

# Annual Report



# 2020

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Research.  
Evidence.  
Action.

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# The HRB's key initiatives in response to the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020



## March

- Facilitated a smooth transition to remote working by ensuring excellence in information and communications technology (ICT) and facilities
- Collaborated with the Irish Research Council (IRC) and Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) to co-fund a national COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme
- Committed to data sharing in public health emergencies – a development expedited by COVID-19
- Began delivering evidence products to inform policy and practice
- Supported and funded Ireland's participation in the REMAP-CAP response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Optimised HRB Open Research

## April

- Established a temporary National Research Ethics Committee for COVID-19 research
- Supported the Health Research Consent Declaration Committee's COVID-19 activity

## May

- Supported iHealthFacts, a new website to help people make well-informed health choices, particularly in relation to COVID-19

## August

- Began collaborating with the Department of Health and the Central Statistics Office to create safe access to COVID-19 data for research

## June

- Supported Ireland's participation in Solidarity, the international clinical trial to help find an effective treatment for COVID-19, launched by the World Health Organization and partners

## September

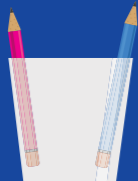
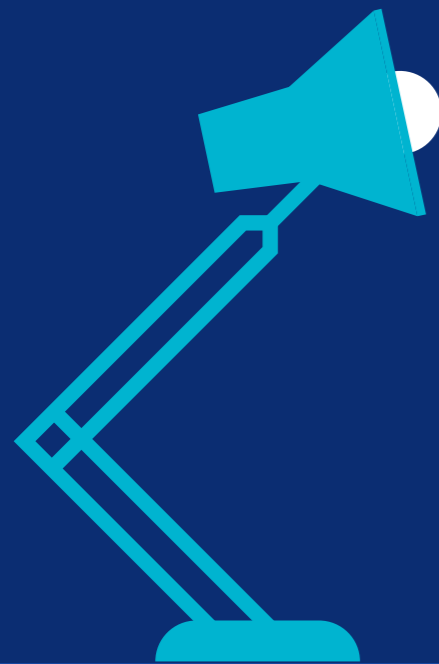
- Co-funded the REMAP-CAP trial, which showed that a common steroid improves recovery and survival for critically ill COVID-19 patients

## November

- Recorded further success for the REMAP-CAP trial, after it was shown that a new treatment using an arthritis drug, tocilizumab, proved effective for the sickest COVID-19 patients

## December

- Funded 14 additional projects jointly with the IRC under the COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme
- Launched a funding call to establish a National COVID-19 Biobank



**€66.9m**  
awarded (including  
€27.8 million co-funding)

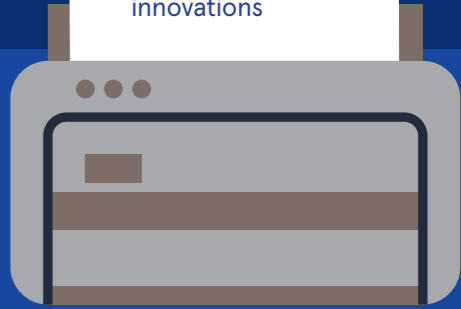
**5**  
evidence reviews  
produced for the  
Department of Health



 **125**  
awards across 17  
host institutions and  
research-performing  
organisations

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**5** patents,  
**2** spinouts and  
**1** licence agreement  
for HRB-supported  
innovations



**11,265**  
patients contributing to  
clinical trials at the three  
HRB Clinical Research  
Facilities (CRFs),  
including 4,108 patients  
participating in active  
clinical trials




**68,484**  
live records stored  
securely on LINK

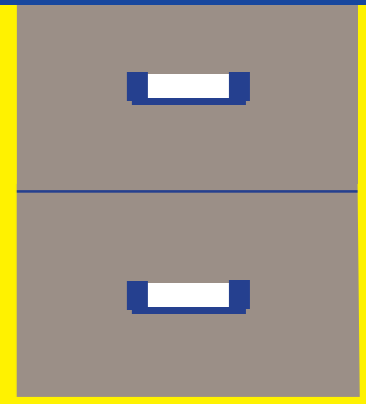


**2,159**  
active users on LINK  
online data system

**3,662**  
patients participating  
in clinical studies  
being run through 21  
Definitive Interventions  
and Feasibility  
Awards (DIFA)

  
**€8.2m**  
leveraged from Horizon 2020 for 20  
health-related projects and a further  
€4 million leveraged from two Horizon  
2020 COVID-19 Rapid Response calls,  
supporting 11 successful projects

**421**  
clinical trials underway  
at the three HRB CRFs.  
244 of these clinical  
trials are active trials

**1,511**  
cancer patients participating in  
182 Cancer Trials Ireland active  
clinical trials



**217**  
research jobs  
supported

# Chair and Chief Executive's Report



**Dr Mairéad O'Driscoll**  
Chief Executive



**Professor Jane Grimson**  
Chairperson

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 was a year like no other for health research. From identifying the novel coronavirus to developing vaccines in record time, the health research community played an essential role in tackling the crisis. Furthermore, the pandemic illustrated powerfully how the well-being of society and the economy depends on the quality of health research.

Because of this, the HRB's role as Ireland's lead agency for health research was even more important in 2020, as reflected in our huge contribution to the national efforts to combat COVID-19. This included funding and enabling clinical trials to evaluate treatments, supporting research into medical, social and policy countermeasures, and providing evidence reviews to inform policy.

In line with the HRB Strategic Plan (2016–2020), *Research. Evidence. Action.*, our usual work programme continued quietly, but no less successfully. For example, this included providing quality data and evidence to inform policy and practice in areas such as e-cigarettes; leading the way in open research and public and patient involvement in research; and continuing to support the development of strong, patient-focused clinical research infrastructure. Meanwhile, we purposefully

continued forging alliances with European and international partners, providing a voice for Irish researchers, and helping our research community compete for European Union (EU) and international funding.

Reflecting on this challenging year, what stood out most was our people, who adapted to the 'new normal' with tireless agility, resilience and resourcefulness. Sincere thanks to everyone for this, and to our Board, whose governance remained as skilled and steady as ever.

## Health research delivery and impact

Key initiatives delivered during 2020 included:

- Supporting COVID-19 research through rapid response research projects, clinical trials and accessible trials metadata, rapid and systematic reviews, and World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines, contributing to tackling misinformation through iHealthFacts, and launching National COVID-19 Biobank and Central Statistics Office (CSO) COVID-19 Data Research Hub calls
- Establishing a National Research Ethics Committee COVID-19 (NREC COVID-19) to facilitate expedited reviews of COVID-19 research projects, and supporting the Health Research Consent Declaration Committee (HRCDC) to ensure optimal coordination and streamlined responses in support of the NREC COVID-19 and requests for access to the CSO COVID-19 Data Research Hub

# €39.1m

to support 125 awards  
across 17 host institutions  
and research-performing  
organisations

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- Continuing to build on investment in clinical trials by providing funding for the conduct and evaluation of healthcare intervention studies and to support clinical research coordination nationally, as well as planning investment of €20 million from 2022 to 2027 in clinical research facilities (CRFs) on the campuses of university hospitals across Ireland, and launching calls for new clinical trials networks (including cancer trials)
- Supporting researchers across the HRB Careers Framework through funding for emerging clinical and academic researchers and research leaders, and through postgraduate training for academic and health and social care professionals through the Structured Population and Health-services Research Education (SPHeRE) Phase II programme, Collaborative Doctoral Awards, and the Irish Clinical Academic Training programme (co-funded by Wellcome)
- Driving public and patient involvement (PPI) in HRB peer review, and co-funding a National PPI Network with the Irish Research Council (IRC) to consolidate national capacity for PPI in health research and increase the number of health researchers who are involving patients/members of the public in their research
- Continuing to lead the way on Open Science through HRB Open Research, mandating HRB-funded researchers to develop data management plans (DMPs), working with F1000 and the UK's Digital Data Curation Centre to enable online management of DMPs, and training data stewards in universities to assist in the development of DMPs
- Supporting the management and control of infectious diseases via an international evidence review, highlighting the importance of cross-boundary cooperation in response to major disease outbreaks and how quarantine should be accompanied by financial support to ensure compliance, as well as informing Ireland's response to COVID-19
- Informing Department of Health policy on e-cigarettes and supporting the Health Service Executive (HSE) clinical guidelines, particularly those underpinning new legislation to ban the sale of e-cigarettes to people aged under 18 years, based on a finding that e-cigarettes are associated with adolescents starting to smoke tobacco cigarettes
- Increasing our understanding of drug addiction and ageing by examining trends in drug and alcohol treatment data held within the HRB National Health Information Systems, highlighting how useful routinely collected data can be for examining questions that are important for health policy and practice
- Continuing to inform policy-makers and practitioners in the area of drugs and alcohol during the pandemic, ensuring that drug-related publications published in Ireland in 2020 were made available in the electronic public library, and developing a special repository for COVID-19 research, information and guidelines related to the same area.

Through our funding mechanisms, the HRB:

- Invested €39.1 million in supporting 125 research awards across 17 host institutions and research-performing organisations
- Leveraged €27.9 million from other national and international funders for 55 awards worth a total of €36.2 million
- Supported 217 research jobs
- Helped Irish researchers leverage over €12 million from Horizon 2020
- Supported the recruitment of more than 11,265 patients in 421 clinical trials and studies underway at HRB CRFs
- Enabled more than 1,511 cancer patients to enrol in 182 Cancer Trials Ireland active clinical trials
- Enabled enrolment to date of 3,662 participants in Principal Investigator-led trials through 21 active Definitive Interventions and Feasibility Awards (DIFAs).

More detail on these as well as other examples and case studies demonstrating what was achieved in 2020 are included throughout this report.

## **Working in collaboration**

Collaboration and partnership was a strong theme throughout 2020, particularly as the research community came together to tackle COVID-19. In addition to funding research projects under a national COVID-19 rapid response call by the research and enterprise funding agencies, we worked with a range of regulators, researchers, and health professionals to support clinical trials in hospitals and intensive care units throughout Ireland.

2020 also marked the 10th HRB-Health Research Charities Ireland (HRCI, formerly MRCG) Joint Funding Scheme to support research of particular interest to specific patient groups, and we continued to work in partnership with the Road Safety Authority (RSA), the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management, and the National Office for Suicide Prevention to collect data to inform decision-making in these important areas.

Our first online conference was also a collaboration. We were proud to partner with the HRB-Trials Methodology Research Network, Evidence Synthesis Ireland and Cochrane Ireland to investigate the concept of trust and truth in health research. From understanding misinformation and disinformation, to assessing the credibility of health claims, the conference generated much online conversation and attracted almost 400 delegates from more than 25 countries.



## Branching out


In March, we established the National Office for Research Ethics Committees in partnership with the Department of Health. This important addition to Ireland's research infrastructure will fulfil a new, independent role in the regulation of health research in Ireland. The National Office for Research Ethics Committees team operationalised Ireland's first National Research Ethics Committee (NREC) as part of the national coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which enabled a 'single national opinion' following an expedited and robust ethics review process for COVID-19 health research. The NREC COVID-19 returned 93 decisions over a four-month period.

In March, we also began collaborating with the Department of Health and the Central Statistics Office (CSO) to develop safe and secure access to the CSO COVID-19 Data Research Hub for valid health research purposes. Central to this is the Research Data Governance Board (RDGB), an independent body acting as a central point for data access requests. The RDGB Secretariat will be provided by the Health Research Board (HRB) to support the RDGB in all aspects of its work. The process will be fully operational in 2021, and will help advance our understanding of COVID-19 for the benefit of people's health and patient care, as well as to inform and shape healthcare policy and planning.

## Moving forward

Our success in delivering the HRB Strategic Plan (2016–2020) *Research. Evidence. Action.* has laid strong foundations for the HRB Strategy 2021–2025: *Health research – making an impact*, which was developed during 2020 following extensive stakeholder consultation.

This new strategy is an ambitious programme of work that will shape the future of health research in Ireland. It sets out how we will advance health research, data and evidence to benefit Ireland's people, society, and economy. We look forward to working with our large network of partners to ensure that research and evidence are translated into important breakthroughs that improve people's health, deliver new treatments, and inform health policy and practice.



**Dr Mairéad O'Driscoll**  
Chief Executive



**Professor Jane Grimson**  
Chairperson

## Snapshot of HRB activities during 2020

### BT Young Scientist

Congratulations to Ben Loughnane from Kinsale, who won both the HRB Special Prize and came first place in the Social and Behavioural Sciences Category Intermediate Awards at the 2020 BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition. Ben's project looked at a new way to better estimate your risk of heart attack.



### HRB Conference 2020

The HRB's first online conference was collaborative and focused on trust and truth in health research. From understanding misinformation and disinformation to assessing the credibility of health claims, the conference generated much online conversation and attracted almost 400 delegates from more than 25 countries.



### Horizon 2020 success

In 2020, Ireland secured

# €8.2m

in Horizon 2020 funds and a further €4 million for COVID-19-related projects through Horizon 2020 Rapid Response calls. The programme concluded at the end of 2020, and over its seven-year duration, Irish researchers were awarded €84.7 million, exceeding the target of €80 million set in 2014; in addition, they participated in 111 projects, 14 of which they led.



### Research with impact

A new edition of *Health Research in Action* showcased some of the many great discoveries and outcomes that the HRB produced, delivered and supported across various health sectors in Ireland.



