Research Profile and Education

Breast Centre North West
Letterkenny University Hospital
Ireland
Introduction

Breast Centre North West over the last decade has made significant contributions to clinically based outcomes and patient focused research and education programmes. The Unit, multidisciplinary in nature, provides service to the population of the North West; serving an overall regional population of 200,000 and a 160,000 local population in the Donegal region. The focus of the research programme over the last decade has highlighted the epidemiology of breast cancer, diagnosis and management including surgical techniques, optimizing surgical and radiological approaches and finally outcomes in patient and family related measures.

The educational programme, funded through community and industry donations, has been thorough and multidisciplinary culminating in a comprehensive primary care programme with regional educational programmes delivered from North Sligo through to Inishowen. In addition the world’s first multidisciplinary breast care course was held in 2014 and subsequently in 2015. The comprehensive manual based programme dealt with the clinical, radiological, surgical, radiation and medical oncological aspects of care. This course brought seven of the world leaders in breast surgery to Ireland to work with the Centre in the North West. It was highly acclaimed and deemed to be one of the best courses in breast care surgery by those who attended.

In the last 5 years Breast Centre North West has published over 20 papers and abstracts in scientific journals. We have presented our research results in Ireland, Europe and North America. The programme to date has spent in excess of €250,000 donated from the generosity of the people in the North West. Currently there are very little funds left in the research programme and, despite the support of the Noble Laureate Professor William Campbell for the work done at the Unit and the hospital, we are concerned this programme will come to an end.

Alison Johnston
(Clinical Research Nurse)

Michael Sugrue
(Breast Surgeon)

2017
Recent Research Awards

- National Cancer Control Programme award in conjunction with HSE Open Access Research Awards (2016) - Failure to Engage in Breast Screening and Risk Assessment Results in More Advanced Stage at Diagnosis.

- Shortlisted in the International Undergraduate Awards of 2016. These rewards received 5,514 submissions from students in 243 universities across 40 countries. The research paper - Variations in Abnormal Nipple Discharge Management in Women: a Systematic Review and Meta-analysis - performed in the top 10% of all submissions in the Medical Sciences category.

- Best allied health professional’s research at Letterkenny University Hospital’s Annual Multidisciplinary Research Conference, 2016. Having low margin positivity can be associated with excellent breast outcomes.

- Best medical student’s research at Letterkenny University Hospital’s Annual Multidisciplinary Research Conference, 2016. The keys to optimising breast wounds; a meta-analysis.

- Best allied health professionals’ presentations at Letterkenny University Hospital’s Annual Multidisciplinary Research Conference, 2015. Targeting Breast Cancer Outcomes - What about the Primary Relatives?

- Best allied health professionals’ poster at Letterkenny University Hospital’s Annual Multidisciplinary Research Conference, Better Outcomes for Breasts-BOBs Project.

- Best allied health professional’s research at Letterkenny University Hospital’s Annual Multidisciplinary Research Conference, 2013. Failure to Engage in Breast Screening and Risk Assessment Results in More Advanced Stage at Diagnosis.

- Best medical student’s research at Letterkenny University Hospital’s Annual Multidisciplinary Research Conference, 2012. The Centricity Score - A novel new measurement in Breast Cancer Excision.

- Saolta CEO Awards 2015 finalist in the education and training category for the Multidisciplinary Breast Cancer Course

- RAMI award for research excellence-Hormone brief.
• William O'Keeffe prize in surgery at the Waterford Surgical meeting in conjunction with Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland- Variability in re-excision following positive margin breast-conserving surgery: a meta-analysis.

• William O'Keeffe prize in surgery at the Waterford Surgical meeting in conjunction with Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland- Variability in upper limb lymphoedema following breast cancer-related axillary surgery: Time for Consensus Definitions and Guidelines.

• President's Prize at the Academy of Clinical Science and Laboratory Medicine (ACSLM) annual conference 2011- Comparison of hormone receptor and Her2 status in breast carcinoma between the core needle biopsy and the corresponding resection specimen. M. Byrne, K. Alcorn, I. Bowcott, K. Dillon & G. O'Dowd.

• European Association for Professions in Biomedical Science (EPBS). Utrecht, Netherlands in 2011. Winner of the poster presentation prize - Comparison of hormone receptor and Her2 status in breast carcinoma between the core needle biopsy and the corresponding resection specimen. M. Byrne, K. Alcorn, I. Bowcott, K. Dillon & G. O'Dowd.

