

# DOCTRID CONFERENCE

DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY  
TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH INTO DISABILITY

Carton House, Maynooth, Co Kildare  
16th October 2010



DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY SERVICE  
FOR PEOPLE WITH AN INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

*Cover Picture: We have known Mary since she was a little girl and we have grown to love her and are so proud of her. Mary's lovely expression and appealing face constantly reminds us of the work that we do. She is now a student at St. Vincent's Special School, Navan Road, Dublin 7.*  
*We wish to say a big Thank You to Mary for her contribution.*



Uachtarán na hÉireann  
President of Ireland

## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT McALEESE

It gives me great pleasure to extend a traditional Irish welcome, Céad Míle Fáilte, to all those attending the DOCTRID Conference on Technology and Research into Disability on 16th October 2010.

This Conference is an exciting opportunity for those in the science and caring professions, as well as those whose lives are affected by disability, to come together to discuss how technology, research and science can bring improvements for those living with a disability. The international dimension to the Conference is particularly important and will allow those engaged in this area to share international best practice, exchange ideas and learn from each other in order to make a real difference to the lives of people in Ireland and across the world. I am delighted to see that the Conference programme includes such an impressive selection of academics and researchers from leading Irish universities and abroad. Your life-enhancing work brings practical help and great hope to the many people who are living with disabilities, as well as to their families and carers. Your innovations make a real difference on their everyday lives and enhances the quality of life for all in our communities.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the Daughters of Charity Service, RESPECT and the Michigan State University for their vision and commitment and I wish all the Conference attendees and participants a most enjoyable and fruitful experience.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary McAleese".

Mary McAleese  
President of Ireland





DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY SERVICE  
FOR PEOPLE WITH AN INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

## MESSAGE FROM DERMOT DESMOND CHAIRMAN OF RESPECT

### Welcome to the DOCTRID Conference

As Chairman of Respect, it is my privilege to welcome you to the DOCTRID Conference. This event is a new and innovative extension of the outstanding work of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, who since 1892 have provided care, education and training for People with an Intellectual Disability.

The main aim of this International Conference is to bring together the research and experience of the Daughters of Charity, along with the International Science community and key principals in the caring profession, to try to improve and enhance quality of life for our special people, through the application of Technology and Research.

Respect and Michigan State University are co-hosting this event and we have invited a number of highly respected International Speakers, who have made extraordinary accomplishments in their fields of expertise, to share with us their experience, wisdom and vision. It will be a forum where everybody can share ideas, expand our thinking and understanding, broaden our vision and keep in touch with international standards of good practice.

It is undoubtedly a challenge for all of us to be creative in our thinking but I believe that this forum is giving us a unique opportunity to make a difference.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dermot F. Desmond".

Dermot F. Desmond  
Chairman of RESPECT



DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY SERVICE  
FOR PEOPLE WITH AN INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY



## MESSAGE FROM MARTHA HEGARTY, DC DIRECTOR OF RESPECT

I take this opportunity to welcome you to Carton House for this International DOCTRID Conference. This is a very unique day where RESPECT has joined with Michigan State University in co-hosting this event along with the assistance from Dr. Michael Leahy, Mr. Michael Horgan, Dr. Danny O'Hare, Professor Michael Ryan and many other invaluable contributors. We look forward to hearing many words of wisdom that will challenge us to do greater things in the World of Technology and Research for People with Disability.

I wish to extend a special welcome to our Chairman, Mr. Dermot Desmond and to express my deepest gratitude to him for his vision, enthusiasm and encouragement for this International Conference. I also wish to acknowledge the support from The Presidents of the Universities namely: Dr. Brian MacCraith, Dublin City University; Dr. Hugh Brady, University College Dublin; Dr. John Hegarty, Trinity College Dublin; Professor Cathal Kelly, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland; Professor Don Barry, University of Limerick and Dr. Lou Anna K Simon, Michigan State University.

This conference is about enlightening our minds, to challenge us in the knowledge that we can always do more for people with various disabilities. I know that there are other ways that are unknown to us, but through the medium of technology and research, I am certain that there are great things out there, that are yet to be discovered.

Now is the time to embark on things new and innovative at home and abroad where success will follow and which will be effective and reliable. Collaboration is the tool to bring to fruition the development of technology and research into the lives of all those who constantly strive to make the impossible possible. We are indeed indebted to the World of Genius which constantly brings about solutions to the many problems that we are faced with daily.

I strongly believe that People with Disability deserve the very best and the very best should be afforded them by listening and observing.

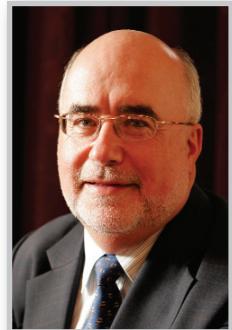
I am excited what the future has in store for us because of the co-operation from the Universities and the Technology World. I am confident that we will bring about many answers to the questions not yet solved. We must always strive to do all things well, in fact to do them better, be first, be daring and be just.

Martha Hegarty DC  
Director of RESPECT

# OUR ADVISORS

## Michael Horgan

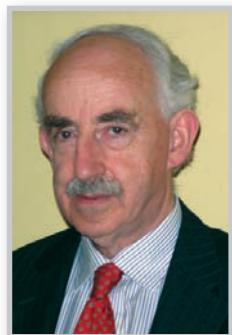
Mr. Michael Horgan was born in Cork in 1951 and educated by the Christian Brothers at the North Monastery School. He holds a BSc in Computer Science, an MA from the University of Dublin (Trinity College) and a Masters in Industrial Engineering from University College Dublin. Michael was appointed Chief Executive of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in December 2003, having been Deputy Chief Executive for the previous eight years. He stepped down as Chief Executive at the end of 2009 and was conferred with the Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, the highest honour the College can award, in December 2009. Michael is a Governor of the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin and a Member of the Board of Governors of the Medical University of Bahrain.



Michael Horgan

## Michael Ryan

Professor Michael Ryan (M.Sc., C.Eng., DFICS, MIEI) retired recently as Professor of Computing at Dublin City University. He is a Distinguished Fellow of the Irish Computer Society, Chairman of the Centre for Software Engineering and was Head of the School of Computing at DCU for sixteen years. He is joint author of one book and various referred publications, has served on a number of Irish Government committees and acted as a consultant to Irish and international companies. He is named in two patents, has designed and implemented embedded computer systems for industrial applications and been involved in the development of high performance chips for cryptography. His original qualifications are in Mathematics and Theoretical Physics (UCD, 1965 and 1967) and he has worked as a Statistician and as a Lecturer in Mathematics as well as in Computing. He is still involved in the sport of fencing, in which he represented Ireland in the Olympic Games of 1964 and 1968.



