



TYRONE COUNTY HOSPITAL

THROUGH THE YEARS



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FOREWORD

ELAINE WAY

As Trust Chief Executive of the Western Health and Social Care Trust up to July 2017, I have had the opportunity of working with staff and the community to transform the delivery of health care to the population of Omagh and West Tyrone. With the relocation of health services from Tyrone County Hospital and Omagh Health Centre into the new Omagh Hospital and Primary Care Complex, it is appropriate to reflect on the outstanding contribution made by these facilities and the staff who have served within them over the past 100 years and this is ably done in the contributions made within this booklet.

Modern buildings fit for the 21st century are essential for the communities they serve. However, it is the quality and dedication of the staff who work within such buildings that are the key to providing high quality, safe services and improved patient experience for the community.

I commend and thank those who have put together this publication for their efforts to ensure that contribution is evidenced and captured for posterity.

I wish all staff within the new Hospital and Primary Healthcare facilities continued success for the future.

Elaine Way CBE,
Chief Executive. (Retired July 2017)





FOREWORD

DR ANNE KILGALLEN

It is my very great pleasure as the recently appointed Chief Executive of the Western Health and Social Care Trust to contribute to the foreword of this important historical record. It pays tribute to the contribution of Tyrone County Hospital and its staff over many years to the health of the local population.

As we look forward to the future, and to continuing to serve our population through the services we provide at the new Omagh Hospital and Primary Care Complex, I am certain that the legacy of outstanding health care provision to the community of Omagh and West Tyrone will continue to be extremely influential. I know our new facilities are in good hands.

May I wish everyone involved every success as we look to the future.

Dr Anne Kilgallen,
Chief Executive.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BERNIE MCCRORY

On behalf of the Tyrone County Hospital Celebration Committee, I would like to pay tribute to all of the staff who worked at the Hospital since its opening in 1899. To each, is owed a debt of appreciation for their dedicated and professional input, which contributed significantly to the excellent work undertaken over the decades.

With long days working in wards and departments, colleagues became like a second family, and the many challenges faced by all, brought people even closer. The sense of camaraderie among staff was palpable and this was particularly evident when this small hospital dealt with major incidents so effectively, in

many cases far above what could have reasonably been expected. At the heart of all activity, was the importance of patients. The health care professionals treated their patients with empathy and made them feel valued and respected. By listening and communicating, patients became the centre and the most valuable part of the team.

Although it has been a difficult task to dismantle this much loved hospital, it is widely acknowledged that the new Omagh Hospital and Primary Care Complex has exceeded all expectations. It is unequivocally the best example in Northern Ireland and wider of how health care will positively develop into the 21st Century.

The Tyrone County Hospital Celebration Committee wish all those staff, whose honour, character and integrity will sustain the reputation of our previous facility, the very best for the future and it is with great confidence that we look forward to the building of a new and exciting service for patients, their families and the wider community.

Bernie McCrory MBE,
Chief Officer,
Co-operation and Working Together.

DERMATOLOGY

DR RAYMOND FULTON

For many years there has been a weekly dermatology clinic in the Outpatients Department at Tyrone County Hospital. The majority of patients with skin conditions can be medically assessed and treated at the clinic and this reduces the need for Tyrone patients to travel to other hospitals. For example, ultra-violet light treatment is helpful in some skin disease and this is available at the Physiotherapy Department.

From 1983 to 2010 Dr Raymond Fulton was the attending consultant. He was joined for a few years by Dr Pat Podmore, Consultant Dermatologist. There were several clinical assistants over the years, many of whom also worked in general practice; Dr Maurice Hegarty, Dr Carol Campbell, Dr Julia Groves Raines and Dr Deborah Pollock.

Dr Paula O'Hare, Associate Specialist, joined in 1992 and continues to run the clinic on her own following Dr Fulton's retirement in 2010. She combines this with a busy general practice, providing outstanding service and continuity during times of change in Tyrone County Hospital.

The service has been greatly enhanced by several nursing colleagues who have trained to provide leg ulcer management and a range of minor skin surgery procedures. A patient who is judged by the clinic doctor to require minor skin surgery can be treated by nurses in the same clinic visit. Breda O'Leary, Staff Nurse was the first to train in minor skin surgery and when she left, Sister Susan Bradley further developed the nurse-led skin services. In 2015 Sister Bradley received a Western Trust Staff Recognition Award

for improving Patient and Client services and in 2016 was awarded the British Dermatological Nursing Group Australian Travel Bursary. This was a national award that was open to all dermatology nurses in the United Kingdom.

The dermatology clinic will move to the new Omagh Hospital and Primary Care Complex in 2017. With this move will come improved access to light therapy for patients in the Omagh area when the service will become a nurse-led service. Deirdre Farry, Staff Nurse will continue to provide a nurse-led clinic for eczema patients. The team looks forward to providing the highest standard of care for their patients in brand new facilities.

ENT

MR SHASHI KALUSKAR



The ENT (Ear, Nose, Throat) department provided services for the populations of Omagh and Fermanagh with an inpatient unit at the Tyrone County Hospital and outpatient clinics in Enniskillen. Since the 1960s, the department was staffed by a consultant Mr. Tom Wilmot and two clinical assistants.

A further two consultants were appointed: Miss Kate Law in 1977 and Mr. Shashi Kaluskar 1981. Mr Wilmot established the then modern ENT department and established a particular interest in hearing and balance problems. He introduced the rotating chair designed by Franz Dettrich, Physicist from Geneva, and fixed it in the Outpatients Department. He taught Harry Allen, Senior Audiologist to use it to investigate people with vestibular problems, this was particularly relevant in Meniere's disease about which Mr Wilmot published widely and later became the President of the Council for Otology of the Royal Society of Medicine.

