

Impact Report

2024





Every day in the Mater Hospital, we see the positive impact our supporters have on the lives of our patients. Our community of supporters is the heartbeat of our mission to transform and improve patient care.

Contents

About the Mater Hospital Foundation	04
Our Vision, Mission, Values and Beliefs	06
Our Work	09
Key Statistics	11
CEO and Chair Welcome	13
2024 Highlights	16
Priorities and Achievements	20
Looking to the Future	26
Your Impact:	28
Advancing Medical Equipment	28
New Services and Hospital Redevelopment	38
Patient, Family and Staff Support	46
Research and Innovation	49
Meet Our Patients	51
Financial Review 2024	56
Summary of Financial Statements	58
Governance and Compliance	59
Principles of Fundraising	59
Mater Hospital Foundation Legal Information	61



About the Mater Hospital Foundation

The Mater Hospital Foundation exists to give every patient, and every family that loves them, the very best care at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital (MMUH).

As a registered charity and the official fundraising body of the Mater, we raise vital funds to support the work of the hospital.

Through the commitment of our supporters, we continue to invest in the future of the hospital by funding advanced state-of-the-art medical equipment, new services and hospital redevelopment, research and innovation initiatives, and by providing patient, family and staff supports when it is most needed.



“The Mater is such a special place, and I don’t think I could have had better care anywhere in the world. I am never, ever sad walking in the doors of the Mater, which is a testament to how special the people working there are. I will be forever grateful.”

– Caoimhe, Cardiac Patient



Our Vision, Mission and Values

Our Mission

We will harness our supporters' kindness and generosity and work together with our partners to continuously transform and improve patient care at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital. We will ensure that the hospital is at the forefront of research and innovation and is a leader for healthcare in Ireland.

Our Vision

Every sick person in Ireland will have timely access to world-class healthcare when they need it.

Our Values

The Mater Hospital Foundation is a strategic, caring and responsible organisation. We are entrusted by our supporters to honour their commitment and dedication by putting their vital donations and philanthropic supports to the most impactful use to help provide world-class patient care at the Mater Hospital.

We are driven by six core values:

- **Integrity**
- **Honesty**
- **Compassion**
- **Transparency**
- **Excellence**
- **Respect**

Our Beliefs



We believe that every sick person, without exception, deserves world-class care and treatment so that they have the best chance of the best outcomes.



We believe patients and their families are at the centre of everything we do. Their quality of life, their hospital experience, their chance of the best outcomes are our greatest priority. We believe in equality of access for all, regardless of means or circumstance.



We believe in our committed, kind and caring supporters and volunteers. Their generosity helps transform countless lives.



We believe that the hard-working, skilled and dedicated frontline staff in the hospital need the most up-to-date and appropriate technology, equipment and facilities so that they can deliver world-class care and better outcomes for our patients.



Our Work

Supporting the life-changing work of the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital is at the core of everything we do in the Mater Hospital Foundation. Funds raised with your help are used to support our four key pillars:

1 **Advancing Medical Equipment:**

State-of-the-art equipment saves lives. That's why the funds we raise are used to purchase the most up-to-date medical equipment money can buy. When it comes to critically-ill patients, every second counts.

2 **New Services and Hospital Redevelopment:**

Ensuring all patients who come through our doors are cared for in a caring and comfortable environment is paramount. That's why we strive to upgrade and refurbish our hospital wards while also developing new and enhanced services.

3 **Research and Innovation:**

Recognising that today's research could be tomorrow's treatments and cures, we are proud to invest in life-changing research to ensure that we stay at the forefront of world-class care.

4 **Patient, Family and Staff Supports:**

Very often it's the little things that have the biggest impact on a patient and their loved ones. That's why we fund those little extras that mean so much, things like clothing and hygiene packs for vulnerable and homeless patients. We also support staff to be their best through specialist training.

"I love everyone at the Mater Hospital. I love my doctors, I love my nurses, I love all the staff, I love the people who cleaned my room every morning when I couldn't even smile or open my eyes, but they still treated me with kindness. I love all the kitchen staff, who did everything they could to make sure I ate. They always fulfilled my wishes, just to make my day a little brighter. And for that, I have no words, only immense gratitude."

– Bella, Oncology Patient



About the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital

Since it was founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1861, the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital has been a beacon of hope and healing in Ireland.

It is a level four teaching hospital based in Dublin's north inner city, providing a range of frontline and specialist services on a regional and national level.

The Mater Hospital Foundation stands shoulder to shoulder with our hospital colleagues, working together to make the ordinary, extraordinary. The essential funding we receive from our kind supporters nationwide, helps us fund a range of new and innovative services and supports that have a real impact on hundreds of thousands of lives.

The Mater Hospital is a national centre for a wide range of specialities and supra specialities. It is a main centre for cancer care and one of two Major Trauma Centres in Ireland.

The Mater is the National Centre for the following specialities and supra specialities:

- Heart Surgery
- Heart and Lung Transplant
- Adult Congenital Heart Disease (ACHD) Service
- Pulmonary Hypertension
- Adult Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO)
- Hyperthermic Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy (HIPEC)
- Spinal Injuries
- Adult Scoliosis
- National Isolation Unit for High Consequences Infectious Disease (HCID)
- Inherited Metabolic Disorders
- Rare Diseases
- Forensic and Postmortem Imaging
- Bone Anchored Hearing Aid
- Deep Brain Stimulation
- Advanced Heart Failure and Ventricular Assist Device (VAD)
- Brachial Plexus Service
- Clinical and Laboratory Cardiac Genomics/Genetics

Key Statistics 2024

A year
in review
- 2024



103,012

Emergency
Department
visits



291,479

Outpatient
visits



84,621

Day case
procedures



2,957

Cancer
diagnoses



446

Emergency cardiac
cath lab procedures



206,828

Social care
appointments



39

HIPEC
surgeries



9

Heart
transplants



13

Lung
transplants



347

Robotic-assisted
surgeries



16

ECMO
treatments



230,106

Scans
and x-rays



7,472

Image-guided
procedures



92,789

Radiology scheduled
care visits



3,816,864

Lab tests
performed



Chief Executive Officer and Chair Welcome



Mary Moorhead
Chief Executive
and
Aidan O'Connell
Board Chair

On behalf of the Board and Team - and most importantly, the supporters of the Mater Hospital Foundation - it is an honour to present our 2024 Impact Report.

Everything you're about to read that has been achieved over the past twelve months comes down to the power of our extraordinary community. The kindness of individuals, families, communities and businesses across Ireland who support, who donate and who challenge themselves to fundraise in so many ways.

It is this community power that has fuelled all the good work the Foundation has been able to achieve in 2024, which you can learn more about in the pages ahead.

We are so lucky to be part of this community that cares, that looks beyond themselves and stands with each and every person who comes through the doors of the Mater Hospital.

Continuing the mission of the Sisters of Mercy, who founded the Mater Hospital in 1861, the Mater Hospital Foundation is dedicated to supporting the delivery of world-class healthcare for all, regardless of means or circumstance.

Despite the many ongoing challenges faced by the not-for-profit sector, 2024 was a positive year for the Mater Hospital Foundation, as we continued to nurture relationships with our supporters and develop new offerings and activities to grow our supporter base.



We are proud to say that, thanks to the continued generosity of our loyal supporters, we raised a total of €5.2m in 2024 - a 54% increase on the previous year. This included a landmark €1.5m grant from the Goodman Foundation to enable the launch of the START Dublin clinical trials unit at the Mater Public Hospital.

In 2024, thanks to the continued generosity of our supporters, we were able to invest more than €3.4m in the Hospital. This significant funding allowed us to upgrade and replace vital medical equipment, expand and invest in critical services and infrastructure and invest in life-changing research projects.

Our Next Generation Sequencing Lab in the Pathology Department purchased a state-of-the-art genomic sequencer at a cost of €261k thanks to our supporters' generosity. This vital new addition will triple the lab's testing capacity, cementing the Mater Hospital as a national leader in clinical genetics testing.

A further €81k was allocated towards an additional Ultrasound Scanner to meet the growing demand for imaging in the Emergency Department.

Recognising that today's research drives tomorrow's treatment and care, the Foundation invested more than €356k in vital research projects across multiple disciplines, including an innovative project focused on developing a falls prediction model for patients living with Parkinson's disease.

It was an exciting year as our team worked hard to develop and test new fundraising ideas and events, including Marilyn's Mater Paddle for Women's Cancer Care, the Big Heart Appeal for Cardiac Care and 31 Miles in May, supporting patients with dementia in the hospital.

We remained deeply engaged with our hospital community, grateful patients and families throughout the year, supported by the presence of our Foundation Community Hub on Whitty Street, in the heart of the hospital. As well as strengthening relationships, our Hub has inspired many to give back in meaningful ways.

We were fortunate to retain many of our loyal corporate supporters in 2024, while also securing exciting new partnerships and engaging with our corporate friends in a number of activities including our Abseil Challenge. We are committed to continuing building these innovative and impactful relationships in the years to come.

Understanding and responding to the needs of our supporter community remains central to our success. With this at the core of our work, our regular giving programme continued to thrive this year. Thanks to a more robust, heartfelt and authentically engaging supporter journey, retention of our monthly giving community reached new heights in 2024.

We were honoured as a result of this to receive the Best Supporter Experience award at Charity Institute Ireland's Excellence Awards - a proud moment for the entire team and a real boost to morale. Our monthly supporters are the lifeblood of the Foundation, providing a sustainable income stream that empowers us to plan for the future and invest with confidence.

Our strategic plan, 'A Strong Foundation Builds a Better Future 2021 - 2025' is our bedrock and we remain focused on continuing to deliver its ambitious goals. Fully aligned with the strategic objectives of the Hospital, our strategy is designed to ensure we are equipped to invest in our four funding pillars: advancing medical equipment, research and innovation, hospital redevelopment, and patient, family and staff support.

In the year to come, we will begin the crucial work of shaping the next strategy that will guide our future direction and priorities - building on the insights and learnings we've gained to shape a bold vision for the Foundation's future.