Michael Ryan

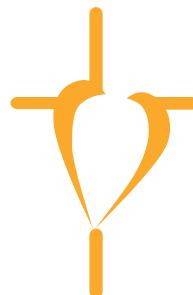
## Danny O'Hare

A Physical Chemist, Dr. O'Hare was educated at the CBS Dundalk, UCG and the University of St. Andrews. He was an Assistant Professor at Michigan State University and Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Southampton. Returning to Ireland in 1971, he was Director of the Letterkenny and Waterford Institutes of Technology from 1971 to 1977. He was Founding President DCU from 1977 to 1999. He has been a consultant to OECD, ILO, EU and the World Bank. He has chaired the Beaumont Hospital Board, Food Safety Authority, the Government Task Force on the Physical Sciences, the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs, the Information Society Commission, the Ballymun Regeneration project, the Independent Hospitals Association of Ireland and has also served on the Board of Directors of MLE (Media Lab Europe), RHK and Calor. He is Chairman of the Governing Authority of the Milltown Institute, the Dublin Airport Stakeholders Forum and of Exploration Station – the National Interactive Science Centre. He is a member of the Board of the Irish Medical Council, of Outreach Moldova, the Daughters of Charity Management Board and of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust.



Danny O'Hare

# DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY SERVICE



## MESSAGE FROM CATHERINE PRENDERGAST DC PROVINCIAL, DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY

It gives me great pleasure on behalf of the Daughters of Charity to welcome you to the Inaugural DOCTRID Conference. This Conference was born first as an idea, then a dream and has now become a reality through the support of RESPECT, the Quality and Standards Committee and the Executive Board of the Daughters of Charity Service for People with an Intellectual Disability

The main aim of the DOCTRID International Interdisciplinary Conference on Technology and Research into Disability is to bring together the experience of the Daughters of Charity, along with the International Science community and key principals in the caring profession, to improve and enhance quality of life for people with physical and intellectual disabilities, through the application of Technology and Research.

This Conference has the capacity to embody the core values of the DOC Service – Respect, Excellence, Service, Collaboration, Justice and Creativity – in particular Collaboration and Creativity. Our creativity is being harnessed by this Conference and the subsequent research, in a collaborative way, with other agencies will help inform policy and practice throughout the Service for the benefit of all Service Users.

I take this opportunity to thank all those who have made this event possible and I trust that this day will be most inspirational and memorable.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catherine Prendergast".

Catherine Prendergast DC  
Provincial, Daughters of Charity

## **Daughters of Charity**

The Community of the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul was founded in Paris in 1633 by St. Vincent de Paul and St. Louise de Marillac and is a worldwide organisation. The Sisters came to Ireland in 1855 and have been involved in providing services for Persons with Intellectual Disability since 1892. The Daughters of Charity Community provides a wide range of services and are involved in a variety of care areas including Child and Family Service, Service for Homeless, Service for the young and for the old, schools and health care. By far the biggest part of the Community's services is in the area of intellectual disabilities and this is known as the Daughters of Charity Service for Persons with Intellectual Disability. Operating originally from Dublin and providing a nationwide service, the community identified a need for a similar service in Limerick and opened its centre in Lisnagry in 1952.

Over the years the Daughters of Charity Service has developed a number of different centres and community based services. A full range of services are available to cater for People with Disabilities of all ages. Services are provided for children and adults, male and female, with a moderate, severe or profound Intellectual Disability and include Day, Residential and Respite services, each delivered in Centre and Community-Based settings.

## **Message from Walter Freyne**

*Chief Executive Officer, Daughters of Charity Service*



I am delighted that our fundraising arm, RESPECT, have taken the initiative, in organising this inaugural DOCTRID Conference. RESPECT has been the official fundraising arm for the Daughters of Charity Intellectual Disability Service in Dublin since the mid 90s and have financially supported major Service Developments. Sr. Martha Hegarty DC, as Director of RESPECT, has gathered around her people with great expertise from the Financial and Business world to lend their knowledge and experience to our fundraising efforts and has been extremely successful in that regard.

We are in a time of significant change and major challenge and we have seen over the last two decades in particular, the advances in technology and the positive impact it has had on our lives. We ask the question – why can technology not have a similar significant impact on the lives of People with Disabilities? Here we can look at, explore and be challenged from an international perspective and from that viewpoint I am delighted that RESPECT as the organisers of this Conference have brought an international dimension to it.

I am delighted to have, as always, the tireless support of Mr. Dermot Desmond, Chairman of the RESPECT Board. I am impressed with the line up, from the Advisory Group to the International Speakers and particularly delighted that Michigan State University, with whom we have had an ongoing relationship over a number of years, are co-hosting this conference. The Daughters of Charity Service look forward to working closely with the Universities who strive through their Scientific Research to improve the lives of people with various disabilities.

I want to welcome all participants and delegates and hope that this conference will be stimulating, challenging and bring some fresh thinking that may lead to technical innovation in the various ways we treat all people with disabilities.

*Walter Freyne*

Walter Freyne  
CEO, Daughters of Charity Service

# MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

A remarkably successful partnership has developed over the past four years between Michigan State University's Office of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies (MSU-ORDS), RESPECT and the Daughters of Charity. Back in 2006, MSU-ORDS began a very unique collaborative project in Dublin studying the impact of disability in the US and Ireland.

This special project was designed to provide undergraduate students at MSU and students from other universities in the US, an opportunity to participate in a totally unique, one of a kind, study abroad programme. Based on the tremendous success of this ongoing educational initiative between MSU-ORDS, RESPECT, and the Daughters of Charity, the partners began talking in the summer of 2009 about convening future international conferences together, and engaging in research that would address the needs of individuals with intellectual disabilities.



Richard Prawat

Dr. Richard Prawat is Chair of the Department of Counselling, Educational Psychology, and Special Education in the College of Education at Michigan State University. Several of the graduate programmes in the department are highly rated including the Rehabilitation Counselling Programme, which is ranked Number One in the country by *US News & World Report*. Dr. Prawat's area of research specialisation is teaching and learning for understanding with a special focus on middle school science. He has published over 100 research articles on this and other subjects.

