

Trip to Ireland



What a fantastic Ireland trip! Ginny and I were able to meet with Gerard White, an Advanced Nurse Practitioner. I had met Gerard at Leadership conference when it was in Hawaii.

We continued our international friendship.

The group which included Ginny-RN, NYS ENA President, Mr. Breese- Paramedic(ground and air), Mr. and Mrs. Scott Griswald-EMT(ground) and myself, Sue-RN/Paramedic.

We started the day early at Mercy Hospital which is where Gerard works in the Emergency Department as an Advanced Nurse Practitioner. Mercy Hospital was founded in 1857 on the river side. The hospital is still in use today

The oldest part of Mercy University Hospital was once the Mansion House built for the Mayor of Cork between 1764 and 1767. The architect was an Italian by the name of the Davis Ducart.

Many of the original features are still evident in the Hospital today, for example the female medical ward was originally a reception room and the current Physiotherapy Unit was once the Mayoral Ballroom. The Minstrels Gallery is still in place high up on the wall over the doorway to this unit.

In 1842, the Corporation decided that the Mansion House was too expensive to maintain and they leased it to a priest anxious to set up a second level educational establishment. It then became known as St. Vincent's Seminary. In 1857, St. Vincent's Seminary moved to St. Patrick's Place and the Administration of Saints Peter and Paul requested the Vincentians to transfer the lease of the premises to them to provide a Hospital for the sick and poor of the city. The cost of conversion from school to hospital was £3,793 which is about \$6300. Thus, on 17th March 1857, the story of the Mercy University Hospital began. A yearly rent was paid to the Corporation until 1927 when the Mercy Sisters bought the property.

When Mercy University Hospital first opened its doors, there were 40 beds in the Hospital and 4 Sisters worked here. Eight admissions were recorded on the first day. In 1907 the bed complement increased to 45.

In 1965, a new wing was built on to the Hospital and this comprised of a Chapel, Convent, St Anthony's Ward, Private Corridor 1 and an Operating Theatre. Between 1979 and 1980 there was further development which added an X ray dept., ICU, St Oliver's (Day) Ward and a School of Nursing to the existing Hospital.

In 1998, the Grenville Place Development opened comprising of: 124 Public Beds (Medical & Surgical) 50 bed acute Psychiatric Unit, (under the management of the Health Services Executive) Modern Pathology Dept, Clinical Pharmacology Dept.

In 2001, the Minister for Health and Children opened St. Therese's which is a dedicated 15-bed Oncology Unit. A new Geriatric Unit (St. Mary's Geriatric Unit) opened in February 2002 and is a 15-bed acute assessment unit. The hospital offers inpatient, outpatient and day patient services in a wide variety of areas. Per Gerard, Mercy Hospital does not have maternity services in house. History was very evident while we were touring the hospital.

We then travelled to Cork University Hospital where we met with the Director of Nursing and the Assist Director of Nursing. The Health Service Executive (HSE) is responsible for the provision of healthcare providing health and personal social services for everyone living in Ireland.

Cork University Hospital (CUH) is the largest university teaching hospital in Ireland and is the only Level 1 Trauma Centre in the country. CUH is the tertiary referral centre for the (HSE) Southern area, and the supra regional area of Limerick, Clare, Tipperary, Waterford and Kilkenny. CUH therefore acts as a regional centre for secondary and tertiary care for the catchment population of 550,000 served by the HSE Southern area and a supra-regional centre for a total population of 1.1 million.

In 2013 CUH had 33,407 inpatient admissions, 80,244 day cases, and 64,830 emergency attendances (A&E), making it one of the busiest hospitals in the country. CUH has 800 beds and this will increase further to 1,000 beds on completion of the transfer of additional services to the CUH campus. CUH currently employs 3,269 (wte) staff of multiple professions and is the primary teaching hospital for the Faculty of Health and Science in University College Cork.

Our last medical facility the group travelled to was The Mercy Urgent Care Centre, which treats patients with minor injuries quickly, opened 20th March 2012 at St. Mary's Health Campus (former St. Mary's Orthopedic Hospital), Gurrabraher, Cork. The centre treats patients, aged 10 and over, with minor injuries such as suspected broken bones, minor burns, scalds and cuts requiring stitching. It has the facilities to take x-rays and apply plaster casts.

The centre is open from 8.00am to 6.00pm, seven days a week and treats people suffering from minor injuries in Cork city and county who self-refer or are referred from other services such as general practitioners and Southdoc.

Forming part of the HSE South's network of emergency services in Cork, the centre is under the governance of the Mercy University Hospital (MUH).

The Centre is the first of its kind in Ireland.

The opening of this centre helps to alleviate waiting times and volumes at the CUH and MUH EDs. The new centre is of enormous benefit to the people of Cork city and surrounding area. This venture reaffirms the Mercy University Hospital's commitment to healthcare per Nuala Coughlan, Nurse Manager of the Centre.



.....Gerard White, Ginny Hebda, Nuala Coughlan, and Sue Chalupa Breese.....

While Nursing and Medicine in Ireland has a different flavour, it is really the same as here in the United States of America, with the same challenges and conundrum!

Submitted by Sue Chalupa Breese