World Renowned Trauma Surgeon
to Present Memorial Lecture at NUI Galway

**Friday, 22 August, 2008:** NUI Galway’s Department of Surgery will host the 33rd Sir Peter Freyer Memorial Lecture and Surgical Symposium on **5-6 September 2008**. Dr Ernest E. Moore, from Denver General Hospital, will deliver the Memorial Lecture at 5.00 pm on the first day of the conference, in the University’s Arts Millennium Building.

Dr Moore is Chief of the Department of Surgery at Denver Health Medical Centre and Professor of Surgery at the University of Colorado, USA, and is presently the President of the World Society of Emergency Surgery. He is widely published on trauma, and serves on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Trauma* and *Journal of Emergency Medicine*, as well as being Co-Editor of the benchmark textbook *Trauma*. His lecture will be presented on ‘Role of the Gut in Post Injury Multiple Organ Failure’.

Commenting on the upcoming lecture, Mr Oliver McAnena of NUI Galway Department of Surgery said: “Dr Moore is widely recognised as the leading figure in the surgical management of trauma. The increase in incidence of penetrating trauma injuries in Ireland will ensure that his presentation will have national appeal to all surgeons who have to deal with such emergencies. Denver General Hospital has been used frequently as the focus for many trauma television programmes, particularly on the discovery channel.”

On Saturday, 6 September, Professor Frank Keane will present the State of the State of the Art Lecture entitled ‘Governing Ourselves’. Professor Keane is President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and Consultant in General and Colorectal Surgery at the Adelaide and Meath Hospital, incorporating the National Children’s Hospital, Tallaght, Dublin. His predominant interest throughout his career has been in GI Surgery, particularly in minimally invasive techniques.

As the largest surgical conference in Ireland, the Sir Peter Freyer Memorial Lecture & Surgical Symposium hosted by Professor Michael Kerin and Mr Oliver McAnena provides a platform for healthcare professionals to present their research and clinical work and allows for the merging of both scientific and clinical information. It is named in memory of the Galway-born surgeon, Sir Peter Freyer, who performed the first successful surgical operation to remove an enlarged prostate in 1900.

For further information on the Sir Peter Freyer Memorial Lecture and Surgical Symposium, please contact Grace Clarke at 091-524390 or grace.clarke@nuigalway.ie

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Notes to editors:

Sir Peter Freyer (1852-1921)

Sir Peter Freyer, originally from Galway, performed the first successful surgical operation to remove an enlarged prostate in 1900 in St. Peter’s Hospital in London.

Peter Freyer was born near Clifden and studied at Queen’s College Galway (now NUI Galway). He studied medicine and won first prize in seven subjects in the final examination. After obtaining his degree in 1874 he joined the Indian Medical Service. In 1888, while acting as civil surgeon to the Rajah of Rampar, Freyer discovered a stone in his patient’s bladder. He then crushed the stone and removed the fragments. The Rajah was extremely grateful and rewarded Freyer generously. In 1896 he returned to England and joined the staff of St. Peter’s Hospital in London. Prior to 1900, little was known about how to treat a man with an enlarged prostate. It was Freyer who pioneered a new technique to remove such an enlarged gland. In 1900 he performed the first prostatectomy in St. Peter’s Hospital. His novel technique involved cutting through the bladder to access the prostate. Despite the fact that five percent of his patients died due to complications, the operation was a huge improvement on previous operations and became the standard technique for fifty years.

Freyer was a dextrous surgeon and showman. He provided his own running commentary in both French and Hindustani to an audience of international surgeons. After cutting the bladder it took him three minutes to remove the prostate. His success earned him fame, fortune and a knighthood and international urological conferences are still held in his honour. His technique was eventually superseded in the 1950s by a new approach developed by another Irish surgeon, Terence Millin from Co. Down.