*"One of our faculty members, Dr. Michael Leahy, has been working with the Daughters of Charity since 2006 on a unique study abroad initiative titled "Disability in a Diverse Society". Each year Dr. Leahy and his faculty have brought over to Dublin a group of undergraduate students from MSU and other universities to study the impact of disability in the US and Ireland at Dublin City University. The Daughters of Charity have worked extensively with Dr. Leahy on this project by providing disability related resources, guest lecturers and service learning experiences for the students in the course. The success of this innovative offering has much to do with the highly collaborative relationship between MSU and the Daughters of Charity."* – Richard Prawat



Michael J. Leahy

Dr. Michael J. Leahy, PhD, CRC, LPC, is a Professor and the Director of the Office of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies at Michigan State University and the Director of the Doctoral Programme in Rehabilitation Counselor Education. He has a doctorate in Rehabilitation Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and nearly 35 years of experience in rehabilitation as a counsellor, administrator, researcher and educator.

Dr. Leahy is a Licensed Professional Counsellor (LPC), and a Certified Rehabilitation Counsellor (CRC). His continuing research interests include issues related to professional competency development and education, professionalisation of practice, vocational assessment, case management, evidence-based practice research and vocational outcomes.

Dr. Leahy is a Past-President of the National Council on Rehabilitation Education, a Past Chair of the Alliance for Rehabilitation Counselling, and a Past-President of the American Rehabilitation Counselling Association. He has published more than 130 referred journal articles, books, book chapters, research monographs and has presented his research to a variety of rehabilitation and business audiences, including international presentations. He has also acted as the principal investigator and has managed nearly thirty large-scale research, training and service delivery grant projects throughout his career. He has received twenty national awards for his research and service to the profession during his career.

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

## Memorandum of Understanding

between

**The Daughters of Charity Service**

and

**Dublin City University, Michigan State University,  
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Trinity College Dublin,  
University College Dublin and University of Limerick**

for

The creation and support of an Interdisciplinary Research Institute  
at the Daughters of Charity Service

**To establish an Interdisciplinary Research Institute on Intellectual Disability at the Daughters of Charity Service that operates from a collaborative, international, research model.**

To design, develop and help implement an Interdisciplinary Research Institute at the Daughters of Charity Service that serves as a centre of research excellence in providing empirical research to help inform policy and practice throughout the organisation to improve services, care and outcomes for the individuals served. This focus on evidence-based practice research and knowledge translation would help guide the Daughters of Charity Service into the future as a leader and innovator in the area of Intellectual Disability ...

Signing of Memoranda of Understanding:  
Mr. Dermot Desmond, on behalf of DOC Service

Dr. Brian MacCraith, President, Dublin City University,  
Dr. Richard Prawat, Michigan State University,  
Professor Cathal Kelly, CEO, RCSI,  
Dr. Hugh Brady, President, University College Dublin  
Professor Don Barry, President, University of Limerick.

In the presence of representatives of the  
Daughters of Charity:

Catherine Prendergast DC, Provincial  
Mr. Walter Freyne, CEO,  
Dr. Martin McLaughlin, Medical Director,  
Martha Hegarty DC, Director of RESPECT,  
Daniel Lenihan, RESPECT



# DOCTRID CONFERENCE

## Technology

The use of technology in everyday life has become an essential part of all of our home, school, work and leisure lives. It is an enabling tool through which we can access information, learn about our world and develop new skills. ICT and other technologies have become a dynamic, interactive and multi-sensory resource making education and vocational preparation accessible to everyone irrespective of their learning style and ability. Young People and Adults with Intellectual Disabilities face challenges and barriers of all kinds in their personal, educational, work and social lives on a daily basis. Research into the development of relevant technology programmes for People with an Intellectual Disability will improve their educational and vocational opportunities, enable and promote the development of friendships, especially for those with mobility problems and those living in rural areas and open up new opportunities for leisure activities. It will also encourage and empower Young People and Adults with an Intellectual Disability to move from a passive to a responsive role and enable them to become as independent as possible.

Fortunately, my sister Anne had the opportunity to access the residential, educational, vocational, medical and in her final years, palliative services of the Daughters of Charity. Intensive individualised people support and services provided her with a very fulfilling life. Appropriate technological aids, educational programmes and supports based on sound evidenced-based technological research would have supported and reinforced learning in many areas of her life, providing alternative ways of exploring and gaining access to material and information, allowing her to access a medium that is motivational and non-judgemental and enabling her to gain more control over many aspects of her environment. The investigation of Technology and Research into Disability is a very welcome development bringing together the International Science Community and Key Principals in the helping professions to work collaboratively so that those with an intellectual disability can access a more creative, involved and participative life.

### Mary Keane

*National Co-Ordinator, National Behaviour Support Service  
Department of Education and Skills*

## Reflection

Try imagining what the world will be like in the year 3000. Can our minds imagine that far ahead? How will we work, play, communicate, worship, wonder? This may seem idle dreaming but intellectual disability nursing is inextricably linked and rightly so the future of people with disabilities and indeed society as a whole. As our understanding of disability changes through both research and the advancement of technology so too does the nursing response required. The capacity of nursing and indeed all professionals to reflect on their past and present will in no small way influence the quality of care delivered in the future. Reflecting on this point there are two principles to be mined from the ethos of the Daughters of Charity.

- The path towards excellence and innovation is paved when there are people who strive to be the very best they can be and do the very best they can – simply because they cannot imagine functioning in any other way.
- The future is safe when we care more than others think is wise, risk more than others think is safe, dream more than others think is practical, expect more than others think is possible and remain passionate, personal, persistent and patient with the people we care for.

### Dr. Siobhan O'Halloran

*Nursing and Midwifery Services Director, HSE*

## Tribute to Stuart Mangan

**Accident:** On 8th April 2008 Stuart, aged 24, severely damaged his spinal cord in a rugby accident . He was left completely paralysed from his neck down. His injury was described as C1 complete and he needed a ventilator to breathe. (SEE: [www.stuartmangan.org](http://www.stuartmangan.org)).

**Use of Technology:** Determined to make the most of the new life that was given to him, Stuart struggled with various technologies. Unable to push buttons to turn on lights, television, etc. and dissatisfied with the limitations of a head mouse connected to a keyboard on his computer screen he embraced voice activation software to achieve amazing capability. He could navigate and produce text to use email and the internet. His mobile phone was connected to his headset and text messages were routed through his computer. Via a sling box, he watched television on his monitor which could be positioned in front of his face like a dentist's light on the end of a hydraulic arm, even lying sideways in bed. A specialist voice coach provided one to one training in the use of the "Dragon" software.

