

## Background

In 2002, 57 Eccles Street was a derelict building on Eccles Street. It belongs to the Sisters of Mercy, who in their wisdom donated the building to the Department of Neurology, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital for renovation. In 2008 it will house Ireland's first Neurological Institute. The Institute will be an essential facility for people with Neurological conditions in Ireland.

## The Neurological Institute

The Institute will be of immense benefit to those people who suffer from Neurological conditions and also to their families and carers. The facility, which will be open to all, will provide a comfortable setting where people can access information about their condition without delay or an appointment. The benefits, which the Neurological Institute will bring, are vast and will ensure patients do not have to face difficult emotions, fears or treatment decisions alone. They will be able to gain information in a timely fashion therefore avoiding the prolonged wait to see a Consultant. Patients will be able to see a specialist nurse to discuss their condition and gain informal support. Additionally, patients with conditions such as Multiple Sclerosis will be able to receive new treatments in a non-clinical, friendly environment. The Institute will also focus on research and staff training, in addition to developing a centre of excellence for clinical neuroscience thus ensuring the facility will be a leading force in Neurology for the future.

## The benefit and need

*Ireland has the lowest ratio of Consultant Neurologists per head of population in the western world.*

Currently there is one Consultant Neurologist per 200,000 head of population in Ireland. The need for The Neurological Institute is immense, not only in reducing the waiting time to see a Consultant Neurologist which currently stands at 1 year, but also

to alleviate the growing pressure on Accident & Emergency departments in Ireland. One in 5 of all acute medical admissions in Ireland have a Neurological condition including acute stroke, seizures, confusion, paralysis, head and spinal injury. Through improving the Neurological services in the country the pressure on Accident & Emergency departments will be significantly reduced, as the Institute will provide urgent follow up clinics for patients coming through Accident & Emergency.

## Population we hope to serve

There are 700,000 people in Ireland with Neurological conditions including Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, Stroke, Alzheimer's disease, Epilepsy, Migraine, Motor Neuron Disease and Spinal Injury. Currently in Ireland there are approximately 30,000 people living with Alzheimer's disease, 7,000 with Parkinson's disease and 8,000 people a year have a Stroke. In 2007, 17% of the population was over 65, a figure that will continue to increase in 2008. The Neurological Institute will be a major force in planning now for the increase in the number of people suffering from Neurological conditions that are common to the elderly.

## Finances

Through the Mater Foundation's fundraising activities, donations from the pharmaceutical industry and generous support of the general public we have raised just over €1.9m of the €3.4m needed. In 2007 the HSE kindly provided €1m towards this project.

## Current Status

The renovation of the building has now been complete. All five-outpatient treatment rooms have been completed in the basement and an external lift has been added to allow access to the treatment rooms.

# Academic Programme to mark the launch of the Dublin Neurological Institute

Friday, 19 September 2008

