

**REPORT
&
ACCOUNTS
2024**

*St. John's Hospital
Limerick
Ireland*



Mission Statement

Faithful to our tradition, we provide the highest possible standard of care and treatment in a professional and compassionate manner to every person who avails of our services

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Foreword

I am pleased as Chairman of the Board of Governors and of the Management Committee to provide this Foreword to the Annual Report and Accounts for the year 2004.

The Hospital's financial performance during 2004 was particularly pleasing. The surplus of €121,000 achieved in 2003 was brought forward into 2004 in line with Department of Health & Children guidelines. This surplus together with additional funding secured during the year and good financial management, resulted in an accumulated surplus of €481,000 the end of 2004. This very positive year end financial position will considerably benefit the financial situation for 2005. Activity levels for 2004 remained in line with those for 2003 and detailed activity statistics are included in the Report.

The Hospital was awarded Accreditation status by the Irish Health Services Accreditation Board in January 2004. St. John's was the first public hospital to receive Accreditation status and was still the only accredited public hospital at year end. This major achievement for the Hospital is a testament to the commitment, hard work and dedication of all the staff. St. John's is now a reference site for other hospitals who are undergoing the accreditation process and St. John's has been visited by many other hospitals to gain an insight into how we approached and managed the process. Achieving accreditation status also greatly assisted the Hospital in securing additional funding from the Department of Health & Children to address specific issues and the Department also approved the appointment of a Project Team in September 2004 for the proposed Capital Development.

The Health Service Reform Programme was implemented during 2004 with the enactment of a new Health Act and the setting up of the Health Service Executive (HSE). In the lead up to the enactment of the Health Act 2004, the Voluntary Hospitals had been concerned about possible implications for their governance and independent status. The Management Committee was pleased to note that Voluntary Hospitals will retain their own legislative frameworks and that their formal obligations to the Health Service Executive under the Health Act 2004 will be as service providers, based on specific service agreements. St. John's will be part of the acute hospital network for the HSE Mid-Western Area and it is envisaged that the network will focus on the co-ordination and development of acute hospital services from the regional and national perspectives. St. John's is already playing a significant role in the development and co-ordination of acute hospital services in the region through Consultant joint appointments and greater collaboration in the development of new services.

On behalf of the Management Committee, I would like to thank the management and staff of the Hospital for their dedication and commitment to provide the highest possible standard of care and treatment in a professional and compassionate manner to every person who avails of our services.



+Donal Murray, D.D.,
Bishop of Limerick

REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2004

This Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 2004 gives details of financial performance and activity levels for both 2003 and 2004. The activity statistics are extracted from those submitted to the Department of Health and Children. The financial details are taken from the Audited Accounts and a copy of the Audited Accounts is reproduced herein.

ACTIVITY

Individual departments have included reports on activity in their own areas and overall activity statistics are shown on pages 27-28.

FINANCIAL

The comparable figures for 2004 and 2003, under the headings of overall expenditure and income are shown hereunder. The accumulated surplus at 31 December 2003 was €121,000 which was brought forward to 2004, as per Department of Health & Children guidelines. There was an accumulated surplus of €481,000 at 31 December 2004.

	2004	2003	% Increase/ (Decrease)
(SURPLUS)/DEFICIT B/F FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	(121)	369	
SALARIES/WAGES	17,465	16,661	4.83 %
GOODS/SERVICES	<u>6,968</u>	<u>5,467</u>	27.45 %
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	24,312	22,497	8.07 %
INCOME	<u>5,609</u>	<u>4,891</u>	14.68 %
NET EXPENDITURE	18,703	17,606	6.23 %
ALLOCATION FROM DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND CHILDREN	<u>19,184</u>	<u>17,727</u>	8.22 %
(SURPLUS)/DEFICIT	(481)	<u>(121)</u>	

SALARIES AND WAGES

Salaries and wages constituted 71.84% of total expenditure in 2004 and increased by €0.804m (4.83%) over 2003, mainly as a result of Benchmarking.

GOODS AND SERVICES

The overall cost of goods and services increased by €1,501,000 (27.45%) and areas where significant changes occurred, were:-

	2004 €'000	2003 €'000	% Increase/ (Decrease)
BLOOD/BLOOD PRODUCTS	291	240	21 %
LABORATORY EQUIPMENT	126	0	---
OTHER MEDICAL EQUIPMENT	624	19	3,184%
X-RAY SUPPLIES	86	62	39%
MAINTENANCE	367	207	77%
INSURANCE - MEDICAL DEFENCE	86	299	(71 %)
OFFICE SUPPLIES	305	214	43%
COMPUTER SUPPLIES/ CONTRACTS ON	204	76	168%
BAD DEBTS WRITTEN OFF	171	50	242%
ADJUSTMENT TO DOUBTFUL DEBTS PROVISION	226	70	223%

- Blood expenditure increased due to additional usage and also due to a price increase.
- Essential laboratory and other medical equipment was purchased from Non-Capital funding.
- X-Ray costs increased due to additional expenditure on equipment maintenance.
- There was increased general maintenance expenditure in all areas of the hospital and also particular projects such as the repair of the boundary wall.
- Insurance – costs for Medical Defence decreased following the introduction of the Clinical Indemnity Scheme.
- The increased cost of Office Supplies included the upgrade of the telephone system.
- There was a reduction of €92,000 in Capital funding received for computer expenditure, leading to an increase in computer costs charged to Non-Capital funding.
- Bad Debts increased due to the writing-off of old debts. It was also considered prudent to increase the provision for bad and doubtful debts.

