



Research & Education Foundation  
Sligo General Hospital  
[www.ref-sligo.ie](http://www.ref-sligo.ie)

## The Research & Education Foundation

# NEWSLETTER

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## Spotlight on Syncope & Heart Disease

Clinical meetings with highly esteemed clinicians & researchers

**Prof. Rose Anne Kenny, spoke on "The Best Way to Investigate Syncope" at a meeting in May 2009 jointly organised by the Foundation & Medtronic Ireland.**

Prof. Kenny, who is Head of Dept of Medical Gerontology, TCD; Consultant in Geriatric Medicine & Director of the Falls & Blackout Unit, St. James's Hospital is a world leader in research into cardiovascular & mobility disorders in ageing. She gave an enlightening talk on the clinical management of syncope.



Prof. Rose Anne Kenny (left), TCD & St. James's Hospital Dublin and Dr. Paula Hickey, Consultant Physician, SGH



Dr. Donal Murray, Physician SGH, Dr. John Doherty, Physician SGH and Prof. Noel Caplice,

Prof. Noel Caplice, who is Director of the Centre for Research in Vascular biology at UCC, came to SGH in June 2009 to give a talk on Progenitor Biology Applications in Cardiovascular Disease.

Prof Caplice's Centre for Research in Vascular Biology addresses fundamental questions in vascular stem cell biology, atherosclerosis and vascular remodelling in areas of novel diagnostics and therapeutics in the field of stem cells, gene delivery and tissue engineering. Meeting sponsor: Pfizer Ireland.

## Donation by Masimo Corporation

In honour of Dr. Jeremy Swan, world renowned Sligo-born cardiologist



Presenting €5,000 to REF are Anthony Morris, Regional Manager, Masimo UK (2nd left) & Brian Clancy, Clinical Engineering Manager, Luton & Dunstable Hospital, UK (centre). Representing SGH & REF are Gerry Hanley, Dr. John Williams, Mette Jensen Kavanagh & Oonagh McDermott.

**The Research & Education Foundation in June 2009 received a donation of €5,000 from Masimo.**

Masimo is a global medical technology company that develops and manufactures a wide array of patient monitoring technologies. The donation is given in honour of Dr. Jeremy Swan, a world renowned cardiologist. Dr. Jeremy Swan, originally from Sligo, was on the board of directors at Masimo, past Chairman emeritus at Cedar-Sinai

Editor:  
Mette Jensen Kavanagh

# Open Public Meetings Spring Programme 2009

## Men's International Health Week June 2009 & Clinical Genetics May 2009

The Foundation Open Public Meeting Programme featured two meetings in Spring/Summer 2009: Men's International Health Week June 2009 and a meeting on Clinical Genetics in May 2009

**Men's Health Meetings** took place at SGH over two nights. Featuring six talks by a health professionals on a variety of topics it was well attended by men of all ages. Respiratory and CO tests were undertaken on the first night with Cardiovascular tests and advice given on the second night.



The meetings were sponsored by AIB Sligo, Sanofi Aventis, Pfizer and Health Promotion Dept HSE W. Local businesses sponsored spot prizes.

The talks included:

Professor Wallace Dinsmore, Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, "Sexual Dysfunction in Men"

Dr. Geraldine Mc Carthy, Consultant in Old Age Psychiatry "Healthy Mind – Healthy Body, Addressing Mental Health in Ageing Men"

Ms Selene Farrell, CNS "Sun



Senior Respiratory Scientist Leigh Baker undertaking Spirometry test.

*Awareness, Preventing Skin Cancer"*

Dr. John Doherty, Consultant Geriatrician "Osteoporosis in Men"

Dr. Paul Money, Sligo G.P. "Your Check-up, Exploring Some Common Myths"

Ms. Eimear Donlon, Lecturer at IT Sligo "Men - Get Active and Into Shape"



General Practitioner Dr. Paul Money

Men's Health meetings sponsored by:



### Clinical Genetics Meeting

Dr. Marie Greally, Consultant Clinical Geneticist at Our Lady's Hospital for Children, Crumlin spoke at an Open Public Meeting on Clinical Genetics on May 24 2009.

