

## Fundraising



**D**eirdre Clarke recently returned to the NICU with baby Roland and presented NICU Staff with a most generous donation of €1,311. Deirdre told us that Roland underwent treatment in the NICU following a traumatic birth but that she could never thank the team enough for the incredible care both she and Roland received. She also said that the cooling treatment that Roland received

was crucial to his survival and that without it, Roland's outcome may have been quite different. Deirdre commended the Friends for purchasing this essential equipment and requested that her sponsorship would ensure its upkeep for the benefit of other infants.



**B**aby Seán spent four weeks in the NICU and received the best of care, which motivated his Mother, Ciara Leonard and her amazing sister and friends, to fundraise for the unit. To date they have raised a magnificent total of €7,032.14 for essential equipment. Nicola, Ciara's sister, was instrumental

in organising for the Friends of the Rotunda charity to be accepted onto the 'Googlers Give Programme', Google's global workplace giving initiative for Beneficial Causes.

## The CRISP Study

Very premature infants, under 30 weeks' age in the womb, are at risk of bleeding for many reasons. Blood samples taken from these infants take a longer time to clot than samples from babies who are not premature. In other patient groups, if a blood sample takes a long time to form a clot it can mean that the patient has a higher chance of bleeding. However, we do not know to what extent this increases the chance that premature babies could bleed, because we have no clear idea of the clotting times which are actually normal for these babies. Babies with prolonged clotting times frequently receive blood products if they are sick. Blood products correct clotting times but also carry risks.

The **CRISP Study** is providing information on what clotting times are normal for very premature babies. Parents of infants born at less than 30 weeks gestation are invited to allow their babies to take part in the study. With parents' permission, blood samples are taken from the umbilical cord at birth. Much smaller blood samples are taken from the baby's arm on day 1, 3 and every second week until 30 weeks' gestation. Background and clinical information are recorded. Standard brain scans are performed to rule out bleeding in the brain. A machine called the Thrombinoscope which was funded by the Friends of the Rotunda is used to study in more detail how blood clots in these babies and is providing critical information that has the potential to change neonatal practice worldwide.

By Dr Fionnuala Ní Áinle  
Consultant Haematologist



Karl Egan, Postdoctoral Scientist

## Pillar Room

holds Civil Partnership

**T**he Pillar Room has been approved by the HSE Civil Registration Service as a venue for the purpose of a Civil Partnership Ceremony. Our congratulations to Henry Kaye and Irene Curran our first civil partnership.



“ Since our twins arrived very unexpectedly at just under 28 weeks on November 10<sup>th</sup>, we have been so overwhelmingly impressed by the care that they have received in the Rotunda NICU. The staff throughout the hospital have, each and every one, been exceptional to both us and our children, always taking the time to ask how the babies and mum are doing.

We had planned to be married before the babies arrived, but they had other ideas and for a while we thought that it might not happen. It was therefore so perfectly fitting when we met Sheila and she was so helpful in organising for us to have our wedding in the Pillar Room on Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The day was so special knowing how close we were to our babies. **Irene** ”

