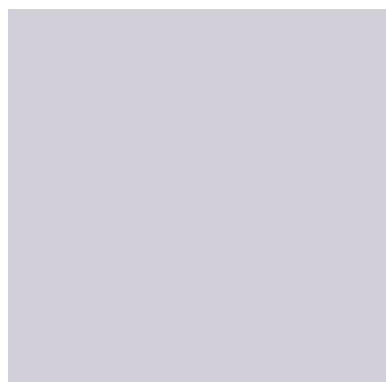
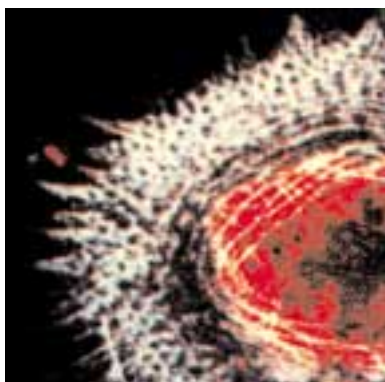
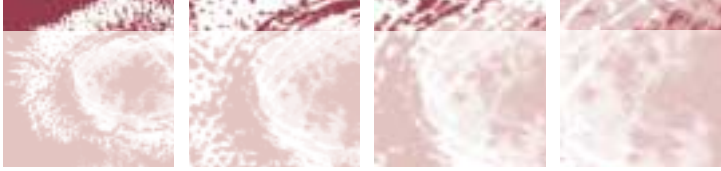




## Annual Report and Accounts 2000



**Health Research Board** An Bord Taighde Sláinte



HEALTH RESEARCH BOARD  
An Bord Taighde Sláinte

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2000**

Established in 1986 (under Statutory Instrument No. 279), the Health Research Board promotes, assists, commissions and conducts medical, health, epidemiological and health services research in Ireland.

Liaison and co-operation with other research bodies in Ireland, Northern Ireland, the European Union and the United States form an important part of the Board's role.

At the request of the Minister for Health and Children, research relevant to health and health services is undertaken by the Board.

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Health Research Board

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Dublin 2

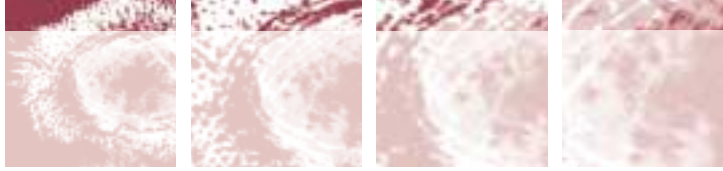
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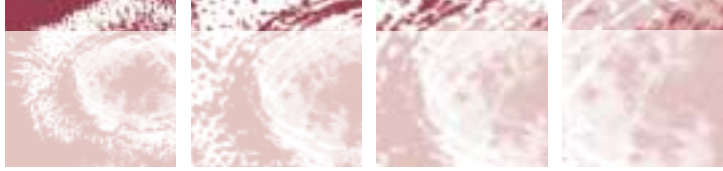
**w** [www.hrb.ie](http://www.hrb.ie)



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## Board Members

### Health Research Board Members as at 31 December 2000

**Professor Michael Murphy (Chairman)**

Dean of Medicine  
University College Cork

**Professor Hugh Brady**

Department of Medicine and Therapeutics  
University College Dublin

**Anne Cleary**

Department of Sociology  
University College Dublin

**Dr Eibhlín Connolly**

Department of Health and Children

**Professor Robert Daly**

Department of Psychiatry  
University College Cork

**Professor John Feely**

Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics  
Trinity College Dublin

**Professor Desmond Fitzgerald**

Department of Clinical Pharmacology  
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

**Mr Charlie Hardy**

Department of Health and Children

**Professor Bernadette Herity**

Department of Public Health Medicine and  
Epidemiology  
University College Dublin

**Professor Patrick Johnston**

Department of Oncology  
Belfast City Hospital

**Damien Maguire**

Solicitor  
Maynooth  
Co Kildare

**Professor Peter McCarthy**

Department of Radiology  
National University of Ireland  
Galway

**Professor Thomas O'Dowd**

Department of General Practice  
Trinity College Dublin

**Edward Rowland**

Ulster Bank  
Tallaght  
Dublin 24

**Professor Donald Weir**

Department of Clinical Medicine  
Trinity College Dublin

**Dr Helen Whelton**

Oral Health Services Research Centre  
University College Cork

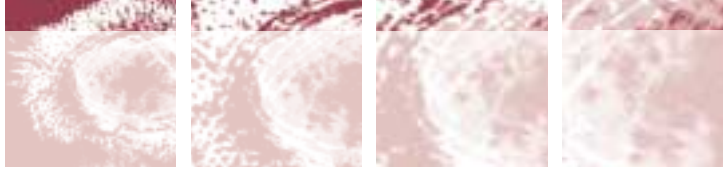


## Chairman's Statement

In 2000 the Health Research Board benefited from an unprecedented increase in the level of funding made available from the Department of Health and Children to support its activities, for which the Board is extremely grateful. Encouraged by the enhanced funding and ministerial commitment to health research, the Board engaged in an extensive period of reflection and analysis. The Board published its analysis of the challenge facing research related to human health in January, in the consultation document, *Making Knowledge Work for Health*. Comments were invited on this document and a major conference was held in Dublin Castle in March to stimulate debate and discussion on its contents. The Board also commissioned the CIRCA Group to survey expenditure on health-related research in Ireland in 1998 to establish a base figure and to calculate the relative expenditure across fields of health research and by different agencies. The report confirmed the relatively low spend on health research, illustrated the high proportion of spending on biosciences research and highlighted the absence in many health agencies of systems to monitor research expenditure.

In preparing its proposals for a strategy for health research for submission to the Department of Health and Children, the Board incorporated the many comments and concerns that had been raised by people and institutions with an interest in health and research. The Board is satisfied that the proposals made to the Minister and the Department reflect a broad consensus of opinion as to how scientific knowledge relevant to human health can be better supported and how research can assist in achieving the objectives of the health services. As the year drew to a close, we awaited the publication of the Minister's proposals as to how the knowledge acquired through research could be better used for health.

Further analysis and reflection were stimulated by the Government's most welcome announcement that it proposed to implement the recommendations of the Technology Foresight Initiative by the establishment of a new foundation, subsequently named Science Foundation Ireland, to fund world-class research in biotechnology and information and communication technologies. The Board played an active role in the implementation group established by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment to shape the new organisation and its method of operation. The Board was anxious to ensure that the new Foundation would complement the long-standing work of the HRB in supporting high-quality research in the biological sciences and building the skills of young researchers. It was keen that the established links between the universities and the health services in supporting health-related research should be strengthened. It was particularly concerned about the implications for the long-term development of health-related research in this country of the possible establishment of research institutes that would be independent of the third-level sector and the health services.



The Board convened its own advisory group to develop the position of the human biosciences research community on the implementation of the Technology Foresight Initiative. In particular, the advisory group was asked to develop criteria for selecting the niche areas of biosciences research that are of strategic importance to the development of biotechnology in this country and that should be reflected in the operation of the Foundation. The report of the advisory committee emphasised that the links that exist between bioscience researchers form one of the strengths of research in this country, and that the involvement of patients, as a source of genetic and tissue material, is a key resource for research and in formulating scientific questions for further research and facilitating the translation of discoveries at the bench to the bedside. The existing close links between laboratory and clinical scientists provide this country with a competitive advantage in research in the biosciences and in biotechnology. The advisory group put forward criteria for selecting the niche areas of biosciences to be funded and the Board was pleased that these criteria were met in those areas selected by the Foundation in its first call. The Board was generally pleased with the arrangements agreed for the operation of the new Foundation and, as the year closed, looked forward to working closely with it to support high-quality research of benefit both to health and to our future economic development.

A common theme in the consultation document, *Making Knowledge Work for Health*, and in the report of the advisory group, was the need to support people if research is to thrive. A priority for the Board is the appointment of physician-scientists or medical consultants with a primary commitment to research as joint appointments to our universities and hospitals. The Board met with a number of organisations throughout the year to promote the idea of such appointments. Given the obvious need for such posts and the good will of all parties, the Board is confident that progress can be made on this issue in the near future.

The work of the HRB depends on the input of many people. May I thank all those who served on our research committees, those who reviewed proposals, our research partners and those who agreed to take part in our intra-mural research programmes, for their time and commitment. In particular, I would like to thank those people who made submissions on our consultation document and contributed to the development of thinking as to how best knowledge can work for health. The staff of the Board have worked extraordinarily hard to assist the Board during this year of enhanced funding, reflection and analysis. They have maximised the impact of the additional resources made available for research, adapted with enthusiasm to technological changes, and maintained the highest standards of research practice and research and information management. Finally, may I thank my fellow Board members for their commitment and unfailing support.

**Professor Michael B Murphy**  
Chairman of the Board





## Chief Executive's Report

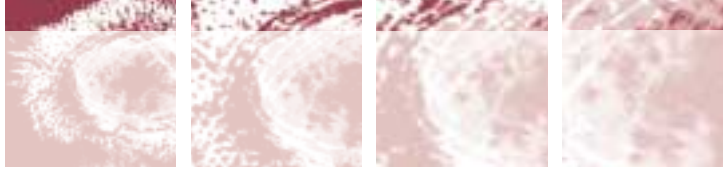
The Health Research Board (HRB) was most grateful to the Minister for Health and Children for the substantial increase in its budget for 2000. The total funding available to the Board was £10.5 million for the year, compared with £6.5 million in 1999. This additional income enabled the Board to expand greatly its support for health-related research.

The Board made a major contribution to policy on research in Ireland with the publication in January 2000 of a consultation document, *Making Knowledge Work for Health – Towards a Strategy for Research and Innovation for Health*. Following a major conference in Dublin Castle in March 2000 and the receipt of over one hundred comments, the Board put its proposals for a national research strategy for health to the Department of Health and Children later in the year. The proposals envisage investment in two parallel but complementary strands of research, one of which is called 'Science for Health', and the second 'Research and Development for Health'. The HRB envisages that it will continue to take the lead role in supporting research under the heading of 'science for health' and it will assist the health services build an R & D function for health. The staff of the Board are most grateful for the input of so many people to the preparation of these proposals.

The Matching Funds Agreement between the HRB and the Wellcome Trust came to an end in September 2000. The Agreement, under which the Trust and the Health Research Board each made £3 million available to support health-related research over a three-year period, was one of the most significant initiatives to benefit health research in this country. Among the most important benefits was the appointment of eight New Blood Fellows to universities and associated hospitals. These Fellowships provided Irish researchers with tenure and the funding to make a major contribution to the development of Irish bio-medical research. The New Blood Fellows presented their research at a most successful seminar organised by the Wellcome Trust in London on 12 May 2000. The Board was pleased to assist the Trust carry out an evaluation of the Agreement during the year. As Chief Executive, I would like to express my thanks to the staff of the Trust, in particular Dr Andy Robertson and Dr Gavin Malloch, for their commitment to the Agreement and for the co-operative spirit in which all issues were resolved.

As the year closed Mr Micheál Martin TD, Minister for Health and Children, had made arrangements to meet Dr Michael Dexter, Director of the Wellcome Trust, and colleagues at the Irish embassy in London to thank the Trust on behalf of the Irish Government for its participation in the Agreement.

During the year, the HRB, with assistance from the Wellcome Trust, was able to address long-standing inadequacies in equipment needed for health-related research. A sum of over IR£2.8 million in research equipment grants was made available on the basis of competitive peer review in two rounds of awards. The HRB hopes that other deficiencies will be addressed in response to the survey of research equipment and facilities in the Universities and the Royal College of Surgeons that is being undertaken by the PREST consultancy group.



The HRB took the opportunity at the end of 2000 to review and reorganise its project grant scheme so that it would better reflect the science underlying research for health and support important areas of research that were traditionally under-funded. Thirteen new research committees were established, nominations were invited from the research community for membership of the committees and, in 2001, interviews will be replaced by a greater emphasis on international peer review of all applications. It is also hoped to increase significantly the amount of funding available for each award.

The Board was pleased to co-fund research on arthritis with the Arthritis Foundation of Ireland. The Board and the Foundation hope in this way to maximise the impact of their resources in combating this common and disabling condition.

The HRB has continued to build its links with the research community in Northern Ireland and the R & D Office in Belfast in particular. The Cancer Consortium established under the 1999 Memorandum of Understanding on Cancer, involving Ireland, Northern Ireland and the US National Cancer Institute (NCI), has provided exciting opportunities to build capacity in cancer research on the island as a whole. The HRB and the R & D Office awarded two Fellowships in Cancer Epidemiology, in association with the Cancer Registries in Cork and Belfast. In September, a joint delegation from Ireland and Northern Ireland visited the NCI in the United States to explore opportunities for enhanced co-operation in cancer research, including clinical trials of new cancer therapies. As the year closed, the recommendation of the Consortium that investment be made in hospitals to conduct cancer clinical trials was adopted by the Department of Health and Children in Dublin and the Department of Health, Personal Social Services and Public Safety in Belfast and the Board was making arrangements to issue a call for proposals. This funding will be the first public investment in clinical trials in Ireland and will help ensure that patients receive state-of-the-art treatment for cancer. The intention is to build clinical trial capacity on the island as a whole to enable participation in trials sponsored by the NCI. The HRB and the R & D Office also agreed to sponsor professionals working in cancer from Ireland and Northern Ireland to participate in the summer programmes run by the NCI to deepen their knowledge and understanding of the disease, the insights of recent research and the latest cancer therapies. It is hoped to offer this opportunity again in future years.

The intra-mural research activities of the Board continued to develop during the year. The Board published the *Annual Report of the National Intellectual Disability Database, 1998/1999*. This database has proved remarkably successful in providing the information needed to plan and fund services for people with an intellectual disability. The Board also published reports on *Treated Drug Misuse* and the *National Report on Drug Issues in Ireland*. The activities of the Drug Misuse Research Division were set to expand with the decision of the Minister of State with responsibility for the National Drugs Strategy to support the Board in developing a state-of-the-art library and dissemination centre on drug issues. The Division moved to new premises to facilitate the development of this centre. Steady progress was reported in recruitment to the genetic studies in which the Board is involved as a partner, namely, the Irish Affected Sib-Pair Study of Alcohol Dependence, the Genetic Epidemiology of Schizophrenia, the Genetic Study of Neural Tube Defects and the Genetic Study of Orofacial Clefts.