Members of the Breast Centre North West team who were recipients of the National Cancer Control Programme award in conjunction with HSE Open Access Research Awards (2016). From left: Alison Johnston, Geraldine MacGregor, Vanessa Savva, Nicola Kelly and Clare Duffy.
Gold medal winner Stephanie Vincent being presented with her award by Professor Risal Djohan (USA) at Letterkenny University Hospital’s Annual Multidisciplinary Research Conference, 2016.

Michelle Choynowski was awarded the William O’Keeffe prize for best original research and Javid Ghomashi was awarded best prize for poster presentation of original research.

Several members of the Breast Team at Letterkenny University Hospital and Donegal Clinical Research Academy attended the Saolta CEO Awards in November 2015. Their Multidisciplinary Breast Cancer Course was a finalist in the Education and Training category. Pictured left to right: Mr Paddy Rooney- Assistant General Manager at Letterkenny University Hospital, Geraldine MacGregor- Breast Nurse Specialist, Mr Maurice Powers- CEO of Saolta, Ann McGowan-Mammographer and Alison Johnston- Breast Research Nurse
List of current research projects

- Cosmetic outcomes following conservative breast surgery
- Lymphoedema rates following axillary surgery
- Margin assessment following wide local excision
- Patient related outcomes-Breast Q
- New techniques in clinical examination of axilla
- CT detected breast cancers
- Optimizing wound outcomes in breast surgery
- Patient related outcomes-Breast Q
- New techniques in clinical examination of axilla
- CT detected breast cancers
- Optimizing wound outcomes in breast surgery
- Rapid access BRCA testing
- International collaboration
- Impact of a personalised self-management lifestyle programme using mobile technology on the health and wellbeing of cancer survivors

Previous research topics

- Breast screening
- Family history triage
- Stage of presentation of breast cancers
- Surgical technique reducing margin positivity
- Breast reconstruction practices and satisfaction
- Optimum management of nipple discharge
- Breast volume measurement to enhance cosmetic outcome
- Nurse-led telephone follow-up: reducing oncology outpatient waiting lists
- Assessment and management of axilla
- Formalised documentation of clinical breast examination
- Knowledge of lifestyle risk factors for cancer development among cancer survivors
- Centricity Score to help put cancers in centre of excisions
Research publications

- Targeting Breast Cancer Outcomes - What about the Primary Relatives? Johnston A, Sugrue M. Accepted by Molecular Genetics & Genomic Medicine, 2017. In press
- Examining the knowledge and perception of the lifestyle risk factors for cancer development among cancer survivors in Ireland and development of an educational tool. Richmond J & Kelly M.G. National Institute of Health Science Research Bulletin (2016) 7 (3) pp77


Books


Presentations

- It is more than an incision; it is the patient’s life. Sugrue M. Negative Pressure Wound Therapy expert meeting Rome, 2017 [Keynote Lecture]
- The keys to optimising breast wounds; A meta-analysis. Vincent S, Gallagher M, Johnston A, Djohan R, Sugrue M. XXVI Waterford Surgical October Meeting in Conjunction with the Surgical Section of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland, October 2016.
- The keys to optimising breast wounds; A meta-analysis. Vincent S, Gallagher M, Johnston A, Djohan R, Sugrue M. NUI Galway School of Medicine Undergraduate Research Day October 2016
• Examining the knowledge and perception of the lifestyle risk factors for cancer development among cancer survivors in Ireland. Richmond J, Kelly M.G. All-Ireland Cancer Consortium Conference (AICC), Belfast, 2015.

• Failure to Engage in Breast Screening and Risk Assessment Results in More Advanced Stage at Diagnosis. Johnston A, Sugrue M, Curran S. 34th Congress of the European Society of Surgical Oncology in partnership with BASO Quality Outcome, Global Perspective October 2014 Liverpool, United Kingdom.


• Trends in risk assessment and breast screening improving but further strategies required. Johnston A, Sugrue M. Letterkenny University Hospital’s Annual Multidisciplinary Research Conference, November 2014, Letterkenny, Ireland.


• The role of ultrasound guided core biopsy of axillary nodes in predicting macrometastases and avoiding overtreatment outside ACOSOG Z0011 parameters. Ting J, McGowan K, Cooley G, McLaughlin R, Sugrue M. NUI Galway School of Medicine Undergraduate Research Day October 2013.
• Formal Accurate Documentation of Clinical Breast Examination (F-ADOBE) - a Solution? Birmingham C, Johnston A, Sugrue M, Goodson W. Waterford Surgical October Meeting In Conjunction with the Surgical Section of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland. October 2013.

