

About the Forum

The Irish Health Research Forum (IHRF) was established by Health Research Charities Ireland (formerly the Medical Research Charities Group) on foot of their major report 'The Health Research Landscape in Ireland: What Researchers Say' in 2014. It continues to be led and managed by the HRCI and is nationally recognised for the quality and value of its events.

The Forum considers key health research issues, identifies constructive solutions and seeks consensus at twice annual Forum meetings of Health Research stakeholders with the goal of working towards the realisation of positive effects for health research, health care and ultimately the patients and public.

The IHRF Steering Group comprises of stakeholders with significant profile in health research and facilitates a coordinated approach positively influencing the health research environment in Ireland.



The IHRF is a partnership of organisations and stakeholders that aims to influence health research in Ireland.

Steering Group

The role of the Steering Group is to execute the work of the forum, to identify topics and issues for consideration and prepare for the Forum meetings.

Prof Brendan Buckley, Chairperson IHRF Steering Group. Honorary Clinical/Adjunct Professor -UCC &UCD

Prof Eilish McAuliffe, Professor of Health Systems, School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems, UCD

Dr Jacinta Kelly, Chief Executive, National Children's Research Centre

Dr Avril Kennan CEO, Health Research Charities Group

Dr Catherine Gill, Programme Manager in Post Award and Evaluation, Health Research Board (HRB)*

Prof Kevin P Balanda, Director of Research and Information, The Institute of Public Health Ireland

Dr Conor O'Carroll, Independent Consultant on Research and Higher Education policy and funding

Dr Fionnuala Keane, Chief Operating Officer, Health Research Board - Clinical Research Coordination Ireland

Philip Watt, CEO, CF Ireland

Julie Naughton, Irish Research Staff Association

Peter Brown, Interim Director, Irish Research Council

Caitriona Dunne, Head of Advocacy, Fighting Blindness

Hazel Ann Smith, Chair, Irish Research Nurses Network

Eibhlin Mulroe, Chief Executive, Cancer Trials Ireland

Dr Geraldine Canny, Head of the Irish Marie Skłodowska-Curie Office

Suzanne McCormack, CEO, Irish Thoracic Society and Chair, Health Research Charities Group

Dr Ana Terres, Head of Research and Development, HSE

Dr Mark White, Vice-President for Research, Innovation & Graduate Studies, Waterford IT

*HRB have Observer status on the Steering Group.

IHRF
Irish Health
Research forum

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Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



IHRF Agenda

Working Across Health Services & Academia –
Challenges and Solutions for Health Research

Wednesday, 13th November 2019

WIFI: **WoodQuayVenue** Password: **Viking 1100**

A single
voice **to**
improve
health

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9.00am	Registration and Networking Opportunity
9.30am	Welcome Address: Prof Brendan Buckley; Chairperson, IHRF Steering Group
9.35am	Scene setting: Prof Joe Eustace; Chairperson, HRB CRCI Senior Management Team
9.55am	The HSE Approach to Supporting Collaborations: Dr Ana Terres; Assistant National Director, Head of Research and Development, Health Service Executive
10.15am	Discussion Groups: Managed by Linda McGrath; Health Research Charities Ireland
10.50am	Discussion Group Feedback: by appointed discussion group leads
11.20am	Coffee break and Networking Opportunity
11.50am	Working Across the 'Divide': Panel Discussion and Audience Q&A Panel Chair: Dr Pat O'Mahony; Chief Executive, Clinical Research Development Ireland Panellists: Avril Daly , Patient Representative, VP of EURORDIS and CEO Retina International Dr Fionnuala Keane ; Chief Operating Officer, Health Research Board Clinical Research Coordination Ireland, HRB CRCI Prof Owen Smith ; Professor of Paediatric & Adolescent Medicine, University College Dublin, Consultant Paediatric Haematologist at Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin and Chief Academic Lead, The Children's Hospital Group. Dr Anne Cody ; Head of Pre-Award, Health Research Board
12.50pm	Closing thoughts: Professor Brendan Buckley
13.00pm	Conference Close



Prof. Brendan Buckley has about 40 years' experience as a physician scientist. He was Chief Medical Officer of ICON plc from 2011 until his retirement in 2017. He has directed a number of very large outcomes trials in metabolic /cardiovascular disease and chaired independent data and safety monitoring boards for a number of large clinical development programmes, including for a number of orphan medicines. He is Honorary Clinical Professor at UCC and Adjunct Professor at UCD.

Brendan has been a board member of Breakthrough Cancer Research since 2011 and has recently taken up the position of Chairperson of Fighting Blindness.



