UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science

UCD runs an extensive research and teaching programme at The National Maternity Hospital. Undergraduate students attend the hospital in four iterations for a period of six weeks during their clinical studies. The module is coordinated with university lectures to provide a comprehensive grounding in all aspects of reproductive medicine.

The John F. Cunningham Medal, awarded annually to the student who graduates with the highest grade in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, together with highest grade in their final assessment; the winner for 2015 is Dr Michelle Madden. The Kieran O’Driscoll Prize is awarded each year to the student who attains the highest grade in Obstetrics and Gynaecology; the winner this year is Ms Zara Togher.

In addition, eighteen national and international medical students attend for clinical electives during the winter and summer, completing further education and research requirements. The majority of these students have commenced postgraduate training in Obstetrics & Gynaecology.

We are delighted to welcome Dr Mary Higgins to the department who was appointed as Senior Lecturer. She brings with her unique skills of undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, clinical and research expertise in diabetic pregnancy and is a specialist in maternal and fetal medicine. It is with regret that Helen Stewart, academic administrator, retired during the year after 30 years with us, during this time she significantly contributed to UCD teaching and research. Ms Stephanie Begley started in August and we are fortunate to have such an excellent academic support.

The perinatal research programme has received significant funding from Health Research Board Ireland and from the European Union. A number of large clinical intervention trials are underway including lifestyle interventions (PEARS study), long-term follow up study of 800 mothers and infants (ROLO study) and a clinical trial on the role of aspirin in pregnancy (TEST study), all aiming to improve mother and infant health. This research programme is currently supervising 8 PhD students and has led to over 40 publications from the department in 2015. During the year research from UCD Perinatal Research programme has been presented at many national meetings and at seven international conferences. Mary Horan was awarded her PhD entitled ‘Maternal Nutrition and Lifestyle during Pregnancy and Maternal and Infant Outcomes’ in 2015.

Prof Fionnuala McAuliffe

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

Forty-four undergraduates from the Royal College of Surgeons attended The National Maternity Hospital for their seven weeks rotation in Obstetrics and Gynaecology; twenty-two students in January/February and twenty-two in February/April. The students learned a great deal during their time in the hospital and provided very positive feedback on their teaching.

The programme was co-ordinated by Prof. Michael Foley and Dr Fiona Reidy, Tutor. Ms Miriam Shanley provided administrative support to the students. Teaching is provided by Consultants and various other members of hospital staff. In addition to the intensive obligatory e-learning programmes, the students, while rotating through all areas of the hospital, receive lectures, tutorials and ‘hands-on’ demonstrations.

Twenty-Three of our students achieved honours in their final Obstetrics and Gynaecology examination at the RCSI. Of these students, ten were awarded first class honours. Ms. Tamara Haban was awarded the NMH/RCSI medal for achieving the highest marks amongst the RCSI students who attended The National Maternity Hospital. This excellent performance reflects the enthusiasm of all those taking part in the teaching programme.

Prof. Michael Foley

Farah Fuad, Noorah Shahinah Azhar and Peiying Audrey Ho, UCD Medical Students
Education and Practice Development

The Education and Practice Development Department is responsible for the organisation and coordination of ongoing education and professional development for both qualified staff and students at the National Maternity Hospital. We promote the philosophy of lifelong learning and encourage and support staff to apply for and participate in educational programmes, conferences, seminars, internal and external study days. Through our academic partnership with UCD and links with RCSI, TCD, and NUI Galway many of our staff are pursuing tertiary education at Postgraduate degree, MSc and PhD levels. We continue to work closely with the Centre of Midwifery Education to provide an ongoing continuous professional development strategy for all nurses and midwives. There is recognition that enabling staff to access continuing education will ultimately impact positively on care provision to the women and babies in our care.

The National Maternity Hospital together with University College Dublin have continued to work closely to maintain high level of quality Midwifery education to all students and qualified staff alike. The standard of education for midwives both clinical and theoretical has impacted positively on care provision for all our mothers and babies attending the hospital and indeed care in many corners of the world of which we are immensely proud.

In 2015 we provided education and clinical placement for 83 BSc Midwifery Students; 20 Higher Diploma Midwifery students and provided Maternity Care placements for approx. 200 UCD general nursing students. The Hospital also provides clinical placements for paramedics in training, public health nurses and elective placements for a number of midwifery students from both Ireland and overseas, all co-ordinated through the department.

Congratulations to the following midwifery students who were awarded prizes at the 2016 Charter Day: The hospital Gold Medal was presented to Ms Charlotte Gartlan (Higher Diploma) and Ms Laura Gribben (BSc Midwifery). The Elizabeth O'Farrell Medal 2016 was presented to Ms Gemma Brady (Higher Diploma) and Ms Aoife McCarthy (BSc Midwifery).

In 2015, Maureen Kington retired from the position of Clinical Practice Development Co-ordinator we wish her well in her future endeavours.

**Lucille Sheehy,**
Clinical Practice Development Co-ordinator

Some students attending a lecture in our new Lecture Theatre located in 65/66 Mount St.
Research Ethics Committee

The Research Ethics Committee is a national committee and is approved to receive and approve application proposals nationally.

We hold monthly meetings except there is no meeting in the month of August. There is one quarter lay attendance and a quorum is required at each meeting.

Generally, the applications are approved at each meeting; if not approved the Chairman will request clarification on a particular issue.

In 2015 the Ethics Research Committee received 44 research application proposals; 26 of these were approved at first review, 17 needed further clarification and 1 proposal was rejected.

The National Maternity Hospital has been involved with the RESCAF (Standard REC form) Group in developing the Standard REC form and we now have adopted the Standard Application Form which is used nationally by research ethics committees. Last year we saw that this form had significantly contributed to a more streamline approach that has facilitated efficient ethical review and has improved the calibre of applications by researchers.

Dr. John Murphy
Consultant Neonatologist
Chairman, Ethics Committee