

The Healthcare Informatics Society of Ireland (HISI)/Proreclreland session at the ICT Expo 2006 focussed on ICT success in the health sector in Ireland. A record number of attendees heard five very different positive success stories.

Gerard Hurl of HISI/Proreclreland spoke of the evolving role of ICT and the need to disseminate these success stories. It was evident that ICT is alive and well and that there is a huge bank of knowledge and resources available in Ireland.

John Sheil of Enterprise Ireland voiced the support of the agency for ICT in healthcare and invited company representatives to discuss how the way forward could best be facilitated.

Rosaleen Murnane of the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital spoke of the importance of involving nurses in IT from an early date as part of the success of I.N.I.S. (Integrated Nursing Information System). The contents of an INIS include three automated and integrated components - a care planning system, a patient dependency system and a resource scheduling/rostering system. To date both the patient dependency and resource scheduling/rostering systems are integrated in all wards hospital- wide.

Liz Shannon and Barbara Moulton of the National Treatment Purchase Fund and Patient Treatment Register outlined how the project aims to reduce waiting times for patients on public hospital waiting lists and has treated 42,000 patients to date. The initiative will be replicated in all Irish hospitals by the end of 2006 and the systems are user-friendly, for healthcare professionals and patients alike.

Tony Kenny of Beaumont Hospital then gave a technical briefing on the role of DICOM and PACs in the expansion of the Electronic Healthcare Record. He stressed that this Integrated Healthcare Environment was a standards-based health solution and outlined how the EHR has resulted in information being easily available to doctors and nurses and has assisted them in providing a more efficient and responsive service to the Hospitals patients.

The penultimate speaker, Fergal McGroarty of St. James's Hospital Dublin illustrated how the utilisation of EPR and Bar Code Technology in The National Centre for Hereditary Coagulation Disorders has so far reduced product wastage from over €90,000 to 0 and resulted in safer and more accurate treatment for hundreds of patients with Haemophilia.

Lastly, Karina Crosbie of The National Healthlink Project delivered a presentation which outlined how this National Messaging Project is indigenous to the Irish Health Sector and is currently live in 6 hospitals, with a further 13 preparing to pilot. Despite there being no national patient identifier in use in Ireland, Healthlink has to date eliminated manual completion of order forms, improved turnaround time for orders and results and significantly reduced costs.

An overall theme that emerged from the day's varied agenda was one of the need for continuous feedback and improvement and the importance of focussing on the process while keeping the end result in mind. It is also worth bearing in mind that the most important people in the chain of events are ultimately the users.

Further details on speakers and presentations are available on [www.hisi.ie](http://www.hisi.ie)