



PRESS RELEASE

No:216/2008

Date: 25 September 2008

Rainbow Ward of St Bernard's Hospital has received donations totalling £6,465 with which it has acquired a special machine to measure the level of stomach acid in children.

The donations were made by Research into Childhood Cancer Charity, Verrals Barristers & Solicitors, Attias & Levy Barristers & Solicitors and the staff of Rainbow Ward. Verrals made the donation of £500 in lieu of sending Christmas cards to their clients last year. Rainbow Ward staff donated the £500 that they received from Attias & Levy when they won the 2007 GHA Department of the Year Award. RICC donated over £5,000 from funds raised by their charity.

The Minister for Health and Civil Contingency and Chairwoman of the GHA Board, Yvette Del Agua, who received the equipment on behalf of the GHA, said: "although there is general consensus within the GHA that the new St Bernard's Hospital is equipped to a very high standard, the GHA always welcomes and is grateful for donations from the community which can assist us in improving even further the standard and extent of services that we provide to patients. In this particular case, the staff of Rainbow Ward itself has played an important part".

The monitoring of the level of stomach acid in children is very important in diagnosing and effectively treating diseases which in the long-term can be associated with serious complications in adult life. This type of equipment allows the monitoring to be done on an outpatient basis, avoiding the need for hospitalisation.

Dr Danny Cassaglia, Consultant Paediatrician, who has been the advocate for the purchase of the equipment, said: "I now have yet another diagnostic tool at my disposal which saves me having to refer my patients to Spain or the UK for testing. What's more, I can also monitor my patients' progress better".

Sister Mary Sene said: "this is a wonderful addition to the GHA. The equipment is easy to use and it is great for the kids because we can do the test here and they know and trust us. Staff are also proud of their donation to this cause".