation. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Joe Murphy who made a presentation on behalf of Professor Kevin Conlon, Dr James Gibney, Dr Maeve M Doyle, Dr Maria O'Sullivan and Ms Hilary Moss who made a presentation on behalf of Professor Des O'Neill for presenting progress reports on their research to date following awards made in 2005.

The programme also included the formal presentation of 2006 Research Grant awards totalling €236,235 and the announcement of applications for Research Grants for 2007.



Pictured at The Meath Foundation Research Symposium are Mr Ron Grainger, Chairman The Meath Foundation Research Sub-Committee Dr Orla Shiels, Grant recipient 2006 Dr Kathryn Holmes, Grant recipient 2006 Deirdre O'Donovan and Dr John Barragry Vice Chairman The Meath Foundation.

*Mr Alan Gillis,
Chairman AMNCH
Hospital Board with
Professor Kevin
Conlon at The
Meath Foundation
Research
Symposium*



Thank You Thank You Thank You Thank You

We wish to acknowledge and thank the following for their generous donations to The Meath Foundation

Mrs Marie Bourke, Co Tipperary

Ms Helena Broderick, Springfield, Tallaght

Mr John McDonald McDonald Bros, Lucan

Ms Terry Byrne, Dublin 8.

We also wish to thank all the women who participated in the Women's Mini Marathon 2007 to help raise funds for research into Kidney Disease.

Chairman's Address The Meath Foundation Annual General Meeting

At the MEATH FOUNDATION Annual General Meeting the Chairman, Mr John O'Connor welcomed the Governors and Governesses of The Foundation and introduced himself. He paid tribute to Mr Gerry Brady following his resignation as Chairman of the Board and expressed his delight that Mr Brady has found time in his busy schedule to continue as a Board member. The Chairman welcomed 27 new annual Governors to their first AGM and he thanked, the Governors and Governesses for their continued support of The Meath Foundation.

The Chairman informed the meeting of the work of the Organisation Committee and thanked everyone who supported the fundraising efforts in the 2006 Women's Mini Marathon to raise funds for research into Osteoporosis. This was a very successful campaign and a special Research Grant was awarded to Doctor David Kane.

The Chairman thanked all the contributors to The Foundation's newsletter. He also thanked the staff of the Medical Photography Department for providing all the photographs for inclusion in the newsletter.

The Chairman informed the meeting that Ms Sarah Dobbs, Archivist has been retained by The Foundation and has commenced work on the memorabilia and archives of The Meath Hospital.

The Chairman reported on the work of The Research Committee. He expressed his thanks on behalf of the Board to the external assessors who evaluated the Research Grant applications for 2006 and informed the meeting that The Foundation agreed to fund 5 research projects and part-fund 3 research projects totalling €236,235 in 2006. The Chairman stated that to date The Foundation has awarded almost €750,000 in seed grants and informed the members that at the Research Symposium the Governors will hear reports on the research projects funded in 2005

The Chairman stated that to ensure that the Foundation can continue to develop and support Research it needs the continued support of the Governors, Governesses, the Board of Directors, the Hospital and the community.

The Chairman reported on the work of the Finance Committee and expressed his sadness at the death of a member of this committee Mr Hugh MacGiolla Ri, former financial advisor to The Foundation. He stated that Mr. MacGiolla Ri, always a gentleman gave the Foundation sound financial advice and our finances to-day are proof of this advice. May he rest in peace.

The Chairman thanked the Officers of the Board, John Barragry, Mairead Shields and Gerry Hurley for all their support during the year and all the Board members for their contribution to the development of the Foundation. He especially mentioned the Chairs of the Sub Committees, Mairead Shields, Chair of the Organisation Committee and Mr. Ron Grainger, Chair of the Research Committee.

Following the Chairman's report he invited the Secretary, to give a further update on The Foundation. Ms Shields report included the resignation of Mr Brady from the AMNCH Board and the election of the Chairman, Mr O'Connor, as his replacement, the election of Mr Peter Dwyer as Treasurer of The Foundation following the resignation of Dr Hurley as Treasurer. Miss Shields reported on the resignation of the Director of Research, Professor Michael Comer who was one of the main drivers in developing the proposals for the establishment of the Institute of Preventative Medicine on the Hospital site. The Foundation continues to be committed to supporting this development.

Following the AGM the Vice Chairman, Dr John Barragry made a presentation on behalf of The Foundation to Professor Richard Conroy. The Vice Chairman thanked Professor Conroy for all his work for The Foundation especially as Chairman of the 250 year Celebration Committee and as the first Chairman of the Research Committee. Professor Conroy thanked the members of the Board and the Governors for their kind words.

