

## **The Clinical Research Facility ..... 3 years on**

The Wellcome - HRB Clinical Research Facility opened to its first patient on 23 October 2013, and since then activity has been increasing year on year.

The history of the Clinical Research Facility (CRF) began in 2006 with a successful application to the Wellcome Trust (for building costs) and the Health Research Board (for running costs) for a purpose built clinical research facility at St James's Hospital. The Wellcome - HRB Clinical Research Facility at St. James's Hospital is a 1,400m<sup>2</sup> space designed specifically for clinical research. The CRF is located on the second floor of the new building on the south side of the campus that also contains the H&H ward and the Cardiovascular Institute. The hospital has recently enlarged this building to include a fourth floor containing the National Coagulation and Haemophilia Centre.

The CRF is jointly governed by St James's Hospital and Trinity College. It is one of 6 similar research facilities in Ireland – RCSI CRF at Beaumont hospital, CRF Cork, CRF Galway and two UCD related CRFs at St Vincent's and the Mater Hospitals.

### **So what does the CRF actually do?**

The CRF supports a wide variety of clinical studies – Investigator led clinical research, clinical trials and experimental medicine; early phase clinical trials and experimental medicine and industry sponsored clinical trials. We support all specialities with particular activity including haemophilia, gastrointestinal, such as Crohn's disease and inflammatory bowel disease, infectious diseases, respiratory, such as asthma and chronic obstructive airway disease, dermatology, and neuropsychiatry. The CRF also supports research by a wide range of health professions including, but not limited, to nursing, physiotherapy, psychology, clinical nutrition, audiometry and neurophysiology

We have just completed our first Phase 1 clinical trial of a new Hepatitis C vaccine in HIV infected individuals.

Non clinical trial work includes prescribed exercise intervention programmes led by physiotherapists in cancer related areas such as prostate cancer and oesophageal cancer. Other exercise programmes include patients with mild cognitive impairment.

## TEAM PHOTO



### The Staff

The CRF has a staff complement of 19 people – The CRF is led by Director Professor Michael Gill; Associate Director Professor Colm Bergin; Nurse Manager, Derval Reidy and Programme Manager, Jeremy Towns. We have a Research Pharmacist, Quality and Regulatory affairs Manager, Data Manager, Laboratory Technician and a team of research nurse specialists.

### The Facilities

The CRF currently operates much like an outpatient department. It is open Monday to Friday during core working hours. It has 3 clinic rooms, a 6 bed day ward, 2 isolation rooms, a sample processing laboratory, a full equipped exercise physiology suite, an Electrophysiology suite/Faraday cage, a large dispensing pharmacy and an aseptic compounding unit which is due to open in 2017.

### What we provide?

The facility provides a safe and calm environment for researchers and patients and is staffed with highly skilled research nurses and health care professionals. This enables the CRF to safely and effectively conduct high quality patient based research including experimental medicine studies. We provide a dedicated location for the conduct of research and are open to all health care professionals across a wide range of disease areas. The CRF offers an array of services depending on research requirements. Some of our Investigators require only nursing support and others pharmacy and laboratory resources. We can assist with negotiation of contracts on behalf of the Principle Investigator, advise with costings of studies for grants or health awards and provide study set up support. Essentially the CRF can provide a one stop shop from initial study feasibility to study close out. If you would like to find out more information or call up to see the facility please contact Derval Reidy (ADON) at [reidyde@tcd.ie](mailto:reidyde@tcd.ie)