Dr. Gary McDarby from the CASL laboratory at University College Dublin brought all the technology together and adapted it for Stuart to use – easier said than done, especially for a vented patient. There is a masters programme being set up at UCD to honour Stuart's memory called SMART (Stuart Mangan Adaptive Rehabilitation through Technology).

**Making it happen:** To derive benefit from technology a person must have the ability to understand it and also imagine possibilities. There must be motivation and a mentality to search for solutions. Also the right assistance and facilitation has to be found. It is more about management and leadership rather than advocacy. As Stuart would say "Keep it real", "Just do it". This approach left his family in a position where they were saying "Thank you" rather than "Someone should".

**Legacy:** Sadly Stuart passed away as a result of respiratory failure caused by pneumonia in August 2009. The night before he died he outlined ideas he had to help with physical disabilities in an email to UCD. He cared so much about others – sick children, the homeless, people with disabilities. He has motivated so many people before and after his death that he will be an influence for good for a long time to come.

**Brian Mangan, Stuart's Father**

## Olan McGowan – Producer/Presenter for RTE Radio 1

Modern technology has its critics. It's true to say that advances in technology take place at a far greater pace than our ability to absorb their implications. But for many disabled people, myself included, technology is providing solutions which enable us to live more and more on a par with those around us who have no experience of disability. In my own case the simple solution of a wheelchair as a mobility aid has undergone extraordinary advances over the last thirty years. From the materials used, such as titanium and carbon fibre, through to the sophisticated computer-aided design process, modern wheelchairs are lighter, stronger and more durable than ever before.

As I have limited hand and finger movement, voice recognition software allows me to type at speeds far greater than my colleagues, to make phone calls through my computer and to command my mobile phone. The impact of technology on my level of independence has been enormous, too great to detail here. But at home, at work, at play and on holidays, modern technologies have transformed my life.

 *The Daughters of Charity have been a real leader and an important collaborator in research, willing to face up to the hard questions and to engage all staff, families and People with an Intellectual Disability in planning, exploring changes, in staffing and programming. The Daughters of Charity Service have established the development of assessment tools and are supporting the establishment and operation of Ireland's first memory clinic for People with an Intellectual Disability.* 

**Professor Mary McCarron PhD RNID, RGN, BNS**

*Associate Professor and Director, School of Nursing and Midwifery Studies, Trinity College Dublin*

# DOCTRID CONFERENCE

Saturday 16th October 2010 – Carton House Hotel

8.00 am              Arrival of Delegates / Registration / Refreshments

## *Opening Address*

9.00 am              *Welcome:*              **Martha Hegarty DC**, Director of RESPECT

**Mr. Dermot Desmond**, Chairman of RESPECT, to formally open The Inaugural DOCTRID International Interdisciplinary Conference

Signing of Memoranda of Understanding between the Daughters of Charity and the following Universities: **Dublin City University | Michigan State University | Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland | University College Dublin | University of Limerick.**

In the presence of representatives of the Daughters of Charity Service:

**Catherine Prendergast DC**, Provincial, **Mr. Walter Freyne**, CEO,  
**Dr. Martin McLaughlin**, Clinical Director, **Mr. Daniel Lenihan**, RESPECT,  
**Martha Hegarty DC**, RESPECT

9.30 am              *Facilitator:*              **Dr. Martin McLaughlin**, Clinical Director,  
Daughters of Charity Service

## *Making the Impossible Possible*

*Keynote Speaker:*              **Dr. Richard Weir** – Northwestern University

*Response by:*              **Mr. Enda Connolly** – CEO Health Research Board

**Dr. Nicola Ryall** – Consultant, National Rehabilitation Hospital

*Questions & Answers*

10.30 am              **Interval**

11.00 am              *Facilitator:*              **Dr. Mary Staines**, Clinical Director, Stewarts Hospital

## *Technology – The Challenge*

*Presentations by:*              **Mr. Ronan Rooney**, Cúram Software | **Mr. Ciaran Ennis**, IBM  
**Ms Niamh Scannell**, Intel | **Mr. Tom Heerey**, Microsoft  
**Mr. Sean Harrison**, Siemens

**Mr. Martin Brooks**, Parent and Inventor

*Questions & Answers*

12.30 pm              **Networking Luncheon**



**2.00 pm**      *Facilitator: Dr. Michael Leahy, Michigan State University*

## *Innovative, Interactive Assistive Technology*

*Speaker:*           **Dr. Kurt Johnson** – University of Washington  
*Response by:*     **Dr. Andre Van Rensburg** – Psychologist, Daughters of Charity Service  
                         **Professor Seamus Cowman** – Faculty of Nursing, RCSI

*Questions & Answers*

**3.00 pm**      **Interval**

**3.15 pm**      *Facilitator: Dr. Michael Leahy, Michigan State University*

## *Navigating Ethical Issues*

*Speaker:*           **Dr. Vilia Tarvydas** – University of Iowa  
*Response by:*     **Dr. David Smith** – Health Care Ethics, RCSI  
                         **Ms. Patricia T. Rickard-Clarke**  
                         – Commissioner, Law Reform Commission

*Questions & Answers*

**4.15 pm**      **Going Forward – A Research Institute**

**Dr. Michael Leahy** – Michigan State University  
**Mr. Walter Freyne, CEO** – Daughters of Charity Service  
**Catherine Prendergast DC** – Provincial of the Daughters of Charity  
**Martha Hegarty DC** – Director of RESPECT

**4.45 pm**      Closing Remarks from the Master of Ceremonies

**5.00 pm**      **Light Refreshments with Networking Opportunity**

**7.30 / 8.00 pm**    **Reception followed by Inaugural Conference Dinner**

# MAKING THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE



Richard Weir  
Keynote Speaker



Martin McLaughlin  
Facilitator

**Richard F. ff. Weir** – Director, Biomechatronics Laboratory at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago

Richard Weir, Ph.D. is Director of the Biomechatronics Development Laboratory at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. He is also a Research Healthcare Scientist for the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, Chicago, IL and holds Research Associate Professor appointments in the Departments of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Biomedical Engineering at Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.

Dr. Weir specialises in the design of advanced artificial hand/arm replacements. His research covers all aspects of the problem ranging from development of neural control interfaces and clinical deployment of these systems, to mechatronic design and development of novel prosthetic components. Current projects involve the development of prosthetic hand/arm controller systems based on implantable myoelectric sensors (IMES) to create a neural interface for the user. These sensors when placed in the muscles of an amputee's residual limb, sense the muscle's inherent electrical activity and send signals out of the body to an external controller, which will use these signals to control a multifunction prosthesis.