Gradually the department excelled and developed subspecialties. Specialised clinics were introduced for nasal allergy, vertigo and follow up clinics for post

endoscopic sinus surgery and head and neck cancer patients. Miss Law advanced the management of deafness in children and introduced neonatal screening for congenital deafness. The ENT outpatients department then moved to a new area in the hospital housing several consulting rooms with modern equipment, and specialised sound proof rooms with modern state of the art equipment for audiology services.

As the clinical and specialised operative work increased substantially, the department became very active academically for teaching and training post graduate students posted in the Tyrone County.

Further junior and staff grade appointments were made in the department. In 1985, the concept of non-invasive endoscopic nose and sinus surgery was introduced in Europe and soon after this technique was initiated by

Mr Kaluskar in the Tyrone County for both inpatient and day case surgery. The department was one of the pioneering sites in the non-invasive technique for nose and sinus surgery, which is now well established as the “gold standard” technique for dealing with common nose and sinus problems. In the late 1980s, the department introduced KTP/532 Laser for the treatment of routine and advanced surgery in ENT. This was indeed the first state of the art laser to be commissioned in the UK.

To share the expertise in this field of non-invasive and laser surgery, Mr Kaluskar and Bernie McCrory, General Manager, commenced a six-day international course and workshop in Tyrone County Hospital. This course and workshop consisted of didactic lectures, videos demonstrations, live surgery and “hands on” experience for the delegates. The course was approved



by the British Association of ENT and Head Neck Surgery and the European Laser Association with 23 CME credits. Until 2009, 23 such international courses were held in which training was given to several hundred ENT surgeons from various countries around the globe.

Academically the department was active at a national and an international level and Mr Kaluskar published numerous articles in journals in the field of nose and sinus surgery, along with books published on nose, sinuses, ear and laser surgery. The department also had a large number of educational DVDs produced in nose, sinus and laser surgery.

ADMINISTRATION

BERNIE MCCRORY



The Hospital Administration Department's role has been to manage the various clinical and support units and departments within the hospital site including personnel, finances and facility practices according to a distinct set of policies and procedures agreed by the Unit of Management or more recently the Trust Board.

The Administration team has ensured that the site is compliant with the relevant legislation and regulations in the industry and advances in medicine and medical technology. It has developed business plans for both capital and revenue investment, for example, new build or renovations within the site and the procurement of new and replacement equipment. It has also implemented these new schemes whilst ensuring that the business of the hospital continued as normally as possible. The team was responsible for the corporate governance of

the hospital and answerable for all Departmental and Ministerial questions including media enquiries.

Around 1987, Tyrone County Hospital was chosen to implement a major change management programme; this was called the Resource Management Initiative (RMI) and at its core involved various forms of organisational change including structural, technological and cultural.

This initiative, (the first in Northern Ireland) was led by the late Raymond McCartney, Director of Acute Hospital Services and supported by James Henderson, Unit General Manager of the Omagh Fermanagh Unit of Management. It examined the then existing structures which formed the administrative arrangements associated with the delivery of health care at the hospital. This meant moving from generic teams of support staff to dedicated teams associated with

the respective sub-specialties such as Medicine, Surgery, ENT or Obstetrics and Gynaecology. The RMI promoted the concept of consultants actively engaging in general management and it brought substantial investment in new technologies. In particular it began the process of moving from cumbersome paper based systems to computerised patient records systems with connectivity between diverse clinical systems and their respective departments.

The net effect of the RMI was a huge cultural shift in how the hospital worked. The consultant leads embraced their extended roles with great enthusiasm and the combined strong leadership of clinicians and managers helped to establish a mission, vision and value system based on patient centred care. The RMI was replicated in many of the larger hospitals in Northern Ireland and wider UK.



CHAPLAINCY

BERNIE MCCRORY

The Hospital Chaplains were and are undoubtedly the spiritual care specialists on the health care team, doctors and nurses focus on caring for the body, and the chaplains address the whole-person care which encompasses spirit, mind, and body.

Over the years the team of Chaplains at Tyrone County Hospital served not only the patients but also family and friend caregivers, and other health care professionals who deal every day with the stress of illness and loss.

The main role of the Chaplain is to help people identify and draw upon their sources of spiritual strength, irrespective of religion or beliefs. Their vital role is enacted on a daily basis and at times of great challenge, for

example, the Chaplains were central in providing support and care during the many tragedies brought about by the troubles in Northern Ireland. This care was particularly poignant on the day of and desperate days after the Omagh bomb in 1998 when 29 people lost their lives and hundreds of patients were brought to Tyrone County Hospital for life saving care and treatment

LABORATORY

MR JOHN COREY
MR DOMINIC PINTO

The medical laboratory investigation was one of the principal diagnostic aids in medicine, enabling clinicians to make decisions on treatment and to evaluate the effectiveness of treatment. The medical laboratory services at the Tyrone County Hospital were first developed under the leadership of Mr Ossie Pollock, Chief Scientist and Dr Whelan, Consultant Pathologist in 1958.

Mr Pollock, having returned from working in Africa, continued to serve as



the Chief Scientist until his retirement in 1989. Throughout the early years Mr Pollock had been honourably supported by Catherine McKelvey as an Office Manager until her retirement around 1990.

