

Rotunda *Delivery*



The Official Newsletter of The Rotunda Hospital

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L-R : Fiona Hanrahan, Tom Brabazon, Jim Hussey, Prof Fergal Malone

In Recognition of all Rotunda Staff

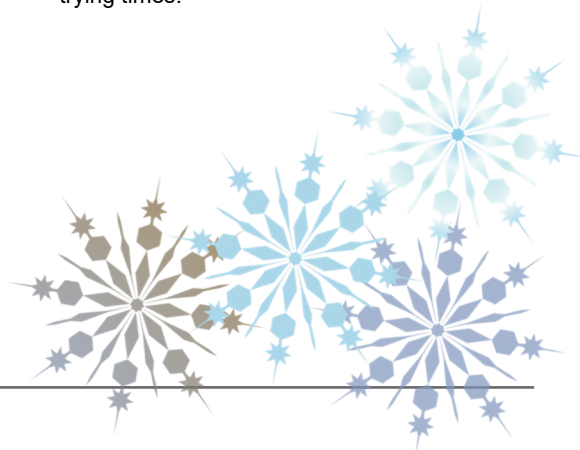
In June 2020, on behalf of the citizens of Dublin, the then Lord Mayor of Dublin, Tom Brabazon, shared his thanks to all of the staff of the Rotunda Hospital for the extraordinary work undertaken during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Mr Brabazon recognised the additional pressures placed upon staff during what can only be considered as one of the most stressful times of our lives with no options for delaying of treatment in the Rotunda's special circumstances.

"We have all seen the photographs of the doctors and nursing staff working in our hospitals," said Mr Brabazon, "and they have been the very visible faces of those on the frontline fighting this disease. I would also like to extend my thanks to staff who may not be as visible in the public eye but without whom the hospitals could not have got through this pandemic including

healthcare professionals and technicians, hospital porters, care staff, cleaning and catering staff, hospital support staff, and the administrative staff and management of the hospital."

Mr Brabazon presented the Executive Management Team with a Lord Mayor Scroll in recognition of the exemplary commitment and dedication of Rotunda staff during these trying times.





Message From the Editor

Welcome to the Winter edition of *Rotunda Delivery*. It is nearly a year since we last published the *Rotunda Delivery* newsletter, primarily due to Covid-19.

As the Executive Management Team (EMT) have outlined in their update, 2020 will be marked by how it has transformed all of our lives throughout the year, both professionally and personally. As the year draws to a close, 2020 has also been a year of a significant amount of change here at the Rotunda.

In this issue, the EMT (page 3) keep us updated on a number of Rotunda campus improvements. We are also provided with an overview of the Finance and Procurement Department which had many challenges throughout 2020 as a consequence of the additional need to purchase PPE due to Covid-19. From a HR perspective progress has been made in terms of the recruitment of additional midwives to cope with ongoing demands and activity levels.

The Rotunda Foundation (page 4) provide us with an update on the various fundraising activities they have supported during the year. We have also included many other news stories to include advice on mindfulness (page 2), the flu vaccination update (page 9), the Irish Health Care Awards (page 10) and more.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Editorial Committee for all their hard work in bringing this edition together at the end of an extraordinary year and the restrictions which Covid-19 have imposed upon us all.

On behalf of the Editorial Committee, we would like to thank the Master, Professor Fergal Malone, and the Executive Management Team for their continued support of the *Rotunda Delivery* newsletter and we trust the newsletter continues to provide an effective means of communication whereby all staff and management are kept updated on a diverse range of news and issues.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to your continued support in 2021.

Kieran Slevin
Editor

Letters to the Editor

If you'd like to send a letter to the Editor, suggest a subject to be covered in our next issue or even write an article for us, please contact Kieran Slevin at kslevin@rotunda.ie or at ext 1777 or email newsletter@rotunda.ie

News

Mindfulness

Mindfulness is the practice of truly being in the moment while understanding and appreciating the feelings which stir within you at that given time. It is about making a conscious effort to switch off the noise, tension and fast pace of the world around us by allowing ourselves to pay attention to the present moment and focus on what is happening in the here and now. It is a skill deserving of attention and while it comes naturally to some, it may take practice for others. Take some time with the below practices and begin your mindful journey.