Dr. Weir's group is working on a number of artificial hand projects: including components for a hand being developed by the University of New Brunswick, Canada; the hand for the final limb system of the DARPA Revolutionising Prosthetics 2009 (RP2009) initiative. An 18 DOF multifunction hand system called the "Intrinsic Hand" for "Prototype 2", as well as a 7 DOF arm/hand system called "Prototype 1" also for the DARPA RP2009 initiative. Work is also ongoing in the area of novel actuators for use in prosthetic components in particular a compliant elbow and wrist.

Dr. Weir received a BA in mathematics and a BAI in microelectronics and electrical engineering from Trinity College Dublin in 1983. After working as a control engineer in England, he moved to the USA and obtained his MS and PhD degrees in biomedical engineering from Northwestern University in Evanston, IL.

**Martin McLaughlin** – Clinical Director, Daughters of Charity Service

Dr. Martin McLaughlin is a Consultant Psychiatrist and Clinical Director of the Dublin Service of the Daughters of Charity and until recently was also a Consultant Psychiatrist at St Patricks University Hospital where he directed the Young Adult Programme.

As member of the central management and the Service Executive he is responsible for the coordination of medical and multidisciplinary input to the Dublin service users.

He has extensive clinical and post-graduate teaching experience in the area of learning disability and is a former visiting consultant to the WHO in Geneva. He has been, over the years, a member of numerous local and national clinical educational and accreditation committees. His audit, research and publication interests are in the areas of Learning Disability, Mental Health, Dementia, Epilepsy, Deinstitutionalisation, Capacity and Medication Safety Systems.



Enda Connolly



Nicola Ryall

### **Enda Connolly – Chief Executive, Health Research Board**

Mr. Enda Connolly was appointed as Chief Executive of the Health Research Board in June 2008. Since then his main focus has been to strategically position the organisation to deliver a step change in health research. His aim is to increase research capacity in the health services and create an environment that can absorb new innovations, deliver better service and improve patient care. In doing so, he believes we can create the perfect platform to attract healthcare industry to Ireland and, in turn, help develop the economy.

Prior to this, Enda spent more than 30 years in IDA Ireland (Industrial Development Agency), where he played a pivotal role in leading change, developing strategy, building stakeholder confidence and securing significant foreign direct investment. He was instrumental in developing the agency's R & D Strategy following his return in 2001 from a very successful five-year assignment as Head of IDA's marketing operations in North America.

Enda continues to play an active role in various Government development bodies, including Enterprise Ireland's Industrial Research and Commercialisation Committee and the inter-agency Health Research Group chaired by the Department of Health and Children. He was recently elected by Member States to the Executive Board of the EU Joint Programming initiative on Neurodegenerative Disease Research.

### **Nicola Ryall – Clinical Director in the National Rehabilitation Hospital**

Dr. Nicola Ryall is Clinical Director of the National Rehabilitation Hospital Prosthetic and Orthotic Limb Absence Rehabilitation (POLAR) Programme. This is CARF – (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) accredited to meet international best practice specialty standards and to date the only one of its kind in Europe. Dr. Ryall has published papers on standardised clinical measurement of mobility in amputees with her work used in many UK prosthetic centres and translated in Dutch as a National Standard of measurement in The Netherlands. Dr. Ryall has recently been part of a core group to develop comparison of outcomes in centres around Europe and establishing a research network.

In post for approximately ten years, she has encountered an ever more clinically complex patient population of patients surviving with amputation. With greater awareness of development in technologies there is also a greater expectation of what these can deliver to patients. She looks forward to a robust debate on the merits of technology in those with disability.

# TECHNOLOGY – THE CHALLENGE



**Mary Staines** – Clinical Director for Mental Health at Stewarts Hospital

Dr. Mary Staines is a consultant psychiatrist and clinical director for mental health at Stewarts Hospital. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Daughters of Charity Service for Persons with Intellectual Disability. She has a number of particular interests in the field including the development of community based mental health services and postgraduate psychiatric training for doctors.

Mary Staines  
Facilitator

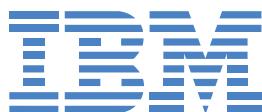


## Ronan Rooney

software platform that would enable human and social services agencies to work more effectively with their citizens became the basis for the Cúram Software Business Application Suite™. Ronan defined and established a new class of software – Social Enterprise Management – that is focused on people rather than programs and is now used by government agencies throughout the world. As CTO, Ronan is responsible for research and development and product strategy. He ensures that Cúram Software continues to provide social enterprises around the globe with innovative, program-independent solutions that enable them to deliver successful and sustainable outcomes for their clients.

Prior to founding Cúram Software, Ronan worked for 15 years in the Irish Department of Social Welfare, Dublin, as a case worker and supervisor before moving to the IT department where he worked as a systems analyst and, subsequently, as IT project manager. It was in this role that Ronan gained the extensive experience in both the business and technology aspects of human and social services systems.

Along with CEO John Hearne, Ronan Rooney co-founded Cúram Software in 1990. Ronan's vision of developing a



## Ciaran Ennis

*"Out of our work making computing easier to use for people with disabilities we will think of radically new approaches. Out of these approaches we will find not just ways of helping people with disabilities but ways of making computing far more natural and intuitive."*  
– Dr. Paul Horn, Senior Vice President, IBM Research

Ciaran Ennis is Head of Communications and Corporate Affairs at IBM Ireland. He has broad functional experience of the IT industry and over the past 30 years has occupied positions in application development, systems engineering, management consulting and business operations. Ciaran holds a B.Sc. in Computer Science from Trinity College Dublin and an MBA from UCD Smurfit Business School.

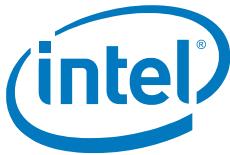


## Tom Heerey

*"Our vision is to create innovative technology that is accessible to everyone and that adapts to each person's needs. Accessible technology eliminates barriers for people with disabilities and it enables individuals to take full advantage of their capabilities and unlock their potential"* – Bill Gates

Tom Heerey is a Corporate Attorney with Microsoft and responsible for legal affairs for its Irish businesses. Tom helps co-ordinate accessibility initiatives within Microsoft Ireland. See [www.microsoft.com/enable/](http://www.microsoft.com/enable/)

Tom is proud to be a dual Irish and Australian citizen and has lived in Dublin for the last 12 years.