INCOME

Income increased by €0.718m (14.68%) in 2004. The main areas where significant changes occurred were:-

	2004 €'000	2003 €'000	% Increase/ (Decrease)
Statutory In Patient Charges	347	291	19 %
Private/Semi-Private Charges	3,445	2,996	15 %
Other In-Patient Charges	35	2	1,650 %

- Statutory In Patient and Private/Semi-Private income increased due to a 15% increase in charges.
- Other In Patient Charges related to Non-EU patients and income raised from this source is directly related to the number of Non-EU nationals treated in the hospital.

Prompt Payment of Accounts Act – Statement

Payments to suppliers are generally made within thirty days of receipt of the invoice or delivery of the goods or services, whichever is the later.

Payments relating to contracts negotiated by the Hospital Procurement Services Group are made at the end of the month following the month in which the invoice is received or the goods delivered, whichever is the later.

In 2004 there were seventeen late payments totalling €46,318 attracting Interest on Late Payments of €217.

The overall proportion in monetary terms which late payments constituted of total payments during 2004 was 2.2%.

HOSPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Appointment of Project Team for Development Plan

Hospital representatives continued to pursue the Department of Health & Children to progress the Hospital's Development Plan. The Chief Executive and Finance and Projects Manager met with senior Department officials in August 2004 and following this meeting, the Department approved in September 2004 the establishment of a Project Team and nominated representatives on to the Team.

Medical Records Storage Development

The Department of Health & Children agreed to fund the development of a new Medical Records Department, to facilitate the storage of all patient charts. Work on the new Medical Records Department commenced in November 2004, with a scheduled finish date of April 2005.

HEALTH REFORM PROGRAMME

The Implementation Group for the Hanly Report was not finalised due to issues surrounding Enterprise Liability. The Health Reform Programme was implemented and from 1 January 2005, the Health Service Executive will be responsible for the delivery of all health and personal social services.

APPOINTMENTS AND RETIREMENTS

Appointments and retirements are listed under each service/department.

THANKS

Sincere thanks is extended to all of the staff for their continued co-operation and commitment at all times.

The “Friends of St. John’s” continued to devote much time and effort to raising funds for the Hospital. Their support and commitment is greatly appreciated.

Thanks is also due to the Minister for Health and Children and to his Officials for their continued help, advice and support.

Tim Kennelly
Chief Executive

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL

BOARD OF GOVERNORS - 2004/2005

CHAIRMAN

Most Rev. Donal Murray, D.D., Bishop of Limerick, "Kilmoyle", North Circular Road, Limerick.

MEMBERS

Ex-Officio

His Worship Cllr. Dick Sadlier, Mayor of Limerick.
Very Rev. D. Mullane, Adm., St. John's Parish, Limerick.
Very Rev. D. O'Malley, P.P., St. Mary's Parish, Limerick.
Very Rev. N. Kirwan, P.P., St. Michael's Parish, Limerick.
Very Rev. M. Canon Liston, P.P., St. Munchin's Parish, Limerick.
Very Rev. E. Irwin, P.P., St. Patrick's Parish, Limerick.

L.C.M. Nominees

Sr. Celine Bourke, 12 The Avenue, Grange Manor, Lucan, Co. Dublin.
Sr. Mary Morrisroe, Milford House, Castletroy, Limerick.

Limerick Corporation Nominees

Cllr. Larry Cross, "St. Anthony's", Lower Park, Corbally, Limerick.
Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon, Rhebogoe, Dublin Road, Limerick.
Cllr. Lilly Wallace, 99 Glasgow Park, Roxboro, Limerick.
Cllr. Kieran Walsh, 12 St. Munchin's Drive, Shannon Banks, Corbally, Limerick.

Life Governors

P.E. Burke, B.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.S.I., 2 Verona Villas, O'Connell Ave., Limerick.
G.L. Cantillon, M.Ch., 4 Pery Square, Limerick.
Brendan Conroy, M.D., F.F.A.R.C.S.I., "Fairbanks", Ahane, Lisnagry, Co. Limerick.
Morgan Costelloe, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., 13 Barrington St., Limerick.
Cornelius J. Cronin, M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.P.I., Lock Quay, Old Clare Street, Limerick.
Peter N. Faul, M.B., M.R.C.Path., Pathology Dept., St. John's Hospital, Limerick.
Joseph G. Geary, F.C.A., A.I.T.I., St. Anne's, South Circular Road, Limerick.
Sr. Mary Hassett, Little Company of Mary.
Josephine Hennessy, 129 Mayorstone Park, Limerick.
Patricia Humphreys, M.B., F.F.A.R.C.S.I., Brittas Hse, Brittas, Co. Limerick.
Raphael Keane, B.A., M.Ch., F.R.C.S.I., Unit 1A, Lock Quay, Old Clare Street, Limerick.
John T. Leahy, M.B., F.R.C.P.I., Crooked Stick, Ballyclough, Co. Limerick.
Joseph Lee, M.B., M.S., F.F.A.R.C.S.I., "Eskeragh", Clonmacken, Limerick.
Mary McCarthy, 13 Osmington Terrace, Thomondgate, Limerick.
John McCormack, M.B., F.F.A.R.C.S.I., 15 Meadow Vale Close, Raheen, Limerick.
Anne McMahan, M.D., F.R.C.P.I., D.C.H., 3 Meadow Lawn, Raheen, Limerick.
Dermot Molony, M.B., M.A.O., F.R.C.O.G., 10 The Crescent, Limerick.
Eithne Mulloy, M.B., F.F.C.P.I., St. John's Hospital, Limerick.
D. O'Keeffe, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.O., (LOND), The Bungalow, N.C.Rd., Limerick.
J.P. Roche Esq., Ballinacourty House, Lisnagry, Co. Limerick.

