Annual Report 2006

Department of Anaesthesia, Intensive Care & Pain Medicine

Staff

There are currently 27 Consultants Anaesthetists working in St. Vincent’s University Hospital, of which 8 are permanent consultants, 10 are part-time Consultants and 9 of our Consultant colleagues are locums. Currently in terms of wholetime consultants in St. Vincent's University Hospital, we have 8 fulltime consultants providing 84 sessions and we have 4 wholetime locum consultants providing 44 sessions. We have a further 22 sessions provided by the other 5 locums. We have 42 sessions provided by our 10 permanent part-time consultants at St. Vincent's University Hospital.

- 8 fulltime Consultants providing  84 sessions
- 4 fulltime locums providing  44 sessions
- 5 locum consultants at SVUH providing 23 sessions
- 10 part-time consultants at SVUH providing 42 sessions

Currently we have 10 operating rooms at St. Vincent's University Hospital, 2 in St. Michael’s Hospital and 1 in St. Michael’s Annexe. We have a further 2 theatres which we cover in St. Vincent’s Private Hospital. We therefore are servicing 15 theatres in the healthcare group. Along with this we also provide anaesthesia services for the Angiography Suite at St. Vincent's University Hospital, Radiology Department.

As there are no live in anaesthetic trainees at St. Michaels’s Hospital from 8 p.m – 8 a.m. we have set up a 4th on call roster for retrieval of critically ill patients. All patients who require emergency surgery following previous elective or emergency surgery on the day they are treated are brought back to theatre by the consultant who provided the anaesthetic care on the case. A protocol exists for transferring critically ill patients from St. Michael’s Hospital to St. Vincent's University Hospital during a 24 hour cycle.

During the course of 2006 Dr. Robert Plant, Consultant Intensivist returned to his native Cork to become one of the critical care consultants at Cork University Hospital. However this was more than adequately compensated by the arrival of our Senior Lecturer from Duke University in North Caroline Dr. Dara Breslin who has made an immediate impact in both clinical and academic areas since coming to our hospital.
Service Development / Activities


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>SVUH</th>
<th>St. Michael’s Annexe</th>
<th>St. Michael’s Public</th>
<th>St. Vincent’s Private</th>
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<td>Dermatology</td>
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<td>E.N.T.</td>
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<td>133</td>
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<td>72</td>
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<td>Eswl (Lithotripsy)</td>
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<td>General</td>
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<tr>
<td>G.U. Open</td>
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<td>Gynaecology</td>
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<td>1026</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vascular</td>
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Individual Figs not available for SMH

Outstanding / Significant Achievements

We would like to congratulate Drs. Eilís Condon, Justin Lane, Maya Contreras and Marcus Eller who were successful in passing the Final Fellowship of the College of Anaesthetists (FCA) in 2006 and also to Drs. Nitin Gadgil who passed his Primary Examination in 2006.

Resident Merit Awards

A gala award ceremony took place on 16th December to celebrate the success of our trainees and to present their prizes. The following were the recipients of prizes:

Dr. Eilís Condon - Abbott Gerry Dorrian Memorial Award for best SpR in Anaesthesia
Dr. Lucy Borovickova – Dr. Dick Nolan Memorial Award for best BST in Anaesthesia
Dr. James O’Leary – Dr Seamus O’Donnell Memorial Award for best SpR in ICU
Dr. Kevin McCarthy  -  Dr. Seamus O’Donnell Memorial Award for best SpR in ICU
Dr. Abdul AlMajadi  -  Napp Pain Medicine Medal for outstanding performance in the Pain Service who was a visiting SpR from the Kingdom of Kuwait and his salary had been funded throughout his stay by the Ministry of Health. At this event the department also had an opportunity to welcome our new colleague and esteemed Senior Lecturer Dr. Dara Breslin. The night was a great success and hopefully had a sense of esprit de corps.

Significant Publications / Academic Activity

Peer Reviewed Publications

Publications
Dr. D. Breslin took up his position as Senior Lecturer in Anaesthesia. A former transplant fellow, Dr. C. McCaul, was appointed as consultant anaesthetist to the Mater University Hospital. Two Conway Institute fellows, Drs. F. Naughton and A. Nichol, concluded their MSc and PhD studies. Dr. J. Boylan acted as a reviewer for Chest. Peer-reviewed publications:

Abstracts:
Lynch J. Boylan JF. McCaul C. Kavanagh BP. Magner JJ. Quality of clinical trials on postthoracotomy pain. Anesthesiology 2006; 105: A893

Liver Transplantation

2006 was a very busy year for the Liver Transplantation Group. 65 Orthotopic Liver Transplants took place. Results for 2006 as usual were very good. Transplantation is demanding work for all concerned. All credit to the Anaesthesia Team:

Consultant Anaesthetists
Dr. Neil McDonald
Dr. John Boylan
Dr. John Magner
Dr. Rachel O’Farrell

Liver Fellows
Dr. Mohammad Zafruddin
Dr. Abdul Albasha

Anaesthetic Nurses
Sr Jean McCarthy
Billie Stafford
Karl Perocillo
Karen Ann Keating
Vascular Access

Director: Dr. Alan McShane
Consultant: Dr. Neil McDonald

The Vascular Access service has continued to flourish. It is popular both with the services which use it and among the anaesthesia trainees. The last year has seen a decided shift in willingness of both consultants and trainees to avail of the ultrasound device to aid with line placement. The increased proficiency has been obvious and is of great help in difficult clinical situation.