During 2000 the Board established a Partnership Committee to provide a forum in which management and staff can resolve issues of mutual concern. I would like to express my thanks to Isobel Butler, an external consultant, for her skill in chairing the committee and for sharing her expertise in making

partnership work. A new grading structure was also agreed for the organisation to reflect better the work of the job families in the Board. I would like to express my thanks to Alpha Consulting for their advice and to the staff for their hard work and commitment to designing the new grading structure.

I would like to thank all the staff for their contribution to achieving the objectives of the Board during the year.

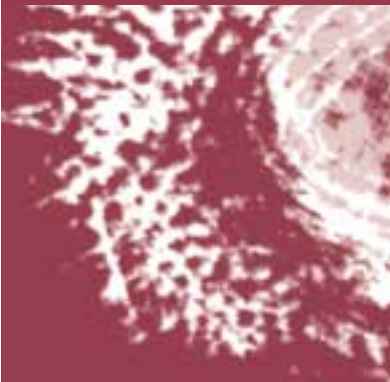


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**Ruth Barrington**

Chief Executive

# Divisions of the Health Research Board



## Medical and Health Services Research Division

## Medical and Health Services Research Division

The role of the Medical and Health Services Research Division is to fund health research, to evaluate the effectiveness of the Health Research Board's support for health research, to increase awareness of research supported by the HRB and to further the strategic development of health research in the context of national and international developments.

### Achievements in 2000

There was an increase in 2000 in both the number and value of awards made to the health research community. Expenditure on external research in 2000 was a record £7.8 million, an increase of £3.2 million on the previous year. A full list of awards made by the HRB in 2000 is included in the Appendix.

Awards of 72 project grants were made in the year. Among them were four awards made jointly with the Arthritis Foundation of Ireland, and four all-island awards made jointly with the R & D Office of the Northern Ireland Department of Health, Personal Social Services and Public Safety, as part of the Ireland-Northern Ireland co-operation scheme.

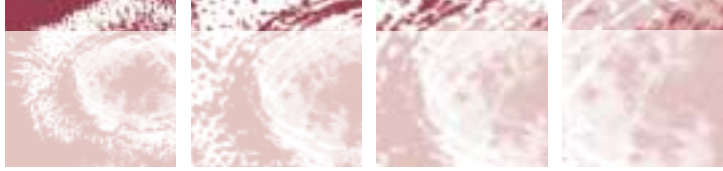
As part of the HRB's mission to support careers in health research, 20 fellowship awards were made. These included eight clinical research training fellowships for medical doctors, three clinical research fellowships in nursing and midwifery, four postdoctoral awards to research scientists and three awards in the area of health services research. Two fellowships were awarded in cancer epidemiology as part of the implementation of the *Memorandum of Understanding on Cancer Research* agreed between the governments of Ireland, Northern Ireland and the United States in October 1999. These were awarded jointly with the R & D Office in Northern Ireland and both Fellows will spend a year of their fellowship at the National Cancer Institute in the USA.

An in-depth review of the HRB's research committees was carried out. This involved extensive consultation with the research community and resulted in significant changes to the organisation of committees and their membership to reflect more effectively the scope of research supported by the HRB. Also arising from the review, a new system of evaluation of grant applications was devised. These changes will be implemented in 2001.

Inadequate funding for research equipment has been a long-standing problem for Irish researchers. However, in 2000, health research infrastructure received a major boost with a £2.8 million investment in capital equipment. Over 50 research teams benefited.

The Wellcome Trust / Health Research Board Matching Funds Agreement came to an end in 2000 and an evaluation of its impact was carried out. The findings of the evaluation will be published in 2001. A seminar was held at the Wellcome Trust in London for New Blood Fellows in May 2000, giving them an opportunity to present their work in progress.

This year's Watt Medal was awarded to Kelebogile Motumise, a third-year medical student at Trinity College Dublin, for his project entitled, *The role of P glycoprotein expression and function in HIV disease*.



The 2000 Graves Lecture, sponsored by the Health Research Board and the Royal Irish Academy, was given by Dr William Reardon from the National Centre for Medical Genetics, Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin. Dr Reardon's lecture was titled, *Pendred syndrome – rare disorder or model for the molecular age?*

## **Staff changes in 2000**

Kay Duggan-Walls joined the team as a Research Grants Officer with a background in the pharmaceutical industry in clinical research.

## **Looking forward**

A substantial increase in the budget for research support is anticipated in 2001. This will enable the HRB to provide long-term support for teams of researchers working in areas relevant to health and social gain.

A survey of research equipment and facilities in the universities and the Royal College of Surgeons undertaken by the PREST consultancy group on behalf of the HRB and the Higher Education Authority will be completed in 2001. It is hoped that the findings of this survey will help the HRB to target infrastructure support in the most effective way.

The next phase in the Memorandum of Understanding on Cancer Research will be implemented with a competitive call for the establishment of cancer clinical trial centres in hospitals.

In-house, the focus will be on the development of information systems within the Division: an eGrants system will be piloted to allow electronic processing of grant applications and a new database of research awards will be developed.

## **Staff of the Division**

**Mairéad O'Driscoll** PhD, Head of Division

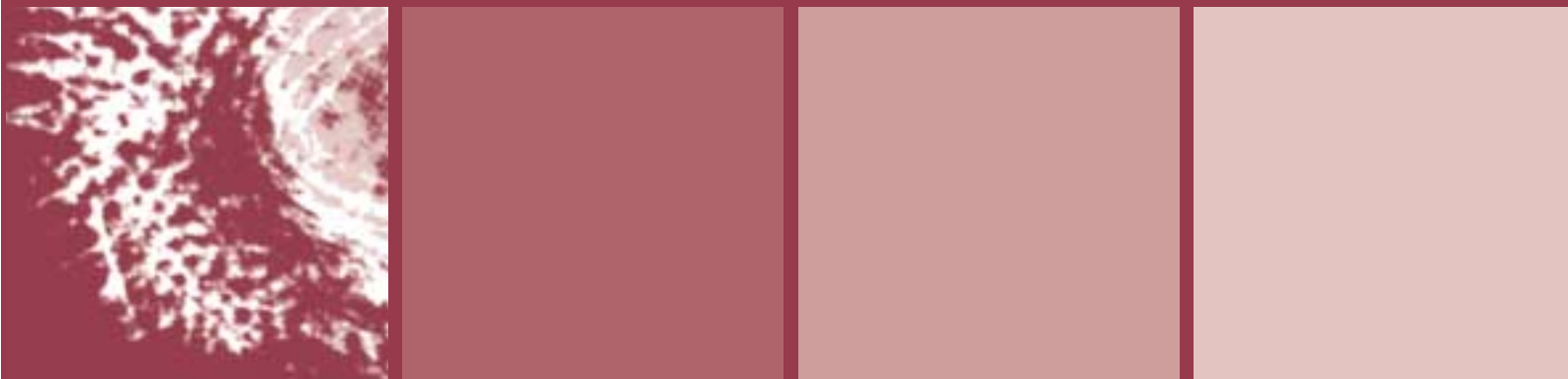
**Patricia Butler** MA

**Judith Chavasse** RGN MPhil

**Patricia Cranley** BA

**Kay Duggan-Walls** BSc HDip





# Child Health Epidemiology Division



# Child Health Epidemiology Division

The Child Health Epidemiology Division of the Health Research Board is involved in epidemiological research, mainly in the field of pregnancy and child health. The main focus of the current research programme of the Division is on neural tube defects and other congenital malformations.

## Achievements in 2000

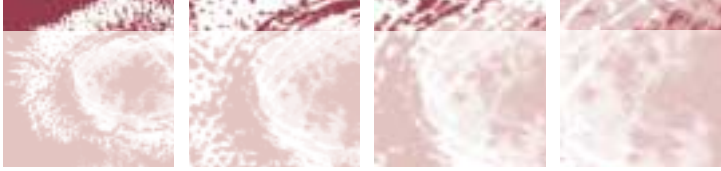
Most of the work of the Division during 2000 continued to revolve around the US National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) contract research on neural tube defects (NTDs) and orofacial clefts. Expansion of the research resulted in the appointment of a cleft research co-ordinator to assist in a major drive to recruit people with orofacial clefts and their parents throughout Ireland. Discussions were initiated with the Dublin Cleft Unit (an association of health professionals and institutions treating people with clefts) to assess the feasibility of recruiting study subjects through cleft clinics at The Children's Hospital, Temple Street Hospital, Our Lady's Hospital, Crumlin, and St James's Hospital. The Cleft Unit is very interested in and enthusiastic about the study and has been very accommodating.

The research team continued to liaise with branches of the Irish Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (IASBH) and the Northern Ireland Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (ASBAH). Recruitment of members from the branches took place through special meetings and home visits. Planning for recruitment of members from ASBAH UK (England and Wales) was finalised and an application seeking ethical approval was submitted to the UK-based Multi-Centre Research Ethics Committee (MREC). The research team continued to liaise with public health nurses in the various community care areas throughout Ireland with a view to recruiting families where a member has spina bifida. A document requesting formal permission, and outlining what participation by public health nurses would involve, was sent to several of the health boards and permission was obtained to proceed with the study.

The Division has been collaborating with the Department of Public Health Medicine and Epidemiology in University College Dublin and the Departments of Diagnostic Imaging and Preventive Medicine in St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin, in a case-control study of hip fracture in older Irish women. The study has been completed. A research paper on risk factors for hip fracture and post-fracture mortality has been submitted for publication and a second paper examining the outcome of hip fracture two years after the event is in preparation.

## Looking Forward

Continuing and extending the research on neural tube defects, the Division will co-ordinate recruitment of subject families through liaison with the relevant associations in Ireland and Northern Ireland and will initiate recruitment of families through the public health nurses. Once ethical approval for the UK ASBAH study has been received, recruitment of ASBAH members from England and Wales will commence. Analysis of data on a study of survival and handicap in a cohort of babies born with spina bifida has been completed and the results will be written up in 2001.



Continuing and extending the research on orofacial clefts, the Division will co-ordinate recruitment of subject families through liaison with the Cleft Lip and Palate Association of Ireland and through the cleft clinics at four Dublin hospitals.

## **Publications**

Shields, D.C., Ramsbottom, D., Donoghue, C., Pinjon, E., Kirke, P.N., Molloy, A.M., Edwards, Y.H., Mills, J.L., Mynett-Johnson, L., Weir, D.G., Scott, J.M., Whitehead, A.S. (2000) Association between historically high frequencies of neural tube defects and the human T homologue of mouse T (Brachyury). *American Journal of Medical Genetics*, 92: 206-11.

## **Staff of the Division**

**Peadar Kirke** MB FFPHMI FFPHM MSc DCH DObst, Head of Division

**Helen Burke** BSocSc

**Miriam Lynch** RGN MPsySc

**Ena Lynn** RGN RM HDip

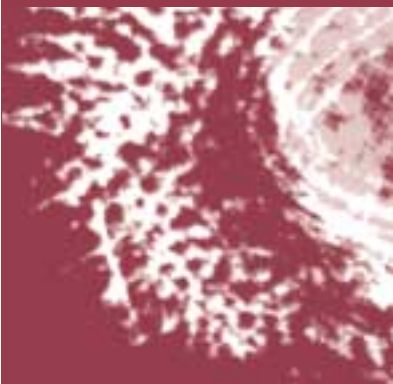
**Mary Patricia McKeever** PhD

**Sharon Murray** RGN RM

**Marie Sutton** MB BCh BAO MPH

**Deborah Watson** BSc





## Disability Databases Division

## Disability Databases Division

The Disability Databases Division of the Health Research Board is contracted to manage specific national service-planning databases on behalf of the Disability Services Section in the Department of Health and Children. Established in 1995, the National Intellectual Disability Database (NIDD) provides a comprehensive information base for decision making in relation to the planning, funding, and management of services for people with intellectual disability. The development of a similar database for people with physical and sensory disabilities is currently being co-ordinated by this Division.

### Achievements in 2000

#### **National Intellectual Disability Database (NIDD)**

The Division is responsible for the ongoing management and development of the National Intellectual Disability Database. Early in 2000, a research analyst was recruited to fill a new post which had been created in the Division.

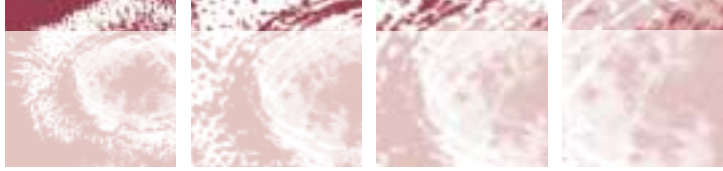
The *Annual Report of the National Intellectual Disability Database 1998/1999* was published. This incorporated a summary of the 1998 data and included a mid-term review of the Department of Health and Children's document, *Services to Persons with Mental Handicap/Intellectual Disability – Assessment of Need 1997-2001*, which was published in 1997.

Data collected from all the health boards during 2000 was imported and validated. The Division continued to establish good-quality baseline data in each health board area for the purposes of monitoring the implementation of the Department of Health and Children's service development plan. Following the National Clinical Evaluation of the National Intellectual Disability Database completed in 1999, the Division assisted in a Midland Health Board project to audit the quality of the data collected as part of their regional dataset.

The Division managed the revision of the database software, which is currently under development. In addition, it established the NIDD Software Management Group to undertake the strategic management of the software which supports the national dataset.

In the course of the year, the National Intellectual Disability Database Committee approved the inclusion of additional information on the database. The Information Manual for the NIDD, which incorporates the protocols and guidelines, was revised to reflect these changes and circulated to all the health boards. An updated national training programme for the NIDD was devised and administered to health board personnel.

In addition to the various committees directly related to the NIDD, the Division represented the HRB on the Legal Issues sub-Committee of the National Health Information Strategy Committee. This committee examines issues of access to data, including the development of protocols for confidentiality and release of data to third parties. The Division is also represented on the National Monitoring Committee which was established by the Minister for Health and Children to oversee the Government's investment programme in intellectual disability services.



As part of the Division's role in raising awareness of the National Intellectual Disability Database, presentations were made at national and international conferences.

Overall, the availability of such detailed national data continued to be a key factor influencing the Government's decision to allocate additional funding (£83m in the 2000 Budget) for the development of intellectual disability services. The database will continue to be used to monitor service developments arising from this substantial investment.