As always, we are only as good as the community who puts their trust in us and continues to support our important work each year. It is thanks to their commitment that we can give every patient, and every family that loves them, the very best care in the Mater Public Hospital.

Our heartfelt thanks to our hospital colleagues for continuing to work closely with the Foundation over the past year. We are proud to be part of a hospital community that deeply understands and champions our mission to support patients and their families.

We are sincerely grateful to our dedicated voluntary Board, whose invaluable expertise and guidance continue to inform our important work.

Finally, we would like to thank our Foundation Team for showing up every day with energy, creativity and passion for our cause. Together with our supporter community, we will continue to create meaningful impact for those who need us most.

Mary Moorhead

Mary Moorhead, Chief Executive

Aidan O'Connell

Aidan O'Connell, Chairperson





2024 highlights

In excess of €3.4m

invested in advancing state-of-the-art medical equipment, new services and hospital redevelopment, research and innovation initiatives and patient, family and staff supports including:

€1.5m

- START Dublin - Ireland's first dedicated Phase 1 oncology centre

€261k

- Next Generation Genomic Sequencer

€81k

- Emergency Department
Ultrasound Scanner

€32k

- Social Work initiatives

€25k

- Patient and family supports

€7k

- Clothing and hygiene packs

€11k

- St. Aloysius Ward enhancements

€28k

- 3D Cardiology Imaging Transducer

€50k

- Prostate Cancer Radioligand
Therapy Service

€5.2m

raised in 2024, through the kindness and generosity of our supporters across Ireland.

.....

Recognising that today's research drives tomorrow's treatment and care, the Foundation invested

more than €356k

in vital research projects across multiple disciplines, including an innovative project focused on developing a falls prediction model for patients living with Parkinson's disease.

Our supporters



More than **10,000** individuals from across the country took part in our challenge events, including The Dickie Dip, 100 Miles in a Month, 31 Miles in May and our Squats Challenge.



3,223

active regular givers in 2024.



In excess of **50** community fundraising initiatives and events were held on behalf of the Mater Hospital Foundation in 2024.



More than **55,000** people followed our work across Facebook, X, Instagram, LinkedIn and TikTok in 2024.

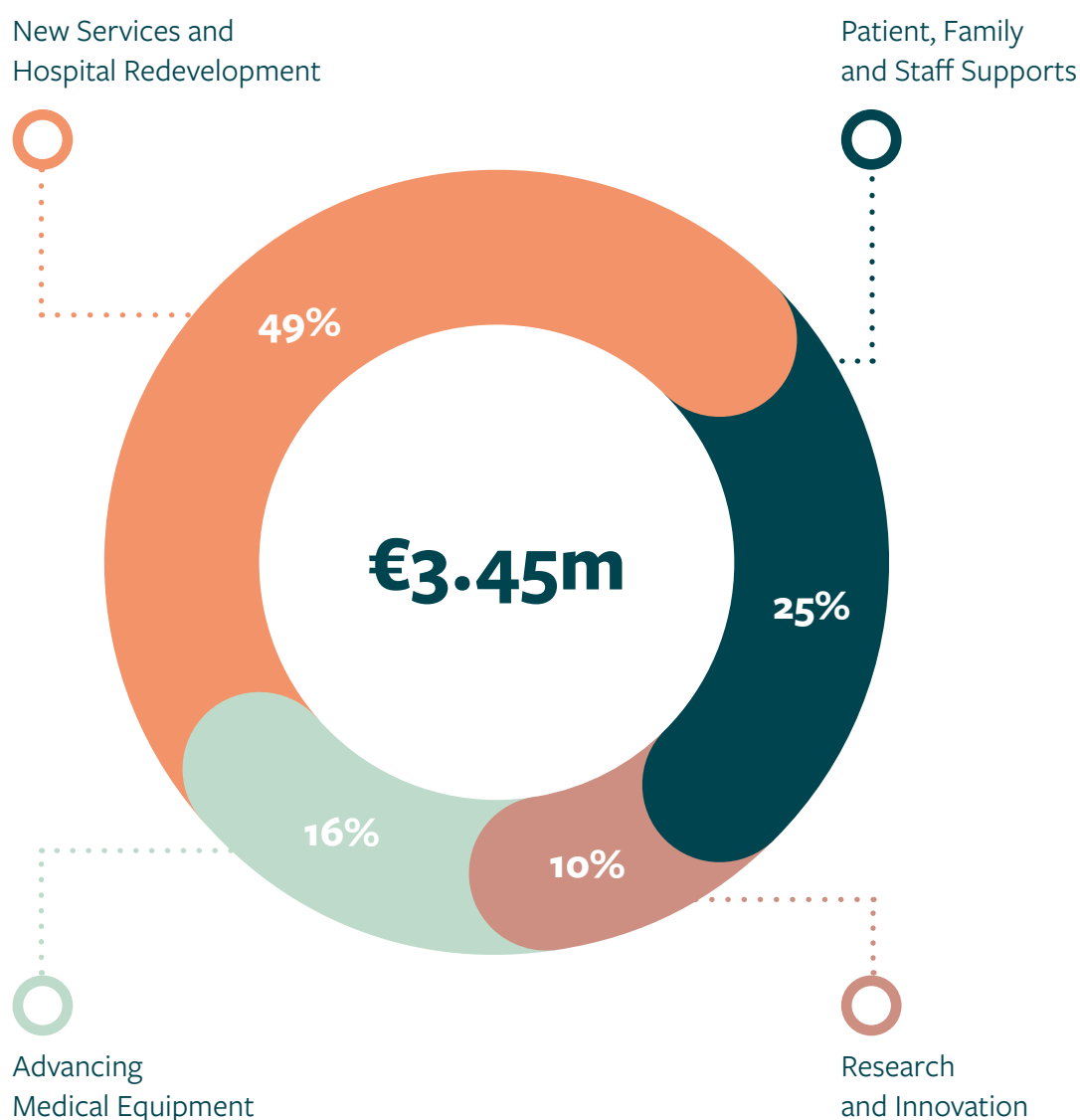


“My experience at the Mater has been second to none. Words cannot describe just how special this place is. From the cleaning staff right up to head-doctor levels, everybody has a special place in my heart. The staff make you feel so special and comfortable and are always so positive and reassuring.”

– Hugo, Cardiac Patient



Funds Invested in MMUH in 2024





Priorities and Achievements 2024



A strong Foundation builds a better future and in 2024, we continued to work to meet the ambitious goals of our 2021 - 2025 Strategic Plan.

This plan provides a road map to enable us to meet the growing needs of the hospital and continue to make the ordinary extraordinary for patients. Our role is always to put the patient first and is deeply rooted in our belief that every sick person, without exception, deserves world class care. In this section, you can learn more about our objectives for 2024 and our performance.

1 Develop our People

OBJECTIVES

PERFORMANCE AND OUTCOME

Continue to review and develop our organisation structure and map all processes.

Documented all business processes, ensuring clarity and consistency across the organisation.

Ongoing reviews have strengthened efficiency, improved employee collaboration, and embedded a culture of efficiency and process excellence.

Invest in resources needed to deepen expertise, experience and capacity.

A fully staffed team with key roles filled and HR support in place, ensuring strong capacity and effectiveness.

Ensure staff retention by developing skills, providing support packages and building a strong team culture and shared values.

Honoured with two CII Charity Excellence Awards, highlighting our commitment to staff development and a positive workplace culture.

Updated our employee handbook, ensuring clear policies and stronger guidance for team members.

Regular reviews of our benefits packages have strengthened staff retention and built a workplace where employees feel valued.

Ongoing investment in skills development and organisational culture has fostered a more engaged and motivated workforce.

Invest in technology and review policies to ensure best practice for a modern, vibrant workplace.

A dynamic and forward-thinking work environment has been created.

Updates and refinements made to CRM and new Accounts system introduced.

New fundraising platforms have been explored to expand reach and boost supporter engagement and experience.





2 Grow our Income

OBJECTIVES

To raise a total gross income of €4.4m from fundraising activities.

Develop a comprehensive fundraising strategy in line with the organisation's strategic objectives.

Invest in acquisition of new supporters whilst retaining our loyal supporter base.

Increase our supporter base across a diverse range of income streams.

PERFORMANCE AND OUTCOME

In 2024, thanks to the extraordinary generosity and commitment of our supporters, we didn't just meet our fundraising target - we exceeded it, raising an incredible €5.2m to support the Mater.

A fundraising growth plan was developed in 2023, aligned with the organisation's strategic objectives. The plan was rolled out in 2024, piloting new campaigns and events to drive sustainable fundraising income streams.

The charitable donation relief scheme was broadened in 2024, encouraging greater contributions and fostering supporter retention.

Additional cold acquisition activities helped us attract new supporters, strengthened engagement and expanded our supporter base. While partnering with new suppliers introduced fresh opportunities and strategies to boost individual donations. A balanced approach between acquisition and retention has resulted in a more stable and engaged supporter community, reinforcing long-term financial sustainability.

The maximised use of our CRM systems improved supporter segmentation, communication and relationship management, ensuring a more personalised supporter experience.

3 Deepen our Relationships

OBJECTIVES

PERFORMANCE AND OUTCOME

Ensure the Foundation is aligned with the Mater Hospital's strategic plan and objectives.

The Mater Hospital Foundation is closely aligned with the Mater Hospital's strategic plan, ensuring shared goals and a coordinated approach.

Work with the Mater Hospital management and the wider hospital campus to encourage engagement with the PAC (Project Appraisal Committee) process.

Continued refinement of our grants framework, ensured efficiency and transparency in funding allocation.

We continued to work closely with Mater Hospital management and staff to ensure funding delivers the greatest possible impact. As a result, the Foundation awarded €3.45m in grants in 2024 to support projects that directly enhanced patient care.

Develop a comprehensive Communications Strategy encompassing both internal and external communications.

The Communications and Marketing Strategy devised in 2023 was rolled out in 2024. This strategy established a solid foundation for long term communication effectiveness, ensuring clarity, impact and engagement across all key stakeholders.

Strengthen our engagement with our partners, supporters and wider stakeholders.

This year, we made greater use of our hospital-based community hub to drive awareness and strengthen connections with our supporters and the wider hospital community.

