



Western Health and Social Care Trust

Press Release
Immediate Release

WESTERN TRUST EXTENDS A WARM WELCOME ON VISIT FROM TURKEY'S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The Western Health and Social Care Trust recently welcomed a delegation from the Ministry of Health in Turkey to visit some of the hospital's facilities, in particular the Altnagelvin Microbiology Laboratory, who are using the GeneXpert DX System in the laboratory monitoring and screening of MRSA.

Turkey has a population of 90 million people and has similar experiences with MRSA in their healthcare system to that of Northern Ireland.

The visit began with Dr. Gerry Glynn, Consultant Microbiologist giving a brief history of the emergence of MRSA and an insight into the bed management and infection control procedures in place for the management of MRSA infection within the Western Trust.

Mrs. Rosemarie Given, Senior Biomedical Scientist with the Western Trust, then presented the Microbiology Departments experience in the use of modern technologies within the laboratory to help support the management of MRSA in the hospital environment. The visit then ended with the delegation taking a tour of the new laboratory site.

The visit was facilitated by Biofact Pharma and the delegation from Turkey included: Prof. Nilay Coplu, Consultant Microbiologist and Prof. Fatma Sebnem Erdinc, Consultant in Control of Infection Ankara, Turkey, both representing the Ministry of Health and Ibrahim Aksu who represented Cepheid Products

Mr John Corey, Pathology Services Manager, Western Trust commented: "The Western Trust commend the Turkish Department of Health for being proactive in their efforts to tackle the MRSA within their healthcare system. The visit has allowed the delegation to speak directly with our frontline staff who discussed with them our experiences with the system."

He continued: "The Turkish delegation chose to come because we have experienced a similar rate of MRSA and to see at first hand the systems we have placed within hospitals to secure a high standard of screening for MRSA is carried out."

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**For further information contact:
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Notes to Editor

Photo Caption

Pictured from left, Dr Gerry Glynn,(Labs WHSST) Prof Fatma Sebnem Erdinc, Turkish MOH, Mr Ibrahim Aksu, Prof Nilay Coplu, Turkish MOH, Murray Ferguson, (Labs WHSST) Patrick Clarke (Biofact) Mr Albert Roser Totlås, (Cepheid), Rose Marie Given (Labs WHSST) and Mr John Corey Pathology Services Manager WHSST.