

# History of the Research & Education Foundation

## Research & Education Foundation Sligo University Hospital

### 1992

- Incorporated as a Limited Company (Official name: Sligo General Hospital (SGH) Research & Education Foundation Ltd) and a registered charity.
- The board of directors were: Dr. Seamus Healy, Dr. John Williams, Mr. Aleck Crichton, Mr. Andrew Macey, Dr. Paul Money, Mr. Paul Ferguson, Mr. Vincent Ferguson, Mr. Seamus Mannion, Dr. Carthage Carroll.

### 1992-98

- The efforts of the Foundation entirely voluntary.
- Development of Research & Education Centre (R&E Centre) at level 6, Sligo General Hospital in collaboration with the North Western Health Board (NWHB). This development was managed by three Foundation Directors. The centre was part funded by donations raised by the Foundation and part funded by the NWHB.
- Personal Donation Scheme initiated to meet the loan cost of the R&E Centre.
- Research Grants awarded to three researchers at SGH in 1996

### 1998

- Official Opening of the Research & Education Centre by Health Minister Brendan Cowen.
- Administrative secretary seconded to the Foundation
- Co-ordination of a Core Skills Curriculum at SGH

### 1999

- The Foundation undertakes a survey on research at SGH. Report: *1995-1999 Research Survey of health professionals in the Sligo General Hospital region of the North Western Health Board February 2000*. Baseline study on research experience and interests. Publication as Research Correspondence Paper in the IMJ March 2001.

### 2000

- Report: *The Training of Hospital Doctors at SGH April 2000*. Baseline study of the training conditions for NCHDs and recommendations for action plan. Commissioned by SGH
- Postgraduate Training Workshop by Prof. A Muir with NCHDs, Consultants, Management
- Support of the set-up and implementation of Postgraduate Training Team (Director of Education, two tutors) and programme.

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- Trial access to HEAnet.
- Employment of Development Officer (later Executive Officer)
- Inaugural Multidisciplinary Research Conference at SGH (continued 2000-2016)
- Trial access to HEAnet.

### 2001

- *Review Report on the current and future requirements for facilities to support training, education and research functions January 2001.* Determination of capital development needs in light of the National Development Plan. Commissioned by SGH
- Foundation goes online: [www.ref-sligo.ie](http://www.ref-sligo.ie)
- First themed study days
- Evaluation survey of NCHDs about training conditions.
- Working document on a Management Training Programme for Consultants. Commissioned by SGH and Medical Board.
- Facilitation of a reconstitution of the SGH Research Ethics Committee (REC). Commencement of the provision of Secretariat for the REC.
- Awarding of three research seed grants to local researchers.
- Development of links with IT Sligo
- Support of the Core Skills Curriculum at SGH

### 2002 - 2003

- First research skills courses at SGH
- Consultation with staff on a Research Strategy for SGH followed by publication of a research strategy for the hospital (2002)
- Second report on Research Activity at SGH (2003). Launch by HRB Chief Officer Dr. Ruth Barrington (2004)
- Development of a programme of education activities including medical meetings and annual research conference.

### 2004 – 2017

- Continuation and consolidation of the *Research Skills programme* from 2004 onwards. Delivery of an annual programme of research training to staff eg biostatistics, research ethics, qualitative research, reference management, study designs, critical appraisal, questionnaire design.
- Continuation of the *Annual Research Conference*. 17<sup>th</sup> successive research conference held in November 2016. Conference features presentations of local research and external keynote speakers.

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- *Research Seed Scheme* offered every year from 2004 onwards. Grants awarded to research projects involving Sligo University Hospital. In total, more than €150,000 awarded in grants by the Foundation in the period 2004 – 2016.
- Participation in the *HRB/MRCG Funding Scheme* from 2006 including management of international peer review of submissions.
- *Public Meetings* introduced in 2004 to raise awareness of medical topics and for health promotion. Annual Men's Health Meetings during Men's International Health Week. Other public meetings held on Obesity, Osteoporosis, Forensic Science, Paediatric Cardiology, Child Safety, Adolescent Mental Health, Eating Disorders, Keeping your Brain Fit, Human Enhancement, Clinical Genetics, Food Allergy and many others.
- *Medical Meetings* for health professionals *and* approved for external CPD points with external speakers. Examples of topics: Infectious Diseases, Anxiety, Sudden Cardiac Death in the Young, Heart Failure, Stroke Management, Tobacco Control and many others
- Development of proposal for capital development of a Research & Education Centre – Clinical Services Support Centre (2004). Facilitation of a design brief for a capital development at the hospital site. Planning permission obtained
- Memorandum of understanding between IT Sligo and the Research & Education Foundation to carry out joint activities in research and education (2004)
- Site coordinator of the *RCPI Masterclass series* at SUH from 2014
- Provision of research support eg statistics, research ethics, poster design and printing
- Promotion of collaboration and strengthening of links with external institutions such as IT Sligo and NUIG. Hosting of discussion fora with IT Sligo research staff on ideas for collaboration. Support of collaborative research initiatives, participation in study project groups, workshops conducted at SUH by academic staff from other institutions etc.
- Continued provision of the secretariat for the Research Ethics Committee at SUH
- Initiation and management of research studies on topics such as Alcohol, Carers of Dementia Patients etc.
- Provision of research funds management for research groups within SUH including employment of research staff

*SUH: Sligo University Hospital previously named Sligo General Hospital (SGH) and Sligo Regional Hospital (SRH)*