We continued to refine our Grateful Patient and Ambassador Programmes, building stronger, more meaningful relationships. We also delivered targeted presentations to stakeholders, showcasing the impact of our work and reinforcing trust, collaboration, and long-term support.





4 Strengthen our Organisation

OBJECTIVES

PERFORMANCE AND OUTCOME

Develop our Board knowledge and skills.

Successfully strengthened our Board's knowledge and skill base by recruiting two new members, bringing fresh expertise and perspectives.

A comprehensive board evaluation was carried out, ensuring alignment with best practices and governance standards.

Continue to maintain high standards of good governance and financial reporting.

We upheld high standards of governance and financial reporting by maintaining our Triple Lock status and formally adopting the Governance Code Compliance Form.

We conducted a thorough review of our Risk Appetite Statement and Risk Register, ensuring robust oversight and risk management. Additionally, we successfully completed year three of our four-year internal audit programme, with a direct focus on fundraising, reinforcing transparency and accountability.

All regulatory requirements were met, further strengthening trust and confidence in our operations.

Increase the profile of the Mater Hospital Foundation

We strengthened media engagement at both local and national levels, increasing visibility and amplifying impact stories. This has reinforced our presence, broadened our reach, and deepened public connection with our mission.

Invest in Information Technology

We continued to enhance our IT systems by adapting our processes to align with the latest upgrades rolled out by our CRM provider, ensuring greater efficiency and improved data management. Additionally, we successfully implemented a cloud-based accounts system, strengthening our financial processes. These advancements have streamlined operations and supported strategic decision-making.





Looking to the Future

The year ahead marks the 40th anniversary of the Mater Hospital Foundation – a major milestone that gives us pause to reflect on all that has been achieved for patients over the past four decades.

It is also a time of renewed ambition - focusing our thoughts on the important work that still lies ahead.

As we celebrate this moment in 2025, we will be looking to the future and laying the foundations for the next phase of our journey, through the development of a new strategic plan that will form the roadmap to meet the growing and evolving needs of patients, families and staff in the Mater Public Hospital.

Core to the success of any future strategy is our commitment to deepening our relationships with our Mater supporters, friends and colleagues. Only by working shoulder to shoulder with our community can we realise our ambitions and continue to deliver impact for patients and their families when they need it most.

Increasing our presence across the hospital campus will allow us to identify and respond to more opportunities to support grateful patients, while collaborating closely with our partners and supporters to drive meaningful changes and enhance patient outcomes.

We will continue investing in our team, ensuring we have the right expertise and experience to innovate and expand our fundraising initiatives and income streams.

We remain committed to refining and improving our grants process, allowing us to fund the most urgent priority projects that bring tangible benefits to hospital patients. To support these efforts, the Foundation aims to raise a minimum of €4.4m in 2025.

As we look ahead to our next strategic period (2026–2028), we are embarking on the next phase of our journey that will define our future direction with clarity and precision.





This process will involve shaping a new Strategic Plan, supported by comprehensive fundraising and communications strategies. Working closely with our key stakeholders and drawing on insights from leading industry experts, we aim to articulate with a renewed sense of purpose, who we are, why we exist, and what we are striving to achieve.

This work will not only define our ambition for the future but also ensure we are best positioned to drive sustainable income growth and deliver greater impact for the patients and families we serve.

The Mater Hospital Foundation is committed to its mission; we will harness our supporters' kindness and generosity and work together with our partners to continuously transform and improve patient care at the Mater Hospital. We will ensure that the Mater Hospital is at the forefront of research and innovation and is a leader for healthcare in Ireland.

In 2025, we will continue to deliver on the goals set out in our current Strategic Plan, A Strong Foundation Builds a Better Future, which is built around four key priorities:

Develop our people

Grow our income

Deepen our relationships

Strengthen our organisation

These priorities have guided our work over the past number of years and will continue to shape our focus throughout 2025 as we work to support the Mater Hospital in its ambition to be a pioneering leader in acute care and a beacon of excellence in Irish healthcare.

We remain committed to the highest standards of governance, transparency, and best practice. We will continue to communicate openly and meaningfully with our supporters, sharing how their generosity is making a real and lasting impact on the lives of Mater Hospital patients and families.



Your Impact



Advancing Medical Equipment



Two BD Bodycare Ambulatory Pumps - €5,412

Enhancing quality of life for patients with advanced heart failure

Heart failure is an increasingly common condition but with a growing array of exciting treatment options which are making a real difference to those living with the condition. However, a small proportion of those living with heart failure will progress to an advanced stage of the condition where conventional therapies such as medications, diuretics and pacemaker devices are no longer effective to manage their symptoms resulting in a deteriorating quality of life and often very frequent hospitalisations. These patients may be considered for specialised treatments here at the Mater including a heart transplant or a heart pump called a left ventricular assist device (LVAD) to improve their symptoms, quality of life and allow them to live longer. Some patients with advanced heart failure may not be suitable for a heart transplant or LVAD and they may need palliative care to manage their often debilitating symptoms

and to maximise their quality of life while supporting them to remain at home and out of hospital or hospice as long as possible. That's why it is so impactful that the generosity of our supporters enabled us to invest in two BD Bodyguard ambulatory pumps to support treatment of these patients in their own homes to improve their quality of life and minimise the need for hospitalisation.

These lightweight, portable infusion pumps allows continuous intravenous delivery 24 hours a day of a specialised medication called Milrinone which improves the pumping function of the heart allowing better blood flow around the body. This can improve the often severe symptoms of fatigue and breathlessness and add many months of meaningful, quality time to the lives of these patients to allow them remain at home with family and friends.



Compared with the older devices previously used for home Milrinone treatment which were large, heavy and had a very short battery life, these new pumps are small, discreet and very lightweight with a battery life of 48 hours which has greatly improved the independence of our patients. Patients who are suitable for this kind of treatment receive full training from the Heart Support nursing team and may only need to attend the hospital for dressings and assessment every 1-2 weeks.

A recent patient with advanced heart failure received treatment with Milrinone continuously at home for the last eighteen months of his life using one of these lightweight infusion pumps. This allowed him to minimise time spent in hospital with a life limiting condition and to maximise quality time at home with his wife and children and, although he did have some limitations, he continued to enjoy working. In a time when comfort and autonomy mattered most, this simple intervention made a profound difference to his quality of life, independence and also to the lives of his family. During his

time using the pump daily, he spoke movingly about how this treatment positively impacted his daily experience. He shared, “I feel very fortunate to have a huge amount of support in this regard. I won’t claim to be partying like it’s 1999 but I am enjoying quality of life and time at home with my family that would not be possible without the freedom that this small milrinone infusion pump has given me.”

“In a time when comfort and autonomy mattered most, this simple intervention made a profound difference to this patient’s quality of life, independence and also to the lives of his family.”

Advanced Heart Failure and Heart Transplant Fellow - €49,723

The advanced heart failure and cardiac transplant fellow position is a one-year sub-speciality training post for a senior cardiology trainee in the Mater Hospital. With the help of our supporters, the Mater Hospital Foundation was proud to support this important position in 2024.

The fellow is central to the care of complex advanced heart failure patients around the country. They are also integral to the post-transplant care of over 200 patients in Ireland who are living with a heart transplant as well as

those patients around the country living with a left ventricular assist device heart pump. In addition, the fellow is involved in the delivery of national cardiac amyloid and sarcoidosis services delivered by the Mater and are central to the running of multiple international clinical trials in amyloidosis and heart failure in which the Mater are involved in order to improve access to newer treatments for patients. Without the generous support of the Mater Hospital Foundation, the delivery of many of these specialised services would not be possible.

Transoesophageal Echocardiogram Probe - €28,280

Advancing and expanding cardiac imaging capabilities

A transoesophageal echocardiogram (TOE) uses soundwaves from a probe to scan the structure of a patient's heart and how well it is functioning.

In response to increased clinical need for this kind of scan in 2024, the Mater Hospital Foundation invested €28,280 in a TOE probe for use in diagnosing heart conditions in patients as well as guiding cardiac surgeons during complex valve surgery.

The probe, no wider than a finger, is inserted down the throat and into the oesophagus. Equipped with 2D, 3D and 4D capabilities, these probes provide clearer and more accurate echo pictures than those taken from the front of the chest and guide precision placement of valves during surgery.

This is because the oesophagus is situated immediately behind the heart and this means that there is no interference from the ribs or lungs.

A patient may have this kind of scan to examine heart valves and muscle, or to check for infection in heart valves, blood clots, aortal tears or heart defects.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, this new probe provides increased capacity needed due to the upcoming opening of the cardiology day ward, the addition of a third cathlab and more patients being referred to the Mater Hospital's imaging cardiologists.





Dermatoscopes x2

- €4,105

Increasing capacity for outpatient skin diagnoses

Michael Hannon, Operations Manager in the Cancer Directorate shares, “Thanks to the generous support of donors, the Dermatology Department at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital has significantly enhanced its capacity to assess and diagnose skin conditions at the outpatient level.

“Funding provided through the Mater Hospital Foundation enabled the purchase of two additional dermatoscopes vital diagnostic tools that allow clinicians and trained nursing staff to examine skin lesions in greater detail and support the early detection of skin cancers.

“These additional devices have made a substantial impact on both clinical efficiency and patient care. Previously, staff had to share dermatoscopes between consultation rooms, resulting in delays and limiting the number of patients that could be assessed. Now, with a dedicated dermatoscope in each room, the outpatient clinic runs more smoothly. Patient wait times have been reduced, and doctors can make full use of their consultation slots, ensuring more timely and effective care.

“The upgrade has also created valuable training opportunities for non-consultant hospital doctors (NCHDs), who are gaining hands-on experience with essential diagnostic equipment, an important step in their professional development.

“As one of the hospital’s busiest outpatient services, accounting for four percent of all outpatient attendances in 2024, the Dermatology Department is now better equipped to meet rising demand. In 2024 alone, the team completed 12,027 outpatient appointments. Each patient required a dermatoscopic examination at their first clinical visit with 4,893 requiring a surgical procedure thereafter.