### **National Physical and Sensory Disability Database**

This Division co-ordinates the development of a National Physical and Sensory Disability Database. Progress towards the establishment of this resource was made through the development of protocols and guidelines for the new database. This included extensive consultation to establish the data content. The Division designed and oversaw the first phase of implementation of the database in four community care areas nation-wide. This first phase will act as a pilot for all aspects of the database before national implementation to ensure that all proposals are capable of being implemented in a structured fashion. Part of the implementation of Phase 1 involved the Division's devising and implementing training programmes, information manuals and interim software. Awareness of the database was raised through the dissemination of information packs and leaflets, and the preparation of articles, website pages and presentations.

## **Looking Forward**

### **National Intellectual Disability Database**

The Division is preparing for the publication of two reports from the National Intellectual Disability Database, those for 2000 and 2001. It will co-ordinate the work of the NIDD Software Management Group and training in the new software. There will also be continued endeavours to ensure data quality. It will implement a programme to improve regional use of the NIDD information by training database administrators on data validation and report preparation and interpretation. It will continue to assist in the work of the National Monitoring Committee.

### **National Physical and Sensory Disability Database**

In the coming year, the Division will oversee the completion and evaluation of Phase 1 of the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database. All aspects will be formally evaluated and the initial results analysed. Subsequently, detailed proposals will be published and, on the recommendations of the Department of Health and Children, the Division will co-ordinate the implementation of the database nationally.

## **Publications**

Mulvany, F. (2000) *Annual Report of the National Intellectual Disability Database 1998/1999*. Dublin: Health Research Board.

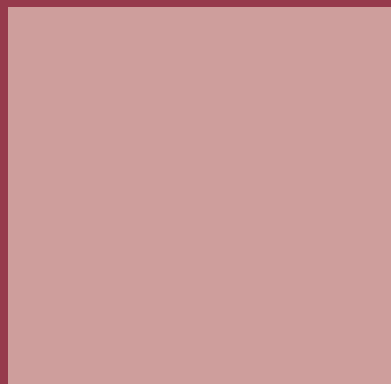
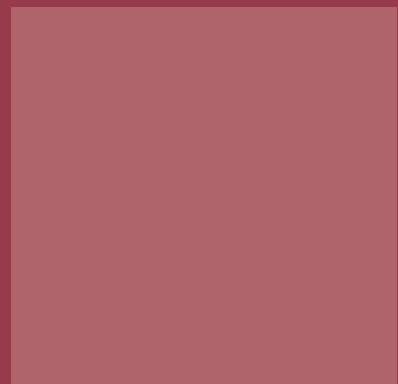
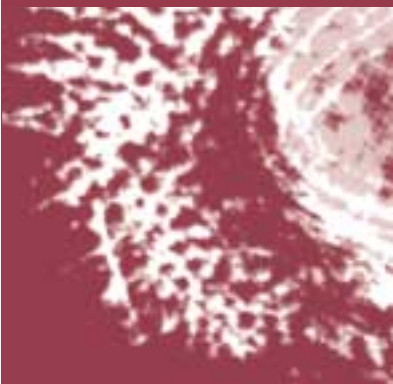
## **Staff of the Division**

**Fiona Mulvany** BSocSc DipStats, Head of Division

**Pamela Gallagher** PhD DipStats

**Damian O'Driscoll** BA DipStats





# Drug Misuse Research Division



## Drug Misuse Research Division

The Drug Misuse Research Division is a national centre for research on drug misuse issues in Ireland. The research it carries out informs policy and contributes to academic understanding of drug misuse. The Division maintains the National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS), which is the main national epidemiological database on treated drug misuse in Ireland. The Division is the designated Irish National Focal Point of REITOX (the European Information Network on Drugs and Drug Addiction) which is co-ordinated by the EMCDDA (European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction). As the National Focal Point, the Division co-operates with other centres across the EU to develop and disseminate standardised drug-related information.

### Achievements in 2000

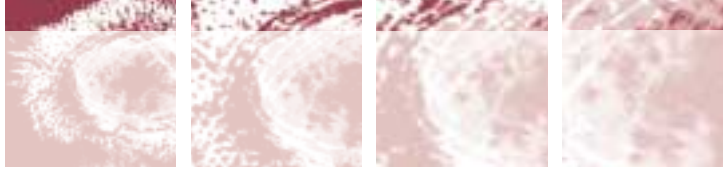
Under its contractual obligations with the EMCDDA, the Division prepared a National Report on the drug situation in Ireland and a second report entitled *Joint Action on New Synthetic Drugs*. During the year the Division convened three national expert group meetings to further the development of key indicators of drug misuse in Ireland with the aim of harmonising data collection across the EU. The expert groups focused on: (1) prevalence of drug misuse, (2) drug-related infectious diseases, and (3) drug-related deaths.

The Division was an active participant in the EMCDDA's electronic database on Exchange on Drug Demand Reduction Action (EDDRA). Projects in the EDDRA database are chosen to represent 'best practice' in drug demand reduction activities in the EU Member States.

In May, staff of the Division briefed Mr Eoin Ryan TD, the Minister of State with special responsibility for the National Drugs Strategy at the Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation, on the Division's activities and on recent trends in drug misuse in Ireland and Europe. In July, the Division made a submission to the Review Group of the National Drugs Strategy.

The Division continued to expand the coverage of the National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS). Negotiation to include the NDTRS data from the prison services began. The Irish College of General Practitioners agreed to include a training module on the use of the NDTRS for general practitioners involved in prescribing methadone under the terms of the methadone protocol. One of the Division staff, Tracy Kelleher, continued to train health professionals and providers of drug treatment services in the concepts and requirements of the NDTRS. The Division published the NDTRS *Statistical Bulletin 1997 & 1998*.

The second issue of the Division's newsletter, *Drugnet Ireland*, was published in May 2000. Since its launch in May 1999 by Professor Michael Murphy, Chairman of the HRB, feedback on *Drugnet Ireland* from those interested in the drugs area in Ireland has been very positive. The newsletter fulfils a vital role in information dissemination; its value is confirmed in this second informative issue, largely due to the work of Paul Cahill of the Division.



Staff from the Division were invited to make a presentation in December 2000 to the Drug Court Committee on collecting epidemiological data on people who appear before the court.

In the course of the year the Division contributed input towards Masters Degree courses at both Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin.

## Looking Forward

A number of research studies presently under way will be published in the coming year. Publications planned include Drug Use Among Prisoners, An Overview of Drug Issues in Ireland 2000, A Collection of Papers on Drug Issues in Ireland, a NDTRS report, and further issues of *Drugnet Ireland*.

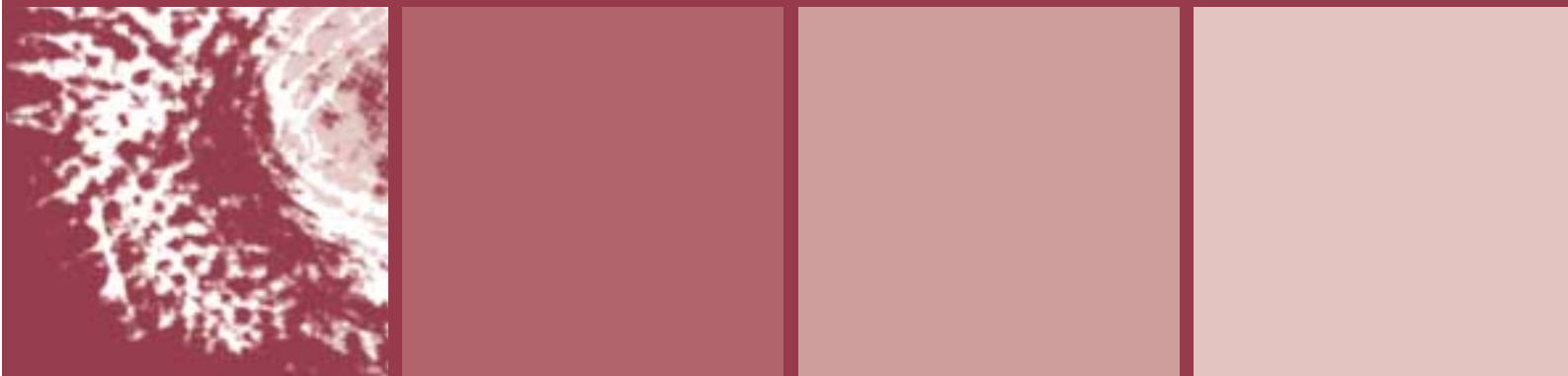
## Publications

- Bryan, A., Moran, R., Farrell, E., O'Brien, M. (2000) *Drug-Related Knowledge, Attitudes and Beliefs in Ireland*. Dublin: Health Research Board.
- Dillon, L. (2000) Drug use by prisoners: a review of the Irish situation. In *Drug Use in Prison*, ed. R. Muscat. Strasbourg: Council of Europe Publishing, 53-64.
- Drug Misuse Research Division. (2000) *Drugnet Ireland*, ed. P. Cahill. Dublin: Health Research Board.
- O'Brien, A., Moran, R., O'Brien, M. (2000) *Annotated Bibliography of Drug Misuse in Ireland*. Dublin: Health Research Board.
- O'Brien, M., Moran, R., Kelleher, T., Cahill, P. (2000) *National Drug Treatment Reporting System: Statistical Bulletin 1997 & 1998*. Dublin: Health Research Board.
- Smyth, B., O'Brien, M., Barry, J. (2000) Trends in treated opiate misuse in Dublin: the emergence of chasing the dragon. *Addiction*, 95: 1217-1223.

## Staff of the Division

- Ros Moran** MA MSc HDE, Head of Division  
**Paul Cahill** BA MPsychSc  
**Lucy Dillon** BA  
**Mary Dunne** RGN BSc DipH&SocWelfare  
**Eimear Farrell** BA MSc  
**Tracy Kelleher** BA HDip  
**Mary O'Brien** BA DipStats HDipSoc&SocRes





# Mental Health Research Division

## Mental Health Research Division

The Mental Health Research Division compiles and analyses national epidemiological information on mental illness in Ireland. The Division houses the National Psychiatric In-patient Reporting System (NPIRS) and the Westmeath and Roscommon Case Register databases. Both databases are invaluable sources of information for planning and research in the mental health area in Ireland. Staff of the Division are involved in research projects on the genetics of schizophrenia and alcohol; service availability, need and usage in the mental health area; depression and suicide.

The Division encourages the use of the NPIRS and Psychiatric Case Register databases for research purposes and disseminates research findings.

### **Achievements in 2000**

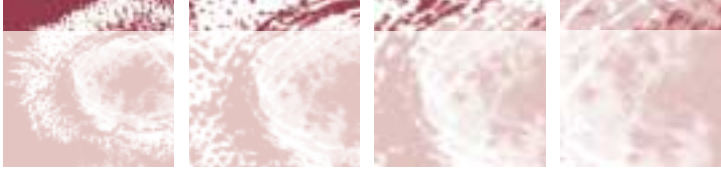
The NPIRS epidemiological database provides detailed information regarding admissions and discharges to in-patient psychiatric services and is an invaluable resource for planners, researchers and clinicians. During the year the annual report analysing information from this database, *Activities of Irish Psychiatric Services 1999*, was published. Data on the availability and usage of community psychiatric services were included in this document.

First admission rates have changed little over the last 35 years, however, first and repeat admissions taken together show a near doubling of admissions over this period. The differences between socio-economic groups persist, with the poorer sectors of society having a much higher admission rate than those more socio-economically favoured. The non-voluntary admission rate remains high compared with international figures. In 1999, 11% of admissions were non-voluntary.

The Division continued to assist hospitals in converting to a system of computerised returns of information. Further research studies based on the NPIRS database are under way.

The Westmeath and Roscommon Psychiatric Case Register gathers information regarding the users and usage of community and in-patient psychiatric services for defined geographical areas. The data are longitudinal and person-linked but anonymous, and are invaluable for clinical and service management purposes. Several research studies based on this database are under way. Progress was made in getting the database up-to-date; this effort will be continued.

The Irish Affected Sib-Pair Study of Alcohol Dependence attempts to identify the specific loci of the genes that may be involved in the development of alcohol dependence. This international project, which, commenced in late 1997, is undertaken as a collaboration between the Health Research Board and the Medical College of Virginia and is funded by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Genetic material from sibling pairs, where both have a history of alcohol dependence, is analysed. Recruitment of study participants will continue during the year 2001.



Another major study, The Genetic Epidemiology of Schizophrenia in Ireland, is funded by the US National Institute of Mental Health and is a collaborative project between the Health Research Board, Queen's University Belfast and the Medical College of Virginia. The study seeks to identify genes that predispose to schizophrenia. Fieldwork for this study began in October 1999 and continued throughout the year 2000 with the recruitment of family members affected by schizophrenia. In the course of the year, ethical approval was obtained from relevant ethics committees and contact was made with Schizophrenia Ireland to publicise the research and to encourage families to participate in the study. Specialised, intensive training in interviewing techniques was provided to new researchers on the project. A detailed database was designed for recording details of participants in the study.

The Day Hospital Study is concerned with the utilization of day hospitals and day centres from the perspective of service managers, clinicians and consumers. The study aims to identify the extent and appropriateness of current provision and explore the views of mental health specialists and other users. The results will provide useful indicators as to how the existing provision may be strengthened and revised if this appears appropriate. In addition, results can inform formal standards and guidelines for partial hospitalisation in Ireland leading to a greater standardisation of care. Fieldwork for the study commenced during 2000.

Projects are underway on service availability, need, and usage in the mental health area; schizophrenia, depression and suicide. A number of these studies use the in-house databases to answer important research questions.

## **Looking Forward**

The following developments are planned: coverage and quality of data in the NPIRS and Case Register databases will be reviewed; the Division will continue to assist hospitals in converting to computerised/electronic data returns; recruitment of participants to the Schizophrenia and Alcohol studies will continue and a control group (of approximately 400 individuals) will be recruited.

Further publications based on the work carried out in the Division are planned, including Activities of Irish Psychiatric Services 2000, and results from the Irish Psychiatric In-Patient and Hostel Census, 31 March 2001. In addition, research papers based on the NPIRS and Case Register databases are also planned.

The changes in health board catchment areas due to the establishment of the Eastern Regional Health Authority will involve liaison with the ERHA and the Central Statistics Office to establish new population bases for the various health board areas in the ERHA.

It is planned to put the management and other infrastructure in place to facilitate staff who wish to avail of teleworking arrangements and to recruit new staff in order to achieve the targets outlined above.