The talk, which took place at the Clarion Hotel, Sligo included an overview of the history of genetics as well as the role of Clinical Genetics, the medical specialty which provides a diagnostic service and "genetic counselling". A questions/answer session followed the talk. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Hilary Greaney, Consultant Paediatrician at Sligo General Hospital.



Dr. Marie Greally, Clinical Geneticist at OLHC and speaker at an Open Public meeting in May 2009 with Dr. Hilary Greaney, Consultant Paediatrician at SGH, who chaired the meeting.

### Donation by Masimo Corporation

Continued from pg 1

Medical Center's Division of Cardiology and a past president of the American College of Cardiology. Early in his career, Dr. Swan worked at Sligo General Hospital.

The donation was facilitated by Brian Clancy, Clinical Engineering Manager at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital, UK. Brian is originally from Kinlough, Co Leitrim and prior to moving to the UK worked at Sligo General Hospital. Brian Clancy has had a very successful

career in the NHS and is now one of the leading clinical engineers in the UK. Masimo's donation is a tribute to Brian's work in clinical engineering. It was Brian's decision to have Masimo's donation in Dr Swan's memory given directly to Sligo General Hospital. This year, Brian Clancy won the NHS East of England Award for Infection Control with his colleagues from Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust for their Patient Admittance Pack, containing single patient-use items, such as blood pressure cuffs



### Call for Poster Abstracts

Research Conference Nov 28 '09

Health Professionals who have recently carried out health care research in the region, are invited to present a poster at the conference by submitting a poster abstract for the **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Multi-disciplinary Research Conference** at the Clarion Hotel Saturday November 28<sup>th</sup> 2009. The Research Advisory Committee will select 3-4 of the abstract submissions for oral presentation at the conference. See [www.ref-sligo.ie](http://www.ref-sligo.ie) for application details.

## Pfizer donates €10,000 to REF

### Pfizer a major sponsor of Foundation activities



Dr. John Farrell, Medical Director, Pfizer presenting Pfizer's donation to Mr. Gerry McManus, REF Chairman. Pfizer has supported the Foundation annually with a substantial donation for the past ten years.

## REF Salary Donation Scheme

### The Foundation needs your support

**Consultants and Foundation Board Members donate monthly towards Foundation core funding and activities. In September 2009, the Foundation will seek the support of other staffing groups at Sligo General Hospital.**

The Foundation is a limited company with charity status working to support research & education activity at the hospital. Funding towards activities, grants and events are sourced by way of event sponsorships, staff donations unrestricted grants by commercial companies and support by SGH.

Significantly, a substantial amount of core funding is donated by a group of about 60 consultants and REF board members, who donate €25 monthly through a salary do-

nation scheme, which enables donations to be transferred directly from an individual's salary to the Foundation.

In the interest of increasing its funding base level of activity, the Foundation will roll out the salary donation scheme to all other staffing groups in September 2009.

Three options will be available to staff who wish to support our work:

€10/month (€120 annually) or  
€15/month (€180 annually) or  
€25/month (€300 annually)

You can meet Foundation staff outside the canteen and the front corridor to sign onto the scheme. Your support is vital to the ongoing running of activities to the benefit of all staffing groups at SGH and HSE W

## Research Seed Grants 2009

### Foundation offers €20,000 for research projects

**The Foundation, in association with SHOUT and SGH, is pleased to announce the 2009 Research Seed Grant Scheme.**

A total of €20,000 will be made available under this scheme. The grants are open to any of the health care professions, academic

disciplines or other relevant background in the SGH catchment area. The project/PI must have some affiliation with SGH. Deadline for submission is October 12 2009. Details on [www.ref-sligo.ie](http://www.ref-sligo.ie)

## Library News

### New electronic resource

The Library Service in HSE West (Sligo/Leitim/Donegal) has just launched a new addition to its Electronic Resource Collection. It is called **All At Once** and will enable you to search the majority of the resources available to you - databases and journals - "all at once". Just as Google allows you to search almost the entire Web, so **All At Once** allows you to search most of our electronic databases and journals simultaneously. The new service is available via Athens, and if you do not already have an Athens password, you can register for one at <http://www.hselibrary.ie>.