The laboratory was originally sited at the old boiler house building until its relocation in 1962. The introduction of new technologies into the laboratory and the advance in medicine had fostered significant increases in the number, range and complexity of investigations



carried out. This resulted in a modern purpose built laboratory being developed at the rear of the 12 Medical Block under the direction of John Corey, Chief Scientist.

The medical laboratory at the Tyrone County Hospital provided a comprehensive 365 day, 24 hour service in chemical pathology, haematology, blood transfusion, and microbiology. The laboratory employed a dedicated team of staff, Scientist, Administrative and Laboratory Assistants, in order to provide this key support service to clinicians and the local community. The introduction of the most modern equipment and computers had helped cope with the increased workload over the years. Following the Review of Public Administration and the Northern Ireland Pathology Review, there was a rationalisation of the number of laboratory sites across the province and,

as a result, unfortunately the Tyrone County Hospital laboratory was closed in 2012.

Some staff who have continuously served the TCH Laboratories for 20+ years include:-

Denzil Pyne, Senior Biomedical Scientist; Noel Glenn, Senior Biomedical Scientist; Hugh Mullin, Biomedical Scientist; Linda McKinley, Biomedical Scientist; Paul McManus, Biomedical Scientist; Neil Gilmour (RIP), Biomedical Scientist; Margaret Donnelly, Biomedical Scientist; Caroline Maguire, Biomedical Scientist; Patricia Hackett, Biomedical Scientist; Noreen Barbour, Office Manager; Jack McQuaid (RIP), Mortuary; George Fleming (RIP), Mortuary and Brendan McMackin, Mortuary.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT DR CLIVE RUSSELL



The Medical Department originally consisted of Wards 3 and 4, traditional Nightingale wards, on the ground floor, and the Ward 12 complex of geriatric rehabilitation.

All acute admissions were admitted to Wards 3 and 4 and patients who

required rehabilitation following strokes were cared for in Ward 12 in the unit which had been established by the late Dr Anthony Pollock. Extended care beds were in Omagh General Hospital and the Derg Valley Hospitals, Castleterg.

CORONARY CARE

The late Dr Pollock was succeeded in 1979 by Dr Clive Russell. In the late 1970s, patients with Coronary Artery Disease were a major cause of admission to acute beds. Research in Belfast had established that these patients fared better in dedicated coronary care beds with specialist nursing care and a number of beds in the Ward 12 complex were designated as the Coronary Care Unit and managed by the late Sister Bridie McMenamin. With generous public assistance, excellent cardiac monitoring equipment was provided for these beds.

As well as having cardiac monitoring available, the 1970s had produced major transformation in the way heart disease was managed including the introduction of more effective medical drugs. By introducing these treatment regimens to the Tyrone County Hospital

the average length of stay for heart attack patients fell from three weeks to one, and the outcome for the patient was much improved.

With changes in management of the coronary patient “clot- busting“ drugs protocols were introduced into the TCH and nurse led teams trained to administer them in both ward and A & E settings. They were later to extend this into the community with the Mobile Cardiac ambulance service. All patients with chest pain were referred to the Chest Pain Unit where specialist nurses using standard protocols assessed and treated them.

In addition to new treatments came the development of the Cardiac Investigations Department. This was established with the appointment of Patricia Black, ECG Technician and within a short time, exercise

stress testing, echocardiography and ambulatory monitoring was taking place. Prior to this, these patients had been going to Belfast and Altnagelvin for these tests. In addition, many patients admitted with chest pain who had not had a heart attack were able to get these tests either as inpatients prior to discharge or as outpatients in the TCH.

Dedicated protocols allowed for the rapid transfer to Belfast of patients who needed angiography or pacemaker insertion. These patients were transferred under the care of specialist cardiac nursing staff from Ward 12 Medical to the Belfast City Hospital and returned to Ward 12 within a few days following their procedure.



DIABETIC CARE

The arrival of endocrinologist, Dr Trevor Blair, Consultant in General Medicine and Diabetic Care, in 1981 marked a turning point for the Medical Department. Dr Blair assumed responsibility for the care of the diabetic patient and very quickly established an outpatient diabetic clinic, assumed responsibility for inpatient diabetic patients and introduced protocols of care.

Within a few years the Tyrone County Hospital had its first specialist diabetic nurse Sister Mary Gallen who provided a diabetic liaison service for nursing and medical staff and assisted Dr Blair in the Outpatient's Department. A major triumph for the diabetic team was the establishment of the Diabetic Centre in the former Camowen Hill Nursing Home and this allowed all the Allied Health Professionals involved with the diabetic patient to be under the one roof.



RESPIRATORY CARE

As with cardiac disease there had been major therapeutic advances in the management of asthma and COPD, particularly with the use of inhaled drugs and this was transforming the care of these patients.

It was decided to care for the majority of these patients in Wards 3 and 4 as there were several nurses who were particularly interested in the management of these patients. Again national protocols were introduced for these patients, specialist equipment was purchased to enable the investigation and monitoring of these patients and they were cared for by nurses trained in the use of the equipment and managing the protocols. This team was led by SN Bernie O'Hanlon who was to be the first specialist Respiratory nurse in the Trust.

NEUROLOGY SERVICE

A visiting neurology service was started by Dr Harold Miller and when he retired we were joined by Dr Victor Patterson a consultant neurologist based in the Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH).