“This investment is a tangible example of how supporter contributions are transforming patient care. By improving access to critical diagnostic tools, the department is identifying serious skin conditions earlier and enhancing outcomes for thousands of patients each year.”

“We are incredibly grateful for this support, which empowers our team to continue delivering the highest standard of care to every patient who walks through our doors.”

**- Michael Hannon,
Operations Manager,
Cancer Directorate**



Finger-Trap Traction (FTT) for distal radius fractures - €3,684

Advancing patient care for wrist fractures in the Emergency Department

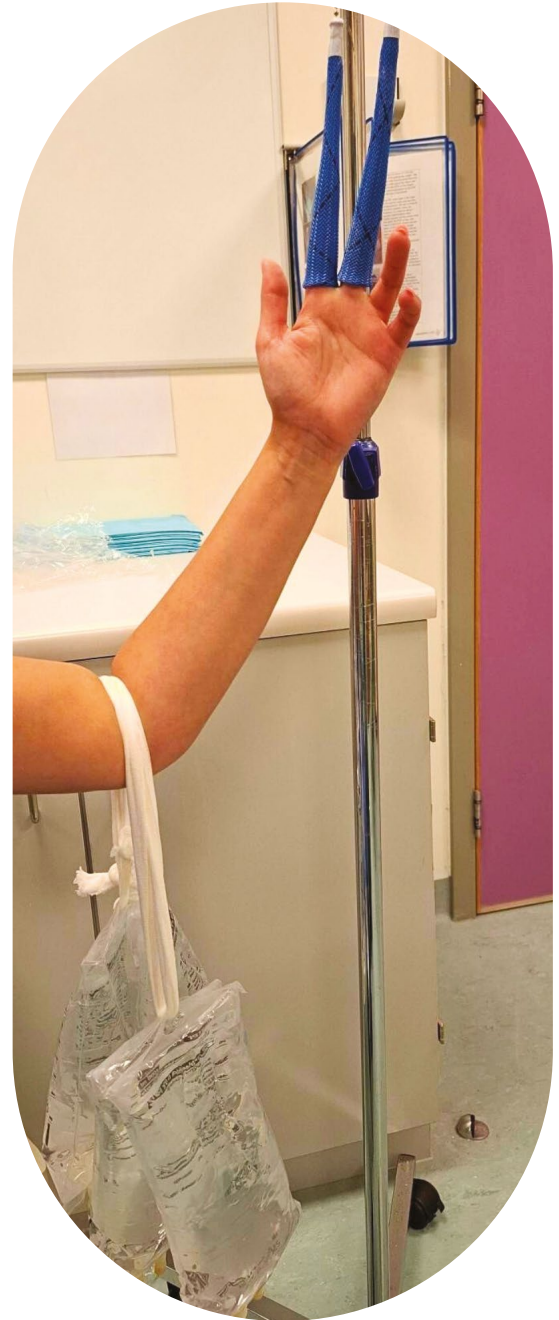
Distal radius fractures are an extremely common type of broken bone, accounting for nearly 20% of all fractures seen at the Mater Emergency Department. It's a break near the wrist, generally caused by falling onto your hand. Initial treatment involves reduction and splinting by two medics, which involves gently repositioning the bone back to its correct spot and then splinting to hold the bone in place.

When a patient comes to ED with this injury, usually this is carried out under sedation in the resuscitation area. Currently when these patients arrive in the Emergency Department and have their assessment and x-ray, they must wait until a resus bay is free and staff are available to carry out both the sedation and the reduction. This can lead to a significant wait, as a minimum of one nurse and two doctors are required to carry out the procedure.

This year, supporter donations were invested in Finger Trap Traction (FTT) for the Emergency Department, in which the forearm is suspended by finger traps and counter-traction is provided by weights near the elbow.

Having access to this innovative piece of equipment in the Emergency Department brings huge benefits to the patient, the department and the hospital. With the FTT in place, when a distal radius fracture is identified, the patient will be given a local anaesthetic and placed in traction. After half an hour, the patient can then have their reduction and splinting carried out, receive another x-ray and can be discharged to the orthopaedic fracture clinic for follow up, where appropriate.

With over 1,000 distal radius fractures treated annually, this quicker and less invasive process leads to better patient experience, a shorter waiting time and has a positive ripple effect of reducing resources used and increasing efficiency in the Emergency Department as a whole.





Vein Viewer for Oncology Haematology Patients - €14,865

Comfort in cannulation for patients going through cancer treatment

For many patients coming to the hospital for chemotherapy or blood tests related to their cancer diagnosis, it can prove difficult to find a vein. Chemotherapy treatments can result in the hardening and thickening of veins, making them unsuitable for IV line insertion. This means that a deeper vein must be identified in order to insert a cannula and continue treatment. For some cancer patients, there may only be one arm that is suitable for cannulation.

An ultrasound-guided vein finder is a crucial and highly helpful tool in these circumstances in order to accurately locate a suitable vein and cannulate with the minimum of discomfort. With your help in 2024, we were able to invest almost €15,000 in such a vein finder, which is now available for the first time in St. Vincent's Ward and the Oncology Haematology Day Ward.

As you can see in the photograph, this piece of technology projects a live image of the veins and tissues on the patient's skin, meaning that often only one attempt to find a vein is needed, instead of multiple.

This enhancement means more comfort for patients going through cancer treatment, as it is less intrusive and ultimately less distressing. By quickly and smoothly finding a vein, cannulation can be completed with ease.

This is the very first time that a vein viewer has been available for use in St. Vincent's Ward and the Oncology Haematology Day Unit and employing this piece of technology in the busy day ward in particular has myriad benefits.

Throughout cancer treatment, a patient's comfort and overall experience are paramount—and with the use of the vein viewer, procedures become less stressful, helping to ease what is already a challenging journey.

Next Generation Genomic Sequencer - €261,025

Increasing genetic testing comprehension and services

A Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) Genomic Sequencer is a high-tech machine that reads and analyses a person's DNA with great accuracy and efficiency.

The NGS Laboratory saw a profound increase in requests for genetic testing in 2023, with testing needs doubling in just one year. The Mater Hospital Foundation funded an upgraded machine to help keep up with the rise of tests needed while maintaining a high-quality service in the Mater Hospital.

The Illumina NextSeq2000 enables the NGS Lab to expand genomic testing services to further clinical

disciplines throughout the Mater Hospital. It aids the hospital in being a leading service provider for clinical genetics sequencing within Ireland and mitigates genetic test referrals to external European labs.

Genetic testing with the NextSeq2000 positively impacts patients in several tangible ways. It provides accurate diagnoses and earlier treatment and intervention for patients. Additionally, it allows for family cascade testing, providing reassurance for family members. It even provides a less invasive form of sampling and testing.

“Your investment in this cutting-edge medical technology will have a lasting impact on patient care.”

- Dr Adrian Dockery, Specialist Senior Clinical Scientist in the NGS Lab



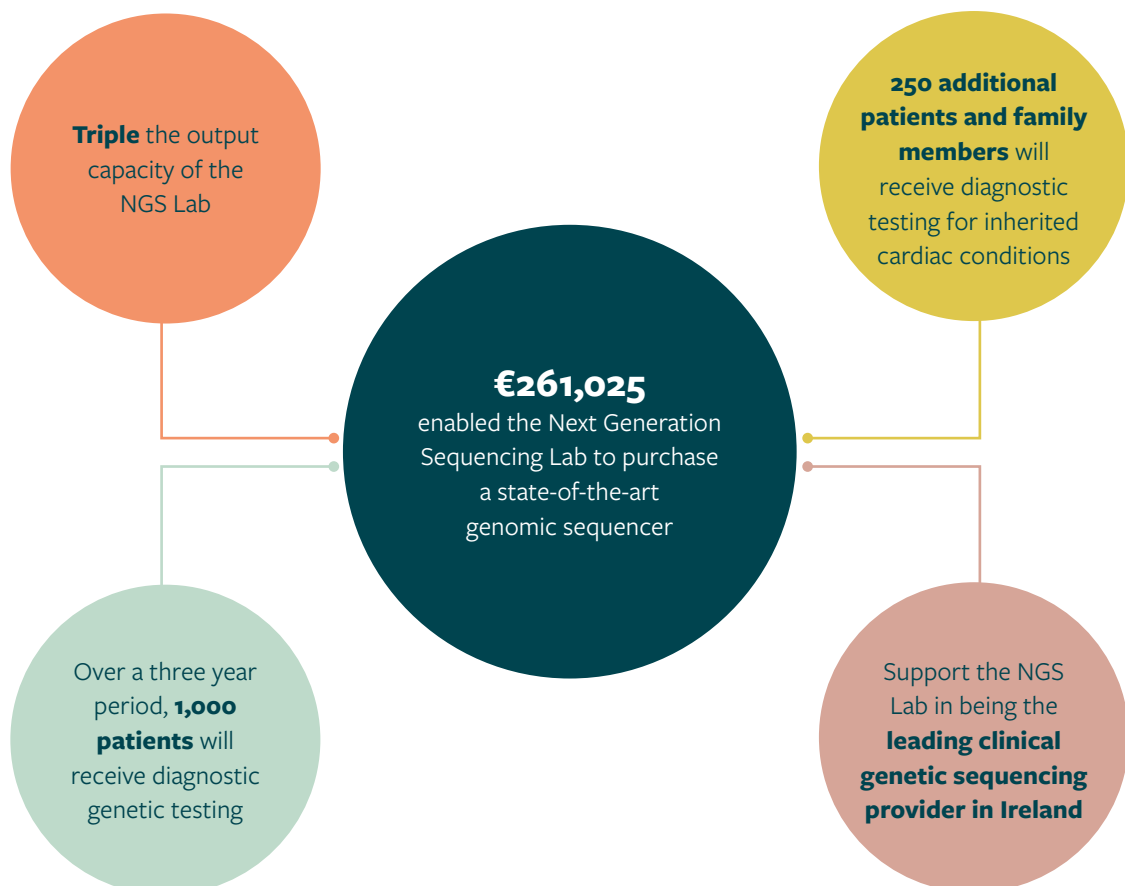


“On behalf of our team, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to The Mater Hospital Foundation for their generous funding, which enabled us to acquire the Illumina NextSeq2000. This state-of-the-art sequencing platform represents a significant advancement in our ability to conduct genetic testing, ultimately improving on the diagnostic service we provide for our patients.