## Early life – how does it impact on ageing and health?

A HRB co-funded project between the United States of America (USA), Ireland and Northern Ireland began exploring how experiences in early life, such as childhood poverty and marital break-up, impact on ageing and health.



#



## The HRB announced Dr Mairéad O'Driscoll as its new Chief Executive.

Dr O'Driscoll welcomed her new role, saying: "I look forward to working with our research community in academic institutions and across health and social care in Ireland to deliver our new strategy, which will generate health benefits in Ireland and internationally."

## New 'Vaccines Save Lives' video campaign

Spearheaded by Dr Rachel McLoughlin, Professor of Immunology, Trinity College Dublin (TCD), the series of 'Vaccines Save Lives' videos funded by the HRB educates parents on the importance of vaccinating their children, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.



€3.7m

## invested in 12 health research fellowships

Health data and biomarkers for the early detection of dementia are just some of the 12 health research fellowship project focus areas where the HRB invested €3.7 million in 2020.

Dr Annalisa Montesanti, Programme Manager, HRB, said:

"These health research fellowships form part of the structured award portfolio that the HRB has created. When combined, the suite of awards offers a very clear career pathway that develops and supports health researchers at every stage in their careers."



## Continued lead in public and patient involvement (PPI) in research

We began integrating public reviews into our funding decisions, marking another HRB first.

Dr Anne Cody, Head of Pre-Award, HRB, said:

“From now on, integrating public reviews into panel decision-making will be the norm for calls that undergo public review, and this step is in line with our published plans to strengthen PPI input into HRB decision-making processes.”



# 10,664

Total number of cases treated for  
**PROBLEM DRUG USE**

39%  
OPIODS

24%  
COCAINE

24%  
CANNABIS

10%  
BENZODIAZEPINES



## HRB figures show rising cocaine use

HRB drug treatment figures show that cases presenting for cocaine treatment in Ireland continued rising between 2018 and 2019, with cocaine overtaking cannabis as the second most common drug people enter treatment for.

## Fulbright-HRB Health Impact Awards

The Fulbright-HRB Health Impact Awards forge connections with top US institutions. During 2020, the HRB funded three awards for investigators from backgrounds as diverse as physiotherapy, nursing and endodontics.

## Participation in major international alcohol policy conference

HRB researchers presented on several important topics at the Global Alcohol Policy Conference (four posters and one paper). These topics included the impact of alcohol on drowning deaths in Ireland, the tactics used by the alcohol industry to influence policy in Ireland, and the distribution of alcohol-related harm in Ireland.



## New National Research Ethics Committee (NREC) for COVID-19 research

Ireland's coordinated research response to the COVID-19 pandemic was supported by the ministerially appointed Office for National Research Ethics Committees, which was established in 2020 and is located in the HRB offices in Dublin.

Dr Jennifer Ralph James, Head of the Office of National Research Ethics Committees, said:

"Supporting the NREC COVID-19 team in their work was an essential first order of business for the new Office of National Research Ethics Committees, and it is a testament to our ambition to enable a single national opinion for ethics in areas of national importance."



## Maximising transparency in research

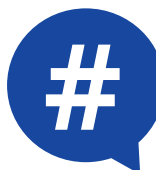
To increase the transparency of our grant applications process, we created two short animations that bring researchers through the journey from the moment they press 'submit' to when they receive their outcome letters. The animations are available on the [HRB YouTube channel](#).

What happens after submitting an application to the HRB?

# €7.5m

## to support new health research leaders

We invested €7.5 million in supporting five new health research leaders. They will deliver evidence to inform policy and practice across a broad range of areas, including the roll-out of Sláintecare, a reduction in infections and the use of antibiotics, and better psychosocial supports for young people with severe mental health challenges.



€5m

### to advance careers of emerging clinician scientists

The HRB invested €5 million to support five emerging clinician scientists to advance knowledge in their areas and translate their findings into practice, as well as establish themselves as independent investigators, become mentors, and develop a team-based and collaborative approach to research.



#



### Drugs and ageing

A PhD by Dr Anne Marie Carew, Research Officer, HRB National Health Information Systems (pictured), using our datasets on drug and alcohol use in Ireland, highlighted the complexities of ageing and drug addiction, and how useful routinely collected data are for informing policy and practice.

### New HRB evidence informs Government policy position on e-cigarettes

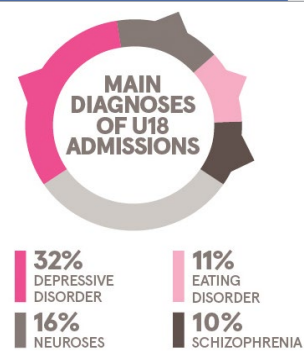
The HRB's evidence review on e-cigarette use found that e-cigarettes are associated with adolescents starting to smoke tobacco cigarettes, which could potentially lead to serious harm. Adolescents who had never smoked an e-cigarette were between three and five times more likely to start smoking compared to those who never smoked e-cigarettes. The findings will inform policy on e-cigarettes, particularly in relation to harm reduction.



#

### Increase in psychiatric in-patient admissions of people under 18 years of age

HRB figures show that psychiatric in-patient admissions of people under 18 years of age rose from 408 in 2018 to 497 in 2019. Depression remained the most common diagnosis among children, followed by neuroses, eating disorders, and schizophrenia, with seven in ten admissions under 18 years old being female.

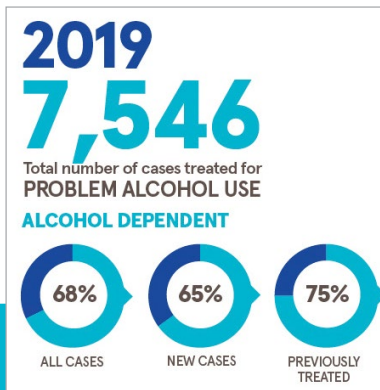


## Success for the HRB-supported REMAP-CAP COVID-19 trial

A global study involving more than 200 intensive care units found that intravenous hydrocortisone improves recovery and survival for critically ill COVID-19 patients. The HRB co-funded the Irish arm of this trial, led by Professor Alistair Nichol (pictured), St Vincent's University Hospital and University College Dublin.

Dr Mairead O'Driscoll, Chief Executive, HRB, said:

"This rapid response trial was possible because of our long-term investment in clinical research infrastructure across Ireland. By having this in place, we can help deliver timely and relevant outcomes for patients with COVID-19."



## HRB reports continued demand for alcohol treatment

The HRB's annual bulletin from the National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS) on cases of treated problem alcohol use in Ireland, covering the period 2013 to 2019, reported that alcohol remains the most common drug that Irish people seek treatment for; that high levels of alcohol dependence already exist in people first seeking treatment; and that there was a significant rise in the number of alcohol cases also reporting cocaine abuse. By monitoring such trends, the HRB can provide evidence to inform more targeted approaches for alcohol treatment.



## Building better bones with biology

HRB-funded research at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland is using tissue engineering to encourage bone and cartilage repair. In addition, in collaboration with Children's Health Ireland at Temple Street, the research project has identified a biochemical factor in children's stem cells that speeds up bone repair.



# 1



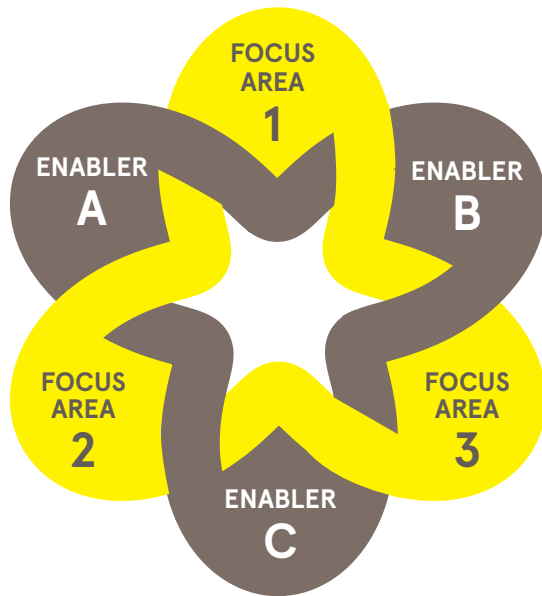
## **Key deliverables in line with HRB strategy 2016–2020**



The HRB Strategy 2016–2020 charts a clear course for what the organisation will do over that period.

This annual report highlights key achievements made during 2020 in line with the strategy objectives, and it showcases some examples of significant outcomes and successes.

Our three focus areas and enablers are complementary and interdependent, and we will pursue them simultaneously throughout the period of the strategy.



<b>FOCUS AREA 1</b>	<b>ENABLER A</b>
Address major health challenges	Support exceptional researchers and leaders
<b>FOCUS AREA 2</b>	<b>ENABLER B</b>
Support healthcare interventions	Build a strong enabling environment
<b>FOCUS AREA 3</b>	<b>ENABLER C</b>
Address the research needs of the Irish health and social care system	Enhance organisational performance

**Figure 1 Core elements of HRB strategy 2016–2020**

## Focus areas

As the lead national agency for health research in Ireland, we have a responsibility to invest in the future as well as to meet the needs of today’s health system. Great ideas are the basis for many advances in healthcare. We have defined the following three distinct but complementary areas of focus that we consider to be the most appropriate to lead the HRB and its community over the period from 2016 to 2020 and beyond:

- Address major health challenges
- Support healthcare interventions, and
- Address the research needs of the Irish health and social care system.

## Enabling themes

Progress in the three focus areas will be enabled and maximised by policies and actions that affect all three of these areas. This will be achieved by:

- Supporting the exceptional researchers and leaders we need to undertake high-quality health research and generate evidence
- Building a strong enabling environment for health research in Ireland and ensuring that we understand the outcomes and demonstrate the impacts of our investments
- Ensuring that our policies and governance are robust and founded on best practices.

# Focus area 1

## Address major health challenges

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### 2020 objectives:

- Support high-quality, investigator-led internationally competitive research
- Develop and implement co-funding opportunities with international agencies and institutions.

### Key items delivered in 2020

- In Focus area 1, we made 55 awards. Of these, 41 awards were co-funded with other Irish and international funding agencies, leveraging €22.5 million of the total €26.1 million awarded in this area. Details of the 55 awards are as follows:
  - > In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the HRB, in collaboration with the IRC, made 36 awards worth €5.5 million under a rapid response call for medical countermeasures, health service readiness, and social and policy countermeasures
  - > Funded five awards worth almost €17.1 million for tripartite collaboration under the US-Ireland Research and Development Partnership with SFI, Health and Social Care R&D Division (HSC R&D) Northern Ireland, and the US National Institutes of Health
  - > Funded 10 awards worth a total of €2.15 million (HRB contribution €1.45 million) under the 10th HRB-Health Research Charities Ireland (HRCI, formerly MRCG) Joint Funding Scheme
  - > Participated in five joint transnational calls in 2020 under the HRB strategy for engagement in European Union (EU) research. These included calls in the Joint Programme in Neurodegenerative Diseases (JPND), the EU Joint Programme in Rare Diseases (EJP RD), and the ERA-Net on Personalised Medicine (ERA PerMed)
  - > Invested in four awards worth €4.8 million, with the HRB contributing €1.3 million of this total. Three of these awards are focused on the prevention of obesity in children and the prevention of undernutrition in older adults, while the fourth is focused on developing novel neural stimulation methods in neurodegenerative diseases
- The HRB also worked to prepare four new transnational calls in cancer, health nutrition, antimicrobial resistance, and neuroscience research, which will open in 2021.

# 55

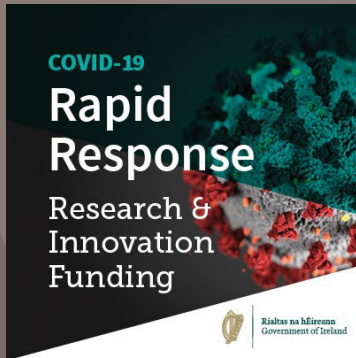
awards, worth  
€26.1m, were made  
in this focus area

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## Case Study 1:

### HRB supports COVID-19 Rapid Response call



When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Ireland, the HRB and the research community were keen to respond. One of the first actions by the HRB was a rapid response call co-funded by the IRC, and under a joint initiative with SFI and the enterprise agencies.

The call encompassed three strands: medical countermeasures, health service readiness, and societal and policy countermeasures. Following a high volume of Twitter activity, queries were received from potential applicants all over Ireland as well as from Argentina, the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, India, Iran, Portugal, Spain and the USA, as well as from many companies (which were signposted to the SFI call).

Despite the extremely tight deadlines, 165 applications were submitted, far more than originally expected. “It required a huge team effort from the whole Directorate to pull together a review process and contracting at this speed,” said Dr Anne

Cody, Head of Pre-Award, HRB. “Since nobody had this in their work programme and we were keen to keep our other calls as much on track as possible, a lot of staff chipped in, covering a few tasks each, ranging from building an application form to dealing with contract negotiations. With tight coordination, we were able to create a coherent result.” The first projects commenced on 11 May, only 6½ weeks after the call opened.

Thirty-six projects with a combined value of over €5.5 million were funded. They ranged from understanding the disease course and immune profile of COVID-19 in immunosuppressed patients, to informing the National Ambulance Service

response to COVID-19, to providing public health messaging and mental health supports.