The Division will continue to provide training and opportunities for social researchers to work to increase knowledge and understanding related to mental health in Irish society.

## Publications

Browne, C., Daly, A. and Walsh, D. (2000) *Activities of Irish Psychiatric Services 1998*. Dublin: Health Research Board.

Daly, A. and Walsh, D. (2000) *Activities of Irish Psychiatric Services 1999*. Dublin: Health Research Board.

Kendler, K.S., Myers, J.M., O'Neill, F.A., Martin, R., McLean, C.J., Walsh, D, and Straub, R.E. (2000) Clinical features of schizophrenia and linkage to chromosomes 5q, 6q, 8p and 10p in the Irish study of high-density schizophrenia families. *American Journal of Psychiatry*, 157: 402-8.

## Staff of the Division and Irish Associates

**Dermot Walsh** FRCPI, Head of Division

**Ciarán Browne** PhD DipStats

**Lorraine Caprani**

**Antoinette Daly** MA DipStats

**Yvonne Dunne**

**Deirdre Hallissey**

**Tara Hickey** BA MSc

**Joan Moore** BA

### Irish Schizophrenia Study

St Loman's Hospital

ISS Research Office

Palmerstown

Dublin 20

Tel: 626 1208 / 626 1345

Fax: 626 2224

**Nessa Bourke** MPsychSc, Project Co-ordinator

**Aine Finnerty** BA

**Mary O'Shea**

**Marina Somers** MB BAO BCh MRCPsych

Associates:

**Paula Byrne** RPN

**Marie Moffat** RPN

### Alcohol Research Project

Unit F

St Loman's Hospital

Palmerstown

Dublin 20

Freephone: 1800 2000 41

Fax: 626 2224

**Margaret Devitt** RGN RM BSc, Project

Co-ordinator

**Phil Gavigan** MA

**Denise Hanlon** DipAI&D

Associates:

**Deirdre King** SRN

**Michael Crossan** SRN

### Roscommon Case Register Staff

**Maura McLoughlin**, Register Controller

**Anne Brehony** CPN

**Gerry Keane** CPN

**John McLoughlin** CPN

**Lily Murphy** CPN

### Westmeath Case Register Staff

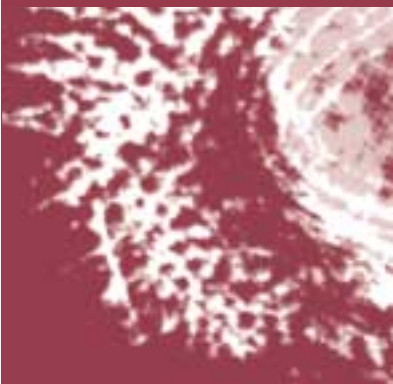
**Carmel Lennon**, Register Controller

**Patrick Casserly** CPN

**Seamus Hoyer** CPN

**Mary McHugh** CPN

**Margaret Shine** CPN



# Finance and Administration Division



# Finance and Administration Division

The role of the Finance and Administration Division is to support the Board and the Chief Executive in the implementation of the Board's policies and decisions, and to facilitate the work of the Board's staff.

## Staffing and Personnel

At the end of 2000 the HRB had 45 members of staff, including many highly qualified and experienced scientific and social researchers engaged directly in research and administration. Recruitment during the year was focused on augmenting existing divisional teams and staff replacement.

In October Dr Conor O'Callaghan retired after 41 years' service with the HRB and its predecessor organisation, the Medical Research Council of Ireland. Dr O'Callaghan had been based at Trinity College Dublin and his most recent area of research was the design and development of new inhibitors of protein tyrosine kinases. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr O'Callaghan for his excellent contribution to health research throughout his long career.

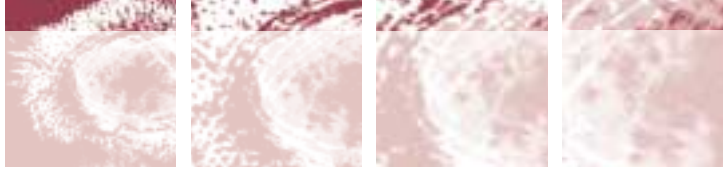
The introduction of an active Partnership Committee at the beginning of 2000 provided an ideal forum for the development of an employee handbook that met the needs of all staff. The year also saw the introduction of a job-grading structure that reflects the special nature of the HRB's activities.

The implementation of the HRB's policies on family friendliness and work-life balance was evidenced during the year with the introduction of a pilot teleworking project and four staff members availing of the parental leave scheme. The HRB is committed to attracting and retaining the best staff, and to providing them with the means to realise their full potential. It encourages staff to avail of third-level, postgraduate, or equivalent courses considered to be of value to them in their work and in their own personal development. All staff took part in training courses during the year.

## Finance

The total income of the Health Research Board for 2000 was IR£10,526,728 (1999: IR£6,403,181). This was made up of revenue income of IR£7,802,728 (1999: IR£5,776,181) and capital income of IR£2,724,000 (1999: IR£627,000). Total revenue expenditure on research grants and fellowships increased by 27% in 2000, to £5,111,543. This includes research equipment funding of IR£58,334 made available out of revenue income. Capital expenditure on grants for research equipment increased to IR£2,724,000 (1999: IR£522,000).

Increased income from external research funding, and increased expenditure in the intramural research divisions, reflect the first full year of operation with complete staff complements and recently signed research contracts from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (USA), and Virginia Commonwealth University (USA).



The result for the year was a surplus of IR£24,006 and the Board's accumulated revenue reserves at the end of 2000 amounted to IR£62,158.

Once again, the assistance of the finance offices of the recipient research institutions in the administration of the HRB's award schemes is gratefully appreciated.

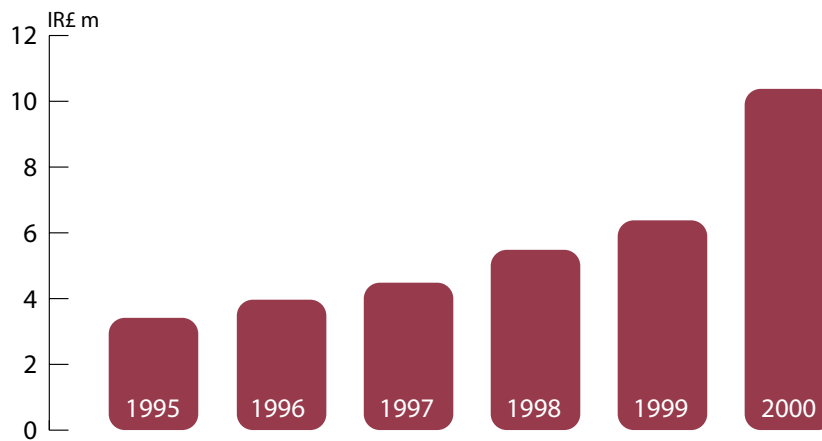


Fig. 1 HRB Total Expenditure 1995-2000

## **Buildings, Facilities, and Information Technology**

In February the Health Research Board signed a lease on additional office accommodation at 19 Clanwilliam Terrace, Dublin 2, and when fitting out was completed this building was used to accommodate the staff of the Drug Misuse Research Division. Information and communication technology systems were upgraded to provide multi-site functionality.

The continuous improvement of the HRB website has greatly facilitated communication between the Board, the research community and the general public.

The Partnership Committee again provided excellent ideas and advice on the development of all of the HRB's facilities.

## **Looking Forward**

In 2001 the Finance and Administration Division will look to streamline the payment of the General Research Project Grants Scheme with the objective of establishing procedures that will facilitate the collection of information on research funding by the research institutions. This is part of an ongoing process that will also develop enhanced payment procedures to enable the Board to increase its research funding activities without incurring a proportional increase in the associated administration costs.

By the end of 2001 it is hoped that a new grants database will be operational that will facilitate the increased activity.

The production of comprehensive human resource policies will proceed during 2001 and will make a significant contribution in effecting many changes throughout the organisation and enhance the services provided. The development of an Intranet will provide a facility for internal communication for the Health Research Board's staff.

### **Staff of the Division**

**Carol Cronin** BComm FCA, Secretary to the Board, Head of the Division

**Ashling Dwyer**

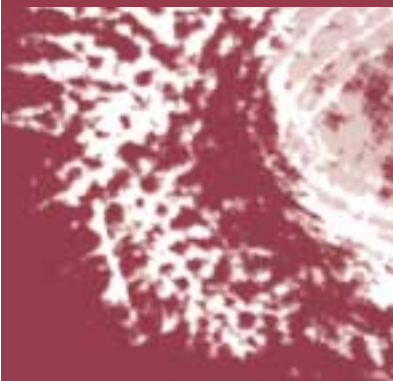
**David Flood**

**Leo Johnson**

**Sarah Lynch**

**Karen O'Donnell** BSc

**Yvonne Russell**



# Statement of Accounts

## Health Research Board

# Statement of Board Members' Responsibilities

The Board is required by the Health Research Board (Establishment) Order 1986 to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Health Research Board and of its income and expenditure for that period. In preparing those Financial Statements the Board is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the Financial Statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Health Research Board will continue in operation.

The Board is responsible for keeping proper books of accounts which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Health Research Board and enable it to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with the Order. It is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Health Research Board and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the Board:

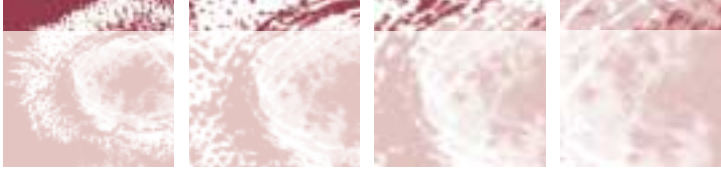
**Professor Michael B Murphy**

Chairman

17 October 2001

**Edward Rowland**

Board Member



## Health Research Board

# Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General

I have audited the financial statements on pages 38 to 49.

### **Responsibilities of the Board and of the Comptroller and Auditor General**

The accounting responsibilities of the members of the Board are set out in the Statement of Board Members' Responsibilities on page 36. It is my responsibility under Section 5 of the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act 1993 to audit the financial statements presented to me by the Board and to report on them. As the result of my audit I form an independent opinion on the financial statements.

### **Basis of Opinion**

In the exercise of my function as Comptroller and Auditor General I plan and perform my audit in a way which takes account of the special considerations in relation to management and operations which attach to bodies in receipt of substantial funding from the State.

An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made in the preparation of the financial statements and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

My audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards which embrace the standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board and in order to provide sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. I obtained all the information and explanations that I required to enable me to fulfil my function as Comptroller and Auditor General and, in forming my opinion, I also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

### **Opinion**

In my opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the Board and the financial statements, which are in agreement with them, give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Board at 31 December 2000 and of its income and expenditure and cash flow for the year then ended.

**John Purcell**

Comptroller and Auditor General

5 November 2001

## Health Research Board

# Statement of Accounting Policies

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

### Income Recognition

The Department of Health and Children's revenue grant is credited to the income and expenditure account in full in the year it is allocated. Capital grants are accounted for on an accruals basis. All other research funding is recognised as income when it is used to offset matching expenditure. Such funding includes a contribution towards the administration costs of the Board.

### Expenditure Recognition

Funding for research awards is recognised as expenditure in the period in which it is scheduled for payment to the award holder. All other expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis.

### Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. The charge for depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of the tangible fixed assets to their estimated residual values, by annual installments, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

<b>Premises</b>	4%
Office Furniture and Equipment	15%
Computer Equipment	25%

Tangible fixed assets costing less than IR£500 are not capitalised.

### Debtors

Known bad debts are written off and specific provision is made for any amounts the collection of which is considered doubtful.

### Pensions

One employee of the Board is a member of a fully funded defined benefit pension scheme, which is funded by contributions from the Board. The fund is vested in independent trustees nominated by the Board, for the sole benefit of the employee and her dependants. The adequacy of the fund to meet pension liabilities is periodically assessed by an independent qualified actuary. The most recent actuarial valuation, which was carried out on 1 May 1996, showed the scheme to be in surplus and for this reason the Board is not currently making contributions to the fund.

All other permanent staff are members of the Local Government Superannuation Scheme. Pensions arising under this scheme are paid out of current funds as they arise, and pension contributions deducted from staff are netted against pension payments as shown in note 5. No provision has been made in the accounts in respect of accrued superannuation benefits payable in future years.



## Health Research Board

# Revenue Income and Expenditure Account

for the year ended 31 December 2000

	Notes	2000 €	2000 IR£	1999 IR£
<b>INCOME</b>				
Department of Health and Children Revenue Grant		<b>6,386,783</b>	<b>5,030,000</b>	4,256,114
Other Research Funding	1	<b>1,553,994</b>	<b>1,223,869</b>	726,359
Projects Undertaken for the Department of Health and Children	2	<b>1,943,096</b>	<b>1,530,313</b>	784,255
Interest Receivable		<b>21,738</b>	<b>17,120</b>	5,290
Other Income		<b>1,810</b>	<b>1,426</b>	4,163
		<b>9,907,421</b>	<b>7,802,728</b>	5,776,181
Less: Transfer to Capital Fund of Amount Allocated to Fund Fixed Assets		<b>(73,167)</b>	<b>(57,624)</b>	(65,416)
		<b>9,834,254</b>	<b>7,745,104</b>	5,710,765
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Research Grants and Fellowships	3	<b>6,490,321</b>	<b>5,111,543</b>	4,031,022
Child Health Epidemiology Division		<b>744,437</b>	<b>586,292</b>	348,890
Drug Misuse Research Division		<b>391,648</b>	<b>308,447</b>	244,067
Mental Health Research Division		<b>757,437</b>	<b>596,529</b>	352,978
Disability Databases Division		<b>166,905</b>	<b>131,448</b>	50,443
Administration Costs and General Overheads	4	<b>1,040,956</b>	<b>819,821</b>	585,034
Pensions Paid to Retired Members of Staff	5	<b>53,401</b>	<b>42,057</b>	52,835
Research Staff at Trinity College Dublin	6	<b>45,700</b>	<b>35,992</b>	43,740
Other Activities		<b>112,968</b>	<b>88,969</b>	69,921
		<b>9,803,773</b>	<b>7,721,098</b>	5,778,930
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>30,481</b>	<b>24,006</b>	(68,165)

All income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2000 relates to continuing activities. The Board has no recognised gains or losses other than those dealt with in the revenue and capital statements of income and expenditure.

