



The Adelaide Health Foundation directly funds projects both in Tallaght University Hospital [New Initiatives] and in the local community [Community Health Grants].

## TUH New Initiatives Scheme – 2021

This annual scheme is open to all hospital staff, and welcomes applications for projects that will either directly or indirectly improve services for patients.

A number of simple and effective projects were supported in 2021, these included a portable handheld ultrasound for Radiology and an ICU patient diary. The diary was introduced to help patients who may have been unconscious for weeks or months, where nursing staff have made entries to help 'fill in the gaps' in their memory.

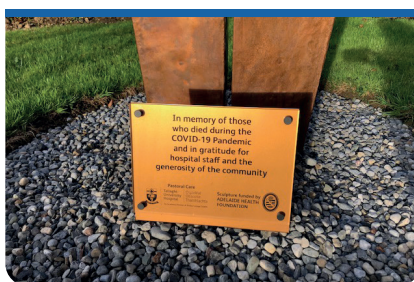
A sepsis trolley was funded for ED to help improve the management of sepsis by assisting with completion of the Sepsis 6 bundle within the required one hour time frame to improve patient outcomes.



*Dr Vicky Meighan - ED Consultant,  
Dr Catherine Wall - Consultant  
Nephrologist and Niamh Gavin - CEO  
AHF*

Also supported were Pastoral Care's initiatives for the bereaved which served as stark reminders of the impact of the pandemic on TUH staff, patients and families. A virtual bereavement service was delivered and a permanent memorial has been installed in

the garden adjacent the hospital chapel. The memorial is a way of honouring the memory of deceased patients, of representing the pain of loss experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic and of



acknowledging the care shown by healthcare staff. The sculpture is based on the identical hearts initiative introduced during the pandemic.

## Community Health Grants - 2021

The pandemic has brought increased challenges to local community organisations, including additional health and safety, IT and staffing costs, which were coupled with a decline in fundraising.

A number of local organisations received funding from the AHF

Community Health Grants scheme in 2021 including:

- **Anam Cara** to provide individual counselling sessions for bereaved parents. The need arose due to the inability bring people together in group sessions to mark grief.
- **New Hope Residential Centre** to provide 1 to 1 support sessions in a safe environment to clients who have been through a 12 month rehabilitation programme, in order to ensure support continues in an abstinent environment.
- **An Cosán** Extension of professional counselling service to teenagers due to increased demand. This includes providing 'wrap-around' family support services to ensure personal and psychological supports are available to the most vulnerable of students.
- **Community Addiction Response Programme [CARP]** to support project offering a 3-hour weekly drop in for up to ten women in the Killinarden area that are using Crack cocaine.