We were fortunate to have his valued service as visiting neurologist until he retired in 2008. He transformed the organisation and management of the patient with suspected neurology. He was a dynamic and farsighted clinician who introduced inpatient and outpatient teleconferencing between TCH and the RVH for the rapid diagnosis and management of the new patient. At ward level he provided a “mini studio” to undertake the consultation, trained the tele-nurse in the neurological examination, and made a major difference to patient flow for these patients. We were able to discharge earlier with a new neurological

diagnosis, not over investigate, and more importantly the patient and their family had received a specialist neurological opinion.

Following the closure of the acute medical beds in 2009 and the plans for a Local Enhanced Hospital on the Tyrone & Fermanagh site the legacy of the Medical Department remains with the continuation of the specialist nursing services serving the Omagh population. The chest pain unit, stroke and ortho-rehabilitation, palliative care, cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation, renal dialysis and outreach nursing will continue to provide care well into the future from the new hospital on the Donaghane Road.

CHILDREN’S MEDICAL & SURGICAL SERVICES

The consultant medical and surgical staff were responsible for the care of infants and children with medical and surgical conditions. A range of surgical inpatient procedures including fractures and general surgery were carried out until the early 2000s. Admissions to the Children’s Ward were open to all, except neonates and were usually direct admissions from home or via Casualty. The unit was managed by Sister Hazel Miller and an experienced team of paediatric nurses, many of whom had undergone their training in major paediatric units.

The unit was visited on a weekly basis, initially by Dr Robert Young and later by Dr Murray Quinn from Altnagelvin Hospital. The medical and surgical staff of TCH and junior staff undertook the day to day management of these children until the 1990s. At that time the

OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY

DR RUSTAM JAMSHIDI

Sperrin Lakeland Trust introduced an ambulatory paediatric service within the inpatient service based in the Erne Hospital.

Staff Nurse Anne Lowry had a particular interest in paediatric asthma and helped introduce ward protocols and a home management service with the patients attending the Chest clinic. Special protocols were also introduced for children with suspected meningitis to ensure the Physicians and Anaesthetists would be responsible for the initial care and transportation of these children to the specialist centre in Belfast.



In 1979 the Western Board was considering closure of the Acute Services at Tyrone County Hospital because of the difficulty in recruiting senior medical staff. The two Consultant Obstetricians left for pastures new in Altnagelvin and Newry leaving the Maternity Unit to be run by the Midwives.

1980 saw the appointment of two Consultants, Mr. T Mulholland and Mr. R Jamshidi, in Obstetrics and

Gynaecology. Further Consultant appointments in Surgery, ENT, Anaesthetics and Medicine brought new life and energy to the Hospital.

At first the Gynaecologists functioned with just four beds, but with eight extra beds made available to them by the Surgical Department, they were able to provide a comprehensive service with outreach clinics in Castleterg. In time the top floor was converted into a gynaecological ward which was in close proximity to the Obstetric Wards and Theatres.

The close and happy working relationship between the midwives, Gynae. Nurses, Junior and Senior Medical staff was exemplary, be it in the Clinics or the Wards. This helped to provide a great experience for the people of Omagh and surrounding area.



In 1995 the Western Board decided to move the Maternity Unit to The Erne Hospital, Enniskillen. Antenatal and Gynaecological Clinics continued to be provided at the County. As the Day Surgery Unit developed the Gynaecologists utilised the services and theatre facility for the benefit of the people of Omagh.

This progress in day surgery will now be continued and advanced in the new Omagh Hospital and Primary Care Complex .

It has been a privilege to work with my medical colleagues and especially the dedicated and compassionate nursing Staff.



DAY PROCEDURE UNIT

SISTER CAROL REID



Following the move of maternity services to Enniskillen, a new Day Procedure Unit was developed and became operational in December 1995. Converting the old maternity unit into the Day Procedure Unit was

testimony to the resilience of the staff of the Tyrone County Hospital.

The Top Flat, as it was affectionately known, was changed from Maternity and Gynae to a busy 14 bedded Day

Procedure Unit with one Theatre and an Endoscopy Unit. Approximately 2,000 patients were seen and treated in the first year. The unit provided ENT, General Surgery, Gynae services as well as Endoscopy.

The original staff were all members of Tyrone County Hospital, and came from many different backgrounds and gave Day Procedure Unit all the knowledge and skills that were needed. Two main drivers who were instrumental in developing the Day Procedure Unit, having first piloted the Unit on the Surgical Ward, were Consultant Surgeon Dominic Pinto and Senior Surgical Sister Pat Crawford. Sister Nora Montague was initially in charge and was in post for 8 years. Sister Carol Reid assumed post after that.





The Unit has increased in size by incorporating what was previously Main Theatres and increasing our bed spaces to 21. In 2015, care was provided for over 5,500 patients including Surgery,

Endoscopy and infusions. Services are provided not only for patients from Omagh and the districts of Tyrone, but also for Fermanagh and Londonderry patients also.

Additional specialties provided include vascular access and VNUS clinics which have been highly commended in the Western Trust Staff Recognition Awards 2013.

Ophthalmic Services has been developed and this service has grown from just cataract surgery to adult squints in 2015.

Many patients attend for elective surgery as well as urgent diagnostic investigations. The provision of diagnostic services locally allows the patient a quick and professional service



allowing them then to gain better access to other disciplines in a timely manner. The Unit's philosophy continues to be one of providing a high quality, timely and locally accessible service to those who need it.

THEATRES & ANAESTHETICS

DR. JOHN MAGINESS



Since the Tyrone County Hospital opened in 1899 many generations of people have benefited from the care delivered by its staff.