Dropping anchor is a very useful skill to have when practicing both mindfulness and meditation; and more importantly in our everyday lives when managing difficult emotions or moments effectively. It helps us to manage our stress and anxiety levels in a way which stops us from ruminating, catastrophising or running away. It helps us to refocus and regain any lost control without acting on impulse. There are various methods of dropping anchor, all of which encourage us to centre ourselves by recognising our feelings, bringing us back into the moment with our body and engaging with what is happening in the moment. Give this dropping anchor method a try.

Plant your feet on the floor. Push them down, and notice the floor beneath you, supporting you.

Notice the muscle tension in your legs as you push your feet into the ground.

Notice your entire body and the feeling of gravity flowing down through your head and spine and legs, into your feet.

Now look around. Notice what you can see and hear around you by using your five senses.

Breath poems are practised by the monastic and lay practitioners of the Buddhist teacher Ven Thich Nhat Hanh. This is practised using the first line on the in-breath and the second line on the out-breath and allowing the words to aid concentration at just being in the present moment. A breath poem, or 'gatha', contains the elements of helping us to remain in the present moment, to be solid like the mountain and also to recognise that we can be free, just where we are, and that we are all inter-connected as living beings in the realm of all things. By using the breath poem here, give this breathing technique a try.

*I have arrived
I am home*

*In the here
In the now*

*I am solid
I am free*

*In the ultimate
I dwell*

ENTER TO WIN

To be in with a chance of winning a €250 One4All

Voucher simply answer the following:

Q: In what week did the virtual Rotunda Maternity Open Week run in 2020?

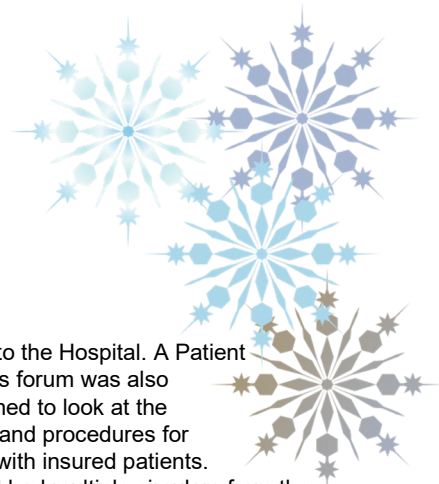
Answer:

Name:

Dept & No:

Send your answers to Kieran Slevin, HR Dept, Rotunda Hospital, Dublin 1. Closing date 31st January, 2021. One entry per person. Terms and Conditions Apply. www.one4all.ie

Management Team Update



Throughout 2020, despite Covid-19 which transformed all our lives, we continued to provide maternity services to our patients. We were required at times to quickly adapt to changes as we moved through the different levels of restrictions. It is extremely important that we, the Executive Management Team, once again recognise the ongoing valued commitment by all our staff who ensured at all times patient safety was at the forefront. We thank you whole heartedly for this commitment. We hope to recognise this commitment by all staff in the future.

To say that we have had another busy year would be an understatement. While activity is down somewhat in 2020 to date, there has been an increase in acuity in the patients presenting.

The third series of the documentary *The Rotunda* is in the planning stage and development stage and is expected to be aired on RTE in mid 2021 providing a further opportunity to showcase our staff, skill, expertise, culture, and promotion of the hospital as a world class maternity hospital to the public.

As we progressed through 2020, there was significant and continuous programme of capital works to improve our patient and staff

experience. These include the theatre build and Delivery suites refurbishment, the refurbishment of the bathrooms on the General Prenatal Ward, the replacement of the main electrical board in the medical residence, and the refurbishment of the old HARI Unit which will become an integrated outpatient ambulatory gynaecology clinic, including outpatient hysteroscopy facilities.

There are many ongoing live projects at the moment and we will attempt to minimise the disruption which these will cause to staff and patients. We appreciate your cooperation at this time.


The Finance and Procurement Department had an eventful year in 2020. Covid-19 presented challenges in terms of ensuring an adequate amount of PPE was purchased and issued within the Hospital. The finance team have been busy ensuring all Covid-19 costs were separately identified and reported to the RCSI Hospitals Group and the HSE. In terms of normal operations, the Hospital has completed the rollout of devolved budgeting. In Accounts Payable, this year also saw the rollout of SAP Concur which has enabled the hospital to use electronic invoicing to increase the efficiency in invoice management. In Patient Accounts, the team continued to diligently manage the insurance

income to the Hospital. A Patient Accounts forum was also established to look at the policies and procedures for dealing with insured patients.