**AnamCara** Supporting Parents After Bereavement



**New Hope  
Residential  
Centre**

**An Cosán**

**CARP**  
Community Addiction Response Programme



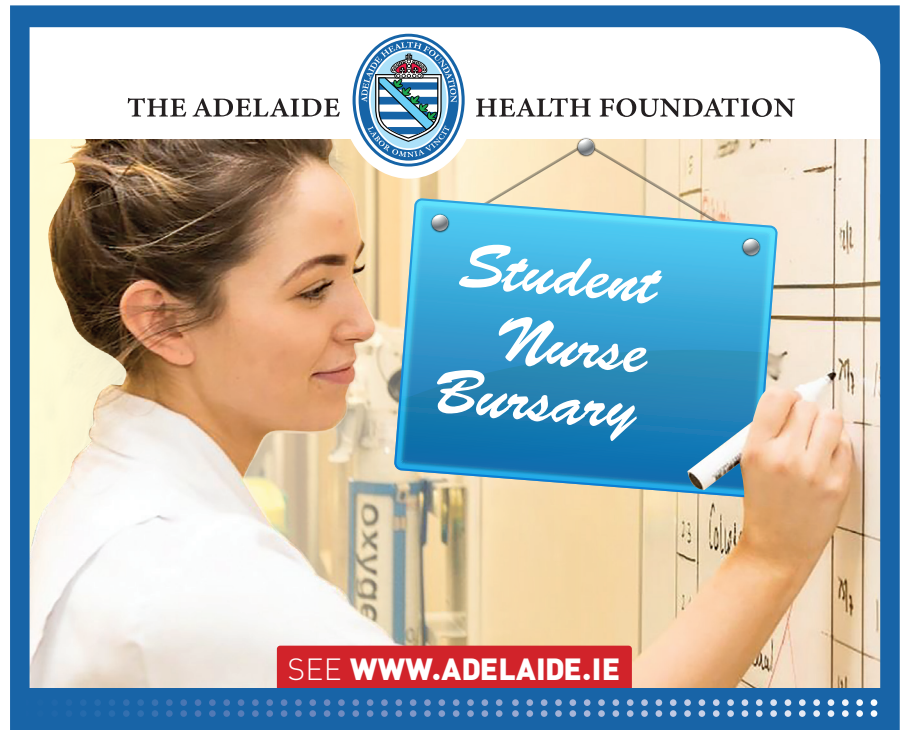
# EDUCATION

Education is a key pillar of the Adelaide Health Foundation – delivered in TUH and the local community through support of students and projects.

## 2021 Review of AHF Bursary Scheme

The annual nursing bursary scheme supports TUH nursing students by way of a means tested bursary, with eligibility criteria generally based on those of the SUSI Scheme. The foundation believe that no student should be prevented from studying nursing in Tallaght University Hospital due to financial constraints. The bursaries provided each year support between 40 and 50 nursing students with costs of travel and accommodation – essentially contributing to the living costs of those who need it, to help alleviate some of the financial pressure on those studying and attending placements.

The eligibility criteria for the AHF scheme were reviewed in 2021 and some changes have been implemented. The review arose from our observation of a level of inequity in such schemes – where households with low income from employment can narrowly miss out on all financial supports on offer despite their income being the same (or less) as households with similar income from social welfare. The changes made include reducing the amount of social welfare income which is disregarded, the introduction of a median wage threshold below which full bursary is paid, and consideration of travel/accommodation fees, (which can be very significant). We also continue to support individual/special circumstances - of which there are many.



## Nursing Recruitment/Retention Issues

Nursing in general, with TUH being no exception, are experiencing significant recruitment and retention issues. Through the Adelaide School of Nursing application process, we have identified that the mature student cohort [age 23+] face many challenges in accessing nursing education for a variety of reasons which include:

- Financial restrictions
- Juggling work/life/family
- The low number of places currently available to mature students
- Difficulty obtaining information about how to access the limited places available.

We are currently exploring increasing access and financial supports to mature students.

We have consulted with all stakeholders who have confirmed our belief that many benefits can result from this approach. We are also advised that improving access for mature students is in line with national policy.

Mature students bring many benefits to a hospital setting including:

- They carry some level of life experience and stability
- Their retention following graduation is high.
- They perform significantly well at practical exams on the wards

The first step in our strategy to enhance mature student access is to increase the quota for this cohort in TUH through the Adelaide School of Nursing. In 2022 we shall review the other challenges they face and enhance our supports for this group.



**The principle object of the Adelaide Health Foundation is  
“the advancement of healthcare through advocacy,  
research, education and support”**

## RESEARCH

The key requirements of research supported by the foundation are that it aligns with the AHF's mission and values, is patient focussed and fulfils a pressing health service demand.

The current research project (Review of Genetic Testing and Genetic Counselling Services in Ireland) is progressing. A public survey will launch in the New Year, key findings from which will be

presented at Rare Disease Day at the end of February 2022.

Research sub-group plan to review local community healthcare and access issues early in 2022.

## GOVERNANCE

Good governance involves putting in place systems and processes to ensure that your charity achieves its charitable objectives with integrity and is managed in an effective, efficient, accountable and transparent way.

Having conducted a structured review of compliance with Charities Governance Code, the board formally signed off on compliance in June 2021 and submitted mandatory report to the Charities Regulator.

The business name of the organisation has been changed from Adelaide Hospital Society to Adelaide Health Foundation and a new constitution in line with Companies Act 2014 is now in place.

Serving members of the Board in 2021 were Rory Brownlee, Marie Louise Delahunty, Peter Fitzpatrick, Stephen Franck, Rosie French, Sinéad Keavey, Catherine Mac Daid (Chair), David Moore, Triona Murphy, Yvonne

Seville, Hugh Sullivan and Lesley Williams.

