



# SUPPORT A NEW JOHN KIRKER BRAIN DISEASE CENTRE

*With increasing longevity and improvements in survival from various neurological diseases and the growing complexity of chronic disease, the need for expansion in our services is constant. Our brain disease services needs new funding through private donations, so we can realise our vision for caring for our patients, in a new John Kirker Brain Disease Centre.*

– Dr Colin Doherty, Consultant Neurologist

St James's Hospital is the largest adult hospital in Ireland with a catchment area approaching 400,000 of the adult population.

Over the past five years the neurology service has become one of the best performing service in Ireland with much reduced waiting times for new patients with certain conditions and further reductions in waiting times in the Out-Patients Department.

But despite the scale of our caseload and effectiveness of our service, the neurology/brain disease service is one of the smaller neurology services in the country.

### **Our Neurology Service**

- 30,000 patients with chronic neurological complaints living in the community serviced by the hospital
- 1,800 admissions with acute neurological problems each year.
- Additional patients from outside the catchment area for regional and national services (i.e. Epilepsy, Young onset dementia, cancer related neurology and HIV).

### **TREATMENT AREAS**

- Epilepsy
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Parkinson's Disease
- Alzheimer's Disease
- Motor Neurone Disease
- Cancer related neurology issues
- Neurological complications arising from HIV

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## John Kirker Brain Disease Centre at St James's Hospital – Our Vision. Our Appeal

Our vision is to deliver a seamless and comfortable patient experience to all patients attending neurology services and ultimately enhance patient outcomes by providing the best environment for such care.

To do this, we need to establish the John Kirker Brain Disease Centre at St James's Hospital, implementing a new model for patient care in neurological disease, on our existing site. This will require the re-design and renovation of our facilities, with new electronic based work procedures, to greatly improve our care environment for our patients.

We intend to create a bright, airy, welcoming and easily accessible space. The emphasis will be on settling the patient and their families in a comfortable space without the hard edged trappings of typical 'clinical' rooms. In so far as possible, the vision of the Brain Disease Centre is to facilitate bringing services and specialist personnel to the patient rather than the other way round. This will allow a more seamless patient experience and reduce the need to move around the hospital, and ultimately enhance the effectiveness of treatment, care and rehabilitation.

Our vision for patient care requires a unique modular design and a process flow-system that employs the latest techniques from innovative healthcare institutions around the world.

## How to Support this Appeal

You can give make a gift online at [www.supportstjames.ie](http://www.supportstjames.ie) by clicking the donate button.

To discuss a donation contact Clodagh Memery on [cmemery@stjames.ie](mailto:cmemery@stjames.ie) or phone 01 410 3986

To organise a fundraising event contact Jamie Conway on [jconway@stjames.ie](mailto:jconway@stjames.ie) or phone 01- 410 3936



St. James's Hospital Foundation, St. James's Hospital,  
James's Street, Dublin 8, Ireland.

T: + 353 1 428 4086 E: [foundation@stjames.ie](mailto:foundation@stjames.ie) W: [www.supportstjames.ie](http://www.supportstjames.ie)  
Charity number: CHY 7269/20015374

## Katie Cooke, A Patients Story

Katie is 18 years old. Ten years ago she was diagnosed with epilepsy, which subsequently developed into one of the most aggressive forms of epilepsy. She was hospitalised in August 2012 at Crumlin Hospital, experiencing increasing issues with anti-epileptic medications and was there for over 8 months. During this time, Katie underwent seven different drug



trials in quick succession, all with debilitating side effects and culminating in her spending six months in a wheelchair. At that point Katie's Mam, Nicola, left her job to care for Katie.

Today Katie is under the adult care of St James's Hospital, with Dr Colin Doherty. She experiences over 60 breakthrough seizures each week and the team is currently exploring surgical options with her.

Due to the limited space for neurology services, Katie and her Mam often find themselves in a cramped portacabin when they meet with Dr Doherty and his team. Nicola, Katie's Mam says 'Sometimes up to six or seven people, all key in Katie's plan, standing and crouching to squeeze into space. Even a standard neurology exam is extremely hard for the team to carry out in these conditions, such as checking Katie's mobility'

Katie and Nicola have great praise for the team and their work.

'The support the neurology team provides to our family is indescribable. They are our life line and work so hard to help Katie in every way they can'. Nicola Cooke

Katie has some mobility issues but in June 2015 she ran the Women's Mini-Marathon and fundraised on behalf of Brain Disease at St James's Hospital. Although she experienced seizures during this race, she was able to manage her seizures and kept on running.

Katie's Mam, Nicola says 'the most remarkable thing about our story is Katie herself. She constantly strives to maintain her friendships, and boy does she have a lot of friends. She rarely moans and she is an inspiration to nearly everyone she comes into contact with. Of course there are challenges and lots of days spent in bed, but for the most part, Katie embraces life to the max and doesn't give up!'

'I've always felt really listened to about what my seizures and illness are like by Dr Doherty and his team. I don't mind going to James's at all because I know that everyone there tries to understand what it is like to be me. It would be better if we had more space for my visits' explains Katie.