Payroll had multiple circulars from the HSE to deal with in terms of Covid-19. The Hospital introduced a new mobile app which gives quicker access to payslips and the pensions function is continuing to improve the service and information which it provides to employees. We have overcome many obstacles and hurdles together during this time by working collaboratively and by being innovative and responsive to the ever changing demands.

Throughout the year HR have recruited staff across all disciplines to support service demands and for service developments. HR have also progressed the implementation of the key recommendations of the quality review of the Peer Review Group by the RCSI School of Medicine.


To all our staff who retired or resigned during 2020 we wish them continued success and enjoyment in the next stages of their life or careers. Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you, your family and friends a very happy festive season and we look forward to working with you all in 2021.



Prof Fergal Malone
Master



Ms Fiona Hanrahan
Director of Midwifery/Nursing



Mr Jim Hussey
Secretary/Group General Manager

In Memoriam: Allyson Campion

Midwifery/Nursing lost a very dear colleague this year with the premature death of **Allyson Campion (nee Lawless)** in January 2020. Allyson joined the Rotunda as a Staff Midwife in the Ultrasound Department in March 2014. She was promoted to Clinical Midwife Manager in May 2017 and having completed an MSc in Ultrasound, was designated as Clinical Midwife Specialist in October 2017.

Allyson's close colleagues and friends, Deirdre Nolan and Ger Fay have shared some of their thoughts and memories of the Allyson they knew and loved on behalf of all Allyson's colleagues in the Ultrasound and Fetal Medicine Unit. Deirdre says, "Allyson's name means noble, gentle and wellborn. She would light up a room as soon as she entered, always smiling and laughing while maintaining a high level of professionalism and empathy. Family was everything to Allyson, and her love for her husband Derek, daughter Eve, parents Anne and Matthew and her siblings, was at the core of everything she achieved. Family was the anchor which enabled her to remain stoical throughout the adversities she faced."

Allyson's friendship with Ger started when their daughters were born close in date to each other. Throughout Allyson's illness she set milestones she wanted to achieve. She wanted to take Eve to see *Frozen 2*, which she did, and to be home for Eve's 4th birthday which she also achieved. Ger's daughter Emi and Eve are great friends and Ger says that Eve is a 'mini me' of her mum so Allyson lives on through her beautiful daughter.

It is very difficult to find the right words to reflect the great loss that Allyson is to both her colleagues and the wider Rotunda family but most importantly to Derek, Eve and Allyson's extended family. May her gentle soul rest in peace. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dílis.



2020 Happenings!

Despite 2020 being an extremely unique and difficult year for many charitable organisations, the Rotunda Foundation is proud to say that we, along with our kind supporters, managed to hold several virtual fundraisers throughout the year.

Celebrating Our 2018 NICU Graduates

World Prematurity Day is usually a day when we get to invite all the tiniest premature babies who turned two over the past year, back to the Pillar Room to have a fun party with cake and balloons and non-stop chaos. Sadly, because we couldn't gather this year, we sent out World Prematurity Day party packs to our graduates of 2018 so they could have a little party at home to celebrate their strength and tenacity. We were thrilled to see them doing so well and hope these happy pictures can provide hope to families currently in the care of the Unit.

Virtual Vhi Women's Mini Marathon raises almost €13,000!

Every year, the Mini Marathon is one of the most important fundraisers for the Rotunda Foundation. This year Covid-19 didn't stop 12 women from completing the 10K run in their local area and raising a fantastic €12,953! We would like to extend a huge thank you to each and every one of these women and their donors for choosing to support the Rotunda Foundation.

Irish Doctors Choir 275th Anniversary Fundraiser

Our plans to hold a concert featuring the music of Handel and others had to be postponed. However, we are very grateful to the Irish Doctors Choir who arranged a virtual performance of excerpts from Handel's Hospital Foundling Anthem to raise funds to support the Rotunda Hospital. Collectively they raised €2,000! The full recording can be found here: <https://youtu.be/k-ZljkGZ7s>

The Rotunda Foundation's Impact in 2020

With the help of big fundraisers and every day donations, the Rotunda Foundation was proud to sponsor many pieces of important equipment for the Hospital. These have included:

- Resuscitation training manikins which allow our doctors and other professionals to acquire and maintain the vital skills required to resuscitate newborn babies quickly when under pressure.
- Cerebral Function Monitor for the NICU. This piece of equipment monitors the brain health and activity in babies in the Unit and provides invaluable data which helps the doctors and nurses make the best decisions on their care as quickly as possible.
- Bilimeters for our community midwifery team which detects if infants in their care have jaundice.

