Promoting Excellence in Healthcare through Advocacy, Research, Education and Support
WHO ARE WE?

OUR ROOTS

The Adelaide Health Foundation has its roots in the Adelaide Hospital which was established in 1839 in the vicinity of St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin with the express intention of providing medical and health care to the people of the locality without regard to their financial circumstances.

In earlier times the Adelaide Hospital Society provided a focus for the Protestant community in relation to the provision of medical care. Nowadays, our independent viewpoint extends to people of all persuasions and none in relation to their health and medical care.

In 1994 the Adelaide Hospital along with the Meath Hospital and the National Children’s Hospital amalgamated to form Tallaght Hospital, which opened in 1998. The Adelaide Hospital Society was incorporated as a charitable body under the Companies Act to have an independent role in seeking to advance healthcare while at the same time sharing in the governance of Tallaght Hospital. More recently the Society adopted the working name of the Adelaide Health Foundation to reflect the increasing diversity of its activities.

The Adelaide has a proud history of innovation and care made possible through voluntary service. We have always recognised that it is through people that care for the whole person – mind body and spirit – is provided and not by medicine alone.

The Adelaide School of Nursing, founded in 1859, provided the first nursing education for lay women in Ireland and has become famous for nursing excellence. It continues to be at the forefront of nursing development in the twenty-first century.

Many famous doctors associated with the Adelaide have pioneered advances in medicine. We continue to support the highest quality, university-based, medical education in Ireland through the Health Sciences Faculty of Trinity College, Dublin in the University Clinical Sciences building, which the Foundation helped to build. This faculty is one of the oldest medical schools in Europe, founded in 1711.
OUR VISION

Our vision is to be an independent not-for-profit health foundation that seeks to advance healthcare that
• is centred upon the dignity of every human being
• treats mind, body and spirit holistically, and
• provides equal access to healthcare upon the basis of need

The work of the Foundation is based upon 4 pillars:

- Advocacy
- Research
- Education
- Support
ADVOCACY
As an independent voice the Adelaide Health Foundation advocates
• equal access to equal quality healthcare for all persons
• respect for the dignity of the individual by treating and caring for them as they wish
• the right of all to all information relevant to health without pre-conditions
• independence in opinion and action, including but not confined to the fields of ethics and genetics
• public and patient involvement in healthcare, thus supporting the voluntary principle of active citizenship in promoting the common good

RESEARCH
In 2009 the Adelaide Health Policy Unit was established. The Foundation funds research posts in the Department of Public Health & Primary Care, Trinity College, Dublin. This is with a view to generating and promoting the use of evidence-based research to inform health policy, management and services that will help to guide progressive change within the Irish healthcare system and which will impact on the health and well-being of the Irish population. The full research programme is available on our website.
EDUCATION

The Adelaide Health Foundation assists in the selection of up to 35 students each year to undertake their BSc Nursing (General) Degree in Trinity College, Dublin. We offer a range of supports to our student nurses and to nurses on the staff of Tallaght Hospital through the Adelaide Student Nurse Bursary Scheme and the Adelaide Nursing Scholarship Programme.

We also offer a range of education, professional development and research grants to staff members of Tallaght Hospital.
SUPPORT

Tallaght Hospital

The Adelaide Health Foundation uses part of its funds annually to directly support service developments and patient care at Tallaght Hospital. In the recent past our support has been instrumental in

- the establishment of the Women’s Preventive Healthcare Unit, including the Colposcopy Service
- the establishment of a Preventive Cardiology service and the Centre for Cardiovascular Risk in Younger Persons (CRYP)
- funding a Complementary Therapist in the Hospital’s Palliative Care Unit
- providing a range of patient comforts such as televisions, refurbishment of patient and family facilities, provision of patient safety and education materials, funding music in the Age-Related and Psychiatric areas and many more

The annual Adelaide New Initiatives Scheme is open to all Hospital departments and provides seed grants to new and development initiatives in the Hospital that directly improve patient care.

Recent examples include:

- development of a Speech & Language Therapy led Voice Clinic for post stroke patients
- funding for equipment for the Vascular Department to assist with the assessment of peripheral circulation in patients with diabetes

The Community

Developing strong links with the local community has been key to the Adelaide Health Foundation for many years. We achieve this in many ways including our annual Adelaide Community Health Initiative Scheme which helps to fund local community-based health activities. Recent examples include:

Tallaght Cancer Support Group
funding for a yoga/pilates project for those suffering with cancer

Tallaght Rehabilitation Project
funding for an education/counselling project to help women develop self-help skills in emotion and stress management, nutrition and women’s health

We use our community links to ensure the community voice is well represented during policy formation within the Adelaide Health Policy Unit.
HOW IS THE ADELAIDE HEALTH FOUNDATION FUNDED?

The sale of the Adelaide Hospital in Peter Street, Dublin (in 1996) provided a capital sum which is invested to generate income that funds a large amount of the Foundation’s activity. This is supplemented each year through the generosity of subscribers and supporters as well as fundraising activities big and small.

In broad terms, the Foundation aims to use its available funds in equal proportion for direct healthcare support and research. The support we receive from individuals and groups throughout the island of Ireland and beyond has given us a strong, authoritative, independent voice as we continue to advocate quality healthcare for all on the basis of medical need and not on the basis of ability to pay.

As members and supporters of AHF we will keep you informed of events we are organising, projects we are undertaking and supports we offer. In addition, each year we publish and distribute to our members and supporters an Annual Report and an Adelaide Pocket Diary.

If you would like more information please visit our website www.adelaide.ie/members-supporters or call the Foundation office at (01) 4142071.

MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

The Adelaide Health Foundation welcomes new members and supporters. Our members and supporters are invaluable as we seek to fulfil our Principal Object of advancing healthcare through advocacy, research, education and support.
CONTACT DETAILS

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