

# The Meath Foundation

Healthcare Research and Education at the Hospital in Tallaght

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Volume 1 Edition 4: Summer 2005

**The  
Womens  
Mini  
Marathon**

**Live  
Music**

**Prostate  
Cancer  
Research**

**Research  
Project**

# Meath Foundation Supports Live Music Research Project



Sir James Galway with Patient Maureen Barry

## Sir James Galway Launches Live Music Research Project

Patients at the Hospital in Tallaght are in for a treat when the Irish Chamber Orchestra brings a series of concerts to patients on the wards. The world famous flautist, Sir James Galway was on hand recently to support and launch the initiative.

The 'live music' research project is a joint initiative between the Arts Office in AMNCH, The Meath Foundation, the Irish Chamber Orchestra and South Dublin County Council.

The concerts are part of a series to take place on the wards in AMNCH between September 2005 and February 2006. An independent evaluation will be carried out to measure the impact of providing live music concerts for patients. Qualitative interviews will be carried out with patients pre and post project. It is hoped the research will provide evidence of the benefit of live music for patients in an acute hospital and contribute to the recognition of live music in hospitals as a valuable addition to care, both within the hospital and nationally.

Speaking at the launch Sir James Galway said, 'patients can always do with a creative lift to reduce the sense of isolation that patients can experience in a clinical hospital setting.'

Speaking about the initiative Hillary Moss, Arts Officer at AMNCH, explains; ' Music plays an important role in many people's lives. For example, one might listen to music to relax on the drive home from work or to divert a troubled mind from the day's stress. The ability to respond

to sound and pitch is one of the earliest responses in infants and is often retained despite disability or brain damage. Music can therefore offer particular benefits to patients in Hospital.'

Speaking about The Meath Foundation's role, Ian Dodson Development Executive of the Foundation explains; 'The Meath Foundation has adopted 'Medicine and the Arts' as one of the Themes of our research strategy. This live music research project will look at how music can aid relaxation and reduce agitation and stress, whether one is waiting anxiously for a clinic appointment or waiting for test results. It can also be beneficial simply to brighten up an otherwise long hospital day'



"Professor Des O Neil, Mr Ron Grainger, Sir James Galway, Dr John Barragry and Hospital Arts Officer Hilary Moss"

## Recent Foundation Events

### James Galway Concert



Mairead Shields, Hilary Moss, John Kelly of the ICO and Professor Des O'Neill at the James Galway Pre-concert talk.



Professor Richard Conroy, Maura Nocter and Ian Dodson of the Meath Foundation

### Meath Foundation AGM



Members of the outgoing Board of the Meath Foundation



Gerry Brady, Elizabeth O Dwyer and Dr Gerry Hurley



Mary Dillon, Anne Roche, Frances Healy and Abigail Mellerick



Theresa Quinn and Dr Amanda Murphy



Mary Lahiff and Breda Larkin



Dr. Kevin Sullivan, Margot Hanly and Prof. Peter Gatenby

# Feature Research Project



**R**ecipients of Meath Foundation Grants in 2003 and 2004, Dr. Amanda Murphy, Dr. Caroline Hughes, Dr. Barbara Loftus and Professor John O'Leary, have been studying the DNA, RNA and protein content of individual prostate cancers to gain a better understanding of prostate cancer at a molecular level. The recipients are based in the Departments of Pathology, Adelaide & Meath Hospital and Trinity College Dublin.

In collaboration with the Department of Urology, Adelaide & Meath Hospital, they have collected fresh tissue from 30 prostate cancer cases and 13 cases of benign prostatic hyperplasia or BPH (benign enlargement of the prostate gland). Thanks to powerful genechip technology, they have been able to look at the levels of expression of almost 30,000 genes across the entire genome in 20 of these cases (11 cancers and 9 cases of BPH).

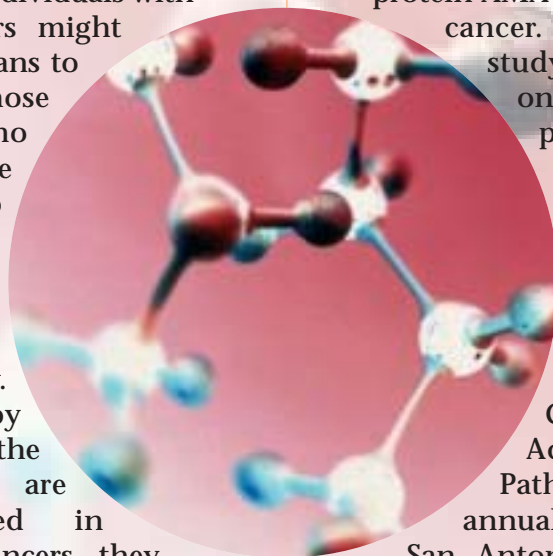
The result is an extensive database of genes that are expressed at different levels in cancers compared to benign tissue, and in advanced cancers

compared to early cancers. By searching through this database, they hope to identify genes that are only present in prostate cancer - in the future, these markers could form part of a screening test for prostate cancer or prostate cancer risk. They are also searching for genes that are only present in early prostate cancers that progress - testing for these markers in individuals with early cancers might allow clinicians to identify those patients who are more likely to benefit from surgery or

radiotherapy. Finally, by looking at the genes that are overexpressed in advanced cancers, they hope to identify potential targets for drug therapy. Final statistical analysis of the genetic database is ongoing. It is hoped the resulting gene-list will provide valuable insight into the as yet poorly

understood process of prostate carcinogenesis. Other promising results from this study include the identification of amplification of the Topoisomerase II alpha (TopoII $\alpha$ ) gene, a target for a number of currently available chemotherapeutic drugs, in androgen independent and metastatic prostate cancer, and variable overexpression of the protein AMACR in prostate cancer. While this study is still ongoing,

provisional results were presented and were well received at the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathologists annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas in March 2005. Hopefully this work will bring us a little closer to understanding, appropriately treating and perhaps curing this common and sometimes life-threatening disease.



# 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 4145896 FOR FREE T-SHIRT AND SPONSORSHIP CARD**

Summer 2005

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The Meath Foundation:

## 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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