

The Advanced Lipid Management and Research Centre (ALMAR centre) has been established at Tallaght University Hospital since 2016. This is directed by Professor Vincent Maher Consultant Cardiologist / Lipidologist who has over 30 years experience in clinical lipidology and lipid research.

The centre is dedicated to helping all patients who are at risk of vascular disease or of severe pancreatitis due to challenging disorders of lipid metabolism. Many individuals are unaware of their significant lipid related risk until they develop a vascular event or life threatening pancreatitis. For some who have been diagnosed, management may be difficult and they are left at risk of serious future events. The centre, thanks to industry support, the Meath foundation and fund raising activities has already got a nurse manager, Ruth Agar, and attains help from dietetics and the vascular service at Tallaght hospital on a case by case basis. There is close liaison with the hospital laboratory with Dr Gerard Boran and Mr Michael Kelly.

So far a dedicated clinic has been established and Lab surveillance is in place to identify all those with severe lipid disorders tested at Tallaght hospital. In addition, specialised registers of all patients with severely raised LDL cholesterol levels or marked hypertriglyceridaemia have been developed. The laboratory service has expanded to include specialised lipid investigations not performed elsewhere. Prof Maher is the Irish representative on the global FH network which helps put Ireland on the international stage in Lipid metabolism.

A national audit of cholesterol services has been completed and a snapshot of Irish lipid levels by the ALMAR centre had been published. An all island lipid Network has been initiated by the ALMAR team.

This September 24th to 30th , the ALMAR centre will host a cholesterol awareness week including public lectures, fund raising events and cholesterol testing at different sites. Lipid disorders are easily identified and usually managed without difficulty but a significant number need specialised care. For those and for the initiation of new novel therapies and ongoing research linked to TCD, the ALMAR centre needs your support. Any help would be gratefully appreciated to help maintain this essential service. www.idonate.ie/almarcentre ».