The most modern state-of-the-art Delivery Suite in Ireland was officially opened by the Minister for Health Dr. James Reilly TD, at the Coombe Women & Infants University Hospital on the 24th January 2014. This opening represents dedication, innovation and vision and is a shining example of what we do on a daily basis.

As a tertiary-referral university-teaching hospital, we are the largest provider of women and infants healthcare in this country, and indeed one of the busiest in Europe. We have been providing maternity services for almost 200 years now and each year, we provide care for up to 10,000 families. It means that about one baby is born here every hour of every day.
The new Delivery Suite, which was funded primarily by the Health Service Executive (HSE) (€4.75 million), with support from Friends of the Coombe, will enable us to deliver excellence during a time of significant economic constraint.

Our mission is ‘Excellence in the Care of Women and Babies’ and we continually strive to provide the best quality and safest environment for all of our patients. It was in recognition of the need for an emergency obstetric theatre on the labour ward, high dependency care and to greatly enhance the experience of our patients during labour and delivery, that we embarked on this project. The dedication and teamwork displayed by all involved in this project allowed us not only to complete the works ahead of schedule, but to do so while maintaining a full and safe service for our mothers and babies.

The improvements are immense and all of our patients are afforded comfort, safety and privacy at this most special time in their lives. The new Delivery Suite comprises of single en-suite rooms, a pool room for mothers to enjoy the benefits of hydrotherapy in labour, a new High Dependency Unit and an Emergency Obstetric Theatre. Each room is equipped to cater for any model of care, and from the lowest risk to the highest risk patient. It is as every Delivery Suite should be.
We provide very specialised Neonatal Intensive Care to the smallest and youngest babies born not just here in this hospital but also for those who are transferred from other units around the country who do not have these facilities. In 2012, we looked after the highest number of very low birth weight infants in the whole country. As a result of the recent expansion of our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), High Dependency Unit (HDU) and Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU), we are able to accommodate these babies.

Arising from significant investment and expansion in our Perinatal Ultrasound and Fetal Medicine departments, we are uniquely placed to provide diagnostic services of the highest quality, particularly for babies with complex congenital anomalies including cardiac disease because of our proximity to Our Lady’s Children’s Hospital Crumlin. In addition, our hospital is the only maternity unit in this country in a position to provide a national tertiary referral combined Perinatal and Paediatric Fetal ECHO service.
As clearly demonstrated in our Annual Clinical Reports, the complexity of our patients has increased and this hospital has the busiest, dedicated, consultant-provided Maternal Medicine clinic in the country with multidisciplinary specialists from the Coombe Women & Infants University Hospital, St. James's and Tallaght Hospitals providing a regional and national service to mothers with serious co-morbidities. We can now provide this high quality service in a newly developed outpatient clinic complimented by the new state-of the art HDU and immediate access to the St. James's Hospital Intensive Care services which are located approximately half a kilometre away. Many of our anaesthetists work between here and St. James's Hospital. The new Hospital group structure will continue to enhance this relationship to the extent that we consider ourselves co-located with St. James’s Hospital for adult services.

The Coombe Women & Infants University Hospital provides the largest and most comprehensive Gynaecology surgical service in the country. A wide range of outpatient and inpatient services are available for women of all ages with gynaecological matters. We have the most modern, purpose built Colposcopy Unit and we host the National Cytology Training Centre.

Research is vital to any innovation in healthcare and we are a leading hospital for research in all aspects of women and infants' healthcare. The research laboratory here has an international reputation for cutting-edge Molecular Medicine. We also host the Centre for Midwifery Education for all midwives in the greater Dublin area.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone involved in this project.

Dr. Sharon Sheehan
Master/CEO
24th January 2014

More pics below…