Text to Donate

In June of this year, we launched our *Text to Donate* campaign. The line is still open and by simply texting ROTUNDA to 50300 you can Donate €4* so the Foundation can continue to support the excellent maternity care provided at our Hospital.

*Text costs €4. The Rotunda Foundation will receive a minimum of €3.60.

Service Provider: LIKECHARITY. Helpline: 076 6805278.



FOLLOW US

-  @RotundaFoundation
-  @Rotunda.Foundation
-  @RotundaCharity

World Prematurity Day 2020



Text **ROTUNDA** to **50300**
to Donate **€4**

Text costs €4. The Rotunda Foundation will receive a minimum of €3.60.
Service Provider: LIKECHARITY. Helpline: 076 6805278.

Frontline Heroes Thank You

2020 has been one of the most challenging years in living memory. Nothing it seems, however, can stop the dedication of the staff of the world's oldest maternity hospital. We thank and applaud every staff member of the Rotunda Hospital who worked tirelessly to ensure services were delivered, and families were cared for.



Messages of Support During COVID-19 Restrictions

Could not compliment the Rotunda more. They've taken care of me & our two babies with kindness & compassion. Praying for your safety and strength facing into such a huge challenge ☐

Most amazing place. Full of wonderful, dedicated staff. Always a smile for you when you are there for appointments or going home with your baby

So thankful for all of the work that you do and are doing for us to bring our babies here safely, they are the hope we need in this scary time, thank you @rotundahospital

Thanks to this wonderful maternity hospital who gave me an amazing experience with my 2 babies. We suffered a LOT and your support made everything so much easier. Thanks and good luck to all pregnant ladies who are going through this in this difficult time ♥

Thank you so much for all the amazing work all your staff do. I had my baby there on new years day and she stayed in NICU for three weeks. We will never forget the wonderful doctors, nurses, midwives, catering and hygiene team. Even to the lovely smiling faces on the security desk. You guys are amazing, we are forever grateful.

Fantastic leadership from the Rotunda EMT and staff. Keep up the great work everyone and stay safe

Home tonight after receiving the highest level of care after the safe delivery of our baby. I cannot express how thankful we for the quality of care and safety measures myself and our baby received during such difficult times for staff, management and parents. Well done to you all for putting measures in place to protect our little ones, mums and colleagues.

Thank you to everyone in the rotunda from the midwives to the cleaners. I had my baby there last week via C-section and never felt worried for one minute. The staff went above and beyond to care for me and the baby, the cleaners were constantly around cleaning with a smile on their face and the food was amazing !! Thank you all for helping us bring our son safely into this crazy world ☐

I'm currently in the @rotundahospital. I cannot begin to say enough about the care the phenomenal staff had given to me and my new born. I am blown away by how great they are. Thanks so much

Well done! I was in the E.D today and all the staff are just amazing! The care is exceptional as always!

Well done all amazing staff keep safe xx

Rotunda staff continue to provide a service of excellence in exceptionally difficult circumstances. Well done and thank you to you all ♥



@rotundahospital

I'm currently in the @rotundahospital. I cannot begin to say enough about the care the phenomenal staff had given to me and my new born. I am blown away by how great they are. Thanks so much

The most amazing maternity hospital 😊 You have done so much for me over the years and I am looking forward to attending again on my 2nd baby who is due in September ☐☐ Well done to you all, your staff are brilliant. God bless you all and let's hope we get through this crisis and bring our healthy babies into the world safe and sound ☐

Well done guys. Such a wonderful hospital. Sending all the love ☐☐

Well done to all the rotunda staff for keeping an excellent service for women and babies going under very difficult circumstances ♥ well wishes to all the staff who have their own families at home to think of ♥ your efforts are appreciated ♥

You guys are awesome, great plans put in place with supportive staff. Together we will survive this. God bless you and your efforts.

Amazing team ☺ and absolutely heroes of our country ☐

Going above and beyond to keep mums, babies and staff safe ♥

Wonderful hospital, fabulous nurses and doctors. Staff in here are second to none. Well done everyone x

Thank you Rotunda staff, I was in there this week to have my baby, it was an extreme tough week indeed, but thanks to the amazing staff of this hospital e made it through and we're back home with dad and big brother. Thank you thank you thank you☐☐

Thank you all for your hard work. Especially to the midwives and nurses for keeping us and our babies safe.