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 2004/2005

CHAIRMAN

Most Rev. Donal Murray, D.D., Bishop of Limerick, "Kilmoyle", North Circular Road, Limerick.

MEMBERS

His Worship, Cllr. Dick Sadler, Mayor of Limerick.

Very Rev. D. Mullane, Adm., St. John's Parish, Limerick.

Sr. Celine Bourke, L.C.M.

Sr. Mary Morrisroe, L.C.M.

Dr. Peter N. Faul, M.B., M.R.C.Path., (Medical Board Secretary)

Dr. E. Mulloy, M.B., F.F.C.P.I. (Medical Board Chairperson)

Mr. J.P. Roche.

Chief Executive:	Tim Kennelly
Director of Nursing:	Ms. Kay Hogan
Chaplain:	Rev. Fr. Liam Enright

ACCIDENT & EMERGENCY/OUT-PATIENTS DEPARTMENTS - 2004

Consultant in A&E Medicine:	Dr. Gareth Quin
A&E Medical Staff:	Dr. Morgan Costelloe
	Dr. Ursula Whelan-Burke
	Mr. Ashraf Butt
	Dr. Abdul Moid
	Dr. Abbas Ali Shah
	Dr. Syed Ali Shah
Clinical Nurse Manager 2:	Ms. Bernadette Carroll

Accident & Emergency

The total number of patients attending A&E in 2004 was 20,604, an increase of 279 from 2003. Numerically, this was only a small increase but the workload increase was more significant due to an increase in the numbers of Triage Category 2 patients from 40 in 2003 to 344 in 2004 and an increase in the number of Category 3 patients from 2092 in 2003 to 5117 in 2004. These patients have a higher dependency and require more specialised care.

A&E nurses continued to partake in the Trauma Nursing Care Course and four more nurses successfully completed the course in 2004. Ms. Michelle Fitzpatrick, CNM1, commenced organisation of the first St. John's Hospital Advanced Cardiac Life Support Course, which is scheduled to take place in the A&E Department in January 2005.

The A&E Department was allocated a Health Care Assistant for 19.5hrs/week Ms. Mary O'Brien, Grade 1V took up duty in the department and Ms. Sinead Stone was appointed as A&E Ward Clerk.

Ms. Anne Chawke, Staff Nurse retired in October 2004 and Mr. Ashraf Butt resigned in November 2004.

Out-Patients Department

The total number of patients attending OPD in 2004 was 11,130, an increase of 566 from 2003. The limited space and already full schedule is making it difficult to introduce any further services at present.

Dr. Liam Casserly, Consultant Nephrologist/General Physician commenced a monthly clinic and discussions commenced with regard to facilitating Ms. Anne Merrigan, Consultant Breast Surgeon, who is due to take up duty in January 2005.

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT - 2004

Chief Executive:	Mr. Tim Kennelly
Deputy Chief Executive:	Ms. Josephine Hennessy
Finance/Projects Manager:	Mr. John Cummins
Management Information Services Co-ordinator:	Ms. Patricia Keeshan
Human Resources Manager:	Mr. Frank White
Accountant:	Mr. Michael Corcoran
Clinical Services Co-ordinator:	Ms. Julie Cotter
I.C.T. Manager:	Ms. Frances Sheahan

Accreditation

Following receipt of the Accreditation award, the Hospital concentrated on the follow-up visit which took place in April 2004. Issues addressed included review of the infrastructure of the I.C.U., C.S.S.D., sanitation facilities, isolation facilities and the Quality Improvement programme. The continuous quality improvement process was formalised through the development of a Quality Improvement Plan. The Hospital submitted a 12-month Progress Report in October 2004, detailing progress on the recommendations outlined in the Survey Report and the quality improvement initiatives put in place since the survey. The next step of the process is an 18-month Review visit in April 2005.

Safety/Quality Improvement Grant

The Hospital was invited by the Irish Health Services Accreditation Board in November 2004 to apply for a once-off quality improvement/safety grant. The grant is open to organisations who undergo the accreditation process. The aim of the grant is to assist hospitals in rectifying issues of safety and/or quality improvement which have been identified as part of the accreditation survey. Improvements specific to findings in St. John's Accreditation Report included:-

- Installation of a telemetry system to facilitate remote monitoring of patients. This was seen as helping to address to some degree the 25% reduction in bed capacity in the I.C.U., as a requirement of the Accreditation award
- Provision of an education channel to focus on health issues

Retirement

Mrs. Philomena Aylward retired in January 2004 after more than twenty-five years as a member of the Clerical/Administration staff. Her contribution to the Hospital over the years has been enormous, both as a staff member and as a leading member of the "Friends of St. John's Hospital". The huge turnout of past and present staff at her retirement party was testament to her popularity. Phil is wished a long and happy retirement by all her colleagues and friends.

Human Resources (H.R.)

