

Opening Address

Irish Health Research Forum
4th November 2014

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Department of Health**

Introduction

- Very pleased to address the first meeting of the Irish Health Research Forum
- Department of Health welcomes the contribution the Forum can make to the health research agenda

Importance of Health Research

- It is a key factor in promoting the health of the population, combating disease, reducing disability and improving the quality of care.
- It is fundamental to the effective and efficient delivery of health services bringing to bear learning from international best practice and appropriate evaluation techniques and application.
- It also plays an important role in the knowledge economy, contributing to Ireland's international competitiveness and economic growth.

Research Policy Developments

- Health Research Group 2007

Purpose:

- advise IDC for SSTI
- Strategic priorities
- Greater coherence

- Health Research Action Plan 2009-2013

Research Policy Developments (continued)

- Prioritisation Action Group (PAG) established by Government in 2012

Purpose: Implement report of the Steering Group on Research Prioritisation

Current Developments in Research

- Actions outlined in Action Plan for Health Research being progressed
- Horizon 2020
 - High Level Group
 - Strategic Research Proposals Group
- New SSTI Strategy
 - First meeting in November

Challenges Ahead

- Continue Research to improve health outcomes/patient care
- Research for policy e.g.
 - health reform programme
 - ageing population
 - chronic disease management
- Clarity re. priorities/stronger engagement with HSE

HRB Strategic Review

- International panel of experts reviewing HRB's current strategic business plan
- Meeting with Minister and Management Team in DOH
- Hope people will take opportunity to feed into the process – links with objectives of the IHRF to influence health research in Ireland

Public involvement in Health Research

- HRB promotes the active involvement of members of the public in the research it funds
- Next round of HRB calls will ask applicants to describe public involvement in their research
- Also recognise nature and extent of active public involvement is likely to vary
- HRB uses the INVOLVE UK definition of the term 'public' includes
 - patients,
 - potential patients,
 - carers and
 - people who use health and social care services as well as people from organisations that represent people who use services.

Consultation with Children

- Research and data strategy on Children's Lives
 - Consultation with Children and Young Peoples' Forum of the office of the Minister for Children (2008)
- National Set of Child Wellbeing Indicators (2005)
 - Developed by (National Children's Office) in consultation with policy makers, service providers, academics, parents and children themselves
 - Included a study on children's understanding of wellbeing
 - Delphi Technique – panel of expertise agreed indicators for use in Irish context

Conclusion

- Looking forward to hearing the remaining presentations today
...and about the work of the IHRF in the future
- Collaborative approach required to address the health challenges ahead
- Thank you for your attention