FUNDING PRIORITIES

- Dedicated Myeloma beds
- Myeloma specialist nurses
- Set up of Myeloma Awareness campaign
- Set up of patient support group
- Funding goal - €500,000

HOW CAN I HELP?

- Regular small donation
- One off donation
- Engage in fund raising
- Participate in a local Myeloma fundraising committee

For more information about multiple myeloma or our awareness campaign please contact:

Jacqueline Round
Myeloma Research Nurse
Catherine McAuley Research Building
Nelson Street
Dublin 7

Tel: 01 716 6393
083 345 1002
Email: myeloma@mater.ie
Web: www.materfoundation.ie

Dr O'Gorman says *"The colaborative clinical and research activities at the Mater Myeloma Cancer Research Centre enhance the service to our patients by providing access to new active drugs through its international links with the leading world centre. We are engaging in cutting edge research to establish ways of maximising benefits to the patient from new therapies and ultimately finding a cure for Myeloma".*

UCD DUBLIN · NICB · DCU

DANA-FARBER CANCER INSTITUTE · Harvard Health Publications HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

The Mater Myeloma Cancer Research Appeal

the MATER foundation

Issue 1 - June 2009 Email: myeloma@mater.ie

If you would like to make a donation to The Mater Myeloma Cancer Research Appeal. Please complete this form and return it to us at The Mater Foundation, 54 Eccles Street, FREEPOST F4360, Dublin 7

The Mater Myeloma Cancer Research Appeal

PERSONAL DETAILS

NAME

ADDRESS

EMAIL *

TEL. NO*

* If you are happy to receive communication from us by email or phone, please provide your details.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE MATER FOUNDATION WITH A DONATION.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY GIFT OF €

☐ I enclose a cheque/postal order made payable to The Mater Foundation.

☐ Please debit the sum from my Visa / Mastercard / Laser / Maestro

Card No.

Valid From

Expiry Date

Security Code*

*Last 3 digits on the signature strip on the back of your card.

Maestro/ Laser Only

SIGNATURE

DATE

WHAT IS MYELOMA?

Myeloma is a cancer of the blood system. Myeloma is similar to leukaemia, as a single blood cell in the bone marrow becomes malignant and produces a high number of identical copies. Untreated Myeloma can cause damage to the bones causing fracture or compression of the spinal cord. This can occur in several areas of the body which is why it is often known as multiple myeloma. Many patients also have kidney damage and disruption to the immune system at presentation. Thankfully all of these complications respond to treatment.

WHO IS AFFECTED?

Myeloma usually occurs in middle aged and older people and there is no known cause. In Ireland Myeloma accounts for around 1 in 80 diagnosed cancer cases although there is currently no formal database. Dr Peter O'Gorman, consultant haematologist, intends to create the first accurate Myeloma Register for patients in Ireland.

THE MYELOMA TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH GROUP

Prof Ken Anderson is the recognised world leader in the field of Myeloma, with his group in the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston and Harvard Medical School.
Prof Martin Clynes is Director of the National Institiute for Cancer Biotechnology, Dublin City University (DCU). At NICB, DCU Prof Martin Clyne's team of scientists have set up a Myeloma bio-bank and provide the scientific arm of the Irish group.
Dr Peter O'Gorman is a consultant haematologist at the Mater University Hospital and University College Dublin (UCD) and has established an active Myeloma Translational Research Group. Dr O'Gorman and Prof Clynes have formed an active international colaboration with Prof Anderson.

CLINICAL DRUG TRIALS

Prof Anderson has developed two novel anti-Myeloma agents, Bortezomib and Lenalidomide, from in vitro observations through to clinical trials and licenced FDA approval. These developments have led to a doubling of survival in Myeloma patients in the last 3 years.

In the UCD Clinical Trials Centre at the Mater University Hospital Dr O'Gorman's unit provides the European arm for Prof Anderson's clinical trial activity. We will be trialing several novel anti-Myeloma agents in the coming year including Tanespimicin a heat shock protein 90 inhibitor.

SO WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR....

Prof Anderson, Prof Clynes and Dr O'Gorman are jointly supervising two trainee haematologists who have taken three years out of program to complete a PhD thesis.

Dr Melissa Ooi and Dr Raj Rajpal are focusing on drug resistance mechanisms in Myeloma in the NICB and Dana Farber laboratories.

A clinical nurse specialist, Jacqui Round has been employed to start and maintain four clinical trials and to help create the patient database and to produce this leaflet.

Summary of our current funded projects-

- Myeloma database
- Specialist nurse
- 2 PhD students
- Research assistant for Myeloma Biobank
- 4 clinical trials of new drugs

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

This is a small sample of what we are working on at present.

- Developing dedicated services and staff for myeloma patients at the Mater Hospital.
- Create a myeloma support group for patients and their families.
- Format a nationally available web site giving advice and help.
- Raising the awareness of myeloma nationally through events and publications.

WHY FUNDRAISING IS NECESSARY?

Priority for research funding seems to be given to "high profile" cancers such as those of the breast and bowel. Funding is required to establish a clinical Myeloma Centre where specialist care is provided to Myeloma patients.

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DD plus

REGULAR GIFT

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A REGULAR DONATION TO THE MATER MYELOMA CANCER RESEARCH APPEAL. PLEASE ACCEPT MY GIFT OF:

€7 ☐ **€10** ☐ **€15** ☐ **€21*** ☐ **Other €** _____

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*If you pay income tax, a monthly gift of €21 or more could be worth an extra 70% to us.

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