The main functions of the Human Resources Department related to:

- Staff planning and recruitment
- Staff Training and development
- Employee/Industrial relations
- HR Administration

Activities for 2004 included:

- Recruitment & selection - 33 competitions run.
- Training & Development:
 - Dignity at Work Policy for the Health Services - 7 sessions provided by HR.
 - Communications & Customer Service Skills - delivered by the Institute of Public Administration in house and attended by 14 staff.
 - Industrial Relation (IR) Skills Programme - delivered by the Irish Business & Employers Confederation (IBEC) in house and attended by 13 staff.
 - Interviewing Skills - delivered by IBEC in house and attended by 13 staff
- Industrial/Employee Relations:
 - The Department dealt with a number of Industrial Relations/Employee Relations issues at local level. The Labour Relations Commission provided assistance in dealing with matters on a number of separate occasions. There was no localised industrial action taken in the Hospital in 2004. Progress was made in implementation of the recommendations of an independent review of catering services carried out in December 2003

Risk Management

This department was restructured during 2004 and comprehensive Risk Management Programmes were developed and activated.

Information and Communication Technology (I.C.T.)

The changes taking place in information and communications technology both in the industry and at national level in relation to information technology in the health services, set the framework within which our I.C.T. department plans and manages the Hospital's I.C.T. systems. Ms. Frances Sheahan, I.C.T. Manager resigned her post in November 2004.

DEPARTMENT OF ANAESTHESIA AND PAIN MANAGEMENT - 2004

Consultant Anaesthetists

Dr. J. Lee, Dr. B. Conroy, Dr. F. Khan (temporary)

Dr. P.J. Breen, Dr. J. Kennedy, Dr. R. McEllistrem (sessional commitments)

The department continued to expand its activities and towards the end of 2004 in association with the Pharmacy department, the department recruited a Clinical Research Pharmacist who is doing an M.Sc.. She studies in conjunction with the School of Pharmacy in UCC and St. Johns. November 2004 saw the start of a dedicated Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) in Pain Control, initially for 19.5 hours a week. Both the Pharmacist and Pain Nurse attended a meeting in the U.S. that offered a comprehensive review of acute and chronic pain management. In June, Dr. Conroy and Patricia Moloney, CNS in Pain Control went to Belgium to review neuromodulation. The department has seen the acquisition in the theatre complex of new anaesthesia monitoring equipment and also equipment to allow the provision of total intravenous anaesthesia (total continuous infusions) which gives another therapeutic option for anaesthesia and that is mainly under the direction of Dr. Fasih Khan.

Clinical and research lectures are generally held every Monday morning. With regard to pain services, previously we had acquired a fluoroscopic capability with an appropriate table and a radiofrequency lesioner. We now have a programmer to allow both the spinal cord stimulation programming and intrathecal (pump delivery) programming and that will be the next component of the development of the pain service in St. John's Hospital.

Another aspect undertaken by Patricia Moloney, CNS in Pain Control was in service training of staff members on Patient Controlled Analgesia (PCA) and more importantly epidural fusions, with a view to possible management of these patients in the ward.

With the growth of the outpatient clinic and increasing numbers of outpatients going through the Day Ward for pain procedures, it is anticipated that theatre procedure time will be expanded possibly to a full day list in the Day Unit.

In the Intensive Care Unit, we have improved our ability to monitor critical ill patients with the provision of a PICCO cardiac output monitor. We are also acquiring a new improved ventilator to support critically ill patients. We have allocated designated time with the Pre-Assessment Nurse to improve this area of patient care.

CENTRAL PURCHASING AND STORES - 2004

Purchasing Officer
Supplies Officer Grade 1V:
Supplies Officer Grade D

Ms. Karen O’Leary
Ms. Elaine Quinlan
Mr. Michael Collins

Activity

Purchasing for the Hospital and obtaining Value for Money

Maintaining common stock for the hospital and issuing as needed.

	2003	2004
Annualised Savings (€)	€24,330	€ 223,637
Annual Saving %	2%	13%
% Purchasing Centralised	48%	40%
Weekly Stock issues	471	442
Stock Valuation	€ 73,000	€76,650
Obsolete stock	€ 1,500	€1,500

Some of the savings are once off, e.g. savings on Capital Equipment. The majority of the savings are cumulative; i.e. are continued from year to year, although not included in the next year’s figures.

Cumulative savings 1999 – 2004 is € 913,399, i.e. 13% of Centralised Purchasing to date.

New Services/Initiatives

- Commencement of extension to the Stores Department

- A system for removal of cardboard waste was successfully introduced.

Issues of Note

- Purchasing and Issuing activities were disrupted during building work, when available space was reduced.

- ICT improvements and more use of Intranet have helped purchasing efficiency.

DAY CARE UNIT - 2004

Acting CNM2:

Ms. Joyce Ryan

Acting CNM1:

Ms. Joan Meaney

Activity

- Medicine – Medical Investigations & Therapeutic sessions.
- Surgery – General and local anaesthetics, etc.
- Gynaecology
- Endoscopy - G.I. endoscopy, Diagnostic and Therapeutic & Liver biopsies and Bronchoscopies
- Oral/Maxillofacial Surgery (Routine and National Treatment Purchase Fund - NTPF patients)
- Pain Management (Routine & NTPF)

New Services/Initiatives

- Accreditation: Departmental Quality Improvement plans introduced
- Day Theatre: Walls lead lined for radiation protection
- Commenced using C-Arm for Pain Management procedures
- Extended opening hours to accommodate Oral/Maxillofacial patients referred by the National Treatment Purchase Fund.

Ms. Joyce Ryan retired in December 2004. We thank her for her dedicated service and wish her a long and happy retirement.

Ms. Myriam Leahy, CNM2, continued in her secondment as Care Pathways Co-ordinator. The development of Care Pathways was a very significant aspect in the Accreditation process.