**“The project findings informed decision-makers and contributed to the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic.”**

Some projects are highlighted in a specially dedicated [COVID-19 section on our website](#).

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## Case Study 2:

### Driving collaborative research on the international stage



Because it achieves the best value from investments in health research, the HRB has a longstanding commitment to international collaboration. By linking national funding programmes, it is possible to achieve a more efficient use of resources, as well as avoid fragmentation and duplication of efforts.

Speaking about international collaboration, Dr Patricia Clarke, Programme Manager, HRB said:

“High-quality, successful health research relies heavily on collaboration. Bringing together researchers from across the world and pooling expertise, data and resources means we can achieve a lot more together than alone. That’s what we want to achieve through international co-funding.”

In 2020, we built on our commitment to international collaboration by partnering with other funders across Europe and beyond in several applications under Horizon 2020. As a result, we are now partners in three significant international co-funding initiatives,

called ERA-NETS, to tackle brain-related diseases, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and translational cancer:

1. NEURON Cofund2 will drive translational research to improve our understanding of brain diseases and their progression, and will pave the way for better prevention, diagnosis and therapy. The HRB is one of 25 partners from 22 countries providing a joint investment of €27.7 million for research in this area.
2. JPIAMR-ACTION aims to advance our understanding of AMR, with 27 partners from 22 countries, including the HRB and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine,

investing a total of €26.9 million.

3. TRANSCAN-3 builds on a successful co-funding initiative to tackle translational cancer research. This funding will see the HRB and 28 partners from 19 countries invest €34.4 million as a catalyst for growth and implementation of translational cancer research.

According to Dr Clarke:

“In 2021, the HRB will run joint transnational calls with other partners in each of these three areas, thereby enabling Irish researchers to compete in collaborative calls and co-funding for successful Irish partners to address these global challenges.”

# Focus area 2

## Support healthcare interventions

### 2020 objectives:

- Support the design, conduct and evaluation of intervention studies
- Facilitate coordination, enabling mechanisms, and national and international collaborations that improve the volume, quality, relevance and impact of trials and intervention studies in Ireland.

### Key items delivered in 2020

- In Focus area 2, we made 24 awards worth a total of almost €14.7 million. Details as follows:
  - > Made 12 awards worth €7.55 million through the Definitive Interventions and Feasibility Awards (DIFA) scheme. Deadlines were revised due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. These awards are designed to boost academic-led clinical trials and interventions and to create a pipeline of research that can lead to full-scale interventions
  - > Awarded funding of €1.6 million for HRB Clinical Research Coordination Ireland 2020 core activities and outreach activities at seven HRB CRFs (three operational until the end of 2021, seven from the beginning of 2022). In addition, a call for a new National Clinical Trials Coordination Programme was launched
  - > Provided supplemental funding of €0.4 million for the HRB Critical Care Clinical Trials Network to support its participation in an international clinical trial in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
  - > Worked with the Department of Health and the HRB CRF at University College Cork (UCC) to support Irish participation in Solidarity, the international clinical trial to help find an effective treatment for COVID-19, launched by the WHO and partners. This was a randomised trial of additional treatments for COVID-19 in hospitalised patients who were all receiving the local standard of care
- > Provided transitional funding of €3.6 million for Cancer Trials Ireland for 2021, in order to allow time to development and launch of a new funding model for cancer trials in Ireland.
- Opened a new competitive call for Clinical Trials Networks to be awarded in 2021. Clinical Trials Networks enable the development and delivery of a high-quality portfolio of investigator-led trials with relevance to health and social care needs in Ireland
- Received Board approval to establish a Strategic Advisory Group to work with the HRB in the coming years to enhance strategic oversight of HRB clinical programmes and infrastructure investment
- Monitored the progress of 21 active DIFAs, with 3,662 participants enrolled on studies to date
- Enabled more than 1,511 cancer patients to enrol in 182 Cancer Trials Ireland active clinical trials
- Worked with the Department of Health to develop and launch a call to establish a National COVID-19 Biobank
- Supported the participation of 11,265 patients in 421 clinical trials at three HRB CRFs, including 4,108 patients participating in 244 active clinical trials.

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## Case Study 3:

### Public and patient involvement helps young people with type 1 diabetes



*The D1 Now team at The Patient Effect documentary premiere in November 2019. The YAP was one of the PPI groups featured in the documentary. L-R Rosah Mangan (YAP member), Dr Blathin Casey, Hannah Dunning (YAP member), Michelle Lowry (D1 Now Support Worker), Helen Burke (Advanced Nurse Practitioner), Cameron Keighron (YAP member), Professor Sean Dinneen (D1 Now PI) and Dr Eimear Morrissey (D1 Now Programme Manager).*

With the support of funding from the HRB's Definitive Interventions and Feasibility Awards (DIFA) 2017–2020 scheme, NUI Galway's D1 Now project has developed and piloted an intervention to support self-management and clinic attendance among young adults with type 1 diabetes (T1D), a complex chronic condition requiring intensive self-management. T1D is particularly challenging for this cohort, as they try to balance self-management with their life stage.

The initial objectives were to develop and refine the D1 Now intervention. In 2020, the team ran a pilot cluster randomised controlled trial (RCT) of the intervention in four hospitals in Dublin. Fifty-seven young

adults participated, and the primary aim was to investigate whether the D1 Now intervention is feasible and acceptable for young adults living with T1D, as well as for diabetes healthcare staff.

Also in 2020, a Study Within a Trial (SWAT) was conducted as part of the pilot RCT. The project's Young Adult Panel (YAP), who all live with T1D and are central to D1 Now, led its development. The YAP has 11 members who all act as PPI contributors, and the experience has been hugely positive for them. For example:

Ciara – YAP member since 2014 said:

"I joined in the hope of being able to help build

a better diabetes clinic experience for as many people as possible. Through the YAP, we can see the drive to help people. Being able to directly influence the research and help shape the intervention as a researcher is fantastic, but as a patient it is astronomical."

The experience for the investigating team was equally positive, and the project's principal investigator, Professor Sean Dinneen said:

"We could not have achieved the outputs from our D1 Now project without the voice and input of our YAP members. For me, this has been the most rewarding part of our entire research journey."

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## Case Study 4:

# HRB supports global efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic via a National Research Ethics Committee (NREC) for COVID-19



In 2020, the Minister for Health established a temporary National Research Ethics Committee (NREC) for COVID-19 to accelerate Irish research, support immediate, evidence-based decision-making, and contribute to global efforts to counter the pandemic. It was operationalised and supported by the National Office for Research Ethics Committees at the HRB.

According to Jennifer Ralph James, Head of the National Office for Research Ethics Committees:

“Hallmarks of the initiative were the expedited process, coordination with other health research bodies, namely the Health Research Consent Declaration Committee and the Health Products Regulatory Authority, and the Committee’s mandate to provide a ‘single national opinion’ – advantages not

afforded by the existing system of local research ethics committees.”

Importantly, the NREC COVID-19 was established to accelerate COVID-19 research while maintaining international best practice and standards, and its implementation was an exemplar of agile cross-organisational collaboration.”

Chaired by renowned infectious diseases expert and President of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, Professor Mary Horgan, the Committee comprised 19 members, covering a diverse range of expertise, skills and experience, including ‘non-expert’ and PPI representatives. From April to August 2020, it met 16 times, and returned decisions on 93 applications.

Demonstrating the value of the NREC COVID-19 over a relatively short period is the breadth of its impact in study type and location. Notably, approximately one-quarter of research studies approved involved international collaboration. Many important studies would otherwise have been unable to proceed, were it not for the NREC COVID-19.

In line with the commitment of both the National Office for Research Ethics Committees and the Committee to transparency, all meetings minutes were made publicly available online. Following the last meeting on 19 August 2020, a subcommittee of the Chair and Vice-Chairs continues to convene to meet the oversight and related responsibilities associated with the research approved by the Committee.

# Focus area 3

## Address the research needs of the Irish health and social care system

### 2020 objectives:

- Support research that addresses questions of national relevance for clinical and population health practice and for health services management, and translation of the research results into policy and/or practice
- Provide high-quality, timely and relevant data for policy, service planning and research through the HRB's National Health Information Systems (NHIS)
- Promote and support evidence synthesis and knowledge translation activities to help policy-makers, service planners and providers make evidence-based decisions.

### Key items delivered in 2020

- In Focus area 3, we made 12 awards worth €3 million. Eleven of these awards were co-funded, with health and social care partners leveraging €0.57 million. Details of the 12 awards are as follows:
  - > Invested €1.3 million in our Applied Partnership Awards scheme. A total of six awards were made in 2020, with co-funding of €0.21 million provided by healthcare organisations
  - > Ran a COVID-19-specific call, with four awards under the Research Collaborative in Quality and Patient Safety Awards Scheme (RCQPS) at a total cost of €0.5 million (€0.25 million cost to the HRB). This scheme is run jointly with the Health Service Executive (HSE) and the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI)

- > Renewed funding worth €0.21 million up to 2023 to the AllHPC Palliative Care Research Network for an additional two 0.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) posts over three years, in collaboration with the HSC R&D Division, Northern Ireland
- > Awarded Phase 2 funding of €1 million for the Framework for Safe Nurse Staffing and Skill Mix to expand its pilot sites into new healthcare settings, following a successful review of progress in Phase 1.
- Provided supplementary funding for a Collaborative Emergency Evidence Response programme, through Evidence Synthesis Ireland and the HRB-Trials Methodology Research Network (TMRN), to support generation, updating and knowledge translation of COVID-19-related evidence briefs, rapid reviews and systematic reviews, and WHO guidelines
- Contributed to the tackling of misinformation on COVID-19 through support for the establishment of iHealthFacts, a website where the public can find credible information on all aspects of COVID-19
- Provided supplemental funding to the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) and the intellectual disability supplement to TILDA (IDS-TILDA) to enable COVID-19-specific and policy-relevant research outputs



# 12

## awards worth €3m made in Focus area 3.

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- Published five evidence reviews and completed four evidence briefs. The HRB also completed four rapid evidence briefs and one evidence search on COVID-19-related issues
- Published four issues of *Drugnet Ireland*
- Published four peer-reviewed journal articles based on HRB Evidence Centre work in 2020
- Completed Ireland's contractual requirements for the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)
- The librarians at the HRB National Drugs Library updated eight fact sheets on the drugs situation in Ireland, covering alcohol, cigarette smoking, cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy, opiates, sedatives, and drug use among young people. They ensured that drug-related publications published in Ireland in 2020 were made available in the electronic public library. In February, the librarians developed a special repository for COVID-19 research, information and guidelines related to alcohol and other drugs to inform policy-makers and practitioners working in this area. They also contributed significantly to the evidence brief, *Impact of COVID-19 on drug services in four countries*, for the Department of Health. The HRB National Drugs Library website had 142,052 user sessions during 2020, and 3,273 profile visits to its Twitter feed
- Published four HRB NHIS national reports and bulletins
- Generated four infographics, and produced 45 quarterly performance indicator reports to provide clear and concise information to help policy-makers and service planners make informed decisions about service planning in the area of drugs, alcohol and disability
- Completed and submitted 11 peer-reviewed journal articles based on NHIS data. Six articles were published in 2020
- Collected data on behalf of the Road Safety Authority (RSA), the National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management, and the National Office for Suicide Prevention.

## Completed Ireland's contractual requirements for the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)

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## Case Study 5:

### HRB information specialists – adapting practice during a pandemic



Information professionals work extensively to facilitate and promote evidence-based information. The fast-changing, information-overloaded environment of the COVID-19 crisis highlights how necessary and urgent this work is. Here, the six HRB Evidence Centre information specialists provide examples of their work in 2020.

- We continued to be key contributors to evidence reviews, and supported the national response to COVID-19 with literature searches for the Department of Health
  - Through a cross-centre project, we produced a special evidence brief for the Drugs Policy Unit in the Department of Health on the impact of COVID-19 on drug services
  - The HRB National Drugs Library information specialists maintained open access to our online repository, [www.drugsandalcohol.ie/](http://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/). Early in 2020 we created a COVID-19 web resource, providing a special collection of drugs, alcohol and tobacco publications, which continues to grow
  - A move to virtual sessions with students of addiction-related courses allowed us to connect with classes nationwide
  - We created LibGuides webpages, cataloguing quality resources for use within the HRB
  - We collaborated with health librarians from other organisations such as the HSE to create an evidence summary service to assist healthcare professionals stay up to date with COVID-19 research
  - As members of the Health Sciences Libraries Group Committee, we helped lead initiatives to support the professional development of health librarians in Ireland.
- “Relevant organisational policies and procedures ensured effective communication, access to a secure server, and the provision of necessary equipment,” said Mary Dunne, Information Specialist, HRB National Drugs Library.
- “Feeling supported and well informed by management, who recognise the various circumstances we face when balancing personal and professional commitments, enabled us to continue working seamlessly. The situation also revealed our dedication to fulfilling our roles as information professionals.
- 2020 created opportunities to demonstrate the value of our skills and contributions to essential policy and practice. It is hard to envisage the future, but whatever we face, we will adapt and rise to the challenge,” Mary Dunne added.

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## Case Study 6:

### Use of HRB systematic reviews for policy in 2020



In 2020, the HRB Evidence Centre published four evidence reviews covering public health (one on infectious diseases and three on e-cigarettes).