• Failure to Engage in Breast Screening and Risk Assessment Results in More Advanced Stage at Diagnosis. Johnston A, Sugrue M, Curran S. Letterkenny University Hospital’s Annual Multidisciplinary Research Conference, November 2013, Letterkenny, Ireland.


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• Setting a Benchmark in Breast Margin Positivity Rates - Is it possible? McNamara C, Sugrue R, Curran S, Sugrue M. Letterkenny University Hospital’s Annual Multidisciplinary Research Conference, November 2012, Letterkenny, Ireland.

• Comparison of hormone receptor and Her2 status in breast carcinoma between the core needle biopsy and the corresponding resection specimen. Byrne M, Alcorn K, Bowcott I, Dillon K & O'Dowd G. Histopathology Department, Letterkenny University Hospital. Academy of Clinical Science and Laboratory Medicine (ACSLM) annual conference 2011, Athlone, Ireland.

• Comparison of hormone receptor and Her2 status in breast carcinoma between the core needle biopsy and the corresponding resection specimen. Byrne M, Alcorn K, Bowcott I, Dillon K & O'Dowd G. European Association for Professions in Biomedical Science annual meeting 2011, Utrecht, Netherlands

Dr Gordon Watson, Ms Michelle Choynowski, Ms Stephanie Vincent and Mr Michael Sugrue) at the XXVIth Waterford Surgical October Meeting.

Advanced Nurse Practitioner Dr Janice Richmond, Oncology CNS Margaret Houston and Clinical Trials Nurse Mary Grace Kelly
Breast Development Fund is funded by:
Individual personal donations €10,000 pa (approx)
Breast Ball €13,000 pa (approx)

Current balance: €33,000 (approx)

Annual outgoing:
Salaries for Research Nurse and Research Students €53,000 (approx)
Educational meetings: €2,500 (approx)
Tea and coffee for patients €1,000 (approx)
No monies are received by Medical Consultants or Doctors

Research grants obtained:
Title of study: A pilot trial to investigate the impact of a personalised self-management lifestyle programme using mobile technology on the health and wellbeing of cancer survivors
Dates: 2017-2018 Award details: Irish Cancer Society
Principal Investigators: Janice Richmond, Jane Walsh. Co- Mary Grace Kelly

Title of study: To be decided yearly
Dates: 2017-onwards
Award details: Professor William Campbell Summer Medical Student Research Scholarship
Principal Investigator: Mr Michael Sugrue

Title of study: Examining the knowledge and perception of the lifestyle risk factors for cancer development among cancer survivors in Ireland
Dates: 2013-2015
Award details: Health research Board (HRB) Cancer Nursing Research Development Grant
Principal Investigator: Janice Richmond. Co-Investigator: Mary Grace Kelly

Title of study: Development and evaluation of a community nursing education programme
Dates: 2011-2013
Award details: National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP)
Principal Investigators: Marie Laffoy, E. O’Toole, T. Hanan (NCCP)
Co-Investigator: Janice Richmond

Title of study: Nurse-led telephone follow-up: reducing oncology outpatient waiting lists
Dates: 2011
Award details: Nursing and Midwifery Practice Development Unit
Principal Investigator: Janice Richmond. Co: Mary Grace Kelly
Summer Research Fellows who have carried out clinically based and patient focused research at Breast Centre North West in the last few years.
Some of the Faculty members of the Inaugural Breast Cancer Multidisciplinary Course held in Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin. From left to right: Mr Michael Sugrue, Ms Aoife Lowery, Ms Deirdre Jones, Dr Koji Yamashita, Mr Sybren Meijer, Dr Sandra Brennan, Dr Karen Duffy, Dr Katherine McGowan, Dr Gerry O'Dowd, Professor Arnold Hill, Mr Kevin Barry.

Michelle Furey with the late Hugh Green, the first ever donor to the Donegal Clinical and Research Academy. Hugh generously donated €200,000 to the Academy.
Some of our recent donators to the Breast Development Fund
Noble Laureate Professor William Campbell is a supporter of the research carried out at the Unit and the hospital.

The Team at Breast Centre North West

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NORTH WEST BREAST CANCER CHARITY BALL

Friday 24th November 2017
Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny

SAVE THE DATE!

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