HEALTH PROMOTION DEPARTMENT - 2004

Health Promotion Officer – Ms. Kim Coughlan

Activity

Sources of Referral	No. of Referrals	% Referrals
In-Patients	104	69.3
Out-Patients	19	12.7
Community	16	10.7
Staff	11	7.3
Total	150	100.0

New initiatives

- St John's Hospital achieved a Silver Level Award in European Network for Smoke Free Hospitals. Conducted a self-assessment questionnaire and a smoking policy audit to support the award.
- Provided Smoking Policy Information talks for staff with regards to the National Workplace Smoking Ban.
- Commenced working on the Patient Education TV Channel.
- Participated in the Fetac NVQ Health care Assistants Course 25th May and 1st June
- Facilitated two different groups of Watch Our Weight Club run for 14-week sessions during Spring and Autumn.

Training/Study days provided

Basic Life Support training

91 nursing/allied health professional staff were trained – 16 Healthcare Provider Courses.
12 support services staff trained – 4 Heartsaver Courses.

Brief Interventions Training

1 x 4 day course – 12 participants.

Fetac National Vocational Qualification Course for Healthcare Assistants

2 groups.

Other activities

- Reviewed the Hospital Smoking Policy and Guidelines and monitored breaches of the Policy.
- Continued facilitation & administration of BLS courses.
- Provided personal lifestyle health checks for Staff with the Occupational Health Nurse
- Information displays throughout the year in main reception and/or the staff restaurant & OPD/A&E:

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE - 2004

Consultant Physicians

Dr. C.J. Cronin, Dr. E. M. T. Mulloy (Medical Board Chairperson)
Dr. L. Casserly (sessional commitment - commenced 31 March 2004)
Dr. H. Holloway (temporary/sessional commitment)

The Department of Medicine continued to experience high levels of activity throughout 2004. A&E generated the majority of acute admissions. There was also a very busy Out-Patient service with two General Medical Out-Patient Clinics weekly. The Cardiac Assessment Unit carries both in-patient and out-patient exercise testing and 24-hour ambulatory blood pressure monitoring and ECG monitoring. Dr. Mulloy and Dr. Cronin continued their sub-speciality commitments at Mid-Western Regional Hospital, three sessions each in Respiratory Medicine and Nephrology respectively.

The major development in the Department in 2004 was the appointment of Dr Liam Casserly as Consultant Nephrologist and General Physician. He has a six-session Nephrology commitment to the Mid-Western Regional Hospital and a five-session General Medicine commitment to St. John's. He is participating on the on-call Physicians roster at St. John's Hospital.

The Medical Assessment Unit opened in 2003 and continues to provide ambulatory medical care. This has been a very successful initiative and it has allowed us to discharge patients from A&E, who would previously have been admitted. They can be followed up on a daily basis if necessary in the Medical Assessment Unit. In-patients can also be discharged earlier and come back to the Medical Assessment Unit for results of any investigations carried out. This has helped reduce the Hospital stay and also reduce the pressure on the Out-Patient Department. It is hoped the Medical Assessment Unit will be developed further in the near future with necessary resources.

The Hospital was awarded Accreditation status for the three year period October 2003 to October 2006 by the Irish Hospital Services Accreditation Board. The medical team was proud to be part of this interdisciplinary endeavour. St. John's Hospital was the first public hospital in Ireland to achieve this award. We also work closely with our colleagues in the Pharmacy department and have participated in several research studies and audits of patient education and knowledge about their medication. As part of the recommendation for Accreditation the ICU/CCU facility was realigned and we introduced hospital wide telemetry (which allowed patients on the ward to have cardiac monitoring from a central control area in the ICU/CCU).

The Department of Medicine is heavily involved in postgraduate training. Our Medical Interns come from UCD/Mater Hospital. Our SHO's rotate from the Mid Western Medical SHO Training Scheme. We also have rotations from the Mid Western GP Training Scheme.

The Department of Medicine fully supports the Friends of St John's Hospital Fundraising Campaign to raise funds for a C.T. Scanner for St John's Hospital.

NURSING SERVICE - 2004

Director of Nursing:	Ms. Kay Hogan
Assistant Directors of Nursing:	Mrs. Audrey Hanrahan
	Ms. Mary Carey (March 2004)
Clinical Nurse Manager 111:	Ms. Kathleen Lynch

There were many developments in nursing in 2004, particularly in training and education. Some of the highlights of 2004 were:

Pain Management

Ms. Patricia Moloney commenced as Pain Control Nurse in November. This role involves three main areas - Clinical management, Education and Audit. Patricia commenced her MSc in Pain Management in October 2004.

Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) Training:

Ms. Michelle Fitzpatrick, who is an ACLS Instructor, held practical skills sessions to provide ACLS scenarios for nurses/doctors to ensure better understanding of what to do, when faced with similar real-life emergencies in the hospital setting. These sessions helped to dispel the fear factor associated with cardiac arrest and helped people realise the importance and necessity of prompt ACLS. In the late autumn, Michelle commenced the co-ordination of the Advanced Cardiac Life Support Provider Course, which would enable sixteen staff to be trained at each two-day session. This course is accredited by the American Heart Association and the Irish Heart Foundation, and is a prestigious internationally recognised qualification. It was a great achievement for St. John's hospital to be recognised as having the personnel with the required competency necessary to provide this course. The aim of ACLS training is to provide clear direction, practice and training in the advanced management of life threatening events, which often occur without warning.

Fetac National Vocational Qualification Course for Healthcare Assistants:

Eight Healthcare Assistants completed this course in 2004. A further three commenced in December 2004.