Niamh Scannell

Niamh Scannell is a first class engineering graduate of the National University of Ireland, Galway. She has been with Intel since 1992 and is Industry Director of the Technology Research for Independent Living (TRIL) Centre. TRIL is a groundbreaking research initiative, founded in January 2007 by Intel and the Industrial Development Agency (IDA), in collaboration with University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin and National University of Ireland, Galway to explore the physical, cognitive and social consequences of ageing.

Over the last three years, the Centre's multidisciplinary teams of clinicians, scientists, technologists, designers and anthropologists have worked with more than 1,000 older adults to invent and test in real world contexts some of the new care paradigms and technologies of the future. TRIL's focus in 2010 is on understanding frailty and loneliness and identifying specific indicators with a view to evolving early assessment and intervention technologies. Expanding on its unique approach and accomplishments, the TRIL Centre intends to broaden its activities in 2010 by securing additional collaborators and industrial partners. For further information please visit [www.trilcentre.org](http://www.trilcentre.org)

Niamh also directs Intel's Digital Health Group's European Product Research and Innovation (PRIe) team based in Leixlip, Ireland.



Martin Brooks  
Parent and Inventor

### Martin Brooks – Parent and Inventor

Martin Brooks is the proud parent to a five-year-old daughter, Mia, who has severe Cerebral Palsy. Mia is completely physically disabled but mentally bright. Mia's ability to communicate effectively without speech caused a lot of problems which Martin wanted to resolve. The existing solutions he found were either bulky, expensive or impersonal and sometimes all three. Frustrated by the choices available, Martin created an application (app) for Apple's iPhone to help his daughter and released it to Apple's app store for any other parents who might be in the same situation. Released just a few short months ago and with a very limited marketing budget, the app has been downloaded by almost 7000 people worldwide and has received great praise from parents whose children have a range of communication disabilities. The iComm app is unique in that it has a free version, is completely portable (as it sits in an iPhone) and by using the phone's camera and microphone can be completely personalised to the specific child's needs. More details can be found out on [www.miasapps.com](http://www.miasapps.com)

## SIEMENS

### Sean Harrison

The Siemens Healthcare Sector is one of the world's largest suppliers to the healthcare industry and a trendsetter in medical imaging, laboratory diagnostics, and medical information technology. Siemens offers its customers products and solutions for the entire range of patient care from a single source – from prevention and early detection to diagnosis and on to treatment and aftercare. By optimising clinical workflows for the most common diseases, Siemens also makes healthcare faster, better and more cost-effective. Siemens Healthcare employs some 48,000 employees worldwide and operates around the world.

Sean Harrison is the Modality Manager for Siemens Healthcare in Ireland. Sean began his career with Siemens in 1986 in the United States after completing his studies at the University of Mississippi. Sean spent several years working within Medical Imaging before taking a delegation to Germany, specifically the World Headquarters for Siemens in Erlangen, Germany. Sean returned to the United States for a few years working in Medical Sales. After completion of his MBA, he began working as the Director of Radiology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi. Sean returned to Siemens Germany in 2003 where he was the Country Manager for Magnetic Resonance for the United States and Canada. Sean's career within the Medical Industry expanded in March of 2008 where he was appointed the Modality Manager for the Siemens Healthcare Sector in Ireland.

# INNOVATIVE, INTERACTIVE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY



Kurt Johnson  
Speaker

Michael Leahy  
Facilitator

## **Kurt Johnson** – Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Washington

Dr. Kurt Johnson is a Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine in the School of Medicine at the University of Washington in Seattle. He is also the director of the U.W. Centre for Technology and Disability Studies as well as the U.W. Employment Programme for People with Intellectual and other Disabilities. In addition to supervising the clinical rehabilitation counselling services at the university teaching hospitals, he teaches in the Disability Studies programme and is a core faculty member in the PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences programme. Dr. Johnson has multiple externally funded research projects focusing on employment, measuring participation and other outcomes of rehabilitation and technology. Dr. Johnson received his PhD in Rehabilitation Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1984 and completed his internship in clinical psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Medical Center. Subsequently he taught in the graduate programmes in rehabilitation counselling and counselling psychology at Florida State University before assuming his current faculty position at the U.W. in 1990.

## **Michael Leahy** – Director of the Office of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies at Michigan State University

Dr. Michael J. Leahy, PhD, CRC, LPC, is a Professor and the Director of the Office of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies at Michigan State University and the Director of the doctoral program in Rehabilitation Counsellor Education. He has a doctorate in Rehabilitation Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and nearly 35 years of experience in rehabilitation as a counsellor, administrator, researcher and educator. Dr. Leahy is a Licensed Professional Counsellor (LPC), and a Certified Rehabilitation Counsellor (CRC). His continuing research interests include issues related to professional competency development and education, professionalisation of practice, vocational assessment, case management, evidence-based practice research and vocational outcomes.

Dr. Leahy is a Past-President of the National Council on Rehabilitation Education, a Past Chair of the Alliance for Rehabilitation Counselling, and a Past-President of the American Rehabilitation Counselling Association. He has published more than 130 referred journal articles, books, book chapters, research monographs and presented his research to a variety of rehabilitation and business audiences, including international presentations. He has also acted as the principal investigator and managed nearly thirty large-scale research, training and service delivery grant projects throughout his career. He has received twenty national awards for his research and service to the profession during his career.



Seamus Cowman



Andre Van Rensburg

### **Seamus Cowman** – Professor of Nursing at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

Professor Seamus Cowman is the first Professor of Nursing at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) and is also Head of Department. He is a registered psychiatric and general nurse. Seamus completed his academic studies at University of London, University of Surrey and in completing his PhD at Dublin City University he became the first nurse to obtain a PhD from an Irish University. He is also a Fellow of the Faculty of Nursing and Midwifery RCSI and in November 2010 will become the first nurse from Ireland to receive a fellowship of the American Academy of Nursing.

Internationally Seamus has established education programmes in Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain where he established a School of Nursing and Midwifery at the RCSI University of Bahrain.

Professor Cowman has over 110 publications and has obtained approximately €3 million in research funding. His research work relates to Mental Health, Intellectual Disability and he is an executive member of the European Violence in Psychiatry Research Group. He has undertaken significant RCT research work on chronic wounds, prevention of pressure ulcers. Professor Cowman's Wounds Research group at the RCSI has contributed to the Cochrane collaboration and includes multidisciplinary research – collaborating with industrialists, surgeons, pharmacists and microbiologists in Ireland.

