



Welcome to the special anniversary issue of our Project Newsletter, 5 July 2018!

The Baird Family Hospital and The ANCHOR Centre are being designed to serve the people of Grampian and the North of Scotland for generations to come, but they are also building on the significant legacy of NHS staff past and present. It therefore seemed fitting to take a bit of a look back to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NHS and the contribution Aberdeen has made to clinical care! Read on to find out more about the contributions of Dugald Baird and his family to local medical excellence, and how the ANCHOR Unit has developed in its 20 years of existence. We'll also look to the future with the improved patient and staff experiences that will come with the Baird and the ANCHOR, share our newly created Vision Statements for both buildings and the highlights from our #70forNHS70 social media campaign. Enjoy!



## Dugald Baird's Legacy: Aberdeen Centre for Women's Health Research

By Professor Maggie Cruickshank, Director of NHS Grampian Research and Development

Sir Dugald Baird was appointed as Regius Professor of Midwifery at the University of Aberdeen in 1937 at the newly built Aberdeen Maternity Hospital on the Foresterhill site. At this time, most women still delivered at home or in small nursing

homes and caesarean sections were uncommon. Sir Dugald established a research centre in Obstetrics and Gynaecology with researchers occupying the top floor or the 'research floor' of the 'Matty' where our Women's Health Unit sits.

Sir Dugald's vision of improving women's health was truly holistic, encompassing not only physical health but also mental health and wellbeing.

Unsurprisingly, for such a far-sighted clinician, his interests in clinical practice, service provision and health policy encompassed reproductive health, reducing deaths of mothers and babies, social factors which influence pregnancy and childbirth, fertility control and cervical screening. The research unit was staffed not only with academic clinicians and statisticians but social scientists. Sir Dugald developed collaborations with Sir John Boyd-Orr at the Rowett Institute on diet and nutrition.

In 1951 he established the Aberdeen Maternity and Neonatal Databank (AMND). Since that time, pregnancy and childbirth events in women from the North East of Scotland continue to be collected, creating a unique resource which provides not only long term health data and outcomes but can link health outcomes across different generations of mothers, daughters, grandmothers and even great grandmothers.

Sir Dugald's legacy has been to improve the wellbeing and health of women by delivering research across disciplines as

well as to consider women's health issues in context of their lives and families. By avoiding a narrow focus of diseases in isolation, we have ensured the ongoing success of the Aberdeen Centre of Women's Health Research. The AMND remains the 'jewel in our crown' in Aberdeen with research ranging from pregnancy complications and risks to the effects of the mother's pregnancy on the health of her children when they themselves are adults. We have a research group which includes University and NHS staff working together so Aberdeen leads internationally on a range of healthcare research studies from urinary incontinence and prolapse, IVF, heavy periods and pelvic pain to caesarean sections and the prevention of cervical cancer.

You will see that some of the health issues are the same as during the time of Sir Dugald Baird but others have emerged more recently; most women now have their babies in hospital with a high rate of caesarean section. They also live longer with more time as post-menopausal women and the health issues that post-reproductive life brings. Obesity impacts on fertility, pregnancy, pelvic floor function and risk of cancer compared with the concerns in the 1930s and 1940s on malnutrition.

We are still asking research questions to see how we can improve the lives of women and taking new and innovative approaches to answer these.

## **The Baird Family Hospital: Excellence in Future Care**

**By Gail Thomson, Senior Service Project Manager**

The significant investment committed to delivering the Baird and ANCHOR project is not just about the buildings. The provision of a well-designed and modern facility is the ultimate physical manifestation of project success, however the lasting priority of the project will be this accommodation contributing to continuing and increasing excellence in clinical care.

Since the inception of the Baird and ANCHOR project in early 2015, NHS Grampian staff, patients and numerous Third Sector groups have helped the project team to design the Baird as a facility which offers the best possible environment of care for all service users. Valuable input has also been received from colleagues in the North of Scotland neighbouring health boards, assisting with our aim of ensuring that the Baird provides high quality accommodation that truly supports patients and families alike.

The key themes of patient dignity and comfort have been taken into account at every planning stage and we look forward to opening this fantastic new hospital in 2021.