Early in the year Drs. McShane, McDonald and Tan attended the Anaesthesia Research Society Meeting in San Francisco. They presented work done in St. Vincent's University Hospital in collaboration with Dr. Conor Heneghan of the Department of Physics in University College Dublin. In addition Dr. McShane again organised a Vascular Access Workshop in the College of Anaesthetists, aided by Dr. McDonald.

This year the College of Anaesthetists decide that formal training in Vascular Access is to be a mandatory part of Anaesthesia training. The Health Service Executive (HSE) have given large financial support to the College of promote this aspiration. As a result, the Vascular Access Workshop which was first introduced by Dr. McShane has become a regular part of the College’s Educational Programme. The course is also availed of by non-anaesthesia doctors.


South East Dublin Department of Anaesthesia (SEDDA) Report

Co-ordinator: Dr. Alan McShane

Uncertainties about the much talked-of new Consultants contract, slowed consultant recruitment to SEDDA over the last year. As a result, the clinical services in all constituent hospitals relied heavily on consultant locum services. There were successfully deployed, and we are grateful for the great contribution made by these doctors, sometimes in less than ideal circumstances.

Dr. Dara Breslin’s arrival during the year to fill the Lecturer in Anaesthesia position at St. Vincent's University Hospital and University College Dublin is greatly welcomed. The potential educational opportunities thus afforded to all SEDDA doctors are enormous.

Unfortunately almost at the same time as Dr. Breslin’s arrival we lost Dr. Robert Plant who successfully applied for a Consultant position at his alma Mater, Cork University Hospital. We wish him well in his continuing career in his homeplace.

The numbers applying to the SEDDA training scheme continue to increase. This reflects well on the clinical and educational opportunities available in the scheme.
During the year, progress was made in rationalising the night rosters between the constituent hospitals. This was primarily due to the unstinting work of Dr. Richard Assaf.

Also during the past year we have had the benefit of input from Mr. David Hanly. He has been helpful in taking an objective view at our consultant work practices. As a result of his observations we are in the process of altering consultant practices, initially in St. Vincent's University Hospital University Hospital.

**Intensive Care Unit**

Medial Director  
Dr. Kieran Crowley

Consultants  
Dr. Pat Benson  
Dr. Cathal Nolan  
Dr. Robert Plant

Clinical Nurse Manager III  Ms Geraldine Carey

**Service workload**

595 patients were admitted to the ICU in 2005, similar to recent years. 46% of patients stayed 1 day, while 38% stayed 3 days or more, similar to recent years. Average length of stay shortened to 2 days. Average occupancy for the year was 91% (international recommendations are 70%). The ICU had to overflow repeatedly to PACU. The ICU continued to provide the critical care component of the liver transplant programme. The year saw yet another record with 65 transplants.

Organ failure rates and organ support rates were similar to recent years: 80% of patients received mechanical ventilation. Overall ICU survival was 78%, with hospital survival of 76%. There is a continuing trend of increasing post-ICU discharge hospital survival.

St. Vincent’s supplied an ICU nurse and registrar to staff the transfer of critically ill patients by MICAS (mobile intensive care ambulance service) on a 1:4 roster.

**Staffing**

Adequate suitably trained nursing staffing levels remained an issue; several recruitment initiatives were undertaken, with varying degrees of success. Eleven nurses completed the H.Dip in Critical care Nursing and all remained on the staff. It is planned to re-institute a hospital based ICU course during 2007, with a view to opening additional beds.

There are two attendants, one shared orderly, one shared technician and a secretary. The ICU is staffed by a registrar or specialist registrar rotating from the department of anaesthesia, available 24 hours a day.
Dr. Robert Plant left the consultant staff to return to Cork and was replaced in a locum capacity by Dr. Caroline Hickey. The aim of achieving out-of-hours cover by consultant intensivist staff has not yet been met: this is now achieved for 2/4 of weekends.

