



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



University Hospital Galway
Ospidéal na h-Ollscoile, Gaillimh
GALWAY UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Ernest L. Egan.

DATE: 4th December, 2007.

RE: Formation of the Irish Blood Club

On the 9th May 1978, I sent out the following to the Haematologists whose names I could come up with:

“Over the years several of us have discussed the possibility of forming a Haematology Club or some such group. Ian Temperly was going to set things in motion and is, in fact, working along in this direction, but because of other commitments he has asked that I try and get something started.

I feel that the best way to start this business up is to have a meeting and I propose that we hold such a meeting in September on a Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. I would suggest that the Friday afternoon take the form of a scientific session where clinical and other presentations might be made, and that the Saturday morning take the form of a meeting to establish the group.

I would be most obliged if you would, first of all, let me know if you are interested in this business and if you feel that my suggestions in terms of this meeting in Galway are appropriate. Secondly, I would be obliged if you would review the list of topics we might consider at the meeting and amend them appropriately. Thirdly, perhaps you could also take a look at the list of names to whom this letter has been circulated and add others that you feel might be interested. An early response would, of course, be much appreciated as accommodation and so forth will need to be arranged a little while in advance.”

The original list contacted included Dr. Vincent Barry and Dr. Daly from Cork, Drs. O’Riordan, Wilkinson and Walsh from the Blood Transfusion Service in Dublin, Prof. Nelson, Dr. Field, Sam Nelson, Dr. Bridges, Dr. Mayne, and Dr. Robinson from Belfast and from Dublin Prof. Temperly, Dr. Ottridge, Dr. Ryder, Dr. O’Connell, and Dr. Clarke. Following feed-back, the list was extended.



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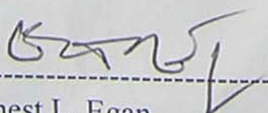
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Overall, the response to the initial letter was very positive, such that the meeting was called for the 27th and 28th October 1978 in Galway. The scientific meeting took place in Galway Regional Hospital with the social events taking place in the Ardilaun House Hotel.

At the scientific meeting held on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, twelve Papers were presented, in addition to two invited lectures. Dr. Noel Clarke from U.C.D. presented a Paper on William Harvey, discoverer of the circulation of the blood – 400th anniversary 1978 and Dr. Ted Gordon-Smith from the Royal Post Graduate Medical School in London presented a lecture on bone marrow transplantation.

A business meeting was held on the Saturday morning wherein the objectives of the club were considered – that it be both social and scientific, and that it would have an influence on the development and direction of haematology as a specialty, that the membership should primarily only be Haematologists and primarily medically qualified, that the organization should be free-standing, and that it would have an annual meeting. The meeting would rotate around the island of Ireland. The second meeting was agreed to be held in Pelican House with Terry Walsh as the organizer. Attached to this Memo is the original list of Registrants for the meeting, the agenda for the scientific meeting, and the agenda for the business meeting.

It is acknowledged that Travenol Laboratories and Technicon generously sponsored the inaugural meeting.



Ernest L. Egan.