“The NextSeq2000 offers several key advantages over its predecessor, the NextSeq500. It provides a higher sequencing capacity, improved accuracy, reduced turnaround times, reduced cost per sample and allows us to process more samples in a shorter period. With this new technology, we can significantly expand our ability to test patients

for genetic conditions, ensuring faster diagnoses and delivering on the vision of achieving precision medicine for our patients. This will be particularly beneficial for individuals with rare or complex genetic disorders, as we can now analyse larger gene panels and more elusive genetic variants with greater efficiency.

“Once again, we deeply appreciate The Mater Hospital Foundation and its supporters in making this advancement possible. Your investment in this cutting-edge medical technology will have a lasting impact on patient care.” - Dr Adrian Dockery, Specialist Senior Clinical Scientist in the NGS Lab.





St. Vincent's Ward Drip Stands - €16,227

Safety and stability in movement for patients on a drip

A drip stand might sound like a small item, but for patients spending time on St. Vincent's Cancer Ward, they make a big difference for patient independence and freedom of movement. And with your help in 2024, we were able to invest in 32 new IV drip stands for the ward.

These sturdy stands are suitable for holding multiple IV bags, as well as infusion pumps without toppling or leaning, and have a wider base and five wheels for enhanced stability.

This improved design, along with a handle for easy wheeling, gives patients the freedom to move around with their IV drips in situ. Previous stands were prone to lose balance when fitted with one IV bag, which can lead to an increased risk in patient falls.

This advancement is an important one for frail patients receiving treatment as in-patients in St. Vincent's Ward. Should they wish to move about, the drip stands ensure smooth, safer movement when walking - proving that even the simplest upgrades have a powerful impact for patients when they need it most in the hospital.



New Services and Hospital Redevelopment



Start Dublin - €1.5m

First dedicated early-phase oncology clinical trials unit in Ireland

In October 2024, a major first for Ireland was celebrated at the Mater Hospital with the opening of START Dublin, a new clinical trials unit that will offer patients with advanced cancer the opportunity to participate in cutting-edge research and enhance the availability of new cancer drugs.

Made possible with the support of a generous €1,500,000 donation by the Goodman Foundation, START Dublin is the eighth site in this growing network, contributing to its mission to bring the hope of early phase clinical trials to communities around the world, with expanded access to cutting-edge therapies. START is the largest early phase oncology clinical trials network globally.

The START network has over 500 active studies ongoing across its three centres in the US and five centres in Europe, partnering with over 150 pharmaceutical companies. The presence of an early phase unit at START Dublin greatly enhances patients' access to promising new cancer drugs in a rapidly evolving scientific landscape.

START Dublin's aspiration is to ensure that every patient in Ireland with advanced cancer has access to a suitable study, thereby broadening opportunities for participation in cutting-edge research and filling a critical gap in the clinical research infrastructure.

Consultant Oncologist Dr Austin Duffy is the Director of Research and Principal Investigator in START Dublin. He said: "About 30,000 people are diagnosed with cancer every year in Ireland, many of whom will at some point need access to new breakthrough cancer drugs as they emerge. Now that we have an early phase oncology clinical trials unit here in Dublin, we hope to offer patients access to new and promising drugs years before they might otherwise become available."

Since its launch, four clinical trials have opened and have been actively recruiting patients. A further eight trials are scheduled to begin in 2025, with this figure anticipated to grow.

The START Dublin team moved into their permanent unit in the Misericordiae Wing of the Mater Hospital in late 2024 and a second phase unit build is anticipated to be completed in 2025. This build is a dedicated Aseptic Compounding Unit for storage, monitoring, dispensing and manufacture of early phase oncology clinical trial drugs.





The first Goodman Foundation-START oncology fellow will take up post in mid-2025. This is designed for senior oncology registrars who have completed their specialist registrar scheme in medical oncology wishing to gain exposure to early phase clinical trials.

Dr Duffy will be supported by a team of seven others initially in START Dublin and they hope to enrol approximately 50 patients onto trials within the first year of operations, rising to 300 patients in due course. As the sole dedicated early phase clinical trials unit in the Republic of Ireland, START Dublin offers an immediate opportunity for sponsors, with access to a robust patient

population. The facility is supported by a strong referral network of 70 oncologists and serves approximately 2,750 new patients annually.

Additionally, Dublin's central location makes it accessible to patients across the entire country. The Goodman Foundation supported the establishment of START Dublin, in addition to supporting a fellowship programme for the training of future investigators, through a generous donation to the Mater Hospital Foundation.

START Dublin is a collaboration between the Mater Hospital, University College Dublin and the START Center for Cancer Research ("START"), based in San Antonio, Texas.



Lung transplant patient education project - €50,353

Supporting patients at every step of their transplant journey

This patient education project is an innovative initiative, designed to support patients at every stage of their journey through transplantation.

The first stage of this project involved extensive research, including in-depth interviews with lung transplant patients and their care partners.

In 2024, the Mater Hospital Foundation was proud to support the second stage of this process, focused on creating a comprehensive suite of patient education tools. The work is centred on translating insights gained from real patient experiences into accessible, engaging, and informative resources that support patients throughout the lung transplant journey.

“My experience brought home to me the huge importance of organ donation, research and dedicated facilities in the Mater.”

- Mick Cosgrave

The materials in development include:

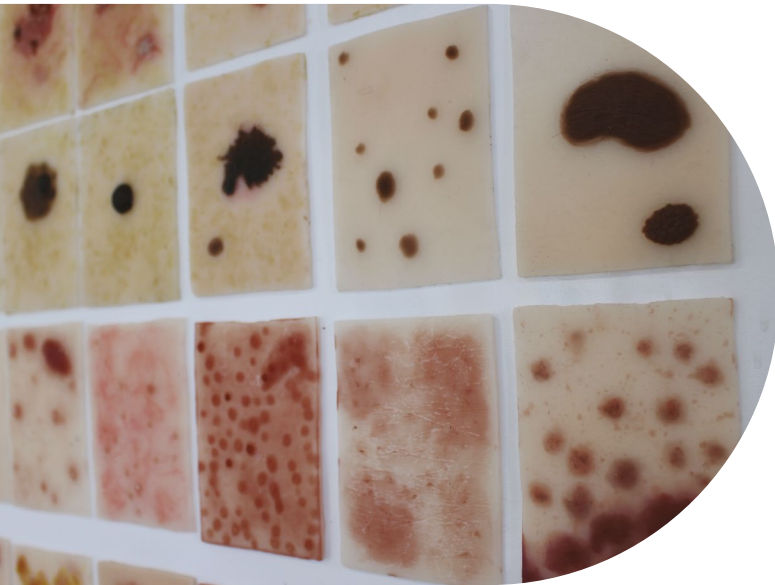
- A newly designed lung transplant book covering key medical, emotional, and logistical aspects of the transplant process.
- An interactive multimedia online platform to serve as a dynamic and user-friendly educational hub; the website includes carefully designed, highly accessible text alongside infographics and videos.
- A Youtube channel where patients can view the video as a group. The transplant team will also be able to signpost patients to specific videos when they are particularly needed. The video series features the Mater transplant team as well as former transplant recipients and their families. The patient and family videos capture their personal narratives, challenges, and advice in their own words. These authentic stories aim to complement the professional information provided by staff by empowering and reassuring future patients by offering a realistic yet hopeful perspective.

Together, these resources are intended to be both informative and deeply empathetic to the lived experience of lung transplantation, and will complement the already high standard of care delivered by the National Lung Transplant Centre with comprehensive, patient-centred education tools.

Mick Cosgrave underwent a double lung transplant in the Mater Hospital to treat Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis. He says, “I was diagnosed with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis. This caused a rapid deterioration in my lung function, and as a result I required a double lung transplant in the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital.

“I was lucky to receive this transplant just in time, with huge thanks to my donor and their family, and the brilliant medical team in the Mater Hospital. My experience brought home to me the huge importance of organ donation, research and dedicated facilities in the Mater.”

Since his experience, Mick has continued to be an advocate for the vital care provided in the Mater, raising hundreds of thousands of euro to support the life-saving work of the Heart and Lung Unit.



“The SimU-Skin models have been incredibly helpful in expanding my understanding of dermatology.”

– Mater Hospital Medical Student

SimU-Skin stage two development - €7,380

High-fidelity skin models to transform dermatology education

SimU-Skin is an exciting initiative launched by the Dermatology Department, in collaboration with Mater Transformation and the National College of Art and Design and supported by the Mater Hospital Foundation.

SimU-Skin is an innovative educational resource comprising a set of thirteen books in a box set. Each set contains high-fidelity realistic 3D skin models that cover the most common dermatological conditions, including inflammatory disorders and skin tumours.

Dermatology is widely recognised as being underrepresented in medical education. This lack of exposure contributes to inappropriate referrals from the community into the hospital contributing to longer waiting lists and delayed diagnoses.

These realistic hand-crafted 3D skin models help teach pattern recognition in dermatology. They allow learners to appreciate subtle differences in surface texture, colour, and depth — a major innovation in dermatology education. Each model is accompanied by concise, practical guidance to help clinicians follow a consistent diagnostic approach when assessing skin problems. The hospital is currently engaging with local GPs to explore how SimU-Skin can be integrated into targeted educational programmes.

The SimU-Skin project has a simple mission: to improve access to quality dermatology education and reduce unnecessary hospital referrals through better-informed primary care.

SimU-Skin is currently in use at the Mater Hospital. This is benefiting our patients by enabling faster dermatology diagnoses, and improved dermatology waiting lists. There are plans to distribute SimU-Skin book sets to GP training schemes in Dublin’s North inner city, supporting the objective of local education.

So far three of the sets have been disseminated internationally which will help with further product development, for example, providing models and sets using darker skin tones.