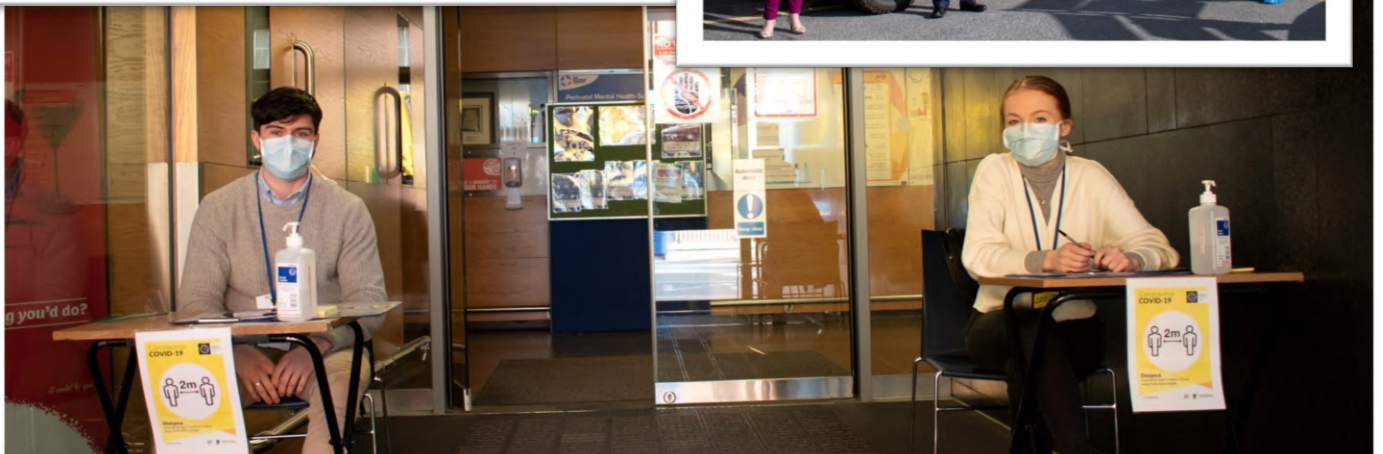
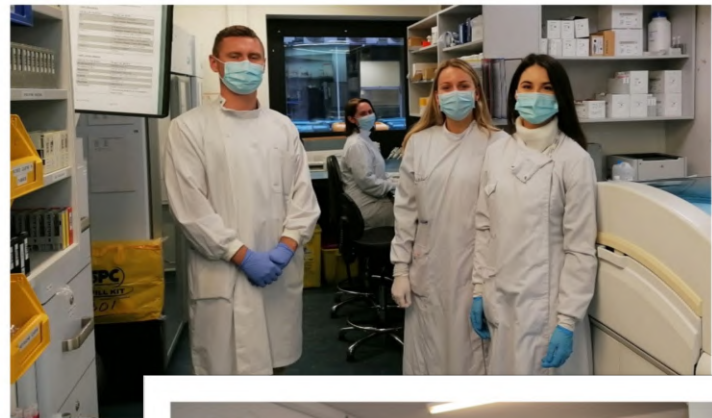
Amazing staff, they were in touch with me a couple of times this week about appointments, so dedicated. Keep up the great work! Xx

Thank you for all the wonderful work the Rotunda team do.

Thank you so much for all care, support and kindness during my labour on Wednesday March 18th. You are absolutely fantastic people ♥♥♥ I'm over the moon that you looked after me and my little boy so well. Best hospital.

In a year when social distancing took precedence, we reorganised the way we work as a team, how we met our standards and ultimately how we delivered our services.

It was no mean feat, but with the support of all staff, we made our way through one of the most difficult crises our health service has ever witnessed.





Flu Vaccination 2019/2020

Update from Occupational Health

By Valerie Jackson
Clinical Audit and Surveillance Scientist, Occupational Health

As predicted the flu season arrived last year with many people across Ireland sick over Christmas. Last seasons flu vaccine was a quadrivalent version and included the two influenza A viruses found in trivalent vaccines and a second influenza B virus. Once again the Rotunda staff attended in huge numbers for vaccination with over 50 clinics offered across the site by both Occupational Health and the wonderful flu vaccinators. We hoped to beat our record of 80% vaccination rate. The average yearly rate in other hospitals nationally is 45%. Areas had been asked to enter a competition with suggestions as to how the prizemoney from the HSE for being placed second place in the country should be spent for staff locally. In December 2019, the below areas were chosen as winners of the €7000 prize fund.