Blood Glucose Monitoring:

The Precision PCx system was installed as a quality improvement, to allow ease of use and provide accurate results. Less blood is required for testing. Daily internal quality control was carried out, and external quality control was performed on a 6 – 8 weekly basis. The meter is handheld and requires to be downloaded 24 hourly to allow transfer of data to the laboratory information system. All nursing staff were trained to ensure competency before the system was installed.

Links with our Community Partners:

An Education Forum on Leg Ulceration Management was held in April 2004, and thereafter repeated due to relevance, appropriateness and demand. The forum was facilitated by our Vascular Surgeon, Mr. Paul Burke and also by Ms. Veronica O'Connor, CNM1. Our Clinical Nurse Specialists in the fields of Diabetes, Respiratory Care, Continence Management, Infection Control and Health Promotion all held various seminars and workshops in the community and thus forged strong links between the hospital and community.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT – 2004

Occupational Health Nurse – Ms. Maura O’Connor
Occupational Health Officer – Dr. Liam Holmes (sessional)

Activity 2004	
Total Number of Staff Seen	355
Work Related	288
Non Work Related	67
Flu Vaccine Campaign	
Total Uptake	43
Front Line Staff	36
Other	7
Life Style Health Checks	
Total Attendance	93
Health Advice Required	63
O.H. Follow-Up	7
G.P. Referral	7

New Initiative in 2004

Respiratory Health Surveillance for staff working with Perasafe and 3Ezyme
First Aid at Work Guidelines implemented and training given to relevant staff.

Training /study days provided

Non Violent Crisis Intervention attendance = 45 (9 classes)
Blood Borne Viruses (attendance as for sharps awareness training)
Office Health and Safety Training attendance = 10 (4 classes)
Non Consultant Hospital Doctor Induction and Blood Borne Virus training

Professional Development:

Attended 8 day Clinical Nurse Specialist Development Programme
Occupational Regional Group Meeting x 1
Occupational Health Nurse Conference

PATHOLOGY DEPARTMENT - 2004

Consultant Pathologists: Dr. Peter N. Faul, Consultant Histopathologist

**(Sessional commitments) Dr. Maeve Leahy, Consultant Haematologist
Dr. Kanthi Perera, Consultant Haematologist**

Activity

Total Laboratory activity statistics showed an increase of 3% on 2003 levels. Agreement has been reached with the Mid Western Regional Laboratory to process tests not available on-site.

New Services/Initiatives

Purchase of new Laboratory equipment continued in 2004. Equipment purchase enabled a more comprehensive on-site biochemistry service; this resulted in faster turnaround times for Endocrinology and other tests.

A number of Quality Improvement initiatives have begun in preparation for CPA accreditation.

Appointments

Donnacha McCarthy was appointed as Chief Medical Scientist in September 2004.

Retirement

Nora Fletcher retired from the post of Chief Medical Scientist in April 2004. Nora spent twenty-five years in the service of the people of Limerick through her work in St. John's. We wish her a long and happy retirement.

Requests	2004			2003		
	In-Patient	Out-Patient	Total	In-Patient	Out-Patient	Total
Haematology	11,691	31,765	43,456	9,724	32,030	41,754
Biochemistry	21,517	70,591	92,108	20,556	69,082	89,638
Microbiology	2,374	1,805	4,179	2,482	1,729	4,211
Histology/Cytology	2,299	496	2,795	2,339	483	2,822
External Tests	995	4,338	5,333	1,136	3,711	4,847
Total Tests	38,876	108,995	147,871	36,237	107,035	143,272

PHARMACY DEPARTMENT - 2004

Chief Pharmacist:	Geraldine Creaton
Senior Pharmacists:	Bernadette Harnett
Research Pharmacist:	Stephen Byrne
Pharmacy Technician:	Sarah Coughlan

Activity

Activity in the Warfarin Clinic increased by 33% in 2004 compared with 2003. While the majority of patients are seen during the Tuesday and Thursday clinics, it has been necessary to see patients on other days.

Audits during the year showed an improvement from 91.8% to 92.3% in the number of non-stock drugs dispensed within 30 minutes of the written order arriving to the pharmacy.

Research papers titled '*Hitting the target INR – mission impossible!*' (B. Harnett, S. Byrne, C.J. Cronin, E. Mulloy, G. Creaton) and '*Are we just confusing patients with information?*' (S. Byrne, G. Creaton, B. Harnett, C.J. Cronin, E. Mulloy, S. O'Sullivan) were presented to the European Society of Clinical Pharmacy.

Posters by the same authors on '*Managing a newly established warfarin clinic*' and '*BNF Warnings - Can Patients Read and Understand Them?*' were presented at the Hospital Pharmacists Association of Ireland annual conference.

A further two posters entitled '*What should we educate patients about?*' and '*Familiarity breeds Contentment! (Patient Drug Awareness Project a Success)*' were presented at The North/South Universities Conference, Queens University Belfast and the conference of the Irish Society of Quality & Safety in Healthcare (ISQSH) respectively.

A clinical pharmacist continues to provide lectures in pharmacology to nursing students, both 'access to degree' and 'degree' students at the University of Limerick throughout the academic year.

New Initiatives

Clinical Pharmacy

Clinical Pharmacy Services were extended to Dr. Liam Casserly following his appointment to the hospital. A clinical Pharmacist attends ward rounds twice a week

Pain management

A clinical pharmacist now attends the pain clinic on Mondays with Dr. Brendan Conroy, reviews patients with regard to their medication prior to their appointment with Dr. Conroy and educates as necessary. Drug information queries related to pain management are also facilitated.