Dr Anne Cody has a background in cell biology and spent ten years as a researcher in Germany and Ireland. She has been working with the Health Research Board in a variety of roles over the last 16 years, mostly focussing on clinical and applied biomedical research. In her current role as Head of Pre Award, she works on the scoping and delivery of new funding initiatives implementing the HRB strategy, the update of existing schemes and making sure that the review processes used are good practice and appropriate to the scheme. Funding instruments range from projects and programmes over career development awards to infrastructure. She has taken the lead in the development of the HRB's approach to Public and Patient Involvement (PPI).



Avril Daly was elected to the EURORDIS Board of Directors in 2009, and has been Vice-President of EURORDIS since 2012.

She is CEO of Retina International the global patient-led umbrella group dedicated to the promotion of research into Age-related and inherited retinal dystrophies. Retina International develops consensus driven policies that affect patients living with retinal disease at a supra national level and fosters co-operation among the medical and scientific communities with the objective to expedite the development of and access to treatments.

Avril was the chairperson of Rare Diseases Ireland (previously known as the Genetic and Rare Disorders Organisation, GRDO), from 2008 to 2019 and in 2011 was appointed to the steering committee working towards the development of the Irish National Plan for Rare Diseases, published in 2014. She represents patients living with rare diseases on the Rare Disease Clinical Programme.



Prof. Joe Eustace is the Director of the HRB Clinical Research Facility at UCC (CRF-C), Chairperson of the HRB CRCI Senior Management Team and Professor of Patient Focused Research at UCC. The CRF-C facility is co-funded by the University and by the Health Research Board and supports the design, conduct and analysis of Patient Focused Research throughout UCC and its affiliated Medical Centres. He is also a Consultant Renal Physician at Cork University Hospital.

His research has been funded by the NIH (NIDDK), NKF, the HRB and EI is focused on the methodological issues in Clinical Trial design, nutritional management of Chronic Kidney Disease and investigations into bone and vascular health in renal transplant recipients. He has authored or co-authored over 80 peer reviewed papers and is a co-applicant on the HRB Trials Methodology Research Network.



Dr Fionnuala Keane graduated in 1994 with a B.Sc. Honours in Biochemistry and in 1999 with a PhD in Biochemistry from the National University of Ireland Galway. From Oct 1999 to Feb 2001 Fionnuala worked as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in molecular biology and neurochemistry at the Department of Biochemistry, UCD. She joined Novartis Ireland Ltd in Feb 2001 and worked there as a Central Nervous System Hospital Specialist with the sales and marketing team until June 2003. At this point Fionnuala joined ICORG, the All Ireland Co-operative Oncology Research Group and she remained in ICORG from July 2003 to May 2014.

Fionnuala was appointed to the role of Development Lead for the HRB CRCI in May 2014. In May 2015 Fionnuala was appointed to the role of Chief Operating Officer for the HRB CRCI.



Prof. Pat O'Mahony is the Chief Executive Officer of Clinical Research Development Ireland (CRDI). Up to December 2016, Pat was Deputy Secretary General and Head of Governance and Performance at the Department of Health, prior to which Pat was Chief Executive of the Health Products Regulatory Authority from 2002 to 2015. Having spent a number of years in private clinical practice and as technical manager in the pharmaceutical industry in Ireland and the UK, Pat worked in public health and was Director of Consumer Protection at the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. Pat has served on a variety of public and private sector boards including the European Medicines Agency (EMA), where he served as Chairman from 2007 to 2011, the Food Safety Authority of Ireland, the National Patient Safety Advisory Group and was vice Chair of the International Coalition of Medicines Regulatory Authorities. Pat is a Chartered Director of the Institute of Directors.

In October 2018 Pat was appointed Chair of the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA). Pat also serves as Chair of the Board of the Irish Medicines Verification Organisation (IMVO) from June 2017 and provides strategic management consultancy to selected clients.



Dr Ana Terrés joined the Health Service Executive as Assistant National Director and Head of Research and Development in November 2017, bringing decades of experience in research, research administration, management, governance and strategic development to the health service. Prior to her move to the HSE she was Director of Research at Dublin City University, where she played a key role in the development and implementation of the university research strategy and the re-structuring of research support services.

Ana graduated with a BSc in Biological Sciences from the University Complutense of Madrid (Spain), and received an MSc and a PhD from the same university. She subsequently received an EU Marie Curie fellowship to carry out biomedical research in Ireland at Trinity College Dublin, Department of Clinical Medicine, St. James Hospital.



Prof. Owen Patrick Smith of Paediatric and Adolescent Medicine at University College Dublin, Consultant Paediatric Haematologist at Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin, Dublin is Chief Academic Lead to the Children's Hospital Group. Professor Smith is a principal investigator at the National Children's Research Centre, Crumlin, and Systems Biology Ireland/Conway Institute, University College Dublin. One of Professor Smith's major contributions to Irish medicine has been through the promotion of clinical research as evidenced by; a significant expansion of clinical paediatric scholarship with excellent research outputs, a strengthening of national and international academic collaborations, and the nurturing, education, and career development of the present generation of Irish consultant paediatric haematologists.