“The SimU-Skin models have been incredibly helpful in expanding my understanding of dermatology. The clear, succinct descriptions of common skin presentations made complex concepts much easier to grasp. I particularly enjoyed how interactive the models were and appreciated being able to test myself after learning. This resource significantly improved my understanding of the fundamentals of dermatology.”– Mater Hospital Medical Student

Introduction of Prostate Cancer Radioligand Therapy - €50,000

New treatment for end-stage prostate cancer in Ireland

A treatment for end stage prostate cancer called Lu177-PSMA Radioligand Therapy is available in many countries worldwide, but up until now, has not been available in Ireland.

In 2024, the Mater Hospital Foundation invested €50,000 to support this advancement in the Mater Hospital by funding dosimetry software.

Dosimetry is the measurement and assessment of radiation used in treatment of cancer that is absorbed by tissues. By having this new form of therapy available in the hospital, it provides treatment options in Ireland for end-stage prostate cancer patients, where all other alternative treatments have been unsuccessful.

The ability to provide Radioligand therapy has been enhanced by the installation of the PET/CT scanner - which was also made possible with the considerable help of Foundation supporters across Ireland.

Up until now, Irish patients have had to travel to Germany for this treatment. From 2022 to 2024

this was available in the Mater Hospital under compassionate access from Novartis. Currently the HSE has not yet covered this treatment for widespread use with Irish patients. This is an on-going process with our Mater Consultant and Medical Physics teams involved in discussions with the HSE and government to get it covered, similar to most European countries.

It has been shown that the use of dosimetry software to estimate the volume of radiation taken up in various organs can protect kidneys and salivary glands and more precisely target the radiation. This is personalised medicine.

The therapy provides more accurate treatment and prolongs life, reducing unnecessary alternative treatments. For patients facing end-stage prostate cancer, having access to this treatment in Ireland, means they don't need to travel and can stay home with their family and support network, when they need them most.





Psycho Oncology - €1,247

Emotional support and mental health care for people affected by cancer

Receiving a cancer diagnosis can be an earth-shattering experience for many people and can take a severe mental toll on a patient and their family. A team to support patients on their cancer journey was established in the Mater Hospital in 2021, known as the Psycho Oncology Service.

Psycho Oncology is a multi-disciplinary specialty focusing on the psychological and mental health care of people affected by cancer, their carers and families.

Findings show between 20-52% of patients show a significant level of psychosocial distress. The Psycho Oncology team provide support to cancer patients on a one to one basis but also through groups and staff education.

With the support of the Mater Hospital Foundation in 2024, the Psycho Oncology team has been able to hold a range of groups and activities to support patients in their most difficult moments. The team focuses on teaching skills such as distress tolerance, mindfulness, emotion regulation and Interpersonal effectiveness. They also support patients with patient advocacy.

The aim of Psycho Oncology is to reduce distress in cancer patients attending the Mater Hospital for cancer treatment. The groups held by the psychologists, medical social workers and clinical nurse specialists on the Psycho Oncology team have additional benefits for the patients in providing a safe space with their peers, help them feel less alone in their struggle, learn from others, promote their own social skills and communication with others.

The Psycho Oncology team now give out crafting materials to those who are staying in the hospital for a long period of time. This can help with the mental and emotional experience of getting a cancer diagnosis which is often accompanied by long inpatient admissions. A distraction with crafting can be a good way to get through these often long hours.

Speaking about the profound impact of these supports, Sinead Lynch, Senior Psychologist with the Psycho Oncology team says, “Psycho Oncology is a field of mental health care that provides emotional support in the face of receiving a cancer diagnosis. What drew me to Psycho Oncology is a wish to support the whole person when diagnosed with an often devastating physical disease like cancer - It’s not just cancer in the body that’s being addressed, but the idea that we care for the emotional, spiritual, and mental wellbeing of the patient, as a whole person.”



Scan to watch Sinead Lynch, Senior Psychologist with the Psycho Oncology team talk more about the service

St. Aloysius Environmental Enhancements - €11,825

Working with patients to create inviting and calming spaces

St. Aloysius Ward is the Mater Hospital's acute inpatient psychiatric unit. Opened in 1861, the ward is located in the basement of the original building and was not purpose-built as a mental health unit.

In 2024, with the help of our supporters, the Mater Hospital Foundation invested almost €12,000 to facilitate a patient-directed, environmental enhancement project in St. Aloysius Ward.

The experience of entering an acute mental health unit can be an overwhelming experience for patients, and that is why having an environment that is tailored to meet the needs of service users is so important. Considerable work has already been done on St. Aloysius Ward to create more inviting spaces and to encourage participation in treatment, including the provision of artwork through Mater Hospital Foundation Funding.

Following consultation with the team's Occupational Therapy services with all service users of the ward through community meetings, the need for more comfortable, homelike furniture and vibrant artwork were identified as key requirements.

This investment from the Mater Hospital Foundation allowed for the purchase of furniture, artwork and soft furnishings; supporting the needs of service users to promote their recovery in an environment that is welcoming and offers comfort and calm.

Before



After





Patient, Family and Staff Support

Helping Hand Fund - €25,000

Tangible aid for patients and families when it is needed most

Imagine it is three o'clock in the morning, and you wake up with severe chest pains. Your partner calls an ambulance, and you are transported to the Mater Hospital in Dublin, three counties away from your home.

It is determined you will be admitted for a long-term stay to monitor your symptoms and recovery in the hospital. Your partner has stayed at home to take care of your two children and will have to drive up and down the country multiple times during your stay in hospital. The burden of constantly commuting and the toll of being unable to work while in hospital has caused great financial and emotional strain on you and your family.

You begin to worry how your family will make it through the duration of your hospital stay and concern arises that your partner will not be able to bring your kids to visit you.

This is where the Helping Hand Fund can help.

It is a resource the social work team in the Mater Hospital can provide for patients when the need arises for urgent aid and support. A hospital stay can lead to distress and financial strain for some patients and families and the Helping Hand Fund is there to support with immediate financial needs such as travel, food and accommodation. This could range from petrol costs and emergency pet kennels to baby formula or even a coffee and a sandwich at a time when it is needed most. The fund can also be provided to families who travel routinely from all over Ireland or those who may not have the disposable income to manage the uprooting of daily life to deal with a medical emergency.

“When we or our loved ones have a medical emergency, so many things are outside of our control and the day-to-day worries and disruption to life can feel overwhelming. However with the support of the Helping Hand Fund, there are certain stresses we can help alleviate. In times of crisis, any reduction of stress or worry is beneficial. The Helping Hand fund enables people to feel heard and supported, overcome barriers, focus on what is important and live and die with dignity. The impact of these small kindnesses in the most challenging of circumstances cannot be overstated.” - Jennie Breen, Senior Medical Social Worker

The Helping Hand Fund aids patients and families with the small but hugely impactful practicalities of life. Things that seem insignificant but can weigh a great burden on those going through a medical emergency.

This support can make a significant difference in the lives of patients and their families, ensuring they get the care and support they need during the most challenging times, and can be together when it matters most.

“The impact of these small kindnesses in the most challenging of circumstances cannot be overstated.”

- Jennie Breen, Senior Medical Social Worker



Behind every donation, a story:

For a person who has dementia, it's so important that they receive the care, support and safety they need. One lady being cared for in the Post Acute Care Unit had no family or friends to assist her with basic, practical tasks. Through the Helping Hand Fund, the Medical Social Work team could ensure that her clothes were laundered, ensuring she had the respect and dignity she deserved, improving her quality of life.

At just nineteen years of age, a young man attending the hospital was diagnosed with a very serious cancer. Through the help of our supporters, the Helping Hand Fund provided assistance so his family could travel across the country to be with him, when he needed them around him the most.

Seeking asylum in a new country as a child without an adult to look after you is an extremely challenging experience. Attending the hospital and managing your complex medical care on top of this can be frightening, and requires huge courage with limited support and resources. A sixteen-year-old dialysis patient was supported by the Helping Hand Fund at this vulnerable time by covering a small, additional prescription fee that enabled them to access essential medicine for their condition.

When the person you love most in the world is at end of life, you should not have to worry about anything but spending as much precious time with them as possible. For one gentleman, whose wife of forty years was in her final days, the Helping Hand Fund paid for transport costs, to allow him to visit more freely, and give them the time they needed to say goodbye.



Staff Training and Development in 2024 - €30,707

Supporting staff excellence in the Mater Public Hospital

The Mater Hospital Foundation understands that continuous staff development is crucial to the continued provision of high-quality patient care. That's why we invest in staff education programmes and support attendance at key conferences to ensure Mater Hospital staff stay at the very forefront of medical expertise and innovation. These opportunities enable frontline teams to learn about the latest advancements, best practice and emerging technologies in patient care. This is only possible with the kindness and generosity of our supporters, who are helping foster the strong culture of excellence and collaboration in the hospital.

In 2024, twenty-three members of Mater Hospital staff were supported in attending fifteen different conferences across Ireland, the UK, Finland, Portugal, Spain and the Czech Republic. Conferences included the Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OECI) in Helsinki and the International Society for Heart & Lung Transplant Conference in Prague.

Furthermore, ten members of staff were supported in pursuing five MSc-level courses and two professional diploma courses including courses in Advanced Nurse Practice and Palliative Care, amongst others.

These opportunities enable frontline teams to learn about the latest advancements, international best practices and emerging technologies in patient care.



Research and Innovation



Predicting Falls in Parkinson's Disease

- €4,733

Understanding the factors that lead to falls in patients with Parkinson's

In 2024, the Mater Hospital Foundation invested almost €5k into supporting a research project aimed at generating a falls prediction model for patients with Parkinson's Disease.

Parkinson's Disease is a progressive neurological disorder, in which parts of the brain are damaged over many years. The main symptoms of the disease include tremors in various areas of the body, stiff muscles, slow movement and difficulty walking, amongst others. The condition most commonly affects people over the age of fifty, however it can more rarely affect younger people.

Falls pose a significant risk to people over the age of 65, with approximately 40-55% of people in this category experiencing a fall at least once

a year. However, for people diagnosed with a neurological condition such as Parkinson's, this rate significantly increases to a 50-90% fall risk.

To date, over sixty people have taken part in this study and had their gait and balance data recorded through the use of in-sole sensors. This data is subjected to machine learning algorithms to develop a falls prediction model.