Please try it out and we would welcome any feedback - positive or negative - you have. If you have any difficulties with **All At Once** or with obtaining an Athens password, or would like to arrange some training for yourself or your department, please contact the Library on 071 91 74604 or at [sgh.library@hse.ie](mailto:sgh.library@hse.ie)

### Dates for your Diary

#### September 9 2009

Meeting with Dr. Peter Crean, Consultant Cardiologist, St James's Hospital. *Title TBC*

#### September 30 2009

Open Public Meeting with Prof. Ray Kinsella, at the Clarion Hotel: "Making the transition from an unfair, multi-tier and fragmented health system: The case for an Irish universal health insurance service"

#### November 28 2009

10<sup>th</sup> Annual Multidisciplinary Research Conference at the Clarion Hotel Sligo on Saturday Nov 28 2009. Anniversary Conference Theme: "Celebrating Health Researchers from the North West"

Confirmed speakers include Prof Frank Gannon, Director General Science Foundation Ireland & Marian Harkin MEP.

See [www.ref-sligo.ie](http://www.ref-sligo.ie) for event updates

## Research Skills Courses 2009

### Eight courses available to all staff at HSE W

The Foundation's Research Skills Programme is a series of half day events open and available to all staff at HSE free of charge

The Spring Programme included a new and highly successful, applicable course on Sample Size Calculations conducted by Dr. Fionnuala Cooney of the Public Health Department. Other course included Epi Info I & II & How to Write a Grant Application.

The Autumn 2009 programme includes the following courses:

- *Abstract Writing & Poster Design* September 16 2009
- *Questionnaire Design* October 8 2009
- *Knowledge Management & End-note* October 22 2009
- *Qualitative Research Methods* November 9 2009

Email [ref.sligo@hse.ie](mailto:ref.sligo@hse.ie) to register & check out [www.ref-sligo.ie](http://www.ref-sligo.ie) for more information



Louise Cullen (left), Surveillance Scientist & Trainer with the Public Health Dept HSE W during an EPI Info workshop.



Deirdre Keown, Renal Dialysis Dept, SGH

Research Skills Courses  
Sponsored by P&D Unit HSE



## News Bites

### Research Ethics Committee

The REC at SGH in Spring 09 conducted a satisfaction survey of all 83 applicants from Jan 07- Apr 09. 51 responded to the online survey. 95% of respondents rated the level of satisfaction with the overall service of the REC either 'good' or 'excellent'. A full report can be viewed on [www.ref-sligo.ie](http://www.ref-sligo.ie).

SGH REC is part of a group of 10 RECs in Ireland, who have commenced a process of developing a common national application form for multicentre non-clinical trials in Ireland. It is envisaged that the new form will be used by all participating RECs from early 2010 and that this will help researchers in the arduous process of seeking REC approval for multicentre non-clinical trials.



## Revised Foundation Strategy adopted

### Strategy informed by Foundation User online survey conducted in 2008

**Foundation Board in April 2009 developed and adopted a revised and updated strategy for the organisation:**

#### Vision

The Research & Education Foundation is dedicated to the improvement of health and healthcare delivery by promoting the development of a culture of research and education at Sligo General Hospital and in its region. The Foundation considers the improvement of patient care to be at the core of its activities.

#### Mission

The Research & Education Founda-

tion is working to increase healthcare research and education activity in the Sligo region. To this end, we work both to develop the capacity of staff to undertake research, support the funding of research, develop research partnerships and raise awareness and understanding of healthcare research as well as working to promote education on health and healthcare matters.

#### Goals

The Research & Education Foundation has identified five goals for achieving its mission:

1. Increase the funding and capac-

ity for research in association with Sligo General Hospital

2. Support and develop the skills of staff and researchers involved in healthcare research & education

3. Raise the profile of healthcare research undertaken in the Sligo Region

4. Provide a learning environment for topical health and healthcare matters

5. Maintain the Research & Education Foundation as a sustainable organisation

Action points to each goal can be viewed on [www.ref-sligo.ie](http://www.ref-sligo.ie)

## Contact Information

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