In the recent words of Rosie French ... there is a great team there with great commitment to the Adelaide principles.

Co-opted to the Investment sub-group is Peter Kemp and to the Research sub-group Tadhg Ó'Cróinín. Mark Varian represents the AHF on TUH Board and Lillian McGovern on the TUHF board.

## Life Support

Providing basic life support training and in particular, what to do in the event of a cardiac arrest in a patient with Covid-19 has been essential but challenging during the pandemic.

The Foundation provided funding for the purchase of new manikins and automated external defibrillators [AED] training - to enable the Centre for Learning and Development to accommodate a greater number of staff safely at each training session.

(Left to Right) Shauna Ennis – Head of Learning & Development, Cathy Mullen – Resuscitation Training Officer and Niamh Gavin – AHF CEO



THE ADELAIDE



HEALTH FOUNDATION

## ADVANCING HEALTHCARE THROUGH



HEALTHCARE  
PROJECTS

NURSING SUPPORT



EDUCATION



NEW  
INITIATIVES



COMMUNITY



RESEARCH



POLICY



PATIENT  
COMFORT



TALLAGHT  
UNIVERSITY  
HOSPITAL



HEALTHCARE  
ADVANCEMENT



EQUAL  
ACCESS

### Our Mission

A voluntary foundation committed to supporting education, policy and research to advance and promote equitable health & healthcare in Ireland, with a particular focus on Tallaght Hospital and the community it serves.

### Our Vision

Our vision is to be an independent not-for-profit health foundation that seeks to advance healthcare in a way that:

- is centred upon the dignity of every human being
- treats mind, body and spirit holistically, and
- provides equal access to healthcare based upon medical need

### Our Values

- Equal access to quality health care for all
- Respect for the patient's dignity and right to influence their Healthcare
- Independence in opinion and action of the Foundation and Medical Practitioners, including but not confined to the fields of ethics and genetics.
- Supporting public and patient involvement in health and healthcare.
- Engagement with Tallaght Hospital and the community it serves.
- Evidence-based healthcare provision
- The promotion of excellence in education and research



# ROSIE FRENCH

**The Board of the Adelaide Health Foundation has lost a stalwart with the resignation of Mrs Rosie French after many years of voluntary service.**

It is remarkable to reflect on the long association Rosie has had with the Adelaide Hospital, the Adelaide Hospital Society, and latterly, the Adelaide Health Foundation.

No serving Foundation Board member has had such longstanding links to the Adelaide Hospital and its successors; the Medical Board minutes record that Rosie became a Hospital Board member as far back as 1984, and has had a continual presence at the heart of all our activities and landmark events until the present time.

The level of personal involvement and commitment during those early years is difficult to convey. During the latter decades of the 20th century, both the Adelaide and Meath Hospitals faced existential crises and planned absorption into St James's Hospital. That this eventuality was averted, ensuring the preservation of a secular voluntary hospital ethos in the capital city and the extraction of a



commitment by then Minister of Health Charles Haughey to build a new joint venture hospital in west Dublin, owes much to the steely determination of Rosie, along with an equally committed group of Board members of that time. The nurturing of the project, undermined almost fatally by the Kennedy report, and the painful gestation of the unification and transfer to Tallaght, took place with Rosie as Chair of the Tallaght Hospital Board, a task requiring exceptional stamina, diplomacy, courtesy and firmness, qualities which she has always possessed in abundance, and without which the

project might well have perished.

Chair of the Adelaide Hospital Society from 2011 -2015, Rosie oversaw much of the modernisation and repurposing of the Foundation as a modern, outward looking healthcare charity, and has remained a loyal, committed and indefatigable asset to the Foundation, a rock of common sense and a source of wisdom.

Rosie is confident that the Foundation will continue with the legacy of the missions and values of the Adelaide Foundation which she has embraced fully. While we will miss her cheerfulness and sensible approach to matters great and small, we wish Rosie and her husband Ian continued good health and happiness in a well deserved retirement.

We look forward, with the anticipated lifting of restrictions on gatherings in 2022 to honouring the achievements of our retired past Presidents with a formal presentation.







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