Surgery was performed in the hospital from its earliest days. In more recent decades the main operating theatres had been gradually developed in their first

floor location. An extensive renovation was completed in the early 1990's with both theatres and adjoining anaesthetic rooms, together with other essential facilities, upgraded to the highest specifications. A four bed recovery area was added to allow close monitoring of the post operative patient.

However, it is all the staff that must be acknowledged for their contributions in ensuring optimal outcomes for patients. It is not only the surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses whom the patient sees in theatre but those in other areas such as the medical laboratory, pharmacy or central sterile supplies department that contribute to the patient's welfare.

Above all the members of the nursing team is vital and in this hospital has been the backbone of the operating department, their expertise ensuring the best care of each patient before, during

and after their operation. With their compassion the fears of the anxious person could be allayed with reassuring words, a simple smile or just a squeeze of a hand. It was on the recommendation of theatre nurses that a relative could stay with a child up to the induction of general anaesthesia.

The advances in technology e.g. minimally invasive surgery, use of laser and endoscopic therapies have contributed to the complexity of some operations and more patients have come to surgery with serious medical conditions. The theatre staff have embraced these challenges inspired and guided by experienced sisters, including Olive Mathers and Louise Barbour.

A giant step for TCH was the appointment in the early 1950s of the late Dr Walter Davis who had been

trained in the new anaesthetic techniques developed by The Liverpool School of Anaesthesia. Great tribute is due to him not only for his pioneering of anaesthesia at the County, but also that he worked as sole Senior Anaesthetist for many years.

At the end of the 1970s the threat of closure hung over the hospital with senior staff including an anaesthetist leaving. Dr Reuben Lalsingh and Dr Geoffery O'Connell delivered the anaesthetic services between them until the appointment of a third anaesthetist, Dr John Maginness, in 1980.

When the closure threat was removed all departments were revitalised. More consultants were appointed in other departments and there was major upgrading throughout the hospital from Maternity to Accident and Emergency and Radiology.

With workload in the Operating Department increasing another Anaesthetic Consultant post was created and Dr Frances Robinson was appointed in 1987. Dr Kuki Anand was appointed Anaesthetic Consultant in

1992 following the retirement of Dr Geoffery O'Connell. Each 24 hours a Consultant Anaesthetist was first on call. Some patients needing transfer to the Intensive Care Units in Belfast and Derry were ventilated and accompanied



by an Anaesthetist and a Staff Nurse. In 1980 a two bedded High Dependency Unit was established to give better management to critically ill patients. It was staffed by a small team of experienced staff nurses under the leadership of the late Sister Sarah Fisher.

A clinic for sufferers of chronic pain was set up by Dr Lalsingh and Dr Robinson together with Staff Nurse Rosemary

Potter. Dr Robinson later changed speciality and was appointed the first Consultant in Palliative Care for the Trust. She continues in this role in the new Omagh Hospital and inpatients continue to be cared for by Thelma Graham, Ward Manager and her team.

A Day Procedure Unit, which opened in 1995, has developed to treat increasing numbers of patients of all

ages for surgical conditions such as dental extractions, cataract surgery, endoscopies and other procedures. The expertise of the team under the very competent leadership of Ward Manager, Carol Reid, will easily transfer to the impressive day care theatre in the new hospital.

The Tyrone County Hospital has been presented with many challenges over its lifetime, none more demanding and heart breaking than the bomb atrocity of August 15th 1998. The response of the entire staff, with their selfless zeal and skill, in treating dreadfully injured men, women and children is testament to the dedication and loyalty they will bring to the new Omagh Hospital and Primary Care Complex.



ESTATE SERVICES

ALAN RENNIE

Since the original building a number of new wards and departments have been added. These additions included X-ray, A&E, Physiotherapy, Medical, Surgical and Maternity wards as well theatres and support services. A Children's Ward was added to the block in the early 1970s and has gradually been refurbished and extended to now include the Renal Unit since the late 1980s.

The oil fired boiler house was completed in 1974 replacing the coal fired boilers which were located in the existing staff canteen area. The coal was stockpiled where the existing maintenance workshop is located and wheeled across in wheelbarrows by the Boilermen. When the coal fired boilers were removed the area they occupied was converted to the canteen which had previously been housed in the Medical Stores building. Doctors'

accommodation was built in 1975 on site. The Ambulance Depot was built in the late 1970s.

The 1980s saw the construction of the staff changing accommodation and the Post-Graduate Centre, both built on the site of former Nurse's Homes. This decade also saw the construction of the HSDU building and extension of X-ray department in 2009 to house the new CT scanner and Ultra Sound imaging.

During the 1990s there were major renovation works carried out to Theatres and the new Laboratory building was completed in 1997. Over the years there have been major internal renovations to all Wards and Departments to keep pace with changing demands and regulations.

Behind the scenes over the years the Estates staff have maintained the buildings and services without any major incident or failure and continue to do so.



THE RENAL SATELLITE UNIT

DR PETER GARRETT



Omagh's geographic centrality was the deciding factor in choosing Tyrone County Hospital as the preferred location for the site for a new dialysis unit. As a result, the Renal Satellite Unit opened in TCH in August 1989 as a satellite

of the Regional Renal Unit based in Belfast City Hospital; the first focus in Northern Ireland for provision of dialysis outwith Belfast. From January 1993, the appointment of a specialist Nephrologist allowed

development of the facility as a sub-regional unit, implying provision of a broad range of renal services to a catchment wider than the then Western Board area, while remaining an integral facet of the regional service.