Research

Pain management research is the theme of the current research project in Clinical Pharmacy based at St. John's Hospital under the supervision of University College Cork. Geraldine Creaton and Noreen Collins are members of the Pharmaceutical Care Research Group at University College Cork.

Issues of Note

- Geraldine Creaton was appointed to the School of Pharmacy Advisory Committee at University College Cork.
- Bernadette Harnett has begun a 2-year Masters Degree in Clinical Pharmacy.
- Noreen Collins has begun her studies to qualify as an anticoagulant specialist pharmacist.
- Geraldine Creaton has finished her term as a member of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

Appointments

Noreen Collins was appointed as Research Pharmacist for 3-years (2004-2007)

Dr. Stephen Byrne's work as Research Pharmacist came to a close in 2004. He has moved to University College Cork where he was appointed Lecturer in Clinical Pharmacy. He remains closely associated with St. John's Hospital through his joint supervision of the PhD in Clinical Pharmacy with Professor Julia Kennedy of U.C.C..

PHYSIOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT – 2004

Physiotherapy Manager: Martina Ryan
Senior Physiotherapists Dorothea Tucholski and Carmela Conroy (job-sharing)
Physiotherapist: Eswari Kumar (locum)

Activity

Again, the main activity of the physiotherapy department in the past year has been the provision of services to both inpatients and outpatients. There has again been an increase in demand for outpatient treatment with the resulting pressure on the department. Treatments are becoming more complex and the need for specialist services is growing.

Major Sources of Physiotherapy Out-Patient Referrals		
	2004	2003
A/E Department	428	461
MWRH OPD(Patients initially seen in A&E St Johns Hospital)	176	91
OPD	144	134

New Services

As outlined in previous reports, there is an acute need for the enhancement of existing services and development of new services in this department. Inadequate staffing and lack of space are hindering our best efforts to provide for this.

Ms. Carmela Conroy, Senior Physiotherapist has completed an intensive part-time course on Continence Care to help address the demand for physiotherapy in the area of Women's Health. The lack of a specialist physiotherapist in this area had long been a concern of this department.

Issues of Note

- Provision of a physiotherapist at Pain Clinic as staffing permits. This is an area we would like to be able to develop and provide a comprehensive service to patients.
- The Specialist Physiotherapy Clinic in Women's Health is scheduled to commence in 2005 as staffing allows. Patients will now have access to a specialist service on site, which were heretofore referred to distant specialists.

ACTIVITY DATA

	2004	2003
In-Patient Referrals	795	1,323
In-Patient Treatments	9,896	9,373
Out-Patient Referrals	246	265
Out-Patient Treatments	3,597	2,936
Total Attendance	5,680	5,168
Total Treatments	13,493	12,309

RADIOLOGY DEPARTMENT - 2004

Consultant Radiologist: Dr. Alissa Connors (October 2004)

Dr. N. Hofmeyr (locum until 30 September 2004)

Dr. J. Crotty, Consultant Radiologist (sessional commitment)

Radiography Services Manager: Mr. Liam Murray

Activity levels continued to increase with considerable changes in the range and type of examination. The purchase in April of a modern ultrasound machine facilitated a broader range of examinations and an increased ultrasound workload. A new C-arm image intensifier was also purchased to facilitate expansion of the pain relief clinic. Recent consultant appointments with wider diagnostic interests demand greater direct input by the radiologist and this change in practice has considerable implications for service delivery.

The referral guidelines and protocols have again played a key role in enabling us to continue to minimise inappropriate examinations and to meet new and increased demands. Patient numbers at 24,692 (29,202 examinations) represent the highest departmental throughput to-date. Increased demand from the minor injuries clinic, coupled with changes in the medical staffing in A&E has impacted on workload. In house demand is reasonably stable and manageable, however referrals from the clinics, day ward and A&E are increasing.

Dr. Alissa Connors took up post as Consultant Radiologist in October 2004. Dr. Connors has an eight-session commitment to St. John's and three sessions at the Mid-Western Regional Hospital (MWRH). Dr. James Crotty has a commitment of three sessions at St. John's, to reciprocate Dr. Connors three sessions at the MWRH. Ms. Kathleen Blackwell resigned during the year and Ms. Mary Fitzgerald joined us from Mid-Western Regional Hospital, where she had been the Clinical Specialist in Mammography. Dr. Nicholas Hofmeyr ceased his locum employment in September.

X-RAY STATISTICS		
	2004	2003
Barium Studies	350	340
Other Contrasts	124	124
Ultrasounds	3,562	3,174
Chest/Abdomen	9,806	8,870
Skeletal	14,849	13,601
Miscellaneous	139	43
Portables/Theatre	372	242
TOTAL Patients	24,692	22,286
Examinations	29,202	26,394

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY - 2004

Consultant Surgeons

Mr. P.E. Burke, Mr. R.M. Keane

Activity within the Department of Surgery remained at similar levels to previous years. There was a continuing trend to do a greater number of intermediate and more complex cases in the day ward setting. The main areas of surgical activity are gastrointestinal surgery, vascular surgery and breast surgery. The Department of Surgery is also responsible for a large percentage of the endoscopy procedures done in the hospital.

Towards the end of 2004, we received sanction for the establishment of a tissue viability clinic. A clinical nurse specialist is to be appointed who will supervise the overall nursing management of all patients with venous ulcers and other wounds, which can be best managed on an out-patient basis. This person will also act as a Co-Ordinator and Liaison Officer between the nurses in the community and the Hospital. A special clinic has been built for this in the Out-Patients area, thanks to the support of the Friends of St. John's. In the provision of breast services, a new breast surgeon, Ms. Anne Merrigan has been appointed to Limerick Regional Hospital and St. John's and is due to take up her post in January 2005. Ms. Merrigan will have 3 sessions in St. John's Hospital which will include 1 Theatre Session, 1 Day Ward Session and an Out-patient clinic on alternate weeks. Her appointment will allow St. John's to increase the level and complexity of breast surgery being done.