The infectious diseases review aimed to identify countries that had implemented overarching public health legislation to manage and control infectious diseases following the WHO International Health Regulations core capacities, and lessons learned through national experiences.

Dr Jean Long, Head of Unit, HRB Evidence Centre, said:

“Our findings show that a variety of implementation strategies were used, although the unifying element of the WHO International Health Regulations core capacities guided all new legislation. Lessons learned include the importance of cross-boundary cooperation in response to major disease outbreaks. The findings were an early input to inform Ireland’s response to COVID-19.”

Three other evidence reviews helped inform the Department of Health’s policy position on e-cigarettes and supported the HSE’s clinical guidelines on smoking cessation. The main findings were as follows:

1. E-cigarettes are associated with adolescents starting to smoke tobacco cigarettes, potentially leading to serious harm. Adolescents who had never smoked an e-cigarette were between three and five times more likely to start smoking compared to those who never smoked e-cigarettes.
2. E-cigarettes are not more effective than approved and regulated nicotine replacement therapies to help people stop smoking.

3. There are acute health effects of e-cigarettes, including poisonings, burns, and lung injuries. Moreover, some chemicals in e-cigarettes are thought to cause tissue and cell damage, and some may cause cancer in the long term.

Commenting on the e-cigarettes reviews, Frank Feighan, Minister of State with responsibility for Public Health, Well Being and the National Drugs Strategy, said:

“One of the best things we can do for the health of our children is to let them grow up in a smoke-free world ... We are also banning the sale of e-cigarettes to children.”

# Enabler A

## Support exceptional researchers and leaders

# €14.8m

Made 84 awards worth €14.8m under Enabler A

### 2020 objectives:

- Attract the best people to health research by supporting excellent PhD training programmes
- Provide opportunities for career development for postdoctoral researchers and emerging investigators. Work with higher education institutions (HEIs), Hospital Groups, and the HSE to identify, develop, and support leaders in health research
- Work with national and international partners to facilitate training and exchange opportunities that address skills gaps.

### Key items delivered in 2020

- Under Enabler A, we made 84 awards worth €14.8 million. Details as follows:
  - > Awarded 57 Summer Student Scholarships, worth a total of €0.13 million
  - > Made 12 awards under our Postdoctoral Fellowships scheme, with a combined value of €3.7 million: seven for the Postdoctoral Fellowships – Applying Research into Policy and Practice; and awards for the Clinician Scientist Postdoctoral Fellowships
  - > Supported five awards, to the value of €5 million, for the HRB Emerging Clinician Scientist Awards for health practitioners transitioning towards research independence
  - > Made five Research Leader Awards, to the value of €5.7 million, to promote ‘actionable knowledge’ in research areas of strategic relevance to health policy, health delivery and/or clinical practice in Ireland
- > Through the Fulbright–HRB Health Impact Awards, provided an opportunity for three Irish health researchers to take placements of three to six months to develop collaborations with US colleagues. The total funding was €0.3 million
- > In collaboration with the College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland, we supported intake of a PhD cohort to the Irish Clinical Specialty Fund, through the HRB/ Wellcome Trust, to the value of €1 million
- > Provided supplemental funding of €0.345 million for 2021 for the Structured Population and Health–services Research Education (SPHeRE) Phase II programme, to facilitate development of a new call in 2021.
- Opened a new call for the Collaborative Doctoral Awards in Patient–focused Research scheme for thematic cohorts integrating health and social care professionals with academic health researchers. Awards will be made in 2021
- Through the HRB Irish Clinical Academic Training (ICAT) Programme (established with Wellcome), we recruited the fourth cohort of new doctors to participate in a PhD training programme for clinicians
- Completed successful interim reviews of the Structured Population and Health–services Research Education (SPHeRE) Phase II programme and also of the 11 Emerging Investigator Awards made in 2017
- Prepared a successful co–funded application with the IRC for a Marie Curie postdoctoral training programme in public health emergencies.

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## Case Study 7:

### HRB-funded translational research improves the lives of people with diabetes



The HRB is committed to health research that translates into policy and practice. In 2020, our funding of Dr Sheena McHugh furthered this commitment with the successful piloting of an intervention for people with diabetes.

Dr McHugh (pictured), who is a lecturer and health services researcher in the School of Public Health at UCC, is a 2015 recipient of a HRB DIFA for her research on Improving Diabetes Eye-screening Attendance (IDEAs). Initially supported by a Fulbright-HRB Health Impact Award, Dr McHugh spent several months working with Dr Byron Powell, a leader in implementation science at UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina.

Dr McHugh returned home with expertise in implementation science (the scientific study of how effective, evidence-based interventions can be implemented in routine healthcare to make a difference to people's lives), and since then, she and her

team have been exploring how to help people with diabetes overcome barriers to attending regular eye screening, with the aim of increasing the number who take part.

**“Studies have shown that there can be practical and psychological barriers to people not attending,” said Dr McHugh. “This might be because the appointment is at an inconvenient time or location. People might also fear what the screening could find.”**

The intervention was delivered at eight general practices across Ireland

and involved staff checking patient records on eye screening attendance, and sending reminders to those who had not attended and providing information leaflets about eye screening.

Following evaluation and analysis of the pilot intervention, Dr McHugh and her team found that the IDEAs intervention was feasible to deliver in a primary care setting and was acceptable to both health professionals and people with diabetes. The trial results indicated a positive impact on eye screening uptake, and a follow-on definitive trial will determine whether the refined intervention improves uptake and is cost-effective.

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## Case Study 8:

### HRB embeds DORA principles into grant review process



Published in 2012 and signed by the HRB in 2017, the Declaration of Research Assessment (DORA) is a global initiative targeted at research funders, publishers, research institutes and researchers, with a vision to advance practical and robust approaches to research assessment globally and across all scholarly disciplines.

DORA's principles align neatly with many of our own, particularly regarding our research career frameworks and championing of open research. In 2020, that alignment grew as we placed an emphasis on integrating the DORA principles into our grant review process in three key ways:

1. Restructuring our narrative-based CV format
2. Assessing its effectiveness in the review process and in terms of the applicants' experience
3. Further emphasising transparency in research assessment.

The narrative-based CV aims to recognise the diversity of researchers and provide peer and panel reviewers with more information on the value,

quality, and potential impact of the applicant's work, as well as their suitability and relevance to the funding scheme. In all research careers funding schemes, applicants must include a personal statement and address the following:

- Contribution to knowledge
- Contribution to training and career development of other researchers
- Contribution to the wider research community and society.

Dr Annalisa Montesanti (pictured), Programme Manager, HRB Strategy and Funding Directorate said:

"Importantly, we emphasise to reviewers that when assessing researchers, they should focus on the content, quality and impact

of the research outputs in the research field and/or in policy and practice. We provide this guidance through written guidelines, presentations at panel meetings, and in review forms."

The HRB is now assessing the effectiveness of the narrative-based CV format in certain funding schemes, to further refine its approach and assess if it is suitable for funding schemes that are not research career focused. Preliminary results demonstrate the importance of using bottom-up feedback to refine and improve top-down responsible research assessment policies and practices.

# Enabler B

## Build a strong enabling environment

### 2020 objectives:

- Work with the Department of Health and key stakeholders to shape the national research agenda in relation to health and social care
- Provide leadership to shape the review, conduct, and governance of research
- Contribute to, and benefit from, international developments in policy, regulation, and legislation relevant to health research and healthcare in Ireland
- Invest in research infrastructure to promote excellence, critical mass, and coordination to support HRB strategic focus areas and the wider health community
- Support Irish health researchers to participate in Horizon 2020 (H2020) and other European research programmes.

### Key items delivered in 2020

- Under Enabler B, we made three awards worth €5.5 million. Details of these awards are as follows:
  - > Provided funding of €0.6 million to support the core activities of Health Research Charities Ireland and the Irish Platform for Patient Organisations, Science and Industry.
- Awarded €4.9 million for a PPI Ignite Network, co-funded by the IRC and the network's lead sites. The award recipients include 7 universities, 10 national partners, and 54 local partners
- Issued an open call for the funding of CRFs/centres supporting the infrastructure, governance, and the skills and expertise to enable high-quality, safe, and compliant clinical trials and other interventions. Awards will commence in 2021

- Worked with partners to advance the development of research data infrastructure, access, linkage and sharing through the following activities:
  - > Worked with the Department of Health and the CSO to develop a process to enable secure access to HSE health data held in the CSO COVID-19 Research Hub. Applications for access will be accepted from 2021
  - > Became a partner, along with the Department of Health and the HSE, in EU PHIRI-COVID, which aims to facilitate and support open, interconnected, and data-driven research through the sharing of cross-country COVID-19 population health data.
- In partnership with the Department of Health, the HRB committed to participate in a Joint Action Towards the European Health Data Space (TEHDAS) project that will focus on the governance, data quality and infrastructure of health data in Europe required for digital transformation in health and care
- Actively promoted PPI in research. This involved:
  - > Working with the five PPI Ignite Awards recipients to coordinate their capacity building for PPI in research in HEIs
  - > Including public reviews in three schemes (two postdoctoral fellowships and one DIFA) and incorporating them into the selection process for the first time
  - > Appointing PPI members to two selection panels (PPI Ignite Network and Research Collaborative in Quality and Patient Safety).
- Took a leadership role to deliver a number of Open Science Research initiatives in

# 93

## decisions on applications for ethics approval were returned by the NREC COVID-19.

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Ireland. These included:

- > Jointly chairing the National Open Research Forum (NORF) with the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and participating in a national landscape mapping exercise to be published in 2021
- > Chairing a working group to develop a Framework for Research Integrity in Collaboration Agreements, on behalf of the National Forum on Research Integrity
- > Publishing a Nature Commentary titled *Research integrity: nine ways to move from talk to walk* as an output from the SOPs4RI EU project, in which the HRB is a partner
- > Ensuring that HRB Open Research was fully used to both publish and curate COVID-19-relevant publications from Irish researchers, and introduced mandatory publication of research protocols by recipients of the HRB co-funded national COVID-19 Rapid Response call
- > Publishing a new policy that requires HRB-funded researchers to develop data management plans (DMPs) to consider how data are collected, stored, managed, and shared throughout the life cycle of their research projects
- > Working with F1000 to enable on-line preparation, review and publication of DMPs to support a new policy on the management and sharing of research.
- Facilitating and co-funding an innovative pilot training programme for professional data stewards in HEIs and Cancer Trials Ireland, coordinated by the GO FAIR International Support and Coordination Office. This pilot programme is ongoing and the new data stewards will work with successful HRB Investigator-Led Project Award recipients and Emerging Investigator Award recipients on the development of DMPs. Continued to increase transparency of HRB award selection processes by inviting external observers to panel meetings and by publishing the names of panel members on the HRB website
- Published an annual report on the gender breakdown of applicants and award recipients, and also on panel membership, which showed a slightly higher number of female applicants and award recipients, and well-balanced panels
- Established the Secretariat of the National Research Ethics Committees (NREC), which in its first year:
  - > Convened a COVID-19 NREC who returned 93 decisions on applications for ethics approval
  - > Worked to establish an NREC for Clinical Trials (NREC-CT) and an NREC for Medical Devices (NREC-MD), to be launched in 2021
  - > Published a paper titled 'Implementing a national approach to research ethics review during a pandemic – the Irish experience' on HRB Open Research, which is currently undergoing open peer review .
- Participated in a number of EU policy partnerships as follows:
  - > The International Consortium for Personalised Medicine (ICPerMed), a consortium of EU funding bodies established by the European Commission under the H2020 programme



# €8.2m

leveraged by Irish  
researchers in funding  
from H2020 programmes

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- > The ERA-NET Cofund in Personalised Medicine (ERA PerMed) which fosters the implementation of the ICPeMed Action Plan
- > The Coordination and Support Action TO-REACH, which is developing a strategic research agenda for health systems research to identify more effective and sustainable ways to organise, manage, finance, and deliver high-quality care to European citizens
- > The CSA SOPs4RI EU project, which is creating a toolbox to support and guide research-performing organisations (RPOs) and research funding organisations (RFOs) in fostering research integrity and consequently preventing, detecting and handling research misconduct.
- Contributed to the health perspective in preparations for Horizon Europe, the EU Framework Programme 2021–2027
- Supported Irish researchers to compete successfully for EU funding:
  - > Irish researchers leveraged €8.2 million in funding from H2020 programmes in 2020
  - > In addition, Irish health researchers leveraged €4 million for 11 research projects resulting from two COVID-19 rapid response calls launched in 2020
  - > 20 Irish projects successfully competed for funding in the H2020 Health Challenge, with one project being led by an Irish researcher. Highlights include:
    - A project on the scale-up and transfer of digital integrated care solutions to enable patients to proactively self-manage their chronic diseases is being led by Trinity College Dublin (TCD)
    - University College Dublin (UCD) and Dublin City University (DCU) are partners in a project on streamlined geriatric and oncological evaluation based on leveraging digital technology for holistic patient-oriented healthcare management to improve the healthcare management and outcomes of older co-morbid patients
    - The National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH) is a partner in a project on a remote rehabilitation service for isolated areas, a flexible and scalable value-based model of care, organised around self-management, or self-care, of rehabilitation at home, designed from a tailored integrated care model which optimises the quality of care and the use of clinical resources
    - The use of artificial intelligence for the care of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and multiple sclerosis patients is a project involving ECHAlliance Company Ltd as a partner
    - A patient-centred biopsychosocial blended collaborative care pathway for the treatment of multi-morbid elderly patients, with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) and Intrigo Limited as partners
    - A European consortium, in which NUI Galway is a partner, for communicating reliable and accessible information on gene and cell-based therapy development to various European stakeholders including patients, the public, and healthcare professionals.