Over the next few years, aided by the appointment of a second Nephrologist in 1998, the unit expanded from six stations operating three days a week to 24 stations running six days a week, with a twilight shift three nights weekly. At its height, the service provided maintenance haemodialysis treatment for 112 patients. Outreach outpatient services were established in Altnagelvin and Dungannon, and the unit played a leading role in the development of a continuous renal replacement therapy programme in the

Intensive Care Unit in Altnagelvin, treating critically ill patients with acute kidney injury.

Tyrone County Hospital was thus the hub for provision of an integrated specialty service across the Western area, enhanced by the opening of a second dialysis unit in Altnagelvin (under the same clinical management) in December 2005, and predating the amalgamation of Sperrin Lakeland and Altnagelvin Legacy Trusts into the Western Trust in 2007. The appointment of two further consultants in 2007 facilitated development of a genuinely comprehensive specialty service. The Renal Unit at Tyrone County Hospital, uniquely for an NHS dialysis service, achieved accreditation under ISO 9001:2000. The quality of care was recognised by awards of the European Health Forum prize in 2008

for improvement in quality of care across international boundaries and of the inaugural BMJ Group Quality Prize in 2009.

Following the withdrawal of acute services from Tyrone County Hospital in 2009 the service on the hospital campus was reconfigured to continue maintenance haemodialysis for stable patients as well as provision of a full range of specialty outpatient clinics and to concentrate on development of

a specialised Renal Home Treatments unit, dealing with provision of home haemodialysis and ambulatory peritoneal dialysis, preparation and aftercare of renal transplant patients, management of progressive chronic kidney disease, and palliative care for patients with advanced chronic kidney disease, supported by peritoneal and vascular dialysis access surgery. These high quality aspects of care will continue when the service transfers to the new enhanced facility.



REHABILITATION UNIT DR EDMUND HODKINSON



When Dr Anthony Pollock was appointed Consultant Physician with responsibility for the Elderly in 1972 he started a rehabilitation service based in the Omagh General Hospital. Rehabilitation was a relatively new specialty at that time. Its aim then and to the present is to facilitate the process of recovery from illness, injury or disease to as normal a condition as possible using a multidisciplinary approach.

In the years following, a newly-built wing was built on the TCH site and was opened in 1975. This established a 17 bedded rehabilitation unit for the elderly (Ward 12 G) and an 18 bedded medical unit (Ward 12 Medical). Ward 12G specialised in the rehabilitation of a wide range of conditions e.g. stroke, Parkinson's Disease and mobility problems of all types. The unit operated on a fully multidisciplinary basis with professionals in nursing, physiotherapy,

occupational therapy, speech therapy, pharmacy and social services.

Following the sudden death of Dr Pollock, in 1979 the service was managed by Dr Clive Russell who was later joined by the late Dr Trevor Blair. They also supervised care in Omagh General and Derg Valley Hospitals. In those days there were a total of 73 beds for the long-term care of older people in these two hospitals. With the subsequent move to Care in the Community in the 1990s the number of these beds was gradually reduced and in 1998 consolidated in Sperrin Ward.

In 1986 Dr Edmund Hodkinson was appointed as Physician with special responsibility for the Elderly. A Day Hospital was soon established within Ward 12G providing up to 12 places daily for post-discharge rehabilitation. Over the following years a Stroke

Specialist Nurse post was established and, with the closure of the Surgical Department, the unit took over the rehabilitation of post-surgical fracture patients.

In 2009 acute medical services were withdrawn from TCH and Sperrin Ward was closed. Following reconfiguration of a 30 bedded rehabilitation unit was consolidated in the Ward 12 area. This

unit now provides follow-up care and rehabilitation for patients transferred from Altnagelvin, South West Acute and the Belfast hospitals. This inpatient service will transfer to the new Omagh Hospital and Primary Care Complex in 2017 and continue there the long tradition of providing highly skilled rehabilitation to the people of the Omagh area in a warm and supportive atmosphere.



RADIOLOGY (X-RAY)

FIONA BEATTIE



The X-ray department in Tyrone County Hospital has undergone many changes since it's outset in 1911. Particularly from the 1980s to the present day, the department has transformed and developed beyond recognition. From a small department, with limitations in terms of diagnostic tests and

available technology, the department has grown and developed and now provides advanced imaging modalities including Ultrasound and CT scanning.

In the early 1980s, there were only two X-ray rooms providing plain film x-rays and fluoroscopy. The more

advanced imaging such as Ultrasound and CT scanning were not available locally. All of the x-ray films had to be fed manually through the dark room into a film processor and the distinctive smell of the X-ray fixer was ever present. There were only 4 or 5 radiographers and 3 administration staff. Today these numbers have doubled. There was no resident Consultant Radiologist at that time, but an outreach service was provided from Altnagelvin Hospital. The Consultant used to come on a weekly basis to carry



out Barium meals and Barium enemas. X-ray films were sent up to Altnagelvin in suitcases to be reported on.

In later years, Consultant Radiologist Dr James McVeigh from the Erne Hospital in Enniskillen provided services in the Tyrone County Hospital on a regular basis. In 1985, for the first time, the Tyrone County Hospital had its own resident Consultant Radiologist, Dr Kathleen Cassidy. Technology has advanced rapidly in the last three decades. X-ray now takes place in a



completely digital environment. There are no more films, heavy X-ray plates, chemicals or shelves full of film packets. Images can be viewed and reported on digitally, more quickly and in any location. Ultrasound was developed in the 1980s and the CT scanner was installed in 2004. Both Ultrasound and CT scanning are now very well established imaging modalities in Tyrone County Hospital with an ever expanding number of patients.