The Statement of Accounting Policies and notes 1 to 16 form part of these Financial Statements.

**Professor Michael B Murphy**  
Chairman

**Edward Rowland**  
Board Member



Health Research Board  
**Capital Income and Expenditure Account**  
**for the year ended 31 December 2000**

	<b>2000</b> €	<b>2000</b> IR£	<b>1999</b> IR£
<b>INCOME</b>			
Department of Health and Children Capital Grant	<b>3,458,767</b>	<b>724,000</b>	627,000
Amortisation of Capital Fund Account	<b>90,256</b>	<b>71,083</b>	63,951
	<b>3,549,023</b>	<b>2,795,083</b>	690,951
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Equipment Grants Paid to Third Parties	<b>3,458,767</b>	<b>2,724,000</b>	522,000
Repairs and Renewals	-	-	78,271
Consultancy	-	-	8,203
Contribution to Fixed Assets	-	-	18,526
Depreciation	<b>90,256</b>	<b>71,083</b>	63,951
	<b>3,549,023</b>	<b>2,795,083</b>	690,951
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	-	-	-

The Statement of Accounting Policies and notes 1 to 16 form part of these Financial Statements.

**Professor Michael B Murphy**  
Chairman

**Edward Rowland**  
Board Member



# Health Research Board Balance Sheet

as at 31 December 2000

	Notes	2000 €	2000 IR£	1999 IR£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible Assets	7	<b>420,917</b>	<b>331,499</b>	344,958
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors	8	<b>832,251</b>	<b>655,451</b>	339,329
Investments	9	<b>425,843</b>	<b>335,379</b>	322,156
Cash at Bank and on Hand		<b>1,601,862</b>	<b>1,261,569</b>	600,041
		<b>2,859,956</b>	<b>2,252,399</b>	1,261,526
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Amounts falling due within one year:				
Bank and Other Advances	10	<b>250,237</b>	<b>197,078</b>	-
Creditors and Deferred Income	11	<b>2,530,795</b>	<b>1,993,163</b>	1,223,374
		<b>2,781,032</b>	<b>2,190,241</b>	1,223,374
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
		<b>78,924</b>	<b>62,158</b>	38,152
<b>NET ASSETS</b>				
		<b>499,841</b>	<b>393,657</b>	383,110
<b>RESERVES</b>				
Accumulated Surplus on				
Income and Expenditure Account	12	<b>78,924</b>	<b>62,158</b>	38,152
Capital Fund	13	<b>420,917</b>	<b>331,499</b>	344,958
		<b>499,841</b>	<b>393,657</b>	383,110

The Statement of Accounting Policies and notes 1 to 16 form part of these Financial Statements.

**Professor Michael B Murphy**  
Chairman

**Edward Rowland**  
Board Member

# Health Research Board Cash Flow Statement

for the year ended 31 December 2000

	Notes	2000 €	2000 IR£	1999 IR£
<b>Reconciliation of Operating Surplus to Net Cash Inflow from Operating Activities</b>				
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		<b>30,481</b>	<b>24,006</b>	(68,165)
Less Interest Receivable		<b>(21,738)</b>	<b>(17,120)</b>	(5,290)
(Increase) in Debtors		<b>(401,391)</b>	<b>(316,122)</b>	(27,456)
Increase in Creditors and Deferred Income		<b>977,430</b>	<b>769,789</b>	494,056
<b>Net Cash Inflow from Operating Activities</b>		<b>581,782</b>	<b>460,553</b>	393,145
Net Cash Inflow from Returns on Investments and Servicing of Finance		<b>21,738</b>	<b>17,120</b>	5,290
Amount Allocated to Fund Fixed Asset Additions		<b>(73,167)</b>	<b>(57,624)</b>	(83,942)
<b>Net Cash Inflow Before Investing Activities</b>		<b>533,353</b>	<b>420,049</b>	314,493
<b>Investing Activities</b>				
Expenditure on Fixed Assets		<b>73,167</b>	<b>57,624</b>	83,942
<b>Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	14	<b>606,520</b>	<b>477,673</b>	398,435

The Statement of Accounting Policies and notes 1 to 16 form part of these Financial Statements.

**Professor Michael B Murphy**  
Chairman

**Edward Rowland**  
Board Member



## Health Research Board

# Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2000

### 1. OTHER RESEARCH FUNDING

	2000		2000		1999	
	€	€	IR£	IR£	IR£	IR£
<b>Research Grants and Fellowships</b>						
Irish Heart Foundation	33,331		26,250		35,000	
Arthritis Foundation	38,092		30,000		-	
Dept. of Social Community and Family Affairs	16,650		13,113		-	
VHI	-		-		15,000	
		<b>88,073</b>		<b>69,363</b>		50,000
<b>Child Health Epidemiology Division</b>						
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (USA)	683,557		538,345		306,167	
		<b>683,557</b>		<b>538,345</b>		306,167
<b>Drug Misuse Research Division</b>						
Dept. of Justice Equality and Law Reform	8,434		6,642		12,048	
European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction	100,000		78,756		69,191	
		<b>108,434</b>		<b>85,398</b>		81,239
<b>Mental Health Research Division</b>						
Eastern Regional Health Authority	113,653		89,509		85,334	
Virginia Commonwealth University	560,277		441,254		203,619	
		<b>673,930</b>		<b>530,763</b>		288,953
		<b>1,553,994</b>		<b>1,223,869</b>		<b>726,359</b>

### 2. PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND CHILDREN

	2000		2000		1999	
	€	€	IR£	IR£	IR£	IR£
<b>Research Grants and Fellowships</b>						
Hepatitis C Research	295,114		232,421		272,707	
Nursing Homes Research	19,364		15,250		-	
Nursing and Midwifery Research	330,368		260,186		71,211	
Health Status Research	76,184		60,000		60,000	
North-South Research Schemes	457,257		360,119		-	
Cancer Research	152,368		120,000		80,000	
		<b>1,330,655</b>		<b>1,047,976</b>		483,918
<b>Drug Misuse Research Division</b>		<b>296,165</b>		<b>233,249</b>		173,042
<b>Mental Health Research Division</b>		<b>31,235</b>		<b>24,600</b>		6,931
<b>Disability Databases Division</b>		<b>172,074</b>		<b>135,519</b>		50,443
<b>Other Activities</b>						
Wellcome Trust VAT Refund Scheme		<b>112,967</b>		<b>88,969</b>		69,921
		<b>1,943,096</b>		<b>1,530,313</b>		<b>784,255</b>

## Health Research Board

### 3. RESEARCH GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

	<b>2000</b> €	<b>2000</b> IR£	<b>1999</b> IR£
General Research Project Grants	<b>2,724,813</b>	<b>2,145,965</b>	1,561,357
Research Units	<b>695,702</b>	<b>547,910</b>	737,250
Equipment Grants	<b>74,069</b>	<b>58,334</b>	-
North/South Co-operative Research Grants	<b>457,257</b>	<b>360,119</b>	212,420
Discipline Integration Grants	<b>105,726</b>	<b>83,266</b>	51,696
Post Graduate Training Grants	<b>381</b>	<b>300</b>	-
Co-operative Health Services Research Grants	<b>69,836</b>	<b>55,000</b>	62,950
Research Visits Scheme	<b>13,396</b>	<b>10,550</b>	6,346
Summer Student Grants	<b>38,396</b>	<b>30,239</b>	26,671
Science Degree Scholarships	<b>45,046</b>	<b>35,477</b>	47,334
Conference Grants	-	-	3,000
Post Doctoral Research Fellowships	<b>541,503</b>	<b>426,468</b>	281,550
Clinical Research Training Fellowships	<b>504,304</b>	<b>397,172</b>	380,423
Health Services Research Fellowships	<b>406,010</b>	<b>319,759</b>	236,107
Nursing Homes Research	<b>19,364</b>	<b>15,250</b>	-
Nursing and Midwifery Research Fellowships	<b>330,368</b>	<b>260,186</b>	71,211
Hepatitis C Research	<b>295,114</b>	<b>232,421</b>	272,707
Study of National Cohort of Children	<b>16,664</b>	<b>13,124</b>	-
Cancer Research	<b>152,372</b>	<b>120,003</b>	80,000
	<b>6,490,321</b>	<b>5,111,543</b>	4,031,022



## Health Research Board

### 4. ADMINISTRATION COSTS AND GENERAL OVERHEADS

	<b>2000</b> €	<b>2000</b> IR£	<b>1999</b> IR£
Salaries and Pensions	<b>394,117</b>	<b>310,393</b>	269,248
Travel, Subsistence and Training	<b>95,794</b>	<b>75,444</b>	40,080
Insurance	<b>23,026</b>	<b>18,135</b>	15,374
Printing and Stationery	<b>28,523</b>	<b>22,464</b>	5,614
Postage	<b>9,029</b>	<b>7,111</b>	6,620
Telephone	<b>18,505</b>	<b>14,574</b>	7,290
Light and Heat	<b>3,719</b>	<b>2,929</b>	2,203
Repairs and Maintenance	<b>84,289</b>	<b>66,383</b>	5,641
Cleaning	<b>6,317</b>	<b>4,975</b>	4,471
Subscriptions to International Organisations	<b>22,417</b>	<b>17,655</b>	18,158
Books, Journals and Subscriptions	<b>6,846</b>	<b>5,392</b>	2,830
Bank Interest and Charges	<b>2,525</b>	<b>1,988</b>	1,458
Annual Reports and Newsletters	<b>1,231</b>	<b>970</b>	9,863
Computer Costs	<b>63,611</b>	<b>50,097</b>	56,969
Website	<b>8,467</b>	<b>6,668</b>	3,771
Consultancy	<b>59,212</b>	<b>46,633</b>	78,740
Audit Fees	<b>4,190</b>	<b>3,300</b>	2,970
Advertising	<b>89,153</b>	<b>70,214</b>	41,443
HRB/Wellcome Trust Agreement Costs	-	-	12,291
Strategy Costs	<b>60,339</b>	<b>47,521</b>	-
Partnership	<b>7,269</b>	<b>5,725</b>	-
Office Rental	<b>52,377</b>	<b>41,250</b>	-
	<b>1,040,956</b>	<b>819,821</b>	585,034

### 5. PENSIONS PAID TO RETIRED MEMBERS OF STAFF

	<b>2000</b> €	<b>2000</b> IR£	<b>1999</b> IR£
Pension Payments	<b>112,931</b>	<b>88,940</b>	81,253
Less: Contributions from Current Staff	<b>(59,530)</b>	<b>(46,883)</b>	(28,418)
	<b>53,401</b>	<b>42,057</b>	52,835

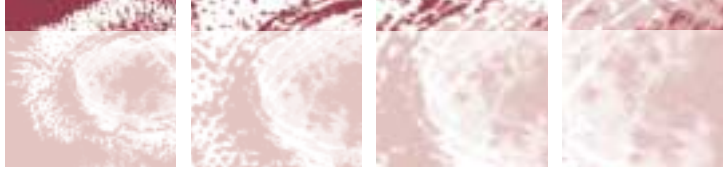
### 6. RESEARCH STAFF AT TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN

The permanent member of the Health Research Board's staff based at Trinity College, Dublin, researching the design and development of new inhibitors of protein tyrosine kinases, retired on 6 October 2000.

## Health Research Board

### 7. FIXED ASSETS - TANGIBLE ASSETS

	Premises IR£	Office Furniture & Equipment IR£	Computers IR£	Total IR£	Total €
<b>Cost</b>					
At beginning of year	303,041	117,250	132,229	552,520	701,556
Additions	-	36,439	21,185	57,624	73,167
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At end of year	303,041	153,689	153,414	610,144	774,723
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At beginning of year	99,057	53,024	55,481	207,562	263,550
Charge for year	12,121	22,528	36,434	71,083	90,256
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At end of year	111,178	75,552	91,915	278,645	353,806
<b>Net Book Value at 31 December 2000</b>	<b>191,863</b>	<b>78,137</b>	<b>61,499</b>	<b>331,499</b>	<b>420,917</b>
At 31 December 1999	203,984	64,226	76,748	344,958	



## Health Research Board

### 8. DEBTORS

	2000 €	2000 IR£	1999 IR£
Department of Health and Children	63,356	49,897	27,510
Other Debtors	524,272	412,898	267,063
Prepayments and Sundry Receivables	244,623	192,656	44,756
	<b>832,251</b>	<b>655,451</b>	339,329

### 9. INVESTMENTS

	2000 € At Cost	2000 IR£ At Cost	1999 IR£ At Cost
ACC Bank PLC Commercial Paper	425,202	334,874	321,651
Prize Bonds	641	505	505
	<b>425,843</b>	<b>335,379</b>	322,156

### 10. BANK AND OTHER ADVANCES

#### Amounts falling due within one year:

	2000 €	2000 IR£	1999 IR£
Bank overdraft	250,237	197,078	-

### 11. CREDITORS AND DEFERRED INCOME

#### Amounts falling due within one year:

	2000 €	2000 IR£	1999 IR£
Creditors and Accruals	1,375,044	1,082,935	692,910
Deferred Income	1,155,751	910,228	530,464
	<b>2,530,795</b>	<b>1,993,163</b>	1,223,374



## Health Research Board

### 12. ACCUMULATED SURPLUS ON INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

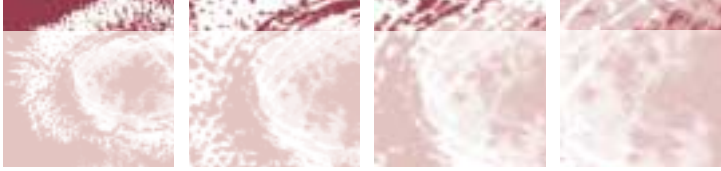
	2000 €	2000 IR£	1999 IR£
At the beginning of the year	<b>48,443</b>	<b>38,152</b>	106,317
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	<b>30,481</b>	<b>24,006</b>	(68,165)
<b>Retained Surplus</b>	<b>78,924</b>	<b>62,158</b>	38,152

### 13. CAPITAL FUND

	2000 €	2000 IR£	1999 IR£
At the beginning of the year	<b>438,006</b>	<b>344,958</b>	324,967
Transfer from Revenue Income and Expenditure Account to fund Fixed Assets	<b>73,167</b>	<b>57,624</b>	65,416
Transfer from Capital Income and Expenditure Account to fund Fixed Assets		-	18,526
Depreciation charge for the year	<b>(90,256)</b>	<b>(71,083)</b>	(63,951)
<b>At the end of the year</b>	<b>420,917</b>	<b>331,499</b>	344,958

### 14. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	Change in Year €	Change in Year IR£	2000 IR£	1999 IR£
Investments	<b>16,790</b>	<b>13,223</b>	335,379	322,156
Cash at Bank and on Hand	<b>839,967</b>	<b>661,528</b>	1,261,569	600,041
Bank Overdraft	<b>(250,237)</b>	<b>(197,078)</b>	(197,078)	-
	<b>606,520</b>	<b>477,673</b>	1,399,870	922,197



## Health Research Board

### **15. BOARD MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Grants are, from time to time, made to bodies with which members are connected whether through employment or otherwise. The Board has instituted a confidential scoring system for decision making purposes which also ensures that no one member can exercise undue influence over grant allocations.