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## Case Study 9:

### Underpinning Ireland's participation in global COVID-19 clinical trials



“While the interim results did not deliver new treatments for COVID-19, it’s important that we also understand what doesn’t work, so that patients don’t receive treatments unnecessarily. Crucially, Ireland is now part of a global infrastructure to collaborate on trials for other potential COVID-19 treatments.”

For over a decade, the HRB has taken a deliberate and strategic approach to developing Ireland’s clinical research infrastructure, in order to ensure that health research improves people’s health, patient care and health service delivery. We built this network of facilities and trials in collaboration with the HSE, health professionals, and the research community, and when the COVID-19 pandemic struck, the value of this investment was realised.

Because we had the infrastructure in place, Ireland could participate in Solidarity, the international clinical trial to help find an effective treatment for COVID-19, launched by the WHO and partners. Results found that none of the four treatments evaluated improve 28-day mortality, initiation of ventilation, or

duration of hospital stay among patients admitted to hospital.

Speaking about the trial, Dr Mairead O’Driscoll, Chief Executive, HRB, said:

“While the interim results did not deliver new treatments for COVID-19, It’s important that we also understand what doesn’t work, so that patients don’t receive treatments unnecessarily. Crucially, Ireland is now part of a global infrastructure to collaborate on trials for other potential COVID-19 treatments.”

Critically ill patients with COVID-19 are less likely to die and will spend less time in intensive care when treated with arthritis drug tocilizumab. These were the findings of another international trial (REMAP-CAP) which we provided

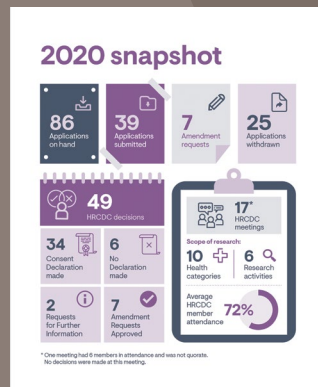
funding for in Ireland, and which was led by Professor Alistair Nichol, St Vincent’s University Hospital and University College Dublin.

Commenting on the REMAP-CAP trial, Dr O’Driscoll said:

“Through this research, we now understand better how to treat the sickest patients with COVID-19, improving patient outcomes and decreasing time spent in ICU, which in turn reduces pressure on critical care services. Again, this rapid response trial was possible because of our long-term investment in clinical research infrastructure, and specifically a clinical trials network in critical care. By having this in place, Ireland could act quickly as part of a global response for COVID-19 treatments in ICU.”

## Case Study 10:

# The Health Research Consent Declaration Committee and its Secretariat: A year in review



In 2020, the Health Research Consent Declaration Committee (HRCDC) continued its important role within the health research regulatory environment. The 17-member committee is widely representative of the health research community, with three members representing patients, carers, and the public.

The HRCDC is tasked with making consensus-based decisions in the interests of patients and the public regarding use of their personal data without explicit consent for health research. The HRCDC Secretariat service provided by the HRB supports the HRCDC in all its work, acting as its central point of contact for the research community.

Dr Emily Vereker, Programme Manager, HRCDC Secretariat, said:

“The HRCDC convened an unprecedented 17 times in 2020. Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, our processes were temporarily integrated with the National Research Ethics Committee for COVID-19 to deliver independent, rapid decisions for consent declarations and ethics approval for COVID-19-

related health research. Fifty-eight per cent of applications to the HRCDC were related to COVID-19.”

In 2020, the HRCDC made 34 consent declarations, 31 of which had specific conditions attached to enhance data protection safeguarding measures such as transparency. Importantly, the HRCDC views the inclusion of patients and the public in research as an important data protection safeguard to ensure that their perspectives are considered where consent cannot be obtained.

In 2020, the Secretariat engaged with several key stakeholders. For example:

- the National Office for Research Ethics Committees on a seamless, integrated COVID-19 rapid review process

- the HSE on the revision and development of the National Consent Policy
- Department of Health, the HSE, and the HRB to develop guidance on recent amendments to the Health Research Regulations.

Dr Vereker added:

“2021 will see us engaging with new stakeholders and continuing to support health research policy and governance. International stakeholder engagement will also be an important focus, in order to understand how developments around trusted health data and sharing may influence the business of the HRCDC and Health Research Regulations more generally.”

# Enabler C

## Enhance organisational performance

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### 2020 objectives:

- Ensure a high-performing working environment built on innovation, adaptability, and teamwork
- Enable transparent and accountable decision-making based on the best possible information
- Ensure that HRB systems and processes are robust, flexible, and scalable
- Enhance recognition of the values of health research and the HRB's role nationally and internationally.

### Key items delivered in 2020

- Extended ICT infrastructure and office fit-out to an additional floor in Grattan House to accommodate the new National Office for Research Ethics Committees (NREC)
- Migrated staff intranet and data to a cloud environment
- Onboarded cloud-based systems such as Zoom and DocuSign to enhance remote working capabilities
- Completed cyber training for all staff
- Completed health and safety training for all staff
- Completed home office fit-out for all staff
- Drafted return-to-work procedures and a COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to give guidelines to office-based staff during the pandemic
- Appointed a COVID-19 representative to enforce procedures laid down in the COVID-19 SOP and Return to Work Safely Protocol
- Created a suite of web and social media promotional material to support roll-out of COVID-19 rapid response projects
- Developed a new brand and visual identity for NREC
- Hosted 'Truth and trust in health research', a national conference online, in collaboration with HRB TMRN, Evidence Synthesis Ireland, and Cochrane Ireland
- Supported the development of the HRB Strategy 2025 and the strategy publication *HRB Strategy 2021–2025: Health research – making an impact* and related promotional materials in preparation for the launch in 2021
- Delivered recruitment outcomes and an approach which ensured that resourcing and recruitment solutions were flexible, agile and responsive to evolving business needs
- Ensured that our Human Resources (HR) team focused on a culture of equality, diversity, inclusion and disability awareness in all aspects of the HRB
- Delivered a framework that strategically aligns performance management, mobility, talent management, diversity, promotion, recruitment, learning and development, as well as other relevant HR policies, in order to facilitate the matching of skills, expertise and experience to roles
- Managed the final year of our five-year multiannual budget portfolio totalling €254 million
- Ensured financial oversight of more than 325 active research awards
- Developed our financial processes and financial management system to become effectively paperless without compromising our product for both internal and external stakeholders.

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## Case Study 11: Excellence in ICT gives HRB a head start in remote working



2020 was a working year like no other, and in March we began working from home. Such a transition is challenging for any enterprise. But, fortunately, ours was smooth due to the expertise and agility of our ICT and Facilities team. Key to this was foresight and a progressive approach to how we work.

“We were already moving towards workplace flexibility long before COVID hit,” said Liam Sinnott, ICT and Facilities Manager, HRB. “Key was the decision to phase out desktops in favour of laptops. This is essential for any successful disaster recovery plan. But we were also cognisant of a general culture change in how people work, with more remote work on mobile devices, so this also informed our decision.

Thanks to this, we had the basic infrastructure in place for the sudden transition.”

Once it became clear that the transition was long term, there were more issues to resolve, such as ensuring VPN access for staff and enabling video conferencing and electronic document signatures. While these issues could be resolved with software acquisitions, Facilities required more practical solutions. For example:

- Preparing the office for a safe return to work
- Providing staff with home office furniture
- Providing staff with stationery and IT peripherals such as monitors

ICT and Facilities achieved

this with great efficiency, notifying staff of all new processes via regular email and live Zoom updates, as well as a dedicated COVID-19 section on our intranet. Commenting on this impressive transition to remote working, Dr Mairead O’Driscoll, Chief Executive, HRB, said:

“2020 was a year of many outstanding achievements for the HRB. We contributed hugely to Ireland’s efforts to combat COVID-19 alongside our usual work when we were challenged collectively and individually, as well as personally and professionally. This would not have been possible without our ICT and Facilities team. That we could pivot so quickly and so efficiently is a testament to their expertise and professionalism.”

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## Case Study 12:

### Boardroom to Zoom: Transitioning to remote recruitment, induction and wellness



The switch to remote working in 2020 posed unique challenges for Human Resources (HR). Chief among these are the questions of: How do you hire people you cannot physically meet? How do you induct new hires remotely? And how do you ensure well-being when everyone is stressed and siloed? Here we outline how we overcame these challenges.

#### 1) Remote recruitment:

The HRB hired nine staff via Zoom during 2020. Commenting on remote recruitment, D'Arcy Donnelly, HR and Organisational Development Manager (OD), HRB said:

“Remote interviewing has pros and cons. There are the inevitable technical issues and sense of personal disconnect. On the upside, it’s easier for people to attend interviews without needing long periods of leave. It’s also easier to assemble interview panels. Ultimately, things balanced out, and we’re confident we still made the right hires.”

#### 2) Remote induction:

Our annual, organisation-wide induction was conducted remotely for the first time in 2020

on Zoom, and proved a great success. Particularly popular were the live sessions allowing staff interaction – not quite the real world, but the next best thing.

#### 3) Remote health and well-being:

Health and well-being is always important, but even more so in 2020, given the new challenges we faced. The ways Mr Donnelly and his team addressed this include:

- Featuring our Wellness and Well-being/ Employee Assistance programme prominently in our induction process
- Supporting our Sports & Social team to take an active role through various initiatives for online fun and socialising

- Encouraging open dialogue with leadership to support varying personal needs and workload management.

The last word goes to remote hire Martha Connolly, HRB Communications Officer, who joined the organisation in November 2020:

“I’m often asked what the experience of interviewing for and starting a new role was like remotely. My honest answer is I haven’t found it any more difficult. This is down to the culture of the HRB, particularly our emphasis on open dialogue with management. I’ve always felt welcomed, psychologically safe, and supported.”

# 2



## Appendices

# Appendix A

## List of HRB publications in 2020

### HRB REPORTS

Casey C, O’Sullivan M, Fanagan S and Doyle A (2020) *NASS Bulletin 2019 – disability service use and need*. Health Research Board, Dublin.

Daly A and Craig S (2020) *Activities of Irish Psychiatric Units and Hospitals 2019. Main Findings*. HRB Statistics Series 41. Health Research Board, Dublin.

Health Research Board (2020) *Alcohol Treatment in Ireland 2013 to 2019*. Health Research Board, Dublin.

Health Research Board (2020) *Drug Treatment in Ireland 2013 to 2019*. Health Research Board, Dublin.

Irish Focal Point to the EMCDDA (2020) *Drugnet Ireland, Issue 72*, Winter. Health Research Board, Dublin.

Irish Focal Point to the EMCDDA (2020) *Drugnet Ireland, Issue 73*, Spring. Health Research Board, Dublin.

Irish Focal Point to the EMCDDA (2020) *Drugnet Ireland, Issue 74*, Summer. Health Research Board, Dublin.

Irish Focal Point to the EMCDDA (2020) *Drugnet Ireland, Issue 75*, Autumn. Health Research Board, Dublin.

### EVIDENCE REVIEWS

Keane M, Lee C and Long J (2020) *Measures to reduce the clinical need for dental amalgam: An evidence review*. Health Research Board, Dublin.

Quigley J, Williams M, Moloney T and Lee C (2020) *Infectious disease legislation – legislation overview and lessons learned: Evidence review*. Health Research Board, Dublin.

O’Brien D, Long J, Lee C, McCarthy A and Quigley J (2020) *Electronic cigarette use and tobacco cigarette smoking initiation in adolescents: An evidence review*. Health Research Board, Dublin.

Quigley J, Kennelly H, Lee C, O’Brien D, Lee C, Williams M, McCarthy and Long J (2020) *Electronic cigarette and smoking cessation: An evidence review*. Health Research Board, Dublin.

McCarthy A, Lee C, O’Brien D and Long J (2020) *Harms and benefits of e-cigarettes and heat-not-burn tobacco products: A literature map*. Health Research Board, Dublin.



Mejlgaard N, Bouter LM, Gaskell G, Kavouras P, Allum N, Bendtsen AK, Charitidis CA, Claesen N, Dierickx K, Domaradzka A, Reyes Elizondo A, Foeger N, **Hiney M**, Kaltenbrunner W, Labib K, Marušić A, Sørensen MP, Ravn T, Ščepanović R, Tijdink JK and Veltri GA (2020). Research integrity: nine ways to move from talk to walk. *Nature*, 586: 358–360. <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02847-8>

**Sheehy A, Ralph James J** and Horgan M (2020) Implementing a National Approach to Research Ethics Review during a Pandemic – the Irish Experience. *HRB Open Res*, 3:63. <https://doi.org/10.12688/hrbopenres.13146.2>

**Dunne M**. 2020 Enhancing Social Capital in Our Stakeholder Networks. *Insights* 33 (1): 27. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.1629/uksg.530>

**Coyle C, Buggy S, Cagney O et al**. Housing with support for older people: a mixed-methods systematic review protocol. *HRB Open Res* 2020;3:64. doi: <https://doi.org/10.12688/hrbopenres.13124.2>

Millar SR, **Mongan D, O'Dwyer C, Long J**, Smyth BP, Perry IJ and **Galvin B**. Correlates of patterns of cannabis use, abuse and dependence: evidence from two national surveys in Ireland. *European Journal of Public Health*, 1–7 <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckab007>

**Mongan D**, Millar SR, **O'Dwyer C, Long J** and **Galvin B**. Drinking in denial: a cross-sectional analysis of national survey data in Ireland to measure drinkers' awareness of their alcohol use. *BMJ Open* 10 (7), e034520

Antoine J, Berndt N, Astudillo M, Cairns D, Jones A, Kuiipers W, Llorens N, **Lyons S**, Maffli E, Magliocchetti N, Olivas M, Palle C, Schwarzkopf L, Wisselink J and Montari L (2020) Cocaine treatment demands in 10 western European countries: observed trends between 2011 and 2018. *Addiction* <https://doi.org/10.1111/add.15237>.