The Radiographers have taken on extended roles to respond to the clinical needs of patients. Tyrone County Hospital was at the forefront in Northern Ireland in developing Ultrasound reporting by Radiographers. This has resulted in a very responsive and highly valued service with optimum turnaround times for patients. Throughout the changes the staff group



has expanded and developed, but the excellent teamwork and focus on patient care remains the same.

As the X-ray department moves to its new premises, it will undoubtedly continue to go from strength to strength.

SURGERY

MR DOMINIC PINTO



Following of affirmation of continuation of surgical services at TCH, Mr Dominic Pinto joined Mr Cecil Maltby on the Surgical team in 1980. They provided a complete General Surgery Service including upper and lower gastro-intestinal surgery, urology, vascular, endocrine, orthopaedic surgery for fractures and trauma (major and minor) with the responsibility of running the Accident and Emergency

Department. Upon Mr Maltby's retirement Mr Pinto was joined by Mr Victor Laughlin for 2 years followed by Mr Alan Millar. Mr Essam Ghareeb also assisted for a short while. The then Minister of Health gave the green light to continue providing acute services at Tyrone County Hospital in 1980. Structural and working practise changes were required to provide a service commensurate with the latter part of the 20th century.

A number of physical developments supported the surgical team at the hospital. A new A&E department was designed and built; X-Ray department expanded to accommodate the new technologies and make it attractive to recruit permanent radiologists. Wards were redesigned so that nursing and dressing areas were separated. Oxygen and suction was piped to every bed.

Fractures and urological patients were separated from general surgical that allowed for nurse specialisation. Theatres were renovated and a high dependency unit established and later provision of a modern sterilisation unit in close proximity.

Patient notes were colour coded by discipline to easily access relevant information and administrative staff divided to serve disciplines resulting in loyalty to the group and an efficient service. The department was the first



to be fully computerised, automatically coding procedures and providing accurate information to Surgeons about their work and results.

Funding was obtained for Junior Housemen and rotas rearranged to cover A&E and the wards. Weekly postgraduate meetings were organised and visiting lecturers invited to help us keep up to date and comment on our results. With the Royal College of Surgeons a four year training programme was established, unique to the province, for aspiring surgeons from India. These young men now hold Consultant posts in their own country, UK, USA and Canada. A post graduate centre was built from donations from the public and the Western Board. With the advances in surgery and new technological aids the department embraced the change in delivery of service. The surgical team was



supported by nursing colleagues who trialled out endoscopic and day surgery from the wards and with the lessons learnt established a dedicated day procedure and endoscopic unit. Surgical skills in endoscopic surgery had to be learnt and introduced with great success. This resulted in reduction of surgical beds and specialisation by nurses.

A Major Incident Plan was drawn up with yearly run through as a desk exercise to ensure a smooth run. The

benefits of these tests accrued after two major disasters occurred 10 years apart; the Ballygawley bus and Omagh Town bomb incidents.

The period 1980-2012 saw the modernisation of the Hospital from a structural point of view with surgery being provided safely using the new technologies, providing continued education for doctors in conjunction with our excellent nursing colleagues and supported by a happy efficient administrative staff.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

RONNIE OLDCROFT



Tyrone County Hospital was at the forefront of Information Technology advances and was one of the first hospitals in Northern Ireland to implement a Patient Administration System (PAS) in 1985. This was to support the administration of patients within Outpatients, Inpatients, Waiting Lists and statistical returns to DHSS. At that time the system ran on

a large mini-computer which needed a purpose built computer room with air conditioning, raised flooring and fire suppression system. Staff accessed the system via Visual Display Units (VDU) terminals and dot-matrix printers for printing appointment letters, outpatient lists and ward inpatient lists.

Staff who have worked in ICT in the early days include Hector Hamilton, Ronnie Oldcroft, Tony Fitzpatrick, Caroline Kee and Valerie Arnold. Nursing staff also worked with ICT on specific projects. These nurses included Brendan McGrath and John McGarvey.

The introduction of ICT continued at pace with departmental projects in areas such as Laboratory, Radiology, A&E and Nursing Administration. Electronic Ordering using the Order Communications system was introduced

in 1990 providing clinicians with the ability to order services and receive results. The introduction of Personal Computers (PCs) subsequently saw the introduction of communication systems such as email, Internet and Office products such as word processing and spreadsheets.

Clinicians such as Mr Dominic Pinto and Dr Clive Russell were at the forefront of technology innovation in the early days. They provided the vision and could see the advantages that ICT brought to healthcare and they worked closely with the ICT team to deliver that vision.

The new Omagh Hospital and Primary Care Complex will be one of the most technologically advanced healthcare facilities in the UK. ICT will underpin all aspects of the hospital and the provision of clinical services it provides.

NURSING

ESTHER MILLER



The hospital moved to its current site in 1899 and was opened by Her Grace the Duchess of Abercorn. The Abercorn name is still in evidence above ward doors on the second floor, where it states that the ward 'was furnished with linens' by the Abercorn family.

The Matron, Miss Hayes, who was in the Tyrone Infirmary, was to be known as the Lady Superintendent in Tyrone County, until she retired in 1927 and was succeeded by Miss Snodgrass.

The centenary of the present site was marked in 1999 by a re-dedication by Her Grace the Duchess of Abercorn

and the planting of a tree at the front of the building by Frances Raine, who succeeded Miss Snodgrass as Matron until 1967.