### **16. BOARD APPROVAL**

The Financial Statements were approved by the Board on 17 October 2001.

Health Research Board

## Statement re Prompt Payments of Accounts Act 1997

### **Year ended 31 December 2000**

Under Ministerial Order of June 1997 the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act came into operation on 2 January 1998. The Health Research Board comes under the remit of the Act. The following is the report on the payment practices of the Board for the year ended 31 December 2000 in accordance with the requirements as out in Schedule 12 of the Act.

It is the policy of the Health Research Board to ensure that all invoices are paid promptly. Specific procedures are in place to ensure that any late payments are identified and any arising interest is paid. The controls are designed to provide reasonable, and not absolute, assurance against non-compliance with the Act.

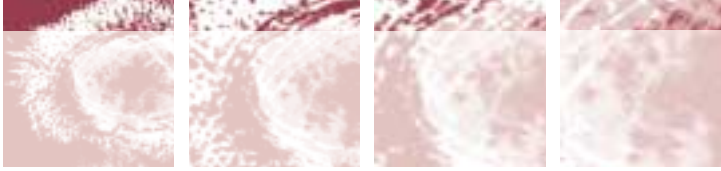
There were no late payments during 2000 and accordingly no interest was paid in the year.

#### **Carol Cronin**

Secretary

17 October 2001

Health Research Board



Health Research Board

## Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997

### **Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General pursuant to Section 13 of the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act 1997**

#### **Responsibilities of the Board and of the Comptroller and Auditor General**

The Board is obliged to comply with the Act and, in particular, is required to

- pay its suppliers within the payment periods specified in the Act;
- If payment to a supplier is late, include the appropriate penalty interest with the payment together with the information required by Section 6;
- Disclose the Board's payment practices in the period on the appropriate way.

Under Section 13 of the Act, it is my responsibility, as Auditor of the Board, to report on whether, in all material respects, the Board has complied with the provisions of the Act.

#### **Basis of Opinion**

My examination included a review of the payment systems and procedures in place and checking, on a test basis, evidence relating to the operation of the Act by the Board during the year.

I obtained all the information and explanations which I considered necessary for the exercise of my function under Section 13 of the Act.

#### **Opinion**

As a result of my examination, it is my opinion that the Board complied in all material respects with the provisions of the Act during the year ended 31 December 2000.

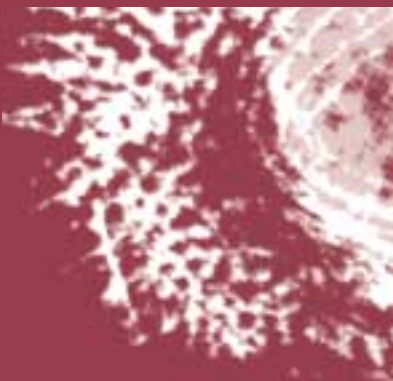
**John Purcell**

Comptroller and Auditor General

5 November 2001

## Health Research Board

<b>Bankers</b>	Bank of Ireland Lower Baggot Street Dublin 2
<b>Solicitors</b>	Arthur Cox Earlsfort Centre Earlsfort Terrace Dublin 2
<b>Auditors</b>	Comptroller and Auditor General Dublin Castle Dublin 2



# Appendix

# Research Grants and Fellowships Awarded in 2000

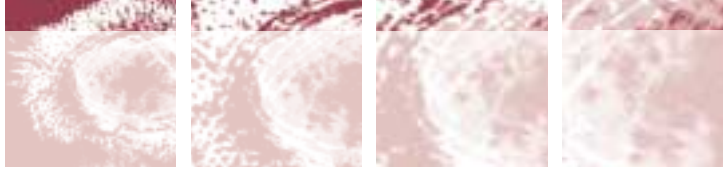
## 1. General Research Project Grants

### Cardiovascular Diseases Committee

Grant Holder	Institution	Project
Dr Niamh Moran	Department of Clinical Pharmacology Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland Dublin 2	Analysis of the integrin proteome in the human platelet: towards an understanding of the integrin switch in arterial thrombosis
Dr Paul Cahill	School of Biotechnology Dublin City University Glasnevin Dublin 9	Mechanical force-induced vascular smooth muscle cell apoptosis
Professor Des Fitzgerald	Department of Clinical Pharmacology Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland Dublin 2	Regulation of cardiomyocyte cell death by eicosanoids: potential for limiting cardiac toxicity of chemotherapy
Dr Alan Keenan	Department of Pharmacology Conway Institute of Biomolecular & Biomedical Research University College Dublin Belfield Dublin 4	Role of nitric oxide synthases in type II diabetes-induced vascular dysfunction

### Dental Sciences Committee

Grant Holder	Institution	Project
Professor David Coleman <i>et al.</i>	Department of Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine & Oral Pathology School of Dental Sciences Trinity College Dublin 2	An investigation of bacterial contamination of dental chair units, dental unit water and water lines with <i>Pseudomonas</i> species and <i>Burkholderia</i> ( <i>Pseudomonas</i> ) <i>cepacia</i>
Dr Niall McGuinness	Department of Orthodontics Merlin Park Hospital Galway	Predicting the outcome of treatment in Angle's Class III division 1 malocclusion treated in the permanent dentition using fixed appliances



<p>Professor Brian O'Connell</p>	<p>Department of Restorative Dentistry &amp; Periodontology School of Dental Science Trinity College Dublin 2</p>	<p>In vivo function and regulation of salivary antimicrobial proteins</p>
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**Gastroenterology Committee**

Grant Holder	Institution	Project
<p>Mr Eamon Kavanagh/ Professor Redmond</p>	<p>Department of Surgery Cork University Hospital University College Cork Wilton Cork</p>	<p>Characterisation of a heat shock protein-reactive regulatory T-cell population in inflammatory bowel disease</p>
<p>Dr Aiden McCormick/ Dr Docherty</p>	<p>Liver Unit St Vincent's University Hospital Elm Park Dublin 4</p>	<p>The role of nitric oxide synthase in the development of the portal- systemic collateral circulation in portal hypertension</p>
<p>Dr Ross McManus</p>	<p>Department of Clinical Medicine Trinity Faculty of Health Sciences St James's Hospital James's Street Dublin 8</p>	<p>Investigation of inherited genetic factors influencing expression of the multiple drug resistance gene (MDR1)</p>
<p>Professor Dermot Kelleher/ Dr Ryan</p>	<p>Department of Clinical Medicine Trinity Faculty of Health Sciences St James's Hospital James's Street Dublin 8</p>	<p>Investigation of the functional significance of a polymorphism in p53 homologue: Its role in oesophageal neoplasia</p>
<p>Dr Joe O'Connell <i>et al.</i></p>	<p>Department of Medicine University College Cork Wilton Cork</p>	<p>The p53 pathway in colonocyte apoptosis during IBD</p>
<p>Professor Colm O'Morain/ Dr Ryan</p>	<p>Adelaide &amp; Meath Hospital Incorporating the National Children's Hospital/TCD Tallaght Dublin 24</p>	<p>Tumour Necrosis Factor (TNF) promoter region polymorphisms in Helicobacter Pylori infection: influences on susceptibility to infection and development of disease</p>



### Genetics Committee

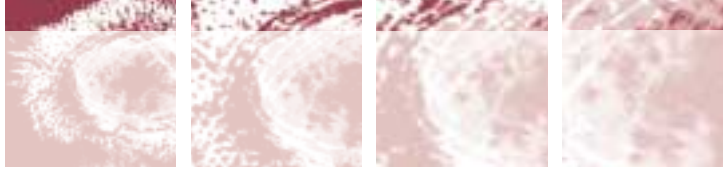
Grant Holder	Institution	Project
Dr Louise Gallagher/ Dr Gill	Department of Psychiatry Trinity Centre for Health Sciences St James's Hospital James's Street Dublin 8	The genetics of autism: Linkage disequilibrium screen in the Irish population
Dr Patrick McKeon/ Dr Mynett-Johnson	Department of Psychiatry TCD/St Patrick's Hospital James's Street Dublin 8	Towards identifying susceptibility loci for bipolar disorder - following up a genome screen

### Health Services Research Committee

Grant Holder	Institution	Project
Dr Catherine Comiskey	Department of Mathematics National University of Ireland Maynooth Co Kildare	An analysis of the impact and cost of Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) infection in Irish drug users
Dr Marie Reilly	National Cancer Registry University College Cork Wilton Cork	Consistence, appropriateness and management of cancer services in Ireland
Dr Martine Smith	School of Clinical Speech & Language Studies Trinity College Dublin 2	Enhancing communication for adults with severe speech and physical impairment

### Immunology and Pathology Committee

Grant Holder	Institution	Project
Professor Kingston Mills	Infection & Immunity Group Department of Biology National University of Ireland Maynooth Co Kildare	Modulation of immune response by filamentous haemagglutinin from Bordetella Pertussis



Professor Thomas Cotter	Department of Biochemistry University College Cork Wilton Cork	Apoptosis in retinitis pigmentosa associated with retinal degeneration (an In Vivo study)
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**Metabolism and Endocrinology Committee**

Grant Holder	Institution	Project
Dr Malcolm Kell/ Professor Redmond	Department of Surgery Cork University Hospital Wilton Cork	The use of local immune stimulants to enhance impaired wound healing
Dr Leonie Young	Department of Endocrinology St Vincent's University Hospital Elm Park Dublin 4	ACTH regulation of adrenocortical steroidogenesis
Professor Finian Martin	Department of Pharmacology University College Dublin Biotechnology Centre Belfield Dublin 4	Mammary gland involution triggered post-translational modification of transcriptional activators
Dr John Nolan	Department of Investigative Endocrinology St James's Hospital James's Street Dublin 8	Early onset Type 2 diabetes: metabolic and molecular studies to define early markers of insulin resistance and beta cell dysfunction

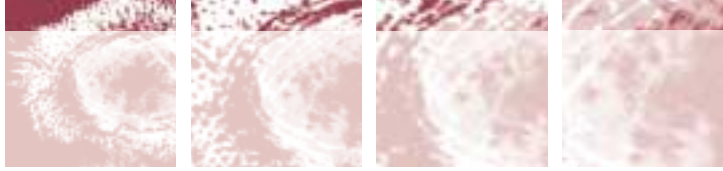
**Microbiology and Virology Committee**

Grant Holder	Institution	Project
Dr Derek Sullivan/ Professor Coleman	Department of Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine & Oral Pathology School of Dental Science Trinity College Dublin 2	Responses of <i>Candida Albicans</i> <i>Candida Dublinsiensis</i> to environmental stress
Professor Timothy Foster	Microbiology Department Moyne Institute of Preventative Medicine Trinity College Dublin 2	The role of clumping factor inhibition of phagocytosis of <i>Staphylococcus Aureus</i> and in bacterial virulence

Dr James McInerney	Department of Biology National University of Ireland Maynooth Co Kildare	Detection of adaptive evolution in microbial and viral pathogenicity associated genes
Dr Dermot Walls	School of Biotechnology Dublin City University Glasnevin Dublin 9	Regulation of the anti-apoptotic gene bfl-1 by Epstein-Barr virus
Dr Cliona O'Farrelly/ Dr Deignan	Education & Research Centre St Vincent's University Hospital Elm Park Dublin 4	Hepatitis C viral load qualification in lymphocyte sub-populations and correlation with CD81 expression: Implications for treatment and prognosis
Dr Billy Bourke	Children's Research Centre Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children Crumlin Dublin 12	Host-cell interactions of 'human' and 'bovine' genotypes of <i>Cryptosporidium Parvum</i>
Dr Wim Meijer	Department of Industrial Microbiology Conway Institute of Biomolecular & Biomedical Research University College Dublin Belfield Dublin 4	Life in the lion's den: effects of the intracellular pathogen <i>Rhodococcus Equi</i> on macrophage gene expression

#### **Molecular and Cell Biology Committee**

Grant Holder	Institution	Project
Dr Thomas Moore	Department of Biochemistry University College Cork Wilton Cork	The cellular function of the JERKY protein in relation to human epilepsy
Dr Veronica Campbell	Department of Physiology Trinity College Dublin 2	A study of the mechanisms underlying B-amyloid-induced neurodegeneration
Dr Catherine Godson	Department of Medicine & Therapeutics The Conway Institute of Biomolecular & Biomedical Research University College Dublin Belfield Dublin 4	Lipoxin, Leukotriene and PDGF receptor cross-talk in renal mesangial cells



Dr Judith Harmey	Department of Surgery RCSI/Beaumont Hospital Beaumont Road Dublin 9	Vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) – induced BCI-2 expression
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**Neurosciences and Mental Health Committee**

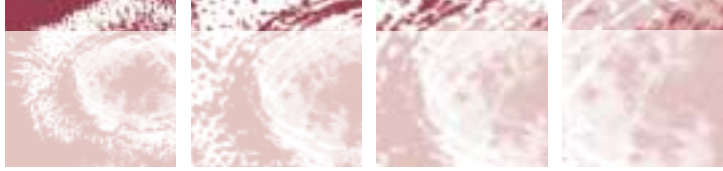
Grant Holder	Institution	Project
Dr Kay Ohlendieck	Department of Pharmacology University College Dublin Belfield Dublin 4	Influence of motor innervation on the oligomeric status of the nicotinic acetylcholine receptor and associated components at the neuromuscular junction
Dr Aiden Corvin/Dr Gill	Department of Psychiatry Trinity Faculty of Health Sciences St James's Hospital James's Street Dublin 8	A quantitative-trait based association study of schizophrenia and related psychoses
Dr Adrienne O'Gorman	Department of Biochemistry University College Galway Galway	The effect of hypoxia on neuronal differentiation and gene expression
Dr Caroline Herron	Department of Human Anatomy & Physiology University College Dublin Earlsfort Terrace Dublin 2	Molecular basis for B-amyloid mediated neurotoxicity on synaptic transmission and long-term potentiation
Professor Marina Lynch	Department of Physiology Trinity College Dublin 2	Analysis of the role of the neurotrophin BDNF in expression of long-term potentiation in the rat dentate gyrus
Dr Michael Rowan	Department of Pharmacology & Therapeutics Trinity College Dublin 2	Synaptic plasticity and B-amyloid