Meditation sessions for staff - training and equipment	Brain Cleary	€2000
Step challenge 2020 fund	Catherine Halloran	€1500
Restaurant refurbishment	Deborah Cullen	€1000
Caring for staff working in bereavement workshop	Ann Charlton	€750
New lockers/presses	Fionnuala Nugent - Pre Natal	€700
Painting of NICU Drs Residence	Ann Coughlan	€700
New fridge for staff	Ajita Raman - Lillie	€150
Christmas tree and Decorations OPD	Elizabeth Iredale	€150

Employee Assistance Programme

By Cathy Ryan Hyland
Deputy Human Resources Manager/People and Strategic Development Manager

If you are struggling or require some independent assistance, the Rotunda Hospital Employee Assistance Programme (EAP), provided by VHI, is available to listen and support 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We would like to take the opportunity to remind you that the service is 100% confidential. VHI, the service provider, does not inform Human Resources Department of who avails of the service.

The Employee Assistance Programme can be contacted on 1800 995 955 or via email on eap@vhics.ie should you require assistance. You can call the EAP helpline to arrange access to the various services of telephone and face-to-face counselling, specialist information and coaching services.

The service is provided by trained and experienced counsellors who are professionally qualified and bound by the codes of conduct of the professional bodies to which they belong and is available to all employees for support with both personal and work-related concerns. A wide range of issues are dealt with by EAP, helping you to navigate life's milestones.

No issue is too big or small. The person on the other end of the phone will respond to you in a timely, confidential and courteous manner. If you think this service could assist you, please give them a call or send an email.

- COVID anxiety and related issues
- Starting a new job, buying a new house, relocating
- Relationship milestones - relationship challenges, family friction
- Managing money
- Illness
- Personal/family crisis
- Retirement issues
- Responsibility at work - promotion, dealing with conflict, managing change
- Returning to work - maternity leave, childcare, role change
- Staying healthy - stress, nutrition, emotional health
- Addictions
- Support following a critical incident



Rotunda Wins Again and Again

Irish Healthcare Awards 2019 and 2020

By Richard Drew
Clinical Director of Laboratory

By Ann Coughlan
Service Planning Manager

The Rotunda Hospital won a prestigious award at last Winters Irish Healthcare Awards 2019. Hosted by the Irish Medical Times in November 2019, the Rotunda Hospital won *Best Use of IT* in a hospital. The Clinical Innovation Unit won for *Use of Artificial Intelligence for Interpretation of Bacterial Vaginosis Molecular results in Maternity Patients*.

Bacterial vaginosis is an abnormal condition of the vagina, where the normal flora get replaced by other bacteria that can lead to vaginal discharge and inflammation. Historically it was diagnosed using routine microscopy staining and this technique had been around for over 100 years. Using a new molecular platform for identifying the bacteria associated with bacterial vaginosis, the team developed an artificial intelligence derived algorithm to interpret the multiple bacterial PCR results and convert them in to a single positive or negative result for clinical staff. The Rotunda is the first Irish hospital to move to routine molecular testing for bacterial vaginosis, and hopes to expand its use in fertility services and routine gynaecology clinics. The test has received INAB accreditation and also the work has been accepted for publication in *Diagnostic Microbiology & Infectious Diseases* journal. It is planned to develop more algorithms with artificial intelligence and machine learning through a *HSE Spark Innovation Award* which has been given to the Clinical Innovation Unit based at the Rotunda. The next projects will focus on an obstetric bacteraemia calculator and an unsupervised machine learning classification system for paediatric sepsis.

The Rotunda won two awards at this years Irish Healthcare Awards which were celebrated virtually. The *Outpatient Initiative of the Year* was awarded to the hospital following the introduction of Ireland's first Manual Vacuum Aspiration (MVA) clinic. The new clinic facilitates women's choice and autonomy in the management of early pregnancy loss. The *Patient Education Project of the Year* was awarded to the hospital, RCSI and the HRB Mother and Baby Clinical Trial Network for the *Real Talk with Real Mums* podcast series. The 10-episode podcast series looked at the issues of everyday pregnancy with medical professionals and real women through their pregnancy journey.

The hospital also received a second commendation in the 'NCHD Project of the Year' category for the new Virtual Gynaecology Clinic. The telemedicine clinics facilitate gynaecological consultation and investigation, as well as primary management of gynaecological conditions, which have resulted in increased access to care and will reduce waiting times for appointments.