**Developments**

In October the service transferred to the new ICU, a culmination of 10 years of planning. Of the total of 16 beds in the new ICU initially 8 have been opened, with overflows to 11 beds at times. It is hoped to open more beds incrementally during 2007. As part of the commitment to continuing education, the ICU Nursing Staff hosted their annual educational conference in February 2006 with an excellent attendance.
### ICU Activity

<table>
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<td>613</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>469</td>
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<td>Average length of stay (days)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3.4</td>
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<td>Average occupancy</td>
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<td>92%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>85%</td>
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<td>Elective surgical</td>
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<td>38%</td>
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<td>32%</td>
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<td>30%</td>
<td>39%</td>
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<td>31%</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<td>Medical</td>
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<td>10%</td>
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<td>13%</td>
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<td>13%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<td>Unplanned ICU discharge</td>
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<td>21%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>11.4%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Readmissions</td>
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<td>8.3%</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
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<td>6.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICU survival</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>82%</td>
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<td>73%</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<td>Hospital survival</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>75%</td>
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### Pain Medicine

2006 was a year of immense development in the Pain Service in St. Vincent's University Hospital with the setting up of St. Clare’s Ward Walk-In Pain Day Service. It was also a year in which there was a significant increase in patient numbers because of facilities. The total number of patients treated in theatre was 580 – total number of procedures carried out in St. Clare’s Ward was 557 yielding a total of 1151 procedures carried out in total.
**Outpatient Activity**

Tuesday Outpatients saw 3884 patients and in the Wednesday Clinic we saw 850 patients.

Our outpatient accommodation changed dramatically as we moved into the latter quarter of 2006. We moved into the new Outpatients development in St. Vincent's University Hospital. We have brand new assessment rooms with increased space. It also facilitates us having a Multidisciplinary Clinic on Tuesday afternoons with our Physiotherapists, Clinical Psychologist and Occupational Therapists.

The Tuesday Outpatient clinic run from approximately 12 midday until 6 p.m. The Wednesday Clinic commences at 3 p.m and finishes at 6 p.m. A new initiative was also introduced in 2006 the Wound Clinic and the Walk In Service. This has a huge impact in accident & emergency admission avoidance and prolonged stay at St. Vincent's University Hospital.

2006 was a milestone also in terms of our unit. We implanted for the first time more than 100 spinal cord stimulators i.e. we achieved more than 140 implants. Our 100 implant day was celebrated by the Minister Of Health and Tanaiste at the time Ms Mary Harney on 18th October 2006 during European Week against Pain. 2006 also saw a huge expansion in team members when we had 2 new Nurse Specialists Mr. Rodel Perez and Bency Vaughesse. From January 2006 – June 2006 we had 2 SpRs namely Adul AlMajadi (Subsidized by the Ministry of Health in Kuwait) and Dr. Oleg Ilyinski. From August 2006 – December 2006 we had SpRs Dr.Philip Hu and Dr. Oleg Ilyinski, Dr. Abdul AlMajadi and our visiting Australian college Dr. P. Max Majedi. Dr. Majedi will be continuing to work in our department until the end of June 2007. Dr. Ilyinski has continued to work in our department as a Locum Consultant Anaesthetist with a Special Interest in Pain whilst he carries out his MD in UCD in conjunction with Dr. Keith Murphy and Dr. Paul Murphy. Dr. Philip Hu is now studying the Effect of treating Neueropathic Pain with SENS under functional MRI in Oxford.

5 Papers were presented by Dr. Ilyinski, x 2 Dr. AlMajadi, Dr. Hu, Dr. Max Majedi x 2 and the NSUKI Meeting in Cork in October 2006. Presentation by Dr Max Majedi to the NSUKI Meeting in Cork entitled Inter-scapular SENS case series.

Dr. AlMajadi is now a Locum Consultant Anaesthetist at St. Vincent's University Hospital since 1st January 2007

The Pain Programme, under the Clinical Directorship of Dr. Rosemary Walsh, continued with its cognitive behavioural therapy programme, 3 week programme for patients with chronic pain and new innovations including tailored programmes for patients with special needs, work sustaining rehab programmes for chronic pain patients who work and for improving work function in chronic pain patients and multidisciplinary approaches to neuropathic pain and neuromodulation patients.

Finally the total patient interaction in the department was over 5,600 for 2006
Significant Publication
The Spinal Cord Stimulation in Treatment of Post Surgical Incisional Chronic Neuropathic Pain Case Report
Dr Oleg Ilyinski

Director: Dr. Declan O’Keeffe
Consultants: Dr. Hugh Gallagher
Dr. Ray Victory
Dr. Paul Murphy

Pain Fellows: Dr. Abdul Al-Majadi
Dr. Oleg Ilyinski
Dr. Philip Hu
Dr. Mohammed Zafruddin
Dr. Ashok Kureel
Dr. Max Majedi

Clinical Psychologist: Dr. Rosemary Walsh

0.5 WTE Physiotherapist: Miss Aoife Caffrey
1.0 wte Occ Therapist: Miss Shannon Barr

Pain Management Co-ordinator/PA to Director: Laura Hamilton
Neuromodulation Co-ordinator: Niamh Clohessy

Activity

OUTPATIENT CLINICS

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Consultant</th>
<th>Total No. of Patients to visit OPD Pain Clinic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Dr. O’Keeffe</td>
<td>3,884</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Dr. Victory</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Dr. O’Keeffe</td>
<td>850</td>
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St. Clare’s Pain Management
Procedure Room 612
Wound Clinic 55

Pain Management Programmes

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<th>Type Programme</th>
<th>No. of Courses in 2006</th>
<th>Total Number of Patients on Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>3 week</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Day</td>
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<td>39</td>
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