### **Andre Van Rensburg** – Principal Psychologist, Daughters of Charity Services Dublin

Dr. Andre Van Rensburg is presently the Principal Psychologist for the Daughters of Charity Services Dublin. Andre who has been in Ireland for nine years hails from South Africa and worked as Director of Psychological Services in the Eastern Cape Province with a population of seven million people. Has been involved in the area of Intellectual and Learning Disabilities since 1977. He completed a Doctoral research regarding the prevalence of Tourette syndrome among Xhosa children in the province. Andre was educated in four different universities in South Africa and was involved in International and National Conferences on various topics in the field of disabilities. He is involved in international/national research projects for genetics for Autism, Tourette syndrome and Dyslexia. For relaxation Andre has a keen interest in art and music.

# NAVIGATING ETHICAL ISSUES



Vilia Tarvydas  
Speaker

Michael Leahy  
Facilitator

**Vilia Tarvydas** – Professor of Rehabilitation and Counsellor Education, University of Iowa

Dr. Vilia Tarvydas has had more than 30 years experience as a rehabilitation educator and a practicing rehabilitation professional. Currently, she is a Professor of Rehabilitation and Counsellor Education at The University of Iowa. Dr. Tarvydas was a 2003-2004 Obermann Scholar at the Obermann Centre for Advanced Studies. She is Director of the UI *Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation Ethics (I-DARE)*, that provides research, education and consultation on ethical issues affecting people with disabilities and the professionals who work with them. The Institute convened a 2005 Obermann Symposium on Disability Ethics entitled *Developing the Moral Distinctiveness of a Disability Perspective in Bioethics*. Her contributions in ethics and professional standards recently have been recognised through her receipt of two major national awards: the 2008 National Council on Rehabilitation Education *Distinguished Career in Rehabilitation Education Award*, and the 2008 *James F. Garrett Distinguished Career Research Award* of the American Rehabilitation Counselling Association.

Dr. Tarvydas holds a B.A. in Sociology from Northwestern University, an M.A. in Rehabilitation Counselling from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and a PhD in Rehabilitation Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her clinical practice has emphasised traumatic brain injury and physical medicine rehabilitation. She has served as a clinician and as the Programme Director of a medical neurobehavioral unit for persons with traumatic brain injuries and as a psychologist for acute rehabilitation units. In her scholarly works and presentations, she has concentrated on the areas of ethics, ethical decision-making and professional standards. She has published extensively in these areas and her most recent textbook, *Counselling Ethics and Decision Making* (2007), is in its third edition. She and Dr. Dennis Maki are currently working on a text entitled *The Professional Practice of Rehabilitation Counselling* to be published in 2011.

Dr. Tarvydas has been prominent in the leadership of the major professional organisations in rehabilitation counselling, most recently serving as a Past President of the National Council on Rehabilitation Education and the American Rehabilitation Counselling Association. She is a member of the Association for Bioethics and the Humanities. She chaired the Committee that developed the 1989 Code of Ethics for Professional Rehabilitation Counsellors and was involved in its most recent 2008 revision. She was a member of the ACA Code of Ethics Revision Taskforce that authored the 2005 ACA Code of Ethics and serves on the ACA Ethics Committee. She has also chaired several ethics committees in medical facilities and the profession including the CRCC Ethics Committee. She was Chair of the Iowa State Board of Behavioural Science Examiners and its Disciplinary Committee from 2000-2008. In addition, she has been a member of the Judicial Council of the American Occupational Therapy Association and she was Chair of the CRCC Taskforce on the Code of Ethics Revision that wrote the 2010 Code. Most recently, in 2009 she served on the Institute of Medicine Committee on the Qualifications of Professionals Providing Mental Health Counselling Services under TRICARE and is serving as Immediate Past President of the American Association of State Counselling Boards.



Patricia T. Rickard-Clarke    David Smith

### **Patricia T. Rickard-Clarke** – Commissioner with the Law Reform Commission

Ms Patricia T. Rickard-Clarke is a Commissioner with the Law Reform Commission. Formerly, she was a partner in McCann FitzGerald Solicitors. She was the lead Commissioner with regard to the Commission's work on Vulnerable Adults and the Law (which includes the reform of the law on Capacity). She is Chair of the Law Society's Mental Health and Capacity Task Force. She is a member of STEP (Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners) and a member of NUI Maynooth Law Council. She was recently appointed by the Minister for Finance to the Expert Group on Mortgage Arrears and Personal Debt.

### **David Smith** – Associate Professor of Health Care Ethics in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

Professor David Smith, B.Phil., B.D., S.T.L., M.A., S.T.D is Associate Professor of Health Care Ethics in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) and Director of the MSc in Health Care Ethics and Law in RCSI and RCSI Bahrain – Medical University of Bahrain. He lectures on Health Care Ethics in Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin, the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and Hibernia College. He is a member of the Irish Council for Bioethics, the Ethics Working Party of the European Forum for Good Clinical Practice, the Ethics Review Group of the Irish Medical Council, the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church and the National Council of the Forum on End of Life in Ireland. He is an Ethics Consultant to the Bon Secours Health System, Daughters of Charity Services for People with Intellectual Disability, Mercy University Hospital, Beaumont University Hospital, Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary Services and the Church of Ireland's Ethics Committee. He is also a member of a number of Research Ethics Committees in Ireland and the United Kingdom.

# GOING FORWARD: A RESEARCH INSTITUTE



Michael Leahy



Walter Freyne



Catherine Prendergast, DC



Martha Hegarty, DC

## Interdisciplinary Research Institute

Participants will describe the creation of an interdisciplinary research institute on intellectual disability at DOC that will operate from a collaborative, international research model, involving the university research communities. The collaborative research relationship and the guiding elements and features of this ongoing partnership that will enhance the productivity, value and sustainability of this highly unique concept will be highlighted.



*I am delighted to extend my congratulations and best wishes to the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent De Paul on the occasion of the Inaugural DOCTRID International Interdisciplinary Conference.*



*This visionary event is a timely intervention into an exciting field of research that Enterprise Ireland fully supports. The participation of leading Irish Universities, Michigan State University, top Irish and multinational technology companies brings “leading edge research and technology” together and affords RESPECT an opportunity to make real advances in the quality of life for those with disabilities. I look forward to the outputs from this forum and wish all those participating a very successful conference.*

**Frank Ryan**  
*CEO Enterprise Ireland*



# RESPECT

The Daughters of Charity founded RESPECT to raise funds for capital projects, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Dermot Desmond. RESPECT is an Irish registered Charity and Limited Company with audited accounts. Fundraising is mainly concerned with Corporate groups and many loyal Benefactors.