The falls prediction model will allow for identification of those who are at risk and will also isolate the factors which are specifically contributing to their high risk of falls. As a direct result of the model, patient risk factors can be addressed and falls prevented.



Newly Diagnosed Multiple Myeloma Research Study - €35,000

Testing combination medication therapy for the treatment of cancer in bone marrow

Multiple Myeloma is a form of blood cancer that affects plasma cells in bone marrow. These cells form part of the body's immune system and help fight disease and infection.

In normal plasma cells, infections are fought by creating proteins called antibodies. In Multiple Myeloma, these cells can become cancerous and create an abnormal antibody.

Symptoms can include bone pain and weakening, low blood count, infections and other problems.

In 2024, the Mater Hospital Foundation invested €35,000 to support a research project into the efficacy and safety of a combination drug therapy of Isatuximab, Lenalidomide, Bortezomib, and Dexamethasone to treat patients with newly-diagnosed Multiple Myeloma, by funding a research assistant to carry out correlative studies, collect patient samples and report outcomes of analyses.

As part of the study, blood and bone marrow plasma cells are collected from participating patients, and proteins are studied to identify and characterise those involved in the development of the disease.

Patients will be tested for Minimal Residual Disease (MRD), which refers to the small number of cancer cells left after treatment is completed. At the moment, MRD is not widely performed for Multiple Myeloma and is an opportunity for staff in the hospital to be trained in novel technologies and gain valuable experience.

This clinical trial will directly benefit patients as there is strong evidence to suggest that targeting both tumour cells and their micro-environment may lead to a stronger response and lead to better overall survival and progression-free survival rates and improve quality of life for patients.

Meet our Patients



It is a profound act of generosity when a Mater patient chooses to share their own personal health journey with the Mater Hospital Foundation.

They do this for many reasons - to say thank you for the support they've received, to raise awareness and even to raise funds in gratitude for the care they received in the hospital during their most difficult days.

In this section, you'll meet just some of the incredible people we met in 2024, who kindly shared their story with us. Their testimonials have one thing in common; they give us a better understanding of the lived experiences of the Mater's patients and help us understand how we can best support their needs.

With their loyal support, the Mater Hospital Foundation can continue to invest where it is needed most to transform lives for patients and those who love them.



Caoimhe O'Reilly

38-year-old Caoimhe was five weeks away from her wedding, while juggling a busy job. Her body was beginning to send her some signals that things weren't right, which led to a life-changing diagnosis she could have never expected.

"For a while, I'd been having heart palpitations. I was aware there were some heart issues on my Dad's side and it was something that played on my mind.

"In March 2023, I had a feeling something wasn't right. I'm usually an active and energetic person but began to feel extremely fatigued. It was a busy time as my fiancé Eoin and I had both started new jobs and were planning our wedding.

"I went to the Mater who did my bloods and wanted me back for an MRI. When I arrived, they kept me for five days - monitoring and testing.

"I never in a million years could have imagined the diagnosis I received. Things moved like lightning from there... I had a bone marrow biopsy which confirmed the diagnosis of AL amyloidosis – a rare condition where a protein called amyloid builds up in your body and deposits in your organs.

"I was in hospital in the CCU for eight days where I was monitored and had to start chemotherapy. Although there is no 'cure', there are extremely effective treatments which can stop any further damage.

"Throughout everything I have to say that the staff in the Mater have been incredible. I felt really safe there, they moved heaven and earth to find out what was wrong with me. From the doctors to the nurses, the admin staff to the catering staff, they have an in-built kindness and could just never do enough for me.

"After six months of chemo, I've now moved to monthly treatment. In September 2023, I had an ICD fitted. I was devastated when I found out I needed the ICD but now I am so grateful and think of it as my best friend watching over me!

"Of course, the wedding had to be postponed and my life changed completely... but through it all Eoin, my family and friends have been an amazing support.

"For now, I'm back to exercising, and trying to do everything in my power to be as healthy as I can. I feel I'm moving into a new stage, trying to reclaim my life and happily we have been able to finally reschedule our wedding."

In 2024, Eoin was inspired to take on the 100 Miles challenge after Caoimhe's diagnosis. Caoimhe's sister Eimear joined him in the challenge and together they raised an incredible €9,565 to support life-changing and life-saving cardiac care at the Mater – supporting patients on the same journey as Caoimhe.



"Throughout everything I have to say that the staff in the Mater have been incredible. I felt really safe there, they moved heaven and earth to find out what was wrong with me."

Bella Rocha

It was a cold and dreary December when Bella arrived in Ireland from Brazil in 2020. She had been looking forward to this new adventure but almost as soon as she arrived, she started feeling very tired.

“It was something I couldn’t shake. I thought I was struggling to adjust to the weather, but this tiredness continued to get worse and soon I was finding it hard to breathe. I went to the Mater’s emergency department, but I didn’t speak much English. The staff quickly contacted one of their Brazilian colleagues who calmed me down and talked me through what was happening.

“There were lots of tests. But all the time the staff were very caring, calm, and patient. By the end of the next day, I had a diagnosis - severe acute myeloid leukaemia and my body was already quite weak.

“I was scared. I was thousands of miles from home and my family, the borders closed because of the Covid pandemic and I was facing a life-threatening diagnosis. All I could do was put my trust in the doctors and the entire care team... and have faith.

“I needed to be hospitalised for 3-6 months to see if I required a bone marrow transplant as part of my treatment. Those first moments were terrifying, I couldn’t understand how my body was deteriorating so quickly, how I was getting so weak. I couldn’t bathe or eat.

“And the chemotherapy I needed made every nerve in my body stand on end. My hair couldn’t withstand the treatment and started to weaken and fall out. Sometimes it would get caught in something... that nerve jangling pain when I moved my head and felt the tug!

“As well as the wonderful treatment, care and tenderness provided by the hospital staff at times like this, the generosity of the Mater Hospital Foundation supporters also helped me.

“Funds raised provide simple supports like freezers for ice chips that stop your mouth getting sore, or help numb pain, during chemotherapy. And the new chemotherapy chairs that protect your head, cradle your body and can recline to help ease the sickness when you are having hours of treatment, they meant so much to me.

“Together they fulfilled all my wishes and helped heal me. And for that, I have no words, only immense gratitude.”



“All these things were vital for my recovery. And I did recover. After months of treatment, I received an all clear and my bone marrow began functioning again, meaning no transplant was required. I was so blessed.

“I love everyone at the Mater Hospital. My doctors, my nurses, all the staff. I love the people who cleaned my room every morning when I couldn’t even smile or open my eyes, but they still treated me with kindness. I love all the kitchen staff, who did everything they could to make sure I ate... as I was always asking for ice cream, pizza, or something sweet.

“I love those generous supporters who I never even met, but helped bring these new treatment supports to the hospital when I needed them most.

“Together they fulfilled all my wishes and helped heal me. And for that, I have no words, only immense gratitude.”



Hugo Arrota

Hugo, his wife and eleven-year-old son moved to Ireland from South Africa three and a half years ago. They settled quickly and felt instantly at home. Life couldn't have been better until he suddenly began to feel unwell.

"I had flu-like symptoms I just couldn't shake. I was regularly at the doctors and on antibiotics. I couldn't focus on anything and had absolutely no energy. Even walking 50 metres would leave me completely out of breath. Then I collapsed at home and was rushed by ambulance to my local hospital.

"After an intensive batch of tests, I was told I was in advanced heart failure with a heart pump function of just 10%. I had numerous scans and treatments, however, the problems kept building up.

"I was really worried about my family and that I might not get to see my son grow up... and that really got to me. Eventually, a decision was made that I might need a heart transplant and I was referred to the Mater Hospital.

"I was really low at that stage, I felt I was fading. That's when I met Prof. Emer Joyce. She took complete control of my treatment and seemed to be able to describe to a 'T' what was happening to me. I relaxed for the first time in weeks – I just had a feeling I was in the right place and under the care of the right team.

"Prof. Joyce explained that she would begin a new combination of medication. Her aim was stabilise my situation and try avoid the need for a transplant.

"Over a number of months the team constantly adapted to, and reviewed, my situation. Medications changed. Heart Catheterisations identified a 'hole in my heart' and that my mitral valve wasn't functioning well. I had times when I felt really unwell, but slowly, I seemed to make progress.

"My most recent Echocardiogram showed my heart pump function had risen to 35%, a huge improvement. I can walk for up to 3.5 kilometres having been only able to manage 400 metres a couple of months back. I have days where I feel better than others with lots of ups and downs, dizzy spells, blood pressure drops, etc., but one day at a time I will be back to my old self. It is a slow and steady journey and my family is my driver.

"My experience at The Mater has been second to none. Words cannot describe how special this place is. The staff make you feel so cared for, comfortable and are always so positive and reassuring.

"I will forever be grateful to Prof. Joyce and the whole Cardiac Care team for everything they have done for me, and continue to do. They saved my life with the utmost care, consideration and professionalism and gave me a second chance to be with my family.

"This inspired me to take on the Mater Hospital Foundation's 100 Miles in a Month challenge for Cardiac Care. I wanted to raise funds that could help care for other cardiac patients and ensure they receive the exceptional care I have. I also wanted to show others going through what I am going through... that there is hope!"



Frank O'Connor

Frank has survived a life-altering experience. He credits a 'triangle of love' for carrying him through – his selfless organ donor, his family and the wonderful staff of the Mater Hospital.

"Back in early 2022, I was helping a friend bring some boxes from a car and was totally exhausted by it. One of my sons noticed and said I should get it checked, so I booked a full medical.

"Two partially blocked arteries were discovered and stents put in, but when I was being discharged the breathlessness was still there.

"I was referred to a respiratory consultant and, after a CT Scan and a six-minute walking test, heard the words I'd never forget - "We have a problem here, Frank". I was diagnosed with Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF), a rare form of lung disease with no known cause or cure. Without a lung transplant my life expectancy was two to three years.

"Gradually, my situation got worse. I needed 15 litres of oxygen per minute to get me through the day. Following a week long set of tests at the Mater, it was confirmed I was suitable for a lung transplant and was added to the live register.