**Doyle A, O'Sullivan M, Craig S** and McConkey R (2020) Predictors of access to healthcare professionals for people with intellectual disability in Ireland. *Journal of Intellectual Disabilities* <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F1744629520937835>

**Doyle A, O'Sullivan M, Craig S** and McConkey R (2020) People with Intellectual disability in Ireland are still dying young. *Journal of Applied Research in Intellectual Disability* <https://doi.org/10.1111/jar.12853>.

**Lynn E, Doyle A, Keane M**, Bennett K and Cousins G (2020) Drug poisoning deaths among women: a scoping review. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs* 81(5) 543–555.

**Murphy L, Lyons S, O'Sullivan M**, and **Lynn E** (2020) Risk factors for completed suicide among people who use drugs: A scoping review protocol. *HRB Open Research*

## Appendix B

### List of HRB awards made in 2020 to principal investigators

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES						
Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead Researcher title	Lead Researcher forename	Lead Researcher surname	Total awarded
The effect of After Action Review in enhancing safety culture and second victim experience and its implementation in an Irish hospital	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Applied Partnership Awards	Dr	Natasha	Rafter	€231,753
Practice Enhancement for Exclusive Breastfeeding (PEEB)	University College Cork	Applied Partnership Awards	Dr	Patricia	Leahy-Warren	€239,948
National Helicobacter pylori antibiotic resistance surveillance to guide clinical practice	Trinity College Dublin	Applied Partnership Awards	Dr	Sinead	Smith	€171,907
Maximising the quality of stroke care in Ireland – Development of a National Stroke Audit	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Applied Partnership Awards	Professor	Anne	Hickey	€239,998
Enhancing healthcare transition and longitudinal care for adolescents and adults with spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus in Ireland	Maynooth University	Applied Partnership Awards	Dr	Deirdre	Desmond	€148,188
Meeting the challenge of childhood obesity treatment in Irish healthcare: Generating data to facilitate action	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Applied Partnership Awards	Dr	Grace	O'Malley	€239,808
5th Annual HRI Public & Patient Involvement Summer School	University of Limerick	Conference and Event Sponsorship Scheme	Dr	Jonathan	Salsberg	€2,000
Retina 2020 Young Vision Researcher and Clinical Forum	Fighting Blindness	Conference and Event Sponsorship Scheme	Dr	Laura	Brady	€5,000
The 12th International Newborn Brain Conference	University College Cork	Conference and Event Sponsorship Scheme	Professor	Geraldine	Boylan	€9,958

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead Researcher title	Lead Researcher forename	Lead Researcher surname	Total awarded
Irish Pain Society 20th Annual Scientific Meeting	National University of Ireland, Galway	Conference and Event Sponsorship Scheme	Professor	Brian	McGuire	€4,650
Using a back-calculation model to estimate the scale of asymptomatic Covid-19 prevalence by age and determine the critical threshold of available susceptible persons within the community	Trinity College Dublin	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Professor	Catherine	Comiskey	€96,340
Using Telehealth to enhance management of vulnerable groups during the COVID-19 pandemic	Trinity College Dublin	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Professor	Orla	Hardiman	€199,965
Assessing public trust and compliance with pandemic advice and policies	Dublin City University	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Professor	Finian	Buckley	€138,355
Contract tracing during the COVID-19 outbreak: Enabling rapid learning from experiences and exploring the psychological impact on volunteers	University College Dublin	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Dr	Aoife	De Brún	€125,139
Children as innovators – harnessing the creative expertise of children to address practical and psychosocial challenges of COVID-19 pandemic	University College Dublin	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Dr	Suja	Somanadhan	€198,693
Assessing and protecting the mental health of the nation during the COVID-19 pandemic	Maynooth University	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Dr	Philip	Hyland	€63,350
Impact of COVID-19 on individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and caregivers	University College Dublin	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Dr	Christine	Linehan	€62,858

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead Researcher title	Lead Researcher forename	Lead Researcher surname	Total awarded
Inoculating against COVID-19 misinformation: Assessing evidence-based interventions	University College Dublin	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Dr	Ciara	Greene	€180,727
Crisis coping for marginalised youth: Living and learning through COVID-19	National University of Ireland, Galway	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Professor	Pat	Dolan	€194,299
Creating an evidence-based toolbox for targeted public health interventions during COVID-19: a cross-border analysis to disentangle psychological, behavioural, media and governmental responses	Trinity College Dublin	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Professor	Catherine	Darker	€191,116
An investigation of psychological responses to COVID-19 in healthcare workers during the delay and mitigation phase of disease management: longitudinal and nested qualitative study	University of Limerick	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Professor	Donal	Fortune	€175,013
A remote self-directed psychological intervention for the public in response to COVID-19: The PAUSE programme	University College Dublin	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Dr	Tom	Burke	€134,455
SABS-TILDA: SARS-CoV-2 specific AntiBodieS in The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA): an opportunity to assess COVID-19 rates and phenotypes in older adults in Ireland	Trinity College Dublin	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Dr	Nollaig	Bourke	€199,875

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead Researcher title	Lead Researcher forename	Lead Researcher surname	Total awarded
Improving long-term patient recovery and reducing disability after COVID-19 critical illness using microRNA-based approaches	National University of Ireland, Galway	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Dr	Katarzyna	Whysall	€199,621
Modelling the entwined dynamics of social and physical distancing	University College Cork	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Dr	Dipto	Sarkar	€111,040
Altered lives in a time of crisis: Preparing for recovery from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the lives of older adults	Trinity College Dublin	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Professor	Rose Anne	Kenny	€175,322
Defining the disease course and immune profile of COVID-19 in the immunosuppressed patient (DeCOMPRESS study)	Trinity College Dublin	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Professor	Mark	Little	€199,908
CUPID COVID-19: Paediatric emergency department attendance during COVID-19	University College Dublin	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Dr	Emma	Nicholson	€106,408
A Rapid Resource Repository for Health Professionals (RRR-HP): An online and social media individualised support intervention for return to practice, reassigned and new to practice nursing and allied health professionals	University of Limerick	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Professor	Alice	Coffey	€199,647
Development of a rapid, highly sensitive, handheld Raman-based device for detection of SARS-CoV-2 and serological responses against SARS-CoV-2	National University of Ireland, Galway	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Professor	Gerard	Wall	€199,754

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead Researcher title	Lead Researcher forename	Lead Researcher surname	Total awarded
Autism specific Transition RESources (TRes): a response to the COVID-19-related restrictions	Dublin City University	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Dr	Sinéad	Smyth	€123,370
Guidelines for communicating cases and deaths related to COVID-19 including an international review	University College Dublin	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Dr	Ingrid	Holme	€117,574
Irish COVID-19 Vasculopathy Study (iCVS)	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Professor	James	O'Donnell	€199,036
Screening for antiviral compounds active against SARS-CoV-2	University College Dublin	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Dr	Virginie	Gautier	€190,237
Optimising Covid-19 social distancing communications: Identifying and addressing psychosocial determinants of social distancing during the Covid-19 pandemic	National University of Ireland, Galway	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Dr	Gerard	Molloy	€148,745
World problem, national solutions? The impact of national past on behaviour during the pandemic	University College Dublin	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Professor	Sinisa	Malesevic	€185,340
Models of family carer support during COVID-19	University College Cork	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Professor	William	Molloy	€66,394

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead Researcher title	Lead Researcher forename	Lead Researcher surname	Total awarded
Rapid response and learning for later: establishing high-quality information networks and evaluation frameworks for the National Ambulance Service response to COVID-19	National University of Ireland, Galway	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Dr	Siobhan	Masterson	€109,188
Professional identity formation of junior doctors during the COVID crisis, the role of agency and preparing for the aftermath	Trinity College Dublin	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Professor	Martina	Hennessy	€202,382
COVID-19: Estimating the burden of symptomatic disease in the community and the impact of public health measures on physical, mental and social well-being	University College Cork	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Professor	Ivan	Perry	€199,945
Maximising social solidarity and trust in public health messaging in the misinformation era	University of Limerick	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Professor	Orla	Muldoon	€152,847
COVID-19: The North Dublin Cohort Study	University College Dublin	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Professor	John	Lambert	€199,098
Expediting the diagnosis of COVID-19 in a clinical setting using AI-enabled analysis of CT scans	National University of Ireland, Galway	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Dr	Aaron	Golden	€83,690

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead Researcher title	Lead Researcher forename	Lead Researcher surname	Total awarded
Identifying mental health needs and best practice for psychological support in frontline healthcare workers during and after the COVID-19 outbreak and in future pandemics	National University of Ireland, Galway	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Professor	Brian	McGuire	€187,254
ResPoNCE: Respecting People with disabilities' Needs and rights in Crisis and Emergency	National University of Ireland, Galway	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Professor	Eilionoir	Flynn	€199,952
Modelling real-time population-wide impacts of COVID-19	National University of Ireland, Galway	COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Professor	Cathal	O'Donoghue	€38,310
EMERGE-2: a placebo controlled RCT of the Effectiveness of METformin in addition to usual care in the Reduction of GEstational diabetes mellitus effects	National University of Ireland Galway	Definitive Interventions and Feasibility Awards	Professor	Fidelma	Dunne	€736,569
MinDful: Muslc aNd Dance For Older adULTs: The feasibility of an arts-based health intervention for health and wellbeing	University of Limerick	Definitive Interventions and Feasibility Awards	Dr	Amanda	Clifford	€378,133
SENSE-Cog Care: A feasibility study of hearing and vision support to improve quality of life in care home residents with dementia	Trinity College Dublin	Definitive Interventions and Feasibility Awards	Professor	Iracema	Leroi	€402,298



Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead Researcher title	Lead Researcher forename	Lead Researcher surname	Total awarded
Maximising medication adherence and minimising physician inertia: Lowering to target the blood pressure of older patients with hypertension – A cluster randomised feasibility study in general practice	National University of Ireland Galway	Definitive Interventions and Feasibility Awards	Professor	Andrew	Murphy	€399,341
Safeguarding the brain of our smallest children – an open-label phase-III randomised trial of cerebral oximetry combined with a treatment guideline versus treatment as usual in premature infants	University College Cork	Definitive Interventions and Feasibility Awards	Professor	Eugene	Dempsey	€982,646
European Blood Pressure Intensive Control after stroke – Pilot trial (EPICS-Pilot)	University College Dublin	Definitive Interventions and Feasibility Awards	Professor	Peter	Kelly	€399,384
Randomised placebo-controlled trial of early targeted treatment of patent ductus arteriosus with paracetamol in extremely low birthweight infants	University College Dublin	Definitive Interventions and Feasibility Awards	Professor	Jan	Miletin	€719,064
An EDucation and eXercise intervention (EDX-Ireland) for gluteal tendinopathy in an Irish setting: a feasibility randomised controlled trial (LEAP-Ireland trial)	Royal College of Surgeons In Ireland	Definitive Interventions and Feasibility Awards	Dr	Helen	French	€329,662

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead Researcher title	Lead Researcher forename	Lead Researcher surname	Total awarded
Randomised controlled trial of reduced versus standard volume platelet transfusion in preterm babies with thrombocytopenia (with add-on studies to explore mechanisms of harm)	University College Dublin	Definitive Interventions and Feasibility Awards	Dr	Anna	Curley	€1,219,599
The StrokeCog study: a randomised pilot study of a novel cognitive rehabilitation intervention in stroke	Royal College of Surgeons In Ireland	Definitive Interventions and Feasibility Awards	Professor	Anne	Hickey	€398,719
OPTimization of Medication by transdisciplinary Assessment of drug Treatment in Elderly hospitalized patients (OPTIMATE): application of a definitive intervention by physicians or clinical pharmacists	University College Cork	Definitive Interventions and Feasibility Awards	Professor	Denis	O'Mahony	€1,199,490
Enhancing Men's Awareness of Testicular Diseases (E-MAT): A Feasibility Study and Study Within A Trial (SWAT)	University College Cork	Definitive Interventions and Feasibility Awards	Dr	Mohamad	Saab	€391,821
Taskforce on Staffing and Skill-Mix for Nursing	University College Cork	Framework for Safe Nurse Staffing and Skill Mix	Professor	Jonathan	Drennan	€1,000,000
To identify the underlying mechanisms involved in driving the distinct pathogenesis observed in PsA and RA, and to define how these impact on therapeutic response	Trinity College Dublin	HRCI-HRB Joint Funding Scheme	Professor	Ursula	Fearon	€191,309