Future developments are likely to see St. John's remaining prominent in the adaptation of laparoscopic techniques for new surgical procedures. Other areas for potential development will be less invasive procedures for the treatment of varicose veins particularly in elderly patients.

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL

PATIENT STATISTICS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2004

	2004	2003
TOTAL NUMBER OF IN-PATIENTS TREATED	3,964	3,716
TOTAL NUMBER OF BED DAYS	27,544	27,547
PERCENTAGE OCCUPANCY	85.4	86.5
AVERAGE DURATION OF STAY (DAYS)	6.95	7.41

IN-PATIENTS AND BED DAYS BY MEDICAL CATEGORY						
CATEGORY	PATIENTS		BED DAYS		Average Duration of Stay (Days)	
	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003
MEDICINE	2,266	1,993	18,597	17,750	8.21	8.91
SURGERY	1,306	1,250	7,722	7,977	5.91	6.38
GYNAECOLOGY	392	473	1,225	1,823	3.13	3.85
TOTAL	3,964	3,716	27,544	27,550	6.95	7.41

DAY CARE PATIENTS		
	2004	2003
MEDICINE	1,970	1,144
SURGERY	1,514	1,496
GYNAECOLOGY	350	362
PAIN MANAGEMENT	279	212
MAXILLO-FACIAL	198	170
TOTALS	4,311	3,384

OPERATIONS		
	2004	2003
MAIN THEATRES	1,602	1,644
DAY THEATRES	1,701	1,665
TOTALS	3,303	3,309

OUT-PATIENT CLINICS & CASUALTY						
	2004			2003		
CLINIC ATTENDANCES	NEW	RETURN	TOTAL	NEW	RETURN	TOTAL
MEDICAL AND CARDIAC	480	3,274	3,754	499	2,840	3,339
GYNAECOLOGICAL	554	1,431	1,985	573	1,439	2,012
SURGICAL	1,343	2,071	3,414	1,236	1,982	3,218
E.N.T.	626	585	1,211	547	610	1,157
PAEDIATRIC	135	275	410	125	349	474
PAIN MANAGEMENT	122	234	356	119	245	364
TOTALS	3,260	7,870	11,130	3,099	7,465	10,564
CASUALTY (incl. dressings)	18,124	2,481	20,605	17,048	3,278	20,326

PHYSIOTHERAPY, PHLEBOTOMY AND X-RAY STATISTICS						
	2004			2003		
	IN-PATIENTS	OUT-PATIENTS	TOTAL	IN-PATIENTS	OUT-PATIENTS	TOTAL
PHYSIOTHERAPY TREATMENTS	9,896	3,597	13,493	9,373*	2,936*	12,309*
PHLEBOTOMY	11,346	28,217	39,563	12,535	31,618	44,153
X-Ray	4,132	25,070	29,202	3,785	22,610	26,395

* Figures show a decrease due to difficulties in recruiting locum staff

ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL

SENIOR MEDICAL STAFF - 2004

PHYSICIANS	Cornelius J. Cronin, MB, BCh, FRCPI Eithne M.T. Mulloy, FRCPI *Liam Casserly, MB, MRCPI Heather Holloway, FRCPI (temporary sessional)
A&E CONSULTANT	*Gareth Quin, MRCPI, FRCS(Ed), FFAEM
SURGEONS	Paul E. Burke, BSc, MD, FRCS, FRCSI Raphael M. Keane, BA, MCh, FRCSI
E.N.T. SURGEON	*Kevin P. Manning, LRCP & SI, FRCSI, FRCS
ORAL & MAXILLO-FACIAL SURGEON	*Gerard J. Kearns, MB, B.Dent.Sc, FDS, FFD, FRCS
RADIOLOGIST	Alissa Connors, MB, B.Ch. BAO, FFR, RCSI (Oct. 2004) Nicholas G. Hofmeyr, FCP(SA), FF Rad. (D)(SA) (locum) *Jim Crotty, MB, Dip. ABR (USA), Dip ABNM (USA)
PATHOLOGISTS	Peter N. Faul, MD, MRCPI, MRCPath. *Maeve Leahy, MD, FRCP, FRCPath.
GYNAECOLOGISTS	Catherine M. Casey, MRCOG, MRCPI, Dip.PST, DCH *Una Fahy, MD, MRCOG
ANAESTHETISTS	Joseph G. Lee, MB, MS, FFARCSI Brendan Conroy, MB, FFARCSI Fasih Khan, MB, BS, FFARCSI (temporary) *John Kennedy, MB, FFARCSI *P.J. Breen, MB, FFARCSI *Richard McEllistrem, MB, FFARCSI
PAEDIATRICIAN	*Liam P. Carroll, MB, BCh, BAO, MRCP. (U.K.)
CASUALTY OFFICERS (PERMANENT)	Morgan Costelloe, MB, BCh, BAO Ursula Whelan-Burke, MB, BCh, BAO, DCh, D.Obs.

* Denotes sessional commitments from Consultants holding their contracts with the Mid-Western Health Board.

St. John's Hospital

Financial Statements

The following is a full and true copy of the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December, 2004.

Hospital Auditors:

Grant Thornton
Chartered Accountants & Registered Auditors