## Capital Projects

### *Hospice for People with an Intellectual Disability*

The Building of a 12 Bed Hospice for People with an Intellectual Disability for the very ill and dying at St. Joseph's, Clonsilla. This hospice is the first of its kind in Ireland for People with an Intellectual Disability. This Capital Project was completely funded by the friends and benefactors of RESPECT. We are very proud of this facility and much praise must go to our dedicated staff that cares for each person with love, respect and dignity.

### *St. Louise's Bungalow Project, Chapelizod, Dublin 20*

Completion of Nine Specially Designed Bungalows, Day Care and Restaurant at Holy Angels, Glenmaroon, Chapelizod, Dublin 20. This state of the art facility, designed by Architects Burke Kennedy-Doyle under the leadership of Mr. Noel Kidney and his team and built by Moston Construction. This development is now occupied by a group of contented ladies who moved from the old institutional type buildings. We are so pleased that institutional living is on the way out and that People less fortunate than ourselves have the happiness of living in a village setting and cared for by a very dedicated staff.



## Next Challenge

Over 100 Elderly People with an Intellectual Disability who have spent many years in Institutional type buildings deserve to be re-housed. Plans are in progress for an even more exciting project in keeping with today's needs.

This Project at St. Joseph's, Clonsilla will be built to meet the individual needs of all our residents with various Physical and Intellectual Disabilities. The Daughters of Charity Service are determined to move from the old model of institutional care to living independently and also to a more integrated type village setting with no high walls and no closed gates.

Once again RESPECT and their many supporters look forward to this great challenge and to raise the necessary funds to match Government funding.



### RESPECT Fundraising Board

*Back Row: (L-R) Lee Mallaghan, Noel Kidney, Terry Larkin, Danny O'Hare, Willie Coonan, Anthony Collins, Liam Walsh*  
*Front Row: (L-R) Martha Hegarty DC, Dan Lenihan, Michael Stanley*



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our team at Abbey Conference & Corporate are honoured to have been involved in the planning of the DOCTRID Conference. Creating an Inaugural Conference will always be a challenge, but it was one that we were delighted to be associated with.

The organising Committee, Sr Martha Hegarty and her colleague Liam Walsh of RESPECT, have been an inspiration to all who came in contact with them during the last months and it was a pleasure to work with them.

I would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to the many people who were so supportive along the way and in particular a special thank you goes to the Mallaghan Family, everyone at Carton House, Pat Beausang, Mary Crotty, Terry Ward and Fáilte Ireland.

**Patricia McColgan**  
Director, Abbey Conference & Corporate



**abbey**conference  
& corporate

*Abbey Conference & Corporate are a specialist division of Abbey Tours, Ireland's largest privately owned inbound operator. This area of expertise was set up specifically to provide the wide range of services required to operate successful conferences, seminars and business meetings. Abbey Tours has been in operation since 1988.*



## Carton House – A History

During a history spanning more than eight centuries, Carton Demesne has seen many changes. The estate first came into the ownership of the FitzGerald family shortly after Maurice FitzGerald played an active role in the capture of Dublin by the Normans in 1170 and was rewarded by being appointed Lord of Maynooth, an area covering townlands which include Carton. His son became Baron Offaly in 1205 and his descendant John FitzGerald, became Earl of Kildare in 1315. Under the eighth Earl, the FitzGerald family reached pre-eminence as the virtual rulers of Ireland between 1477 and 1513.

However, the eighth Earl's grandson, the eloquently titled Silken Thomas was executed in 1537, with his five uncles, for leading an uprising against the English. Although the FitzGeralds subsequently regained their land and titles, they did not regain their position at the English Court until the 18th century when Robert, the 19th Earl of Kildare, became a noted statesman. The first record of a house at Carton was in the 17th century when William Talbot, Recorder of the city of Dublin was given a lease of the lands by the 14th Earl of Kildare and is thought to have built a house. The house and lands were forfeited to the crown in 1691 and in 1703 sold to Major General Richard Ingoldsby, Master General of the Ordnance. In 1739, Richard Castle was employed by the 19th Earl of Kildare to build the existing house after it was bought by the 19th Earl of Kildare. Castle (originally Cassels) was also responsible for some other grand Irish houses including Westport House, Powerscourt House and in 1745, Leinster House, which he also built for the FitzGeralds. In 1747 James the 20th Earl of Kildare and from 1766 first Duke of Leinster, married Lady Emily Lennox, daughter of the Duke of Richmond and great-granddaughter of the English King Charles II. Lady Emily went on to play an important role in the development of the house and estate as it is today. She created the Chinese room (bedroom to Queen Victoria) and decorated the famous Shell Cottage on the estate with shells from around the world. One of Emily's 23 children was the famous Irish Patriot Lord Edward FitzGerald, leader of the 1798 rebellion.

Carton remained unaltered until 1815 when the 3rd Duke decided to sell Leinster House to the Royal Dublin Society and make Carton his principal residence. He employed Richard Morrison to enlarge and re-model the house. Morrison replaced the curved colonnades with straight connecting links to obtain additional rooms including the famous dining room. Carton remained in the control of the FitzGeralds until the early 1920s when the 7th Duke sold his birthright to a moneylender Sir Harry Mallaby Deeley in order to pay off gambling debts of £67,500. He was third in line to succeed and so did not think he would ever inherit, but one of his brothers died in the war and another of a brain tumour and so Carton was lost to the FitzGeralds. In 1923 a local unit of the IRA went to Carton with the intention of burning it down. However, they were stopped when a member of the FitzGerald family brought a large painting of Lord Edward FitzGerald to the door and pointed out that they would be burning the house of a revered Irish patriot. Ronald Nall-Cain, 2nd Baron Brocket, whose principal residence was Brocket Hall in Hertfordshire, England, purchased the house in 1949 and in 1977 his son The Hon. David Nall-Cain, who had by then moved to the Isle of Man, sold the house to its present owners Lee and Mary Mallaghan. The process of restoration and transformation began in 1999 with the complete exterior restoration of the Great House.

The golf courses opened in 2002 followed by the hotel in 2006. The Hotel was voted European Golf Resort of the Year in 2008 and has played host to numerous visiting soccer, rugby and GAA teams including Real Madrid, Manchester United and the victorious Tipperary Hurlers.