Three other projects were shortlisted: *GDMapp* which involved the creation of an app-assisted self-monitoring tool for glycaemic control; *Obstetric Telemedicine Hypertension Clinic* to facilitate home monitoring of women with high blood pressure in pregnancy and finally *The Breakfast Club Comic* which told the story of real women with diabetes through pregnancy. *GDMapp* and *The Breakfast Club Comic* was a collaboration with RCSI and BigMedilytics and HRB Mother & Baby CTNI respectively.

Professor Fergal Malone, Master of the Rotunda Hospital said, "The Irish Healthcare Awards recognise innovation and excellence and on behalf of Management at the Rotunda Hospital, I would like to congratulate our winners and nominees for their hard work on these projects over the last 12 months."



Visiting the Jewel in the Crown of the Rotunda Hospital

By Anne M. O'Byrne, Librarian

The Rotunda first became involved in the hugely popular Culture Night in 2018. As such the Rotunda welcomed visitors to the capital for an Introductory Lecture and a series of tours of the Rotunda's historic chapel. Also on offer was the Front Hall Exhibition which showcases previous Masters of the Rotunda.

Volunteers from staff were on hand to bring visitors directly to the Chapel which is situated in the busy postnatal ward. Professor Michael Geary, and myself, provided background to the Rotunda, its founder Dr Bartholomew Mosse, and to the chapel which is known as "The Jewel in the Crown." Dr John Loughrey described the role of the Benefactors Boards for fundraising in the 1700's and 1800's. Both lectures and visits were fully booked each year and we looked forward to welcoming visitors in 2020. Covid-19 however changed our approach to this event as it was not safely possible to invite visitors into the hospital. The organisers of Culture Night were not going to be defeated. Through a series of web casts, previous participants to this event were encouraged to look at new and innovative ways to contribute to the first ever Virtual Culture Night. With the assistance of our Communications Officer, Cormac McAdam, we provided a series of videos for the virtual programme: Introduction to Culture Night, Introduction to the founder Dr Mosse and three videos of the Rotunda Chapel. They went live on Culture Night from the Rotunda website. Viewing records show high level of viewing throughout the evening and feedback from the Culture Night organisers suggest it was indeed a worthwhile exercise. We hope to retain these videos on our website and encourage their viewing from this link <https://rotunda.ie/culturenight/>



Patient Safety Initiatives During 2020

By Sheila Breen
Head of Quality and Patient Safety

Patient Safety Awareness Week

We celebrated this event in early March. Poster presentations of recent and current patient safety initiatives were displayed in the Front Hall. Additional staff training and education, focusing on key safety initiatives were also undertaken during the week.

Maternity Open Week

The virtual Rotunda Maternity Open Week ran from September 27th to October 3rd. It facilitated prospective and expectant parents to engage with the hospital's staff to learn more about our services and submit questions. The questions were reviewed by the appropriate healthcare professionals and responses were recorded, posted on social media platforms and viewed over 110,000 times.

GP Liaison

An online GP educational evening was held on October 22nd, which 115 GPs attended. Topics covered included management of epilepsy in pregnancy, our perinatal mental health service, pregnancy options service and an overview of the resources available for women's health after motherhood. Feedback of the event was very positive.

Inspections and Reports

An Infection Prevention and Control Assessment was undertaken by Prof Martin Cormican, HSE Lead for Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control, on January 14th. The report on HIQA's unannounced inspection focusing on obstetric emergencies undertaken in January 2019 was released on February 12th. Twenty one standards were assessed; compliant in 19, substantially compliant in 1 and non-complaint in 1, which related to physical infrastructure.

The report following HIQA's announced inspection of medication safety in November 2019 was released on March 9th.

The report highlighted the well established medication safety programme in place, with clear objectives identified and monitoring of progress with medication safety plans.

The Laboratory had a successful INAB surveillance visit in April. This was carried out by remote assessment. The Rotunda was the first hospital in Ireland to undergo remote assessment.

Quality Improvement Plans

Progress with implementing the departmental quality improvement plans was overseen by the Quality and Safety Committee. A number of new initiatives were progressed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. These included the restructuring of appointments, including the use of telemedicine for completion of booking visit history taking and some specialist maternity and gynaecology clinics. All parent education class content was recorded and uploaded to the website.



