



# The Meath Foundation

Healthcare Research and Education at the Hospital in Tallaght

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Volume 1 Edition 3 Spring 2005

## James Galway in Concert

Foundation Research Strategy  
Annual General Meeting  
Quality in Breast Screening



# Meath Foundation Research Strategy

The Board of the Foundation recently agreed in principal a Research Strategy that will guide the foundation in its support and development of healthcare research on the AMNCH campus at Tallaght.

The Research Strategy sees the Foundation

(a) adopt the twin research themes of "Preventive Medicine" and "Advanced Care" as the

'theme tunes'.

(b) in the medium term, support 1 or 2 major research initiatives that complement these themes

(c) in collaboration with the Office of the Director of Research at the Hospital to develop a research infrastructure within the hospital at Tallaght.

(d) continuing to provide seed monies to support the smaller research projects and encourage

staff to engage in research within the hospital.

(e) continuing to promote the links between Medicine and the Arts as can be seen from the forthcoming concert by imminent flautist James Galway. The Research Strategy will be launched at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting of the Foundation.

## Sir James Galway in Concert

The Meath Foundation is delighted to co-present, with the Irish Chamber Orchestra, world-renowned flutists Sir James Galway and Lady Jeanne Galway in concert at the National Concert Hall on Thursday, 5th May 2005 at 8.00pm.

Professor Des O Neil, the Meath Foundation, will give a pre-concert talk in the Carolan Room at 6.45pm. This will also include a presentation by Hilary Moss, Hospital Arts officer, who will launch a research pilot programme, in association with the Irish Chamber Orchestra, to assess the impact of live music on patients in an acute care hospital.

James Galway is internationally regarded as both a matchless interpreter of the classical repertoire and an

entertainer whose appeal crosses musical boundaries. His unique sound, superb musicianship, and virtuosity have made him one of the most respected and sought-after performing artists.

Although he is best known as a classical musician, Galway's flute graces the "The Lord of the Rings: the Return of the King" film score and among his many recordings is a collection of orchestral arrangements of popular music.

Lady Jeanne Galway has performed as soloist with orchestras such as the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the London Symphony Orchestra, the London Philharmonic, and the Royal Philharmonic.

The Irish Chamber Orchestra consists of top Irish and international string players

and has gained a reputation as a vibrant, refreshing, impacting and influential force on the classical and contemporary music scene.

The Concert Program includes Mozart's Symphony No. 29 in A, Elgar's Serenade, Op. 20, Cimarosa's Concerto in G Major for Two Flutes and Orchestra, and Mozart's Concerto No. 2 in D Major for Two Flutes and Orchestra.

Tickets: will be available

- on the day of the AGM
  - from the Meath Foundation Office 4145896 or 4142432.
  - from the National Concert Hall
- Prices: €30.00 and €40.00 each. Early booking is advised.

## Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Meath Foundation will take place on Thursday, 7th April 2005 in the River Room, Education Centre, Adelaide and Meath Hospital, Dublin Incorporating the National Children's Hospital, Tallaght.

There will be 2 other meetings on that day, an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the

Board of Directors and Governors and a Meeting of Governors to nominate 4 representatives to the Board of Directors.

The program for the day is

**12 noon:** Extraordinary General Meeting

**12.30 p.m:** Meeting to Nominate Governors to the Board

**1.00 p.m:** Lunch

**2.15 p.m:** AGM

The need for an EGM has arisen following the changes brought about by the Health Act, 2004 - this affects the public representation on the Board and secondly the Board's view that greater flexibility be provided for in relation to the appointment of Directors.



## Ensuring Quality in Breast Screening Equipment

About 1,800 new cases of breast cancer are detected in Ireland every year. This is among the highest rates in Europe and has prompted the government to invest in screening programs for early detection. Dedicated mammographic X-Ray equipment is used routinely in the detection and identification of breast cancer. The Adelaide and Meath hospital has a dedicated digital mammography suite. With the help of grant funding from the Meath Foundation it has been possible to evaluate the clinical appropriateness of the current method of assessing equipment performance.

Achieving optimal image quality is essential in mammography. However, it can be difficult to assess on a routine basis whether or not this is being achieved. Standard physics tests used to assess equipment performance may

not adequately test the system under review. In order to investigate the suitability of current testing protocols, a method of relating the Radiologists perception of the quality of an image to what the physicist can measure was investigated. The project was made possible by the collaboration between the medical physicists, the radiologists and the radiographers at the hospital. The project has determined that there are areas where scientific tests need to be improved to reach the sensitivity level that would be evident to the Radiologists.

The project work, has in the main, been carried out by Ms. Linda Gavagan as a trainee medical physicist. Linda has based her thesis on the topic as part fulfilment of the requirements for the M.Sc. in Physical Sciences in Medicine at

Trinity College. The work has been presented by her at conferences in the Faculty of Radiology at the R.C.S.I., the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Association of Physical Scientists in Medicine and at a medical physics conference at Christie Hospital in Manchester. Since finishing with the Foundation project Linda has been working in Manchester but has just recently been offered a post at the Cancer Care Centre in Winnipeg, Canada.

For their collaboration and support in the project we would like to thank Dr. McNerney, Ms Ann Stafford and Ms Ines Byrne and for project supervision and direction, thanks to Dr. Geraldine O'Reilly and Ms Anita Dowling from St. James's hospital.

*Barry McMahon*

# WOMEN...



# ... ARE THE KEY TO MENS HEALTH

Run or Walk the Women's  
mini Marathon in aid of  
The Meath Foundation on  
THE 6TH OF JUNE, 2005

The Meath Foundation  
is funding research in  
prostate cancer at the  
hospital in Tallaght

Contact 01 414 5896 or [www.meathfoundation.com](http://www.meathfoundation.com)

## 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.

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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