## **Oncology and Haematology Committee**

<b>Grant Holder</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Project</b>
Dr Martin Clynes	National Cell & Tissue Culture Centre Dublin City University Glasnevin Dublin 9	Does Survivin affect resistance to chemotherapy and radiation in human cancer cells?
Professor Seamus Martin	Department of Genetics Trinity College Dublin 2	Disecting the role of Survivin in apoptosis and tumorigenesis
Dr William Gallagher	Department of Pharmacology Conway Institute of Biomolecular & Biomedical Research University College Dublin Belfield Dublin 4	Expression profile analysis using cDNA microassays towards a more global understanding of tumour cell growth invasion and drug resistance
Dr Carmel Daly/Dr Clynes	National Cell & Tissue Culture Centre Dublin City University Glasnevin Dublin 9	Investigation of the possibility that ribolyme cleavage of bcl-XL mRNA may produce a novel proapoptotic protein in human cancer cells
Dr Ursula Bond	Moyne Institute for Preventative Medicine Microbiology Department Trinity College Dublin 2	Immune-responsiveness of tumour-specific antigens from breast cancer cells

## **Other**

<b>Grant Holder</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Project</b>
Dr Thomas Clive Lee	Department of Anatomy Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland 123 St Stephen's Green Dublin 2	Microdamage and bone quality – development of a non-invasive, repeatable technique for measuring microdamage accumulation in bone



### Public Health and General Practice Committee

Grant Holder	Institution	Project
Dr Patrick Brennan	School of Diagnostic Imaging University College Dublin Herbert Avenue Dublin 4	Reference dose levels and the standardization of image quality for paediatric diagnostic X-ray examinations
Professor Ivan Perry	Department of Epidemiology & Public Health University College Cork Wilton Cork	Socio-economic status, psycho-social factors and coronary heart disease: A community-based case control study
Professor Colin Bradley	Department of General Practice University College Cork Wilton Cork	Anti-depressant adherence study

### Reproductive Medicine Committee

Grant Holder	Institution	Project
Professor Colm O'Herlihy/ Mr O'Connell	Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology National Maternity Hospital Holles Street Dublin 2	Prospective investigation of the mechanisms and management of faecal incontinence of obstetric origin
Dr Bridgette Byrne/ Professor O'Herlihy	Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, UCD Coombe Women's Hospital Dublin 8	Foetal DNA – a genetic marker for pre-eclampsia?
Dr Geraldine Gaffney/ Ms Maher	Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology University College Hospital Galway	Genetic variation in the factor V gene associated with activated protein C resistance in pregnancy

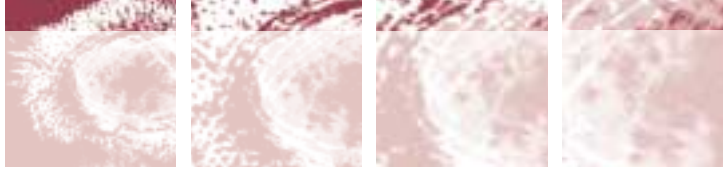
### Respiratory Diseases Committee

Grant Holder	Institution	Project
Dr Philip Nolan/ Dr McNicholas	Department of Human Anatomy & Physiology Conway Institute of Biomolecular & Biomedical Research University College Dublin Dublin 4	The influence of hypoxaemia on upper airway reflexes

Dr Deirdre Walsh/ Professor P McLoughlin	Respiratory Research Department of Medicine RCSI/Clinical Investigations Unit Beaumont Hospital Dublin 9	Elucidation of the inflammatory mechanisms associated with cystic fibrosis airway epithelial cells - investigation of gene therapy strategies to overcome this response
Professor P McLoughlin	Department of Human Anatomy & Physiology University College Dublin Earlsfort Terrace Dublin 2	The role of RHO A in the control of vascular resistance in normal and chronically hypoxic lungs

### Joint HRB/Arthritis Foundation Project Grants

Grant Holder	Institution	Project
Professor Fergal O’Gara et al.	BIOMERIT Research Centre Microbiology Department University College Cork Cork	The immunogenetics of cytokine production in RA patients
Dr Evelyn Murphy	Department of Rheumatology St Vincent’s University Hospital Elm Park Dublin 4	Modulation of the transcription factor NURR1 as a component of the inflammatory process in human arthritis
Dr Patrick Costello/ Dr Fitzgerald	Department of Rheumatology St Vincent’s University Hospital Elm Park Dublin 4	T cell receptor repertoire analysis in seronegative arthritis: evidence for persistence of oligoclonal T cells in remission tissue
Professor Luke O’Neill	Department of Biochemistry Trinity College Dublin 2	Targeting novel components in the interleukin-1 system in the effort to develop novel therapies for rheumatoid arthritis



## 2. Health Services Research Fellowships

### Fellow

Ms Laura Frost  
University College Cork  
Wilton  
Cork

### Project

Barriers to breast feeding

Ms Mary Smith  
Health Services Research Centre  
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland  
Dublin 2

Organ donation: Current situation and future prospects  
in Ireland

Ms Patricia White  
School of Nursing and Midwifery  
Trinity Faculty of Health Sciences  
St James's Hospital  
James's Street  
Dublin 8

An investigation into the care of people with type II  
diabetes mellitus in Ireland

## 3. Clinical Research Training Fellowships

### Fellow

Dr Brian Sweeney  
Children's Research Centre  
Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children  
Crumlin  
Dublin 12

### Project

The role of polyunsaturated fatty acids in modulating  
monocyte apoptosis

Dr Anne Gribbin  
St Luke's Institute for Clinical Research  
Highfield Road  
Rathgar  
Dublin 6

The use of Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy techniques  
to minimise normal tissue toxicity and maximise tumour  
control in patients with cancer of the head or neck over  
a period of two years

Dr Daniel Costello  
Department of Anatomy  
University College Cork  
Wilton  
Cork

Use of a cell line expressing the neurotrophin GDF-5 to  
enhance the survival of transplanted dopaminergic  
neurones in a rat model of Parkinson's Disease

Dr Christopher Steele  
Beaumont Hospital  
Beaumont Road  
Dublin 9

The role of cyclo-oxygenase and vascular endothelial  
growth factor over a period of two years



Dr Michael Alexander  
Department of Neurology  
Beaumont Hospital  
Beaumont Road  
Dublin 9

Clinical and genetic features of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis in Ireland

Dr Louise Connolly  
Department of Child and Family  
Psychiatry  
90 O'Connell Street  
Limerick

Suicidal behaviour in Irish children and adolescents

Dr John Cullen  
Resp. Sleep Laboratory  
St Vincent's University Hospital  
Elm Park  
Dublin 4

Upper airway sensory receptors as a defence against obstructive apnoea in humans

Dr Ronan Cahill  
Department of Surgery  
Cork University Hospital  
Wilton  
Cork

Involvement of mass cell-associated vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) in the pathogenesis of post-operative peritoneal adhesion

## 4. Post-Doctoral Research Fellowships

### Fellow

Dr Aine Kelly  
Department of Physiology  
Trinity College  
Dublin 2

### Project

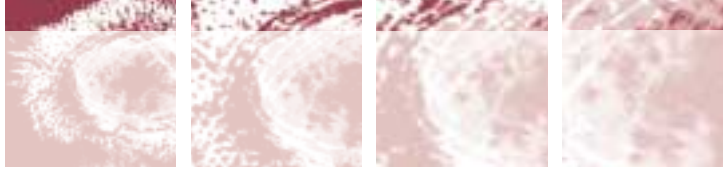
A study of signalling pathways stimulated by NGF in the dentate gyrus of the rat: analysis of age-related changes in long-term potentiation

Dr Christine E Loscher  
Infection and Immunity Group  
Department of Biology  
National University of Ireland  
Maynooth  
Co Kildare

Neuro-immunological basis of vaccine reactogenicity

Dr Keith J Murphy  
Department of Pharmacology  
University College Dublin  
Belfield  
Dublin 4

Identification of cortical site involved in reciprocal interactions with the medial temporal lobe vital to the eventual commitment of information to long-term memory



Dr Trudee Fair  
Department of Animal Science & Production  
Lyons Research Farm UCD  
Newcastle  
Co Dublin

Molecular cell biology of acquisition of embryo  
developmental competence

## 5. Clinical Research Fellowships in Nursing and Midwifery

### Fellow

Ms Sile Creedon  
Department of Nursing Studies  
University College Cork  
Western Road  
Cork

### Project

Nurses hand decontamination practices: compliance with  
recommended guidelines

Ms Ellen Savage  
Department of Nursing Studies  
University College Cork  
Western Road  
Cork

A study on the dietary management of children with cystic  
fibrosis: parents' and children's perspectives

Mr Kevin Connaire  
School of Nursing and Midwifery  
University College Dublin  
Belfield  
Dublin 4

An exploration of clinical expertise in palliative nursing

## 6. Cancer Epidemiology Fellowships

### Fellow

Dr Paul Walsh  
National Cancer Registry  
Elm Court  
Boreenmanna Road  
Cork

### Project

Cancer Consortium Fellowship

Dr Peter McCarron  
Northern Ireland Cancer Registry  
Department of Epidemiology &  
Public Health  
Queen's University  
Belfast

Cancer Consortium Fellowship

## 7. North–South Research Projects

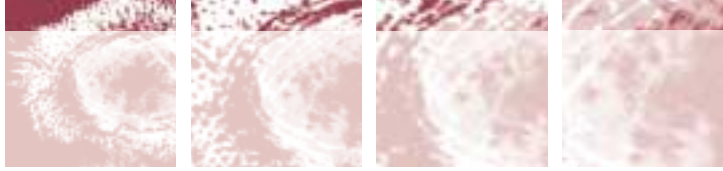
Southern Partner(s)	Northern Partner(s)	Project
Professor John Dalton/Dr Doyle School of Biotechnology Dublin City University Glasnevin Dublin 9	Dr Aaron Maule/Professor Halton School of Biology & Biochemistry Queen’s University Belfast	The role of peptidases in the regulation of neurotransmission signalling in the parasitic helminths <i>Fasciola Hepatica</i> and <i>Schistosoma Mansoni</i>
Dr Mark Lawler/Professor Hollywood Department of Haematology St James’s Hospital James’s Street Dublin 8	Dr Tracy Robson School of Biomedical Sciences University of Ulster at Jordanstown Newtownabbey Co Antrim	Selective activation of transgenes to enhance radiotherapy in prostate cancer
Professor Timothy Foster Department of Microbiology Trinity College Dublin Dublin 2	Professor Mark Pallen Department of Microbiology & Immunobiology Queen’s University Belfast	Exploiting the genome sequences of <i>staphylococcus aureus</i>
Dr Clare O’Connor Department of Medicine and Therapeutics University College Dublin Dublin 4	Dr J Stuart Elborn Regional Adult Cystic Fibrosis Unit Belfast City Hospital Belfast	Evaluation of the contribution of a polymorphism in the $\alpha 1$ -proteinase inhibitor gene to pulmonary disease in Cystic Fibrosis

## 8. Interdisciplinary Research Project

		Project
Dr Martin Clynes National Cell & Tissue Culture Centre Dublin City University Glasnevin Dublin 9	Dr Anita Maguire Department of Chemistry University College Cork Wilton Cork	Design, synthesis and biological evaluation of novel MRP inhibitors to enhance the activity of anti-cancer drugs

## 9. Research Project Grants Co-Funded in Health Services Research

Grant Holder	Project	Co-Funder
Dr Susan Smith University College Dublin Coombe Health Care Centre Dublin 8	The North Dublin Diabetes Shared Care (DiSC) project: A randomised controlled trial and economic evaluation	Coombe Health Care Centre Dublin 8



<p>Professor Cecily Kelleher Department of Health Promotion Clinical Science Institute NUI Galway</p>	<p>Support for older people and their carers</p>	<p>Western Health Board</p>
<p>Dr Suzanne Cahill Dementia Service Information &amp; Development Centre St James's Hospital Dublin 8</p>	<p>Architecture and Dementia: An exploratory study of nursing homes and their spatial environment</p>	<p>Alzheimer Society of Ireland</p>
<p>Ms Fiona Healy Western Health Board Mayo General Hospital Castlebar Co Mayo</p>	<p>Pathways for the elderly through Western Health Board Hospitals</p>	<p>Western Health Board</p>
<p>Ms Marie Lawless The Merchant's Quay Project 4 Merchant's Quay Dublin 8</p>	<p>An investigation into the health status of female drug users</p>	
<p>Dr Finnuála McAuliffe Coombe Women's Hospital Dublin 8</p>	<p>Prospective study of short-term morbidity anticipated of elective caesarean section versus vaginal delivery</p>	<p>Coombe Women's Hospital Dublin 8</p>
<p>Dr Eilis Hennessy Department of Psychology University College Dublin Belfield Dublin 4</p>	<p>A telephone interview protocol for the Hospital Evaluation Instrument for Children</p>	<p>Department of Psychology University College Dublin</p>

## 10. Equipment Grants

Applicant	Co-Applicant	Equipment
<p>Professor James Docherty Department of Physiology Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland Dublin 2</p>	<p>Dr Aiden McCormick Liver Unit St Vincent's University Hospital Elm Park Dublin 4</p>	<p>Blood pressure recording equipment</p>
<p>Dr Carmel Hensy Department of Pharmacology University College Dublin Belfield Dublin 4</p>	<p>Dr Kay Ohlendieck Department of Pharmacology University College Dublin Belfield Dublin 4</p>	<p>Beckmann Coulter optima max tabletop ultra-centrifuge</p>

### Applicant

Dr Lesley Mynett-Johnson  
Department of Genetics  
Trinity College  
Dublin 2

Professor Michael Ryan  
Department of Pharmacology  
University College Dublin  
Belfield  
Dublin 4

Dr Geraldine Butler  
Department of Biochemistry  
University College Dublin  
Belfield  
Dublin 4