EXTRACTS FROM LANE LECTURE 2005

By Mr Michael Butler

Previously

In 1939 on his return from the Mayo Clinic TJD Lane had assembled his team of dedicated specialists and had achieved sensational results With the workload at the Meath developing very quickly TJD Lane was now fully committed to designing and constructing a specialised unit.



Now the continuation of TJD Lane's story

And at the end of 1948 the Minister of Health had agreed in principle to the construction of a Urological Department at the Meath. The agreed plan was to demolish the Nurses Home and build the GU and a new nurse's

home on the vacated site. The firm of architects Robinson, Keefe and Devane were appointed by the Department of Health to oversee the design of the new unit.

It was a fortuitous choice as it heralded the start of a rewarding partnership between Lane and the youngest partner in the firm, Andy Devane. Devane was a hands on Architect and during the first three months of 1949 he made a concentrated study of the working of the old unit. Tom Lane quickly formed a close working relationship with Devane, and they spent long hours more often outside of regular office hours, planning the details of the new Department.

However, Lane's optimistic expectation for the rapid development of the new GU unit were dashed by the onset of the Knight's escapade at the Meath Hospital. The story is told in considerable detail by Peter Gatenby in his magisterial 'History of the Meath' but more succinctly by David Mitchell in his history of the Adelaide Hospital - "A peculiar place "He says" in 1949 the Meath Hospital Joint Committee was completely taken by surprise when it was displaced by an organised group of newcomers who were members of (Cell 6) of the Knights of Columbanus".

The rules of the Meath Hospital determined that the members of the medical staff were re-appointed annually by the Joint Committee. In January 1951 a number of prominent members of the consultant staff were dismissed by the new Joint Committee. Mr TJD Lane resigned his position in support of his colleagues. The consequences of his loyalty to his friends and colleagues was a decision by the new "stacked" board to divert funds away from the proposed Urological Department and redirect them to a new nurse's home.

These events may have brought on a bout of depression in 1950. In a letter of the 25th November to Dermot O'Flynn who was working as a Urological Trainee in Edinburgh he indicated his pessimism. He wrote "I know you have been following the Meath Hospital case. I'm afraid all chance of a Genitourinary Department for me has now gone, and with it the hope I had of having you as my assistant". But Lane was a dogged character and he soon rallied. He was highly respected and had many international friends. He was able to galvanise the help of two distinguished British Urologists David Band of Edinburgh and Walter Galbraith of Glasgow who undertook to write a letter to the Irish Government in support of the new GU unit.

Galbraith was President of the British Association of Urological Surgeons and Band was Editor of the British Journal of Urology.

The letter was carefully worded and sensitively written to emphasise the importance to the country of the proposed GU Unit at the Meath. The letter highlighted Lane's international reputation and the standing of The Meath in the worldwide context of Urology. They concluded that *"any restriction imposed on the development of the Urological Department, would be a disaster to the advancement of Urological Specialist Practice in the English speaking world"*

Eventually in 1951 there was a settlement of the issue between the Knights and the Meath Hospital, the development of the Urology Department progressed surprisingly quickly. The Minister agreed that the best arrangement was for the demolition of the old nurse's home and the construction of a Genito-Urinary Department of eighty beds on the site. The Minister offered his original sum of £125,000 for the project and all associated work to bring it to a successful conclusion.

The newly reappointed Medical Board agreed the appointment of a Urological Assistant and Dermot O'Flynn was officially appointed to the Unit in January 1952 and in May of the same year Victor Lane was appointed as a second Urological Assistant.

These two important appointments enabled Tom Lane to concentrate on the important task of planning the fine detail of the Unit and he resumed his working partnership with Andy Devane which resulted in a custom built Urological Department which was unique in these Islands.

Construction commenced in June 1953 and the foundation stone was laid on 17th January 1954. The Unit was officially opened on Friday 18th November 1955 by Tom Higgins Minister for Health.



The first patients were admitted to the new Unit on 8th December 1955 and the first operating list occurred a week later.

Tom Lane was a genuinely humble and self-effacing man, in spite of his fierce

determination to succeed. Characteristically he commissioned the new unit by admitting as the first patients, children requiring hypospadias surgery under the care of Professor T.P. Kilner, Nuffield Professor of Plastic Surgery at Oxford and Mr Eric Peet. They were both longstanding friends of TJD who had provided corrective surgery at the unit for many years. They were invited to perform the first surgical procedures at the new unit, a unique and generous gesture bestowed on them by Tom Lane.

Despite some disappointing setbacks Lane had achieved his key objectives as envisaged in 1939. He now had at his disposal a very large 80 bedded unit and a critical mass of key specialist staff to care for the large number of patients.

Tom Lane continued to work until the early 1960's when ill health forced him to retire. He died in 1967.