In 1949, following the setting up of the National Health Service, a dedicated Obstetric Ward was established. Dr Joe Patterson came to Tyrone County Hospital, having been decorated with the French Guerre de Croix for his role in the Evacuation of Dunkirk during the Second World War, and he worked single handed for many years dealing with all abnormal or difficult pregnancies and, where it was common, to see women have up to 14 or 16 pregnancies.

Probationer nurses each had to pay 18 guineas for their first year of training but then received a salary of £6 for their second year and £12 for their third and fourth years.



In 1916, a lecturer was appointed for nurses and by 1925 the Nursing Council Northern Ireland formally recognised Tyrone County Hospital as a Nurse Training School for nurse registration. The training school, including lecture and practical training rooms, was based on the ground floor of the Nurses Home. By 1935 there were 22 nurses employed.

Throughout the years nurse training advanced in many ways with the training school eventually moving to the Multidisciplinary Education Centre at Altnagelvin and then into University and many of the nurses currently employed are graduates with specialist training in a variety of conditions, such as Diabetes, Asthma, Renal and Palliative Care. Nurses also did many extra training courses to enhance their skills to care for many complex conditions.

During the 1960s and 1970s, male registered Mental Health Nurses from Tyrone & Fermanagh Hospital were seconded to Tyrone County Hospital to complete their State Registration Nurse Training.

Throughout the century Tyrone County nursing has been to the forefront of achievements in several areas.

In 1982 one of the TCH midwives won an International Travel award to the Netherlands. Following her return, obstetricians and midwives pioneered a system for women to carry their own midwifery notes throughout their period of care. The system proved successful and has since been adopted by all other areas in Northern Ireland and many areas in mainland Great Britain. Training and professionalism has been a real strength in the provision of care to all who arrived at Tyrone County Hospital, be this from those injured in farm and industrial accidents to road traffic collisions. The same was true on many occasions of 'Northern Ireland Troubles', not least at the time of the Omagh bomb in 1998. Many nurses took a heavy psychological toll following this as they cared for people whom they knew personally.

PHARMACY

ANNE KEENAN



As Tyrone County Nurses close this chapter of nursing there is no doubt a new one will emerge and the energy and compassion which abounded through the 1900s will be carried onwards throughout the 21st century with new opportunities and challenges. As this happens new personalities will emerge to lead the way in the new Omagh Hospital.

From as early as the 1920s, Tyrone County Hospital had the services of an apothecary, formulating and dispensing materia medica to physicians , surgeons and patients.

In the mid 1960s under the guidance of Ms Ivy Taylor, Chief Pharmacist, the Pharmacy Department as we know today in Tyrone County Hospital was established. Ms Taylor developed pharmaceutical services to both Tyrone County Hospital and the Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital. With the recruitment of Mrs Margaret Duffy, a second pharmacist in 1973, a satellite pharmacy was established in the Tyrone and Fermanagh Hospital.

The satellite pharmacy provided medicines for up to 1000 in patients over 26 wards. Pharmacy activities were further developed to introduce

ward based services under the direction of Mrs Margaret Duffy.

Compounding of medicines in those days played a large part of the pharmacist's role. Liquids, suppositories, antiseptics, powders and eye drops were formulated from original ingredients by the pharmacist in house. Bladder irrigations were compounded and sterilised in autoclaves in the pharmacy and



AMBULANCE SERVICE TOMMY BLEE

supplied for patient use. Most medicines were purchased in bulk and significant pharmacy resources were channelled into prepacking forward use.

Today most of these activities are carried out by the pharmaceutical industry and the pharmacist's role has evolved to become more patient focused.

The dispensing and purchasing of medicines is largely centralised ensuring the NHS receives best value for money. Pharmacists are now ward based. They are involved in clinical activities where their work complements that of medical and nursing staff. This developing role ensures the safe and effective use of medicines, and provides a high

standard of patient education and counselling both at ward level and at outpatient clinics. All of this is carried out by a team of dispensary and clinical pharmacists with the invaluable support of pharmaceutical technical officers.

The transformation of the pharmacy service over the years is inspirational and is testament to the hard work and dedication of the Tyrone County Hospital pharmacy family.



The Northern Ireland Ambulance Service personnel have been based at Tyrone County Hospital for many years and they provided an outstanding service to support the health and well-being of the people of West Tyrone and



North Fermanagh. Their excellent knowledge and skill did much to preserve life and promote recovery.

In recent years when the Ambulance Service moved to a restructured regional service, the dedicated staff

moved to providing high quality emergency, urgent and primary care services throughout all of the Western Trust area and in some cases the whole of Northern Ireland.

The most important function that the Ambulance Service performs is responding to emergency 999 calls as fast as possible, helping those in life-threatening conditions.

Another duty that the Ambulance Service assumes is transporting patients to outpatient hospital appointments using Patient Transport Service and the Voluntary Car Scheme.

The Ambulance staff in the early days transported patients to a very basic casualty department at Tyrone County Hospital, the staff involved are now highly trained paramedics capable of performing lifesaving care in advance

of transporting patients to a well-equipped minor injury unit or to one of the Western Trust's Accident and Emergency Departments.



FACILITY STAFF

BERNIE MCCRORY



Tyrone County Hospital had a dedicated team of staff who provided the key supports which ensured the smooth running of the entire site, this team included porters, telephonists, domestic and catering assistants, linen and laundry staff as well as security and grounds personnel.

Together these officers ensured that the hospital was kept clean and

welcoming for patients in wards and clinical areas, and generally for staff and visitors. They ensured meals were prepared, delivered and served to the highest standards. Their role extended to providing safe access to and from services and most importantly they were the open friendly face of the Organisation, always going beyond the call of duty.



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