Dr Desiree Bennett  
Meningococcal Ref. Laboratory  
The Children's Hospital  
Temple Street  
Dublin 1

Professor Peter Humphries  
Ocular Genetics Unit  
Trinity College  
Dublin 2

Dr Philip Newsholme  
Department of Biochemistry  
University College Dublin  
Belfield  
Dublin 4

Professor Gerald O'Sullivan  
Cork Cancer Research Centre  
Mercy Hospital  
Grenville Place  
Cork

### Co-Applicant

Professor Peter Humphries  
Department of Genetics  
Trinity College  
Dublin 2

Dr Carmel Hensy  
Department of Pharmacology  
University College Dublin  
Belfield  
Dublin 4

Dr Philip Newsholme  
Department of Biochemistry  
University College Dublin  
Belfield  
Dublin 4

Dr Mary Cafferkey  
Meningococcal Ref. Laboratory  
The Children's Hospital  
Temple Street  
Dublin 1

Dr G Jane Farrar  
Ocular Genetics Unit  
Trinity College  
Dublin 2

Professor Paul Malthouse  
Department of Biochemistry  
University College Dublin  
Belfield  
Dublin 4

Professor Fergus Shanahan  
Department of Medicine  
Cork University Hospital  
Wilton  
Cork

### Equipment

DNA separation/purification  
equipment

Wallace 1420 VICTOR-  
multilable counter

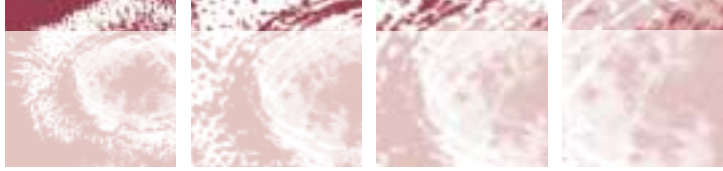
Class 2 biosafety hood with  
double HEPA filter system  
and accessories

ABI PRISM 7700 sequence  
detection system

RETI-port Gamma plus  
electro-physiology

Cell culture equipment

ECM2001 – Electro cell  
manipulator and  
accessories



#### Applicant

Professor Andrew Green  
 Department of Medical Genetics  
 UCD/ National Centre for Medical  
 Genetics  
 Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children  
 Crumlin  
 Dublin 12

Professor Marina Lynch  
 Department of Physiology  
 Trinity College  
 Dublin 2

Professor Christopher Bell  
 Department of Physiology  
 Trinity College  
 Dublin 2

Dr Michael Carty  
 Department of Biochemistry  
 National University of Ireland  
 Galway

Professor David Coleman  
 Microbiology Research Laboratory  
 School of Dental Science  
 Trinity College  
 Dublin 2

Professor Michael Gill  
 Department of Psychiatry  
 St James's Hospital  
 James's Street  
 Dublin 8

Dr Mark Rogers  
 Department of Zoology  
 University College Dublin  
 Belfield  
 Dublin 4

#### Co-Applicant

Dr David Barton  
 Department of Medical Genetics  
 UCD/ National Centre for Medical  
 Genetics  
 Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children  
 Crumlin  
 Dublin 12

Dr Veronica Campbell  
 Department of Physiology  
 Trinity College  
 Dublin 2

Professor Barry Roberts  
 Department of Zoology  
 Trinity College  
 Dublin 2

Dr Maria Tuohy  
 Department of Biochemistry  
 National University of Ireland  
 Galway

Professor Conor T Keane  
 Department of Clinical Microbiology  
 St James's Hospital  
 James's Street  
 Dublin 8

Dr Dan Bradley  
 Department of Genetics  
 Trinity College  
 Dublin 2

#### Equipment

Transgenomic WAVE nucleic  
 acid fragment analyser

Spectramax Dual Scanner  
 Microplate spectro-fluorometer  
 Electrophoresis immunoblotting  
 station

Openlab high performance  
 confocal imaging system

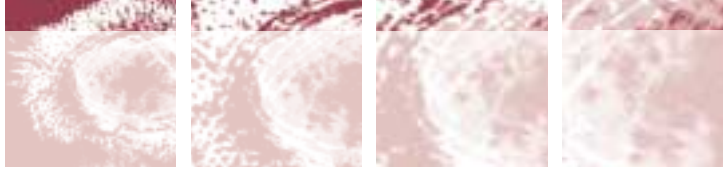
BMG FLURO star Galaxy  
 multi-well plate reader

Optical real-time PCR thermal  
 cyclers

Biomek 2000 and accessories

Chemiluminescence imaging  
 system and associated computer  
 and software

Applicant	Co-Applicant	Equipment
Dr Caroline Herron Department of Human Anatomy University College Dublin Earlsfort Terrace Dublin 2		Patch clamp rig
Dr Amanda McCann Pathology Department University College Dublin Belfield Dublin 2	Professor Peter Dervan Pathology Department UCD & Mater Hospital Eccles Street Dublin 7	Light Cycler real-time PCR system
Professor Clive Williams Biochemistry Department Trinity College Dublin 2	Professor Luke O'Neill Biotechnology Institute Trinity College Dublin 2	Beckman Coulter BIOMEK 2000 automated pipetting station
Professor Paul McLoughlin Department of Physiology University College Dublin Earlsfort Terrace Dublin 2	Professor M Fitzgerald Medical Professorial Unit St Vincent's University Hospital Elm Park Dublin 4	Chemiluminescent nitric oxide analyzer - Sievers NOA-280
Dr Cliona O'Farrelly Education & Research Centre St Vincent's University Hospital Elm Park Dublin 4	Dr Teresa Maguire Department of Surgery St Vincent's University Hospital Elm Park Dublin 4	Labsystems Flouroskan Ascent FL: Combined flourometric/ luminometric
Dr Caroline Sharkey Department of Clinical Pharmacology Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland Dublin 2	Professor Kevin Nolan Department of Chemistry Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland Dublin 2	Silicon Graphics O2 workstation
Dr Denis O'Mahony Department of Anaesthesia Cork University Hospital Wilton Cork	Professor George Shorten Cork University Hospital Wilton Cork	Nitric oxide chemiluminescence analyser



#### Applicant

Professor Hugh Brady  
Department of Medicine  
Mater Hospital  
Eccles Street  
Dublin 7

Dr Thorfinnur Gunnlaugsson  
Department of Chemistry  
Trinity College  
Dublin 2

Dr Walter McNicholas  
St Vincent's University Hospital  
Elm Park  
Dublin 4

Professor David Taylor  
Department of Mechanical  
Engineering  
Trinity College  
Dublin 2

Professor Finian Martin  
Department of Pharmacology  
University College Dublin  
Belfield  
Dublin 4

Professor Thomas Cotter  
Department of Biochemistry  
University College Cork  
Wilton  
Cork

Dr Anthony Staines  
Department of Public Health  
Medicine & Epidemiology  
University College Dublin  
Earlsfort Terrace  
Dublin 2

#### Co-Applicant

Professor Paul McLoughlin  
Department of Physiology  
University College Dublin  
Earlsfort Terrace  
Dublin 2

Professor John M Kelly  
Department of Chemistry  
Trinity College  
Dublin 2

Dr Philip Nolan  
Department of Anatomy  
University College Dublin  
Earlsfort Terrace  
Dublin 2

Dr Clive Lee  
Department of Anatomy  
Royal College of Surgeons  
in Ireland  
Dublin 2

Professor Hugh Brady  
Dr William Gallagher  
Dr Geraldine Butler  
Dr Wim Meijer  
University College Dublin  
Belfield  
Dublin 4

Dr Cora O'Neill  
Department of Biochemistry  
University College Cork  
Wilton  
Cork

Professor Leslie Daly  
Department of Public Health  
Medicine & Epidemiology  
University College Dublin  
Earlsfort Terrace  
Dublin 2

#### Equipment

Coy Laboratory Products hypoxia  
dual chamber system

HPLC unit

Polysomnograph digital sleep  
and cardio-respiratory  
recording system

PE biosystem 7700 sequence  
detection system

GenePix 4000A microarray  
scanner

Cryostat HM560 cryo-star and  
vacutome

IBM Netfinity rack-mounted  
server system and software



### Applicant

Dr John Kelly  
Department of Pharmacology  
National University of Ireland  
Galway

Dr Stuart Bund  
Department of Human Anatomy  
& Physiology  
University College Dublin  
Earlsfort Terrace  
Dublin 2

Professor Michael Rowan  
Department of Pharmacology  
Trinity College  
Dublin 2

Dr John Lowery  
Bioelectroanalysis Laboratory  
National University of Ireland  
Maynooth  
Co Kildare

Professor Tommie McCarthy  
Department of Biochemistry  
University College Cork  
Wilton  
Cork

Dr Kathleen Quane  
Department of Medicine  
Cork University Hospital  
Cork

Dr Kenneth Wolfe  
Department of Genetics  
Trinity College  
Dublin 2

Dr Stephen Smith  
Department of Microbiology  
Trinity College  
Dublin 2

### Co-Applicant

Dr Thomas Cotter  
Department of Pharmacology  
National University of Ireland  
Galway

Dr James Jones  
Department of Human Anatomy  
& Physiology  
University College Dublin  
Earlsfort Terrace  
Dublin 2

Professor Roger Anwyl  
Department of Physiology  
Trinity College  
Dublin 2

Professor Kingston Mills  
Department of Biology  
National University of Ireland  
Maynooth  
Co Kildare

Dr Cora O'Neill  
Department of Biochemistry  
University College Cork  
Wilton  
Cork

Professor Nollaig Parfrey  
Department of Pathology  
Cork University Hospital  
Cork

Mr Karsten Hokamp  
Department of Genetics  
Trinity College  
Dublin 2

Professor Charles Dorman  
Department of Microbiology  
Trinity College  
Dublin 2

### Equipment

ESA Model 5200A Coulochem  
II detector: Dual potentiostat  
ECD

Vascular imaging system

Axona expandable 16-channel  
recording system

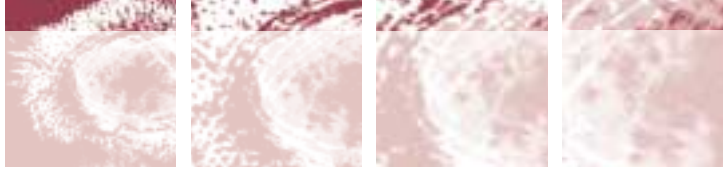
Computerised biomedical electro-  
chemical workstation

Ratio fluorescence imaging  
system: Inverted microscope  
with epifluorescence

Applied biosystems ABI PRISM  
310 genetic analyser

Expansion of existing Beowulf  
Linux PC cluster

A suite of equipment for  
proteomic analyses



#### Applicant

Dr Marie Reilly  
 Department of Epidemiology &  
 Public Health  
 University College Cork  
 Cork

Dr Stephen Mayhew  
 Department of Biochemistry  
 University College Dublin  
 Belfield  
 Dublin 4

Professor Keith Tipton  
 Department of Biochemistry  
 Trinity College  
 Dublin 2

Dr Paul Cahill  
 School of Biotechnology  
 Dublin City University  
 Glasnevin  
 Dublin 9

Professor John Bannigan  
 Department of Human Anatomy  
 & Physiology  
 University College Dublin  
 Earlsfort Terrace  
 Dublin 2

Professor William Hall  
 Department of Medical Microbiology  
 University College Dublin  
 Belfield  
 Dublin 2

Dr Aideen Long  
 Department of Biochemistry  
 Royal College of Surgeons  
 in Ireland  
 Dublin 2

#### Co-Applicant

Professor Ivan Perry  
 Department of Epidemiology &  
 Public Health  
 University College Cork  
 Cork

Dr Paul Malthouse  
 Department of Biochemistry  
 University College Dublin  
 Belfield  
 Dublin 4

Dr Gavin Davey  
 Department of Biochemistry  
 Trinity College  
 Dublin 2

Dr Brian McNamara  
 Research Centre for Design  
 & Manufacture  
 Dublin City University  
 Glasnevin  
 Dublin 9

Dr Raj Ettarh  
 Department of Human Anatomy  
 & Physiology  
 University College Dublin  
 Earlsfort Terrace  
 Dublin 2

Professor Clive Lee  
 Department of Anatomy  
 Royal College of Surgeons  
 in Ireland  
 Dublin 2

#### Equipment

Formic intelligent data capture  
 system: Central data server  
 plus three networked PCs

Stopped-flow spectrophotometer/  
 fluorimeter system and  
 accessories

Hewlett Packard HPLC:  
 Hewlett Packard UVVis  
 system

Flexercell tension plus Flexflow  
 (TM) shear stress system

Leica CM 3050 Cryostat Rua  
 ultra low temperature freezer  
 model 540LV

Contribution to CompuCytel  
 laser scanning cytometer  
 (CLSC)

Image analysis system

#### Applicant

Dr Catherine Godson  
Department of Medicine &  
Therapeutics  
Mater Hospital  
Dublin 7

Dr William Gallagher  
Department of Pharmacology  
University College Dublin  
Belfield  
Dublin 4

Dr Cliona O'Farrelly  
Education & Research Centre  
St Vincent's University Hospital  
Elm Park  
Dublin 4

Dr Joe O'Connell  
Department of Medicine  
Clinical Science Building  
Cork University Hospital  
Wilton  
Cork

#### Co-Applicant

Professor Finian Martin  
Biotechnology Centre  
University College Dublin  
Belfield  
Dublin 4

Professor Finian Martin  
Department of Pharmacology  
University College Dublin  
Belfield  
Dublin 4

Dr John Hegarty  
Department of Hepatology  
St Vincent's University Hospital  
Elm Park  
Dublin 4

Mr Kenneth Nally  
Department of Medicine  
Clinical Science Building  
Cork University Hospital  
Wilton  
Cork

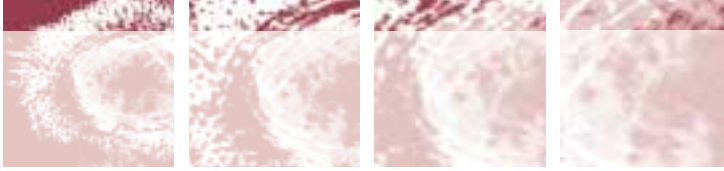
#### Equipment

Eppendorf micro-manipulator  
and femtojet system including  
microscope adapter

High-throughput PCR and liquid  
handling system

Immunofluorescent microscope:  
Digital imaging system

Luminoskan ascent



## Notes

## Notes