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead Researcher title	Lead Researcher forename	Lead Researcher surname	Total awarded
High-throughput sequencing of inherited and multifactorial macula disease-associated genes and risk factors allows identification of genetic interactions and modifiers	Radboudumc, Nijmegen, Netherlands	HRCI-HRB Joint Funding Scheme	Professor	Frans	Cremers	€195,000
Development of pharmacological chaperones stabilizing FGE for therapeutic intervention in Multiple Sulfatase Deficiency	Bielefeld University, Germany	HRCI-HRB Joint Funding Scheme	Professor	Thomas	Dierks	€139,347
Utilising proteomics-derived data in establishing predictive biomarker signatures to assist therapeutic decision-making in Multiple Myeloma	University College Dublin Ireland	HRCI-HRB Joint Funding Scheme	Professor	Peter	O’Gorman	€194,815
An investigation of the utility of exhaled breath condensate to detect sub-clonal mutations in early stage lung adenocarcinoma	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	HRCI-HRB Joint Funding Scheme	Professor	Bryan	Hennessy	€128,666
Getting a Handle on Non-Canonical Polycomb Repressor Complex 1 (nc-PRC1) Dysfunction in Oncogenesis	Trinity College Dublin	HRCI-HRB Joint Funding Scheme	Professor	Maureen	O’Sullivan	€188,416
Exploring diet quality in cystic fibrosis – enablers and barriers to eating a healthy diet in CF	University of Limerick	HRCI-HRB Joint Funding Scheme	Dr	Audrey	Tierney	€54,411
Including best practices and the voices of experience in developing post-diagnostic dementia support guidelines for people with an intellectual disability	Trinity College Dublin	HRCI-HRB Joint Funding Scheme	Professor	Mary	McCarron	€103,992

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead Researcher title	Lead Researcher forename	Lead Researcher surname	Total awarded
Correcting pulmonary immunity through manipulation of CFTR	Trinity College Dublin	HRCI-HRB Joint Funding Scheme	Professor	Joe	Keane	€65,000
Improving the diagnostic rate and prognostic value of genomic testing in polycystic kidney disease	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	HRCI-HRB Joint Funding Scheme	Professor	Gianpiero	Cavalleri	€194,713
First 1000 days Strategies to Prevent Childhood Obesity	University College Dublin	Joint Programming Initiative 'A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life'	Dr	Catherine	Phillips	€1,382,030
Innovative plant protein fibre and physical activity solutions to address poor appetite and prevent undernutrition in older adults	University College Dublin	Joint Programming Initiative 'A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life'	Professor	Clare	Corish	€1,189,569
PROtein enriched MEDiterranean diet to combat undernutrition and promote healthy neuroCOGnitive ageing in older adults	University College Dublin	Joint Programming Initiative 'A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life'	Professor	Lorraine	Brennan	€681,422
Phage-based targeted neural stimulation in neurodegenerative diseases	University College Dublin	Joint Programming Initiative on Neurodegenerative Diseases Research	Professor	Kenneth	Dawson	€1,583,192
Supporting the sustainability of long-term residential care in a COVID-19 environment and in the future	Economic and Social Research Institute	Research Collaborative in Quality and Patient Safety	Dr	Maev-Ann	Wren	€139,818
Sustaining increased and improved access to opioid substitution services during COVID-19	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Research Collaborative in Quality and Patient Safety	Dr	Gráinne	Cousins	€103,992
Understanding and enhancing medication safety during COVID-19: The CONNECTS (COVID-Nineteen Medication Safety) Toolkit	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Research Collaborative in Quality and Patient Safety	Dr	Michelle	Flood	€139,960

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead Researcher title	Lead Researcher forename	Lead Researcher surname	Total awarded
An analysis of nurse-led COVID-19 interventions among homeless populations – a mixed methods study	Dublin City University	Research Collaborative in Quality and Patient Safety	Dr	Briege	Casey	€121,255
Targeting the compromised brain endothelial barrier function during cerebral malaria with AT2 receptor agonists	University College Cork	US-Ireland Research and Development Partnership Award	Professor	Thomas	Walther	€3,406,729
Treating primary aldosteronism-induced hypertension via microwave thermal therapy	National University of Ireland, Galway	US-Ireland Research and Development Partnership Award	Dr	Michael	Dennedy	€2,506,840
Plasma-based therapies for bone infection	Technological University Dublin	US-Ireland Research and Development Partnership Award	Dr	Paula	Bourke	€4,714,652
Uncovering the neural architecture underlying decisions abstracted from movements	University College Dublin	US-Ireland Research and Development Partnership Award	Professor	Simon	Kelly	€2,604,886
Social circumstances and epigenomics promoting health in three countries	Trinity College Dublin	US-Ireland Research and Development Partnership Award	Professor	Rose Anne	Kenny	€3,835,762
Solidarity international clinical trial by WHO: An international randomised trial of additional treatments for COVID-19 in hospitalised patients who are all receiving the local standard of care	University College Cork	Solidarity international clinical trial by WHO	Professor	Joe	Eustace	€1,600,000

## CAPACITY BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP ENHANCEMENT

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead Researcher title	Lead Researcher forename	Lead Researcher surname	Total awarded
Using Knowledge Translation to Enhance the Use of Evidence in Public Health Decision-making by Policymakers and Healthcare Managers in Ireland	National University of Ireland, Galway	Postdoctoral Fellowships – Applying Research into Policy and Practice	Dr	Elaine	Toomey	€249,519
Food Industry Corporate Political Activity and its Potential Influence on Public Health Policy, Research and Practice in Ireland	Trinity College Dublin	Postdoctoral Fellowships – Applying Research into Policy and Practice	Dr	Melissa	Mialon	€220,824
Hip Fracture Outcome Recording and Geographic Equality	University College Dublin	Postdoctoral Fellowships – Applying Research into Policy and Practice	Dr	Mary	Walsh	€214,412
Iron Deficiency Assessment for protection of the newborn brain	University College Cork	Postdoctoral Fellowships – Applying Research into Policy and Practice	Dr	Elaine	McCarthy	€241,040
Scenario and Intervention Modelling in Ireland for Stroke: Evaluating the effect of alternative policy scenarios and interventions for stroke in Ireland on outcomes and costs	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Postdoctoral Fellowships – Applying Research into Policy and Practice	Dr	Eithne	Sexton	€227,371
Measures of wellbeing for use in economic evaluation: valuing and assessing health outcomes in Ireland	Trinity College Dublin	Postdoctoral Fellowships – Applying Research into Policy and Practice	Dr	Irina	Kinchin	€244,455
Progressing Sláintecare delivery from proposal to implementation: Insights from palliative care in Ireland	Trinity College Dublin	Postdoctoral Fellowships – Applying Research into Policy and Practice	Dr	Bridget	Johnston	€240,598
Oral Health in Adults with Cystic Fibrosis	University College Cork	Clinician Scientist Postdoctoral Fellowship	Dr	Martina	Hayes	€236,184

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead Researcher title	Lead Researcher forename	Lead Researcher surname	Total awarded
Building research capacity, harnessing data and strengthening health systems to improve outcomes in community emergency and unscheduled care in Ireland	University College Dublin	Clinician Scientist Postdoctoral Fellowships	Dr	Tomás	Barry	€470,046
Blood-based biomarkers for early detection of preclinical neurocognitive disorders	National University of Ireland, Galway	Clinician Scientist Postdoctoral Fellowships	Dr	Emer	McGrath	€655,524
Exercise Therapy for Degenerative Meniscal Tears in the Primary Care – a Feasibility Cluster Randomised Controlled Trial	University of Limerick	Clinician Scientist Postdoctoral Fellowships	Dr	Helen	O'Leary	€219,603
Manipulating macrophage bioenergetics to improve patient outcomes in TB infection	Trinity College Dublin	Clinician Scientist Postdoctoral Fellowships	Dr	Laura	Gleeson	€523,127
Linking 11-oxygenated androgens, skeletal muscle glucose metabolism and diabetes risk in polycystic ovary syndrome	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Emerging Clinician Scientist Awards	Dr	Michael	O'Reilly	€774,703
Characterising problematic polypharmacy in older community-dwelling people attending general practice	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Emerging Clinician Scientist Awards	Dr	Emma	Wallace	€774,812
Identifying children at risk of schizophrenia	Trinity College Dublin	Emerging Clinician Scientist Awards	Dr	Ian	Kelleher	€774,596
Expanding the lung donor pool: interventions to improve donor management, expand ex vivo lung perfusion and repair injured donor lungs	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Emerging Clinician Scientist Awards	Professor	Gerard	Curley	€774,760

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead Researcher title	Lead Researcher forename	Lead Researcher surname	Total awarded
Precision diagnosis and care for families with pulmonary fibrosis in Ireland	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Emerging Clinician Scientist Awards	Dr	Killian	Hurley	€769,035
SUPPORT: Supporting PhD supervisors in the preparation of graduates for the 21st Century: School of Education, George Mason University (US) and CHAMELEONS (EU) Network	University College Dublin	Fulbright-HRB Health Impact Awards	Dr	Tara	Cusack	€15,000
Advancing the theoretical Model of Healthcare factors influencing Quality of Life in Cancer Survivorship (MoHaQ-CS): A Retrospective Logistic Regression Analysis	Trinity College Dublin	Fulbright-HRB Health Impact Awards	Dr	Amanda	Drury	€9,000
Investigating the role of MMP-13 in tooth development, reparative dentinogenesis and response to dental caries	Trinity College Dublin	Fulbright-HRB Health Impact Awards	Dr	Henry	Duncan	€6,000
Anaesthesiology Specialty Fund for PhD training – supplement to WT ICAT, co-funded by HRB and College of Anaesthesiology of Ireland (CAI)	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Irish Clinical Academic Training	TBC			€1,000,000



Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead Researcher title	Lead Researcher forename	Lead Researcher surname	Total awarded
Towards Dynamic Resilience in Health System Performance and Reform Towards Dynamic Resilience in Health System Performance and Reform Towards Dynamic Resilience in Health System Performance and Reform	Trinity College Dublin	Research Leader Awards	Professor	Steve	Thomas	€1,137,153
Collaboration to reduce antimicrobial use and resistance and identify opportunities for improvement and awareness	National University of Ireland, Galway	Research Leader Awards	Dr	Akke	Vellinga	€1,149,999
Centre for UnderStanding Tailored Methods of Implementation Involving Stakeholders, Evidence and Skills Development (CUSTOMISED) for policy and practice	University College Cork	Research Leader Awards	Dr	Sheena	McHugh	€1,149,930
Improving Psychosocial Supports For Youth Mental Health	National University of Ireland, Galway	Research Leader Awards	Professor	Gary	Donohoe	€1,149,706
Towards an integrated model of care for older adults transitioning from the Emergency Department to the community	University of Limerick	Research Leader Awards	Dr	Rose	Galvin	€1,149,778
Supplemental funding 2021 for the Structured Population and Health-services Research Education (SPHeRE) Phase II	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	PhD Scholars Programmes	Professor	Anne	Hickey	€345,000

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead Researcher title	Lead Researcher forename	Lead Researcher surname	Total awarded
Comparing patients' and health care professionals' perceptions of techniques to change health behaviour: what is acceptable and feasible for whom, and why?	University College Cork	Summer Student Scholarships	Ms	Lauren	O'Mahony	€1,500
Assessing the stability of psychobiological stress reactivity during adolescence: growth curve modelling of cortisol responses to laboratory stressors	University College Cork	Summer Student Scholarships	Ms	Jenna	O'Shea	€2,400
Examining neural tracts associated with the limbic system in vivo subjects with ADHD using Multi Shell Data	Trinity College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships	Mr	Bernard	Adegbemi	€2,400
Examining Early Predictive Factors of Cognitive Delay in Children	University College Cork	Summer Student Scholarships	Ms	Louise	Howe	€1,800
The Watersports Inclusion Games – what are the benefits for volunteers?	University College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships	Ms	Aela	O'Flynn	€2,400
The public health and economic burden of diabetes in middle-aged Irish adults: The Mitchelstown Cohort Re-screen Study	University College Cork	Summer Student Scholarships	Mr	Patrick	Walsh	€1,500
Depression in Older Adults with Intellectual Disability and Epilepsy: findings from the Intellectual Disability Supplement to The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (IDS-TILDA)	Trinity College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships	Mr	Van Chester	Gamas	€2,400

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead Researcher title	Lead Researcher forename	Lead Researcher surname	Total awarded
Patient-reported hand appearance and hand function outcomes following mutilating hand injuries and correlation with patients psychosocial functioning	University College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships	Ms	Ellen	Geary	€2,400
The Identification and Evaluation of a Data Quality Framework to Assess mHealth Apps in Low and Middle-Income Countries	University College Cork	Summer Student Scholarships	Mr	Fionn	Woulfe	€2,400
Assisting with the identification of adaptations to the Sheds for Life (SFL) project across key stakeholders to enhance its effectiveness and implementation	Waterford Institute of Technology	Summer Student Scholarships	Ms	Lorraine	Conneely	€2,400
Investigating the atheroprotective role of lipoxin mimetics in models of diabetes	University College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships	Mr	Gavin	McDaid	€2,400
Mechanical Evaluation of 3D Printed Stents for Paediatric Applications	University College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships	Miss	Aliaa	Karam	€2,400
Precise Morphomolecular Analysis for Molecular Pathology	National University of Ireland, Galway	Summer Student Scholarships	Miss	May	Almezen	€2,400
The meso-oesophagus: a microscopical and stereological study	National University of Ireland, Galway	Summer Student Scholarships	Mr	Harry	Marland	€2,400
Dating with a diagnosis: The lived experience of people with multiple sclerosis	National University of Ireland, Galway	Summer Student Scholarships	Ms	Kinza	Tabassum	€2,400
Patient-reported outcomes of surgery for velopharyngeal dysfunction	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Summer Student Scholarships	Mr	Ewomazino	Oderoha	€2,400