It is worth reiterating that part of TJD Lane's vision for a successful urological unit was to rely on a team of nurses practicing none other than urological nursing and looking after patients by day and night. This had a profound impact on the quality of nursing care at the unit. The success of specialised nursing initiated by Lane could clearly be seen at the Meath.

This special partnership between urologists and nurses in the Department is best summed up in the tribute paid to TJD in the Irish Times on his death by Annie McNeill who was Sister in Charge of St Andrews for over a decade and later Deputy Matron at St James's.

"Mr Lane was an idealist in his profession, untiring in his concern and devotion to his patients and was not influenced by wealth or position. To his staff he was a friend and advisor in times of illness and distress and always someone we respected and admired. At times we may have been hesitant to adapt to his rigid methods of perfection, but soon we realised the depth of his dedication and it inspired us to copy his example. This city has lost a great surgeon; the patients who have been under his care an irreplaceable doctor, and the nurses "the loyalty" of their strongest advocate."

it is also worth reiterating that at his talk to the Biological Club in 1935 Tom Lane raised the issue of training in Urology. He perceived that training in high volume institutions was essential and after half a century the medical educational literature is now proclaiming what appeared to TJD to be self-evident.

The Meath GU was privileged to participate in the training of nearly every Consultant in Ireland and as many more in Britain. We have been able to educate from scratch many young Urologists and augment the training of many others from prominent overseas institutions.

Did Tom Lane's vision of sub-specialisation have an impact on the practice of Urology and importantly leave a legacy of improved outcomes in Ireland and elsewhere?

I believe the answer to be a most emphatic yes.

Without doubt the surgical outcomes in all specialty branches of Urological Surgery were manifestly improved, and equally importantly were carefully recorded and documented.

At the Meath Board Annual Meeting in 1970, 3 important events occurred.

- The Commemorative bronze plaque to Tom Lane was unveiled,
- The Lane lecture was inaugurated
- Most importantly the decision to leave Heytesbury Street for Tallaght was confirmed by the Hospital Board to Erskine Childers the then Minister of Health.



Commemorative plaque to Tom Lane

We left Heytesbury Street with some sadness for our new beautiful Unit, and while we the Urologists might have wished to transport the Unit on the back of a large lorry none of us can doubt that the move to Tallaght has been blessed with overwhelming success. We have the Lane Ward where Urology is practiced to the same high standards as of yore, a fitting tribute to TJD Lane the most important Irish Urologist of modern times.

Correction:

In part one of our story it stated that there were three children in Tom Lane's family. In fact Tom was the eldest of 8 siblings five of whom survived and his younger brother Wilfred (Bill) Lane was a Trinity student and trained at The Meath Hospital.

We apologies for this error.

The Meath Foundation:

The Mission of the Meath Foundation is to carry on the best traditions of the Meath Hospital by providing a focus for voluntary input into the Adelaide & Meath Hospital, Dublin Incorporating the National Children's Hospital.

We do this by supporting the development of the Hospital in Tallaght particularly through the promotion of Healthcare Research and Education within the Hospital and the wider community.

Our core values of Voluntarism/Self Help, Inclusiveness, Innovation/Originality, Effectiveness and Objectivity inform and guide our work to develop a credible and sustained programme of broadly defined research activity at the hospital.



The Hospital at Tallaght

Summer 2007

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The Meath Foundation:

If you would like to submit articles, news or information about events to the Meath Foundation for inclusion in our newsletter, please contact us at the address below.

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How You Can Help ?

BECOME A MEMBER

At the Meath Foundation we value individual members for their participatory role and their diversity of opinion. On payment of a yearly subscription of €32.00 Members will receive our quarterly news letter. As a member you can help to shape the agenda and objectives of the Meath Foundation. To join please fill out the form below and return it to the Meath Foundation.

ORGANISE AN EVENT

You may be able to donate your time and organisational ability to running an event for the Meath Foundation. See our website for Details www.meathfoundation.com or contact us at the number below for further information

GIVE NOW

You can donate online at our website www.meathfoundation.com or by filling in the form below and returning it with your cheque to the Meath Foundation

GIVE REGULARLY

"Planned Giving" is the most efficient and effective way to support The Meath Foundation. Setting aside a specific sum of money each month is easily organised through your bank by standing order. Fill out the form below and we'll send you a Standing Order form or see our website for further details. (www.meathfoundation.com)

POST/FAX

Fill out the form below and post it to the address opposite, or fax it to 01 4145949

Name.....

Address.....

Phone.....

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I would like to become a member of The Meath Foundation and enclose a cheque for €32.00

I would like to make a donation of €_____ to The Meath Foundation.

(Cheques only please to the Address below)

I would like to set up a standing order, please send me a Standing Order Form

