

# FOUNDATION NEWS



## A.I.B

Mr David Hammond, Manager Allied Irish Banks, Tallaght and Ms Jo Ryan, Allied Irish Banks AMNCH presented a cheque to The Meath Foundation for €20,000 on 14th November 2005. This money was raised at the Allied Irish Banks golf classic during the summer. The cheque was accepted by Professor Colm O'Morain on behalf of the Foundation and Dr Maria O'Sullivan a research grant recipient in 2004 attended. The Meath Foundation wishes to thank all the sponsors who helped raise this money, which will be used to continue the work of The Meath Foundation in healthcare research and education. We would like to thank Allied Irish Banks and especially Ms Jo Ryan for their continued support.

## South Dublin Chamber of Commerce

The Meath Foundation sponsored the South Dublin Chamber of Commerce "Member meets Member" meeting hosted by the Hospital on Thursday 24th November. Pictured with the Chambers President, Ms Deirdre Mooney are Meath Foundation Board members Prof. Colm O'Morain, Ms Clare Quinn, Ms Mary Cotter, and Ms Mairead Shields. This was an opportunity for local business to come to the Hospital see the facilities and hear what services the Hospital has to offer as well as hearing about the

research being carried out.

## Fundraising

The Meath Foundation

wishes to congratulate Ms Brenda Nolan who ran the New York Marathon on Sunday 6th November 2005 in a time of 4 hours 40 minutes.

Ms Nolan and her family raised an incredible €4,800 to help fund cancer research in the Hospital. A special word of thanks goes to Brenda's mother Betty who works in the Day Ward at AMNCH. She helped with the fundraising and wishes to thank all the staff, patients and visitors in the hospital who were so generous in sponsoring Brenda.

The Meath Foundation would also like to say a big thank you to the following women who ran the Dublin Women's Marathon in June 2005 and who raised a total of €1,400 for The Foundation- Ms Karen Fitzmaurice, Ms Marion McKeown, Ms Lilly Savage, Ms Teresa Quinn, Ms Martina Byrne and Ms Deirdre Martin. Congratulations and thank you for your continued support.

## Lecture - TJD Lane Lecture

The Urological Unit of the Meath Hospital opened on the 18th November 1955 and moved to Tallaght in 1998. To celebrate the

50th anniversary Mr. Michael Butler delivered the TJD Lane Lecture at the Hospital on Friday, 18th November 2005. Mrs Nuala Lane (daughter-in-law of the late TJD Lane) and her family attended the celebrations. Mrs Lane presented Mr Butler with the TJD Lane medal following the lecture. It was a great celebration with many former staff, some who had travelled from overseas, along with current staff from the Department present.

It is with great sadness that The Board of the Foundation and especially the Officer Board say a sad farewell to Ms Maura Noctor who will be leaving us at the end of the year. Maura has been the corner stone of The Foundation since its inception in 1998 and will be greatly missed by everyone. The Chairman and the Board wish to thank Maura for her dedication and all her hard work for The Foundation and wish her well in the future.

The Board would like to welcome Ms Catherine Talbot as Administrative Assistant with The Foundation. Catherine took up her position in October and we wish her well in her new position. The Foundation Office will now open 5 days a week Monday - Friday. Why not take time to call in and say hello, or you can contact Catherine by e-mail at [catherine.talbot@meathfoundation.ie](mailto:catherine.talbot@meathfoundation.ie) or telephone 4145896.



# Feature Research Project

# Virtual Reality Training

*Virtual Reality Training: cutting edge technology for training young surgeons*

Virtual Reality Training: cutting edge technology for training young surgeons in Tallaght.



*Orientation and basic suturing tasks*

Constraints on the surgical trainee's time in recent years has meant that we are now searching for new and alternative methods to acquire and maintain the necessary dextrous skills. The reduction in time spent in the operating room has reduced the amount of time allocated for dextrous training. Alternative training devices outside the operating room are becoming more important. Surgical

simulators have the ability to provide such training in safe and controlled environment. Professor Kevin Conlon, Mr Sean Tierney, Dr David Broe and colleagues have had a keen interest in the development of virtual reality simulator technology in the last number of years. The Promis™ hybrid surgical simulator has the potential to marry the actual and virtual in a protected training environment. Developed by Haptica, a company from Trinity College Dublin, the simulator intuitively represents a desirable pathway integrating the benefits of older style box and newer virtual reality trainers. The simulator mimics the laparoscopic (keyhole surgery) environment and allows expert surgeons teach junior trainees the techniques needed to perform complex tasks. It also has the ability to track the movements of the instruments in space allowing objective feedback. The Professorial Surgical Unit (PSU) has been involved in developing the simulator and specifically investigating the validity of

several simulated tasks. A basic premise of validity is that the simulation should allow discrimination between various skill and experience levels. Using a group of senior and junior trainees at Tallaght, the PSU validated three laparoscopic tasks, all having an integral part of operations such as laparoscopic cholecystectomy. This has allowed the simulator to be effectively used to train and decide when trainees have reached an acceptable standard prior to patient contact. This work was supported by a Meath Foundation grant and won an award at the European Association for Endoscopic Surgery in Barcelona last year.



*Professor Kevin C. Conlon KCC Award*

*The Research Sub-Committee of The Foundation wishes to advise applicants that the results of research grant applications for 2005 will be announced in January 2006 – all applicants will be notified of the results. We wish to apologise for the delay in making these announcements.*

# 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*

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.

The Meath Foundation  
Adelaide & Meath Hospital, Dublin  
Incorporating the National Children's  
Hospital  
Tallaght  
Dublin 24.

Tel: + 353 1 4142432

Fax: + 353 1 4145949

Web: [www.meathfoundation.com](http://www.meathfoundation.com)

Email: [meathfoundation@amnch.ie](mailto:meathfoundation@amnch.ie)

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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.....

E-mail.....

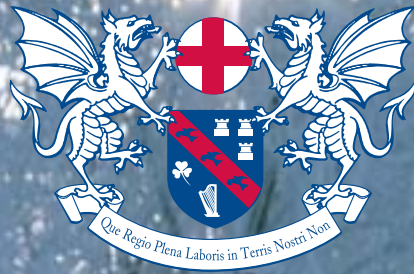
I would like to become a member of The Meath Foundation and enclose a cheque for €32.00

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





# The Meath Foundation

Healthcare Research and Education at the Hospital in Tallaght

Volume 1 Edition 4:  
Winter 2005

# Feature Research Project

# Virtual Reality Training