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead Researcher title	Lead Researcher forename	Lead Researcher surname	Total awarded
Change in weight between childhood and adolescence and risk of adolescent psychopathology: a longitudinal cohort study	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Summer Student Scholarships	Ms	Isabel	Cotter	€2,400
Investigating the contribution of MEF2C-regulated genes to different symptoms in a schizophrenia patient sample	National University of Ireland, Galway	Summer Student Scholarships	Miss	Muireann	O'Reilly	€2,400
Exploring the Student Nurse Experience of End of Life and Palliative Care Education within the Undergraduate Nursing Programme	Waterford Institute of Technology	Summer Student Scholarships	Ms	Sandra	Murnane	€2,400
A Medical perspective on how Virtual Reality can be used to assist people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	Waterford Institute of Technology	Summer Student Scholarships	Miss	saoirse	Hartley	€1,800
Levels Of Cytokines, Neurotrophins And ApoE Genotype And Their Relation With Cognitive Disturbances And Recovery In Psychosis	National University of Ireland, Galway	Summer Student Scholarships	Ms	Olivia	Lipsett	€2,400
Clinical and functional impact of second CNV hits in autism	Trinity College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships	Miss	Ruth	Walsh	€2,400
Multiorgan function in cerebral palsy	Trinity College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships	Ms	Zainab	Afzal	€2,400
Neuropsychological functioning in opioid-dependent patients	Trinity College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships	Mr	Padraig	Donovan	€2,400
Development and testing of the Irish version of the Clinical Learning Environment, Supervision and Nurse Teacher (CLES+T) Evaluation Scale	Trinity College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships	Ms	Bronagh	O'Farrell-Byrne	€2,400

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead Researcher title	Lead Researcher forename	Lead Researcher surname	Total awarded
To determine whether expression of the novel IL-1 family members IL-37 and IL-38 cytokines represent potential biomarkers for colon cancer progression	University College Cork	Summer Student Scholarships	Mr	Samuel	Keogh	€2,400
Developing a priority setting partnership (PSP) on oesophageal cancer research between clinician, patients and carers	Trinity College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships	Mr	Ao Lik	Lee	€2,400

## INFRASTRUCTURE AND NETWORKS

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead Researcher title	Lead Researcher forename	Lead Researcher surname	Total awarded
HRB Clinical Research Coordination Ireland 2020 – CRCI Core	Clinical Research Development Ireland	HRB Clinical Research Coordination Ireland	Professor	Joseph	Eustace	€848,842
HRB Clinical Research Coordination Ireland 2020 – CRCI Coordination Costs	University College Cork	HRB Clinical Research Coordination Ireland	Professor	Joseph	Eustace	€205,000
HRB Clinical Research Coordination Ireland 2020 – Outreach Site: NCRC	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	HRB Clinical Research Coordination Ireland	Professor	Paul	McNally	€47,156
HRB Clinical Research Coordination Ireland 2020 – Outreach Site: NUIG	National University of Ireland, Galway	HRB Clinical Research Coordination Ireland	Professor	Martin	O'Donnell	€68,413
HRB Clinical Research Coordination Ireland 2020 – Outreach Site: RCSI	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	HRB Clinical Research Coordination Ireland	Professor	Dermot	Kenny	€113,551
HRB Clinical Research Coordination Ireland 2020 – Outreach Site: TCD	Trinity College Dublin	HRB Clinical Research Coordination Ireland	Professor	Martina	Hennessy	€71,250

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead Researcher title	Lead Researcher forename	Lead Researcher surname	Total awarded
HRB Clinical Research Coordination Ireland 2020 – Outreach Site: UCC	University College Cork	HRB Clinical Research Coordination Ireland	Professor	Joseph	Eustace	€73,225
HRB Clinical Research Coordination Ireland 2020 – Outreach Site: UCD	University College Dublin	HRB Clinical Research Coordination Ireland	Professor	Peter	Doran	€137,196
HRB Clinical Research Coordination Ireland 2020 – Outreach Site: UL	University of Limerick	HRB Clinical Research Coordination Ireland	Dr	Rachel	Msetfi	€62,749
Transition funding for CTI for 2021 to allow time for design and development of a new funding model	Irish Clinical Oncology Research Group Limited	Cancer Trials Ireland	Professor	Linda	Coate	€3,561,620
Supplemental funding for the HRB-CTN in Critical Care to support their participation in an international clinical trial in response to COVID-19	University College Dublin	Clinical Trials Networks Supplemental Funding	Professor	Alistair	Nichol	€400,000
HRCI Support Award	Health Research Charities Ireland	HRCI Core Support	Dr	Avril	Keenan	€300,000
Renewal of IPPOSI Support Award	Irish Platform for Patient Organisations, Science and Industry	Irish Platform for Patient Organisations, Science and Industry Support Award	Dr	Derick	Mitchell	€300,000
AIHPC Palliative Care Research Network (previously SRN) – supplement for an additional two 0.5 FTE posts over three years	All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care	AIHPC Structured Research Network	Ms	Karen	Charnley	€210,000
National PPI Network Award	National University of Ireland Galway	National PPI Network	Professor	Sean	Dinneen	€4,900,000

# Appendix C

HRB co-funded awards				
Scheme	Co-funding partner	Co-funding allocation	Total award	HRB share
Applied Partnership Awards	Quality Assurance and Verification Division, HSE	€38,625	€231,753	€193,128
Applied Partnership Awards	Nursing & Midwifery Planning & Development Unit, HSE South and South/South West Hospital Group	€39,991	€239,948	€199,957
Applied Partnership Awards	Trinity Academic Gastroenterology Group Research Centre	€29,000	€171,907	€142,907
Applied Partnership Awards	HSE Quality Improvement division and National Office of Clinical Audit	€40,000	€239,998	€199,998
Applied Partnership Awards	Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Ireland	€25,000	€148,188	€123,188
Applied Partnership Awards	Health Service Executive Health Service Executive Health Service Executive	€39,968	€239,808	€199,840
COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Irish Research Council (Strand 3)	€138,355	€138,355	€0
COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Irish Research Council (Strand 3)	€125,139	€125,139	€0
COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Irish Research Council (Strand 3)	€198,693	€198,693	€0
COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Irish Research Council (Strand 3)	€63,350	€63,350	€0
Applied Partnership Awards	Quality Assurance and Verification Division, HSE	€38,625	€231,753	€193,128
Applied Partnership Awards	Nursing & Midwifery Planning & Development Unit, HSE South and South/South West Hospital Group	€39,991	€239,948	€199,957

<b>HRB co-funded awards</b>				
<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Co-funding partner</b>	<b>Co-funding allocation</b>	<b>Total award</b>	<b>HRB share</b>
Applied Partnership Awards	Trinity Academic Gastroenterology Group Research Centre	€29,000	€171,907	€142,907
Applied Partnership Awards	HSE Quality Improvement division and National Office of Clinical Audit	€40,000	€239,998	€199,998
Applied Partnership Awards	Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus Ireland	€25,000	€148,188	€123,188
Applied Partnership Awards	Health Service ExecutiveHealth Service ExecutiveHealth Service Executive	€39,968	€239,808	€199,840
COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Irish Research Council (Strand 3)	€138,355	€138,355	€0
COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Irish Research Council (Strand 3)	€125,139	€125,139	€0
COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Irish Research Council (Strand 3)	€198,693	€198,693	€0
COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Irish Research Council (Strand 3)	€63,350	€63,350	€0
COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Irish Research Council (Strand 3)	€180,727	€180,727	€0
COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Irish Research Council (Strand 3)	€194,299	€194,299	€0
COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Irish Research Council (Strand 3)	€191,116	€191,116	€0
COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Irish Research Council (Strand 3)	€175,013	€175,013	€0
COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Irish Research Council (Strand 3)	€134,455	€134,455	€0



<b>HRB co-funded awards</b>				
<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Co-funding partner</b>	<b>Co-funding allocation</b>	<b>Total award</b>	<b>HRB share</b>
COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Irish Research Council (Strand 3)	€111,040	€111,040	€0
COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Irish Research Council (Strand 3)	€175,322	€175,322	€0
COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Irish Research Council (Strand 3)	€123,370	€123,370	€0
COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Irish Research Council (Strand 3)	€117,574	€117,574	€0
COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Irish Research Council (Strand 3)	€148,745	€148,745	€0
COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Irish Research Council (Strand 3)	€185,340	€185,340	€0
COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Irish Research Council (Strand 3)	€66,394	€66,394	€0
COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Irish Research Council (Strand 3)	€202,382	€202,382	€0
COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Irish Research Council (Strand 3)	€199,945	€199,945	€0
COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Irish Research Council (Strand 3)	€152,847	€152,847	€0
COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Irish Research Council (Strand 3)	€187,254	€187,254	€0
COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Irish Research Council (Strand 3)	€199,952	€199,952	€0
COVID-19 Rapid Response Research, Development and Innovation programme	Irish Research Council (Strand 3)	€38,310	€38,310	€0

<b>HRB co-funded awards</b>				
<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Co-funding partner</b>	<b>Co-funding allocation</b>	<b>Total award</b>	<b>HRB share</b>
Irish Clinical Academic Training	College of Anaesthesiology of Ireland	€500,000	€1,000,000	€500,000
HRCI-HRB Joint Funding Scheme	Centre for Arthritis and Rheumatic Diseases	€95,655	€191,309	€95,655
HRCI-HRB Joint Funding Scheme	Fighting Blindness	€97,500	€195,000	€97,500
HRCI-HRB Joint Funding Scheme	MSD Action Foundation	€69,674	€139,347	€69,674
HRCI-HRB Joint Funding Scheme	Breakthrough Cancer Research	€97,408	€194,815	€97,408
HRCI-HRB Joint Funding Scheme	Breakthrough Cancer Research	€64,333	€128,666	€64,333
HRCI-HRB Joint Funding Scheme	Breakthrough Cancer Research	€94,208	€188,416	€94,208
HRCI-HRB Joint Funding Scheme	Cystic Fibrosis Ireland	€27,206	€54,411	€27,206
HRCI-HRB Joint Funding Scheme	The Alzheimer Society of Ireland	€51,996	€103,992	€51,996
HRCI-HRB Joint Funding Scheme	Irish Thoracic Society	€32,500	€65,000	€32,500
HRCI-HRB Joint Funding Scheme	Irish Nephrology Society	€97,357	€194,713	€97,357
Joint Programming Initiative 'A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life'	Joint Programming Initiative 'A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life'	€1,015,780	€1,382,030	€366,250
Joint Programming Initiative Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life	Joint Programming Initiative 'A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life'	€823,527	€1,189,569	€366,042
Joint Programming Initiative 'A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life'	Joint Programming Initiative 'A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life'	€446,350	€681,422	€235,072
Joint Programming Initiative in Neurodegenerative Diseases	JPND	€1,213,193	€1,583,192	€369,999
AllHPC Structured Research Network	Health and Social Care R&D Division, Northern Ireland	€105,000	€210,000	€105,000

<b>HRB co-funded awards</b>				
<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Co-funding partner</b>	<b>Co-funding allocation</b>	<b>Total award</b>	<b>HRB share</b>
PPI National Network	Irish Research Council and Network Lead Sites	€2,600,000	€4,900,000	€2,300,000
Research Collaborative in Quality and Patient Safety	Department of Health	€69,910	€139,818	€69,908
Research Collaborative in Quality and Patient Safety	Health Service Executive Addiction Services	€51,996	€103,992	€51,996
Research Collaborative in Quality and Patient Safety	Health Service Executive Quality Improvement Team	€69,980	€139,960	€69,980
Research Collaborative in Quality and Patient Safety	Safetynet Primary Care	€60,628	€121,255	€60,627
US-Ireland Research and Development Partnership Award	SFI and the National Institutes of Health (USA)	€2,965,685	€3,406,729	€441,044
US-Ireland Research and Development Partnership Award	SFI and the National Institutes of Health (USA)	€2,053,731	€2,506,840	€453,109
US-Ireland Research and Development Partnership Award	SFI and the National Institutes of Health (USA)	€4,305,675	€4,714,652	€408,977
US-Ireland Research and Development Partnership Award	SFI and the National Institutes of Health (USA)	€2,229,330	€2,604,886	€375,777
US-Ireland Research and Development Partnership Award	SFI and the National Institutes of Health (USA)	€3,421,245	€3,835,762	€414,517
Solidarity international trial by WHO	Department of Health	€1,600,000	€1,600,000	€0

# Corporate Governance and Financial Statements

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The Corporate Governance and Financial Statements information will be published in a Part 2 to this document upon receipt of the audited financial statements from the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General.



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