"I was incredibly lucky, a couple of weeks later I got a call from Mary, the Transplant Coordinator - "We've found a suitable donor". Life-changing words. Within 20 mins the ambulance was at my door.

"As soon as I arrived at the hospital they began prepping me for transplant, talking me through each step. It was an eight-hour operation and you



just have to be amazed at the concentration and dedication of the surgeons involved.

"When I came out of the op I wasn't doing well. Brigid got a call to say I was extremely ill and that she and our four sons should come in. My body was struggling with some initial rejection and I'd developed two different infections.

"I was put on ECMO (Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation) life-support for 15 days post op. This machine, provided through funds raised by generous supporters of the Mater Hospital Foundation, takes over heart and lung function when your organs don't work on their own. One of the specially trained ECMO nurses in the Mater sits with you day and night to ensure continuous assessment and to identify any issues.

"Again this was symptomatic of the amazing medical team at the Mater who fight for you every way they can. From Dr. Michelle Murray, my incredible lead consultant, who was so full of empathy and expertise to the wonderful Olive, and her colleague Patricia, in the Physio team who painstakingly helped me to walk again. To the incredible caring nursing staff... angels all!

"Following a number of setbacks, the Intensive Care team needed to look after me for 80 days, until I was eventually strong enough to move to High Dependency. I only needed 10 days under their care before moving to the general recovery ward and was finally discharged 132 days after I'd entered for my transplant.

"Life now is all about being grateful and living it the best I can. I have to do that for my wonderful donor whose very precious gift has given me a second chance at life, my amazing family whose love has been my greatest strength and the most incredible medical team, whose care helped me to live."





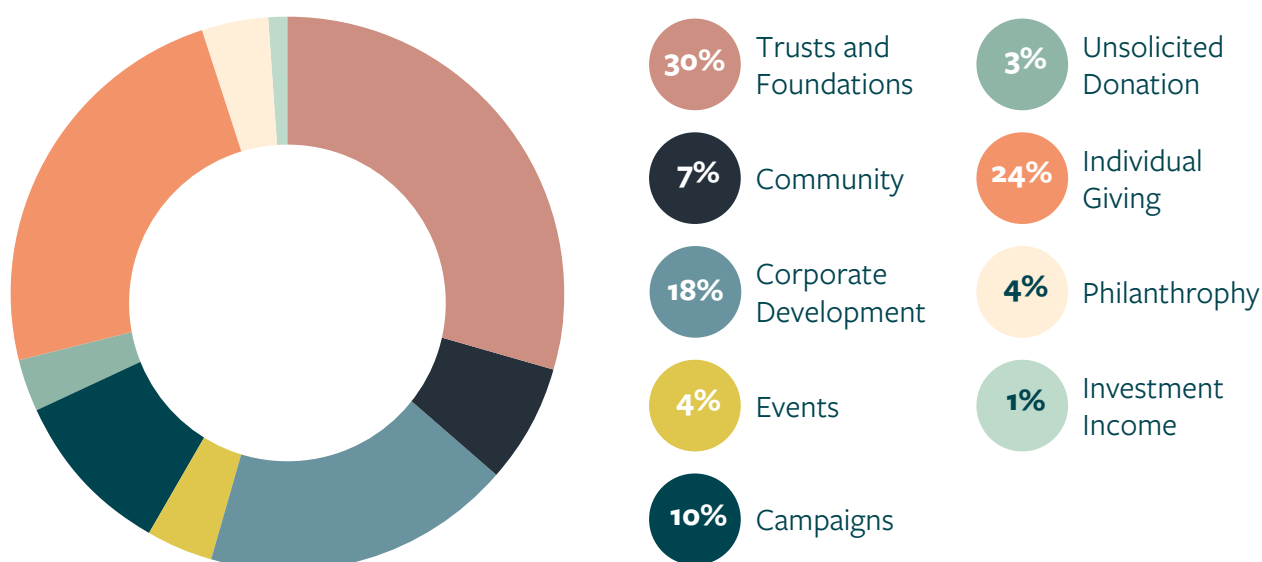
Financial Review 2024



The Mater Hospital Foundation was proud, with the kindness and generosity of its supporters - to raise more than €5.2m in 2024 - a 54% increase on the previous year.

The work that we do for patients and their families is only made possible by the trust placed in us by our community of fundraisers and supporters. For that, we would like to thank each and every person who helped make the ordinary, extraordinary for patients in the Mater in 2024.

How funds are raised



In 2024, the Mater Hospital Foundation remitted **€3.45m** to the Mater Hospital which included:

€547k

towards advancing medical equipment

€356k

towards research and innovation

€1.7m

towards new services and hospital redevelopment

€842k

towards patient, family and staff support.

“Our strategic plan 2021 – 2025 is our bedrock and we remain focused on continuing to deliver its ambitious goals. Fully aligned with the strategic objectives of the Hospital, our strategy is designed to ensure we are equipped to invest funds where they are needed most to enhance patient care.”

– Mary Moorhead



Summary of Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Activities

Income	2024 €	2023 €
Donations and legacies	5,184,837	3,390,716
Income from investments	31,463	3,522
	5,216,300	3,394,238
Expenditure	2024 €	2023 €
Raising funds	1,749,014	1,407,151
Charitable activities	3,450,164	2,452,882
Other trading activities	-	-
Other expenditure	368,103	374,259
	5,567,281	4,234,292

Balance Sheet

Expenditure	2024 €	2023 €
Fixed assets		
Tangible fixed assets	23,172	29,720
Financial Assets	2,765	2,765
	25,937	32,485
Current Assets		
Debtors	121,478	136,956
Cash at bank and in hand	3,794,459	4,079,916
	3,915,937	4,216,872
Current Liabilities		
Creditors	188,585	145,087
Net current assets	3,727,352	4,071,785
Net Assets	3,753,289	4,104,270

Governance and Compliance

A crucial part of our strategic plan is to strengthen our organisation, governance is key in this. We believe that good governance involves having systems and processes to ensure that the Mater Hospital Foundation achieves its charitable objectives with integrity and is managed in an effective, efficient, accountable, and transparent way.

Our Commitment to Our Supporters

Our supporters drive everything we do at the Mater Hospital Foundation. Without your commitment, loyalty and trust, we would not be able to continue our support of the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital. Giving to the Foundation should always be a positive experience.

To achieve this, the Mater Hospital Foundation always commits to:

- Operating at the highest levels of governance, transparency and best practice.
- Instilling a culture of excellence in everything we do.
- Keeping our supporters informed and updated every step of the way, so you know how your kind donations are being put to work.

Principles of Good Governance



To actively demonstrate openness, transparency and integrity to our beneficiaries and supporters, the Foundation operates under these three principles:

Transparent Reporting

The Foundation prepares a trustee's annual report and financial statements in full compliance with the Charity SORP (Standard of Reporting Practice under FRS102) and makes them easily available to the public on our website.

Governance

The Board has formally adopted and is publicly signed up to the Charity Regulator's Charities Governance Code. The Foundation's performance against the Code is reviewed annually by the Board to ensure the Foundation holds itself accountable to the standards set and is in compliance with the code.

Good Fundraising

The Foundation implemented all of the requirements for ethical fundraising via the principles laid out by the Charities Regulator for fundraising from the public. Our Supporter Charter, which is displayed on our website, lets our supporters know of the high standards they can expect when donating to the Mater Hospital Foundation.

The members of the Board cannot, under the governing documents, receive remuneration for services to the Foundation and may only be reimbursed for incidental expenses claimed. There were no expenses paid to any Directors in the period.

Triple Lock 2024

To further display our commitment to good governance we have signed up to the independently verified Charities Institute of Ireland Triple Lock.



The board met six times during the year (the quorum for board meetings is three Directors with attendance and eligibility as follows):

Directors/ Members	Board	Governance & HR	Finance & Audit	Projects Appraisal
Mr Neil Bannon	2(3)	3(3)	3(3)	
Dr Brian Marsh	3(6)			1(1)
Ms Clodagh O'Brien (Chair of Governance)	6(6)	4(4)		
Mr Brendan Menton	1(1)			
Mr Paul Keane	5(6)			1(1)
Mr Mark Fitzharris	2(3)			
Ms Siobhán Bradley	6(6)	3(4)		
Ms Karen Herbert	5(6)	3(4)		
Mr John Fogarty	5(6)	4(4)		
Mr Aidan O'Connell (Chairperson)	6(6)		6(6)	1(1)
Mr Alan Sharp	3(5)			
Mr Dan Murphy (Chair of Finance)	4(6)		6(6)	

Mater Hospital Foundation Legal Information

Current Board of Directors:

Aidan O'Connell (Chairperson)	John Fogarty	Brendan Menton (Appointed 15th October 2024)
Neil Bannon (Resigned 9th July 2024)	Alan Sharp (Resigned 15th October 2024)	Mark Fitzharris (Appointed 9th July 2024)
Clodagh O'Brien	Paul Keane	Josephine Ryan (Appointed 11th March 2025)
Brian Marsh	Siobhán Bradley	
Karen Herbert	Daniel Murphy	

Company Secretary:

L&P Trustee Services Limited

Foundation Information:

Mater Hospital Foundation
53-54 Eccles Street
Dublin 7
D07 KH4C

Company Number: 108518

Charitable Tax Exemption Number: CHY9768

Charity Registration Number: 20024505

Chief Executive Officer: Mary Moorhead

Independent Auditors

Deloitte Ireland LLP
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Audit Firm
Deloitte & Touche House
Earlsfort Terrace
Dublin 2

Solicitors:

Mason Hayes & Curran
South Bank House
Barrow Street
Dublin 4

Bankers:

Bank of Ireland
Permanent TSB

Contact the Mater Hospital Foundation Team at:

Tel: (01) 830 3482

Email: contact@materfoundation.ie

www.materfoundation.ie







Mater Hospital Foundation
53-54 Eccles Street,
Dublin 7,
D07 KH4C

RCN 20024505
CRO 108518
CHY 9768

Tel: (01) 830 3482
Email: contact@materfoundation.ie

X (Twitter): @thematerfoundat

Facebook: @materfoundation

LinkedIn: The Mater Foundation

Instagram: @materfoundation

materfoundation.ie