National Maternity Experience Survey

The results of the National Maternity Experience Survey were launched on October 1st. The survey was a joint initiative by HIQA, the HSE and Department of Health which offered women the opportunity to share their experiences of Ireland's maternity services. The aim of the survey was to learn from the experiences of women to improve the safety and quality of the care they and their baby receive.

Overall, 86% of participants rated their overall experience in the Rotunda Hospital as 'good' or 'very good'. The hospital scored higher than the national standard in the following areas:

- Skin-to-skin contact with their baby shortly after the birth – 9.6 out of 10
- Care while pregnant (antenatal care) – 7.5 out of 10
- Care in hospital after the birth – 7.6 out of 10

We have identified a number of quality improvement initiatives relating to the following areas:

- Timely access to antenatal information
- Antenatal appointment
- Communication
- Staff levels
- Breastfeeding support
- Mental health support
- Physical infrastructure



Retirements



While **Dr Ronan Gleeson** is retiring from the Rotunda Hospital he is embarking on a new career as Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Penang Medical School. Ronan came to the Rotunda in 1981 as a senior house officer, left to further his training in the United Kingdom and Australia, and returned in 1990. Since then his posts included senior registrar, assistant master, consultant/senior lecturer in Trinity

and latterly R.C.S.I. consultant/senior lecturer. Tuesdays in the Team D antenatal clinic and Wednesday's in the theatre will never be the same! Good luck Ronan. Penang's gain is our loss.



Maura Lavery retired in February 2020 after over 34 years service in the Rotunda Hospital. Maura was appointed as the Clinical Midwife Specialist in Lactation in 2001. Under her guidance and direction The Rotunda Hospital was the first Dublin maternity hospital to achieve the Baby Friendly Accreditation status. She also served a period of time as the President of the Association of Lactation Consultants

in Ireland. She worked tirelessly to improve breastfeeding rates in the hospital. She will be missed by all her colleagues for her enthusiasm, attention to detail and her problem solving capacity. We wish her a long healthy and happy retirement.



Les Corbett retired as Health and Safety Manager in November of 2020 after over 18 years' service. Les was the first H&S Manager to be appointed in the Rotunda and over saw many changes to ensure the hospital was a safer workplace At all times he was professional in his management of health and safety issues and drew on his vast international experience of working in Health Care. He will be missed by his many colleagues not

least for his quirky innovative approaches to improving the work environment. We wish him and his family many happy and enjoyable years of retirement.



Ronnie O'Neill officially retired from the position as staff midwife based in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit on the 12th of August 2020. We would like to thank Ronnie for her dedication, kindness, compassion and endless energy in providing care to sick neonates and their families. She always had time to assist and support her fellow colleagues in the unit and will be sadly missed by all.

We would like to wish her good health and happiness in her retirement.



Marian Brennan retired in December 2020, after 30 years continuous service at the Rotunda. Marian joined us in 1990 as a student midwife. Throughout her long years of service, Marian worked across all clinical areas and was instrumental in setting up and managing the DOVE service, which was an innovative and new service caring for pregnant

women affected by viral diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis.

In 2010, Marian was promoted to the role of Assistant Director of Midwifery & Nursing, Infection Prevention & Control (IPC). In this role Marian excelled in ensuring the Hospital and staff maintained the highest standards in IPC. It is a truth widely accepted at the Rotunda that we have 6, not 5, moments of hand hygiene - the 6th being Marian Brennan.

All of her colleagues and friends at the Rotunda wish Marian the longest, healthiest and happiest of retirements with lots of travel, lots of books and lots of charity work.



Margaret Condron retired in December 2020 after 20 years service at the Rotunda. Margaret is a well-known member of staff who has held many midwifery roles between General Prenatal, Emergency and Assessment Unit and Delivery Suite. She began her career in midwifery as part of a Pilot Direct Entry Midwifery Programme facilitated by Trinity

College with the Rotunda and Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Drogheda, in June 2000. Margaret is much loved and admired by all her colleagues and will be dearly missed for her many tales of "life as a Rotunda Midwife".

Appointments



We would like to take this opportunity to welcome **Mark Kelly** who has recently joined the Rotunda Hospital as Health and Safety Manager. We wish him every success in his new role with us. Mark is an experienced safety professional with a facilities management background. He is a graduate of Dublin City University with an MBS in Management of Safety

and Health at Work. He has held a number of corporate health and safety managerial roles in private industry, the most recent being in the DAA. Over the coming weeks Mark will be in contact with management and staff ensuring the Rotunda Hospital continues to maintain the highest standards of safety in the workplace.