### **The Baird Family Hospital Vision Statement:**

*Investing in the North of Scotland's future generations, your Baird Family Hospital is committed to delivering excellence in care and is an international leader in women's health research. We provide a modern, family-focused facility in a safe, friendly and caring environment.*



## The Legacy of the ANCHOR Brand in the North of Scotland

By Professor Mike Greaves, The ANCHOR Centre Clinical Lead

There has been a long history at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary of delivery of patient-centred high quality clinical care to those in the North East of Scotland with haematological conditions and cancer.

Many will recall the devoted and expert service delivered by outstanding clinicians such as Andy Hutcheon, Audrey Dawson and Bruce Bennett, among others, and their excellent nursing and allied professional colleagues, over several decades in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These teams worked across several locations within ARI but at the same time paved the way for the development of a more unified sense of purpose with the introduction of the ANCHOR brand in 1997. Although the clinical services continue to be delivered across several locations on the Foresterhill campus, principally Wards 112, 114, 307, 310, Clinic D and the Radiotherapy Centre, the ANCHOR (Aberdeen and the North Centre for Haematology, Oncology and Radiotherapy) unit has become recognised widely across the North East and beyond as the regional centre for clinical care in haematology and oncology, as well as for teaching and research supported by its

close relationship with the University of Aberdeen. It serves oncology and haematology patients throughout the North East of Scotland, including Orkney and Shetland, providing expert and compassionate clinical care.

The establishment of The ANCHOR Unit set the stage for the next development which offers huge potential for further enhancement of these services through the co-location of much of the provision in a new, state-of-the-art facility, The ANCHOR Centre. The new Centre will provide out-patient and day-patient investigation and treatment services for oncology and haematology patients. The Centre will also include pharmacy, research and teaching facilities. The new build will provide further impetus to the excellent clinical care, teaching and research in haematology and oncology which is already established in the current ANCHOR unit. It will enhance further the opportunities for integration and joint working across the relevant clinical specialties as well as providing a much improved working environment which will in turn impact positively on recruitment and retention. It will be built adjacent to and

adjoining the Radiotherapy Centre which is itself a thoroughly modern clinical facility.

The development of the ANCHOR brand has had an additional benefit. It facilitated the establishment of the Friends of ANCHOR under the tireless leadership and enthusiasm of Jimmy Milne, and supported by a magnificent, highly effective team. Over two decades Friends of ANCHOR has developed exponentially and grown from providing highly appreciated items and services for improved patient comfort, to the purchase of major items of equipment for diagnosis and treatment, and financial support amounting to in excess of £3.7m for much needed research in collaboration with the University of Aberdeen and Robert Gordon University. Notable examples of significant acquisitions of direct benefit to patients are molecular genetic diagnostic

equipment for better classification of tumours, an automated dispenser for radioactive pharmaceuticals, gastric ultrasound equipment and high quality laparoscopic equipment to enhance cancer investigation and management, among many others. All of this complements the equally essential, beneficial and diverse support provided to ANCHOR patients by the other highly respected charities including CLAN, CRANES, MacMillan, Maggie's and UCAN.

I hope that it can be appreciated that the foresight exhibited by colleagues in the late 1990s in establishing and promoting the ANCHOR brand has had far-reaching impact on the services available to our patients. Undoubtedly this will be enhanced further by the opening of The ANCHOR Centre in 2021.

### **The ANCHOR Centre Vision Statement**

*Dedicated to providing excellence in treatment and care by a professional and compassionate team, committed to innovative research and development, in a supportive and welcoming environment.*



## #70forNHS70 Social Media Campaign

By Anna Rist, Public Involvement Officer

Back in March 2018, in one of our weekly project team huddles, it was suggested that we should do a 70-day countdown on our social media platforms to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NHS. This grew into a '70 days of an NHS project' campaign, with colleagues from different areas of NHS Grampian embracing the idea of featuring in our daily posts and giving people from all walks of life a bit of an insight into the amount of work that goes into planning for two new health facilities. We are really grateful for everyone who supported our campaign and made it a success – it has boosted the visibility of our project beyond our expectations!

[#NHS70](#) [#happybirthdayNHS](#) [#success](#) [#teamwork](#) [#baird2021](#) [#ANCHOR2021](#)



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