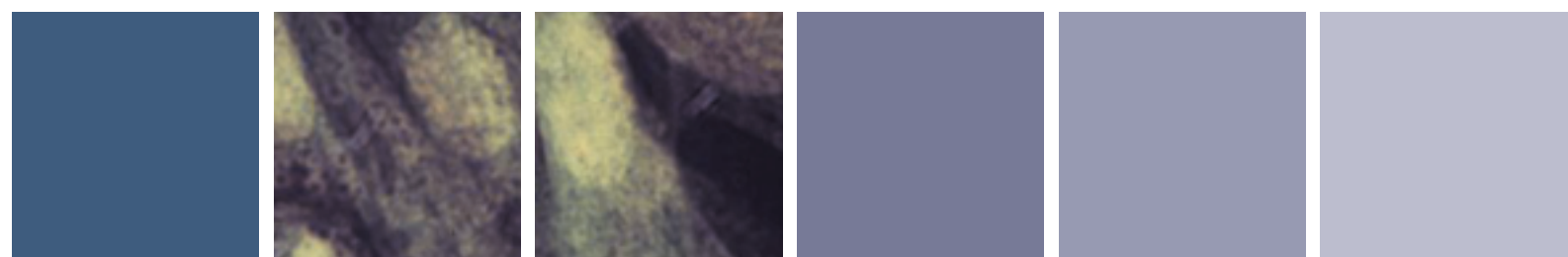


Health research board: annual report & accounts 2001

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Annual Report and Accounts 2001






Health Research Board An Bord Taighde Sláinte

Annual Report and Accounts 2001





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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Cover Illustration: Human hepatocyte (liver cell).

Image generated by Lucy Golden-Mason (St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin) as part of an ongoing HRB Postdoctoral Research Fellowship.



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Health Research Board Board Members as at 31 December 2001

Professor Michael Murphy (Chairman)

Dean of Medicine
University College Cork

Professor Hugh Brady

Department of Medicine and Therapeutics
University College Dublin

Ms Ann Cleary

Department of Sociology
University College Dublin

Dr Eibhlín Connolly

Department of Health and Children
Dublin 2

Professor Robert Daly

Department of Psychiatry
University College Cork

Professor John Feely

Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics
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Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin 2

Mr Charlie Hardy

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Department of Public Health Medicine and
Epidemiology
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Maynooth, Co Kildare

Professor Peter McCarthy

Department of Radiology
National University of Ireland, Galway

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Department of General Practice
Trinity College Dublin

Mr 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

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this, the final annual report of the Board appointed in 1997. The period of office of this Board has been one of enormous progress in support for health research in Ireland and of great hope for the future.


A highlight of 2001 and of the Board's term of office was the publication by Mr Micheál Martin, Minister for Health and Children, of *Making Knowledge Work for Health – A Strategy for Health Research* in September 2001. This document marks a watershed in support for health research in Ireland. In it, the Government recognises the important contribution Irish researchers can make and are making to the global search for understanding of health, disease and disability. It acknowledges the link between a world-class health service and the development of a strong research and development function in the health services. It emphasises the contribution health research can make to building peace on the island of Ireland and to building a strong, knowledge-based economy and society.

Making Knowledge Work for Health commits the Government to much greater support for what it calls 'science for health', that is investigator-led, bottom-up research, funded competitively and following national and international peer review. More radically, it commits the Government to building a strong culture of research and development in the health services. Such a culture will help build a world-class health service by support for research linked to the achievement of the main objectives of the health system. It will encourage the growing commitment to evidence-based decision making by health professionals and to measuring the effectiveness of health interventions.

The Health Research Board (HRB) was delighted that the research strategy was endorsed by the national health strategy, *Quality and Fairness – A Health System for You*, published by Minister Martin towards the end of 2001. The Board is pleased that the Government's proposals in relation to health research have been so well received and that there is such a widespread commitment to implement them.

Following publication of the research strategy, the Board began preparing a corporate strategy to ensure that the HRB is well positioned to play its role in implementing key proposals in the document. The corporate strategy, adopted by the Board early in 2002, is available on the HRB website, at www.hrb.ie. The Board decided to establish a new division – Research and Development for Health – to support the commitment in the research strategy to develop a strong research and development culture in the health system.

The other outstanding change during the term of office of the Board has been the much increased level of funding for research available to the HRB. The expenditure of the Board grew from just over €5 million in 1997 to €22.5 million in 2002, a four-and-a-half-fold increase. On behalf of the Board, I would like to express our deep appreciation to the Minister and his Department for the dramatic increase in support for health research and for their confidence in the benefits of investing in such research.



The increase in the Board's budget in 2001 was particularly gratifying, growing to €13.2 million from €9.3 million in 2000. This increase enabled the Board to invite proposals for programme grants. These are major awards for five years that support multidisciplinary teams in different institutions to work on an integrated programme of research. Programme awards support senior researchers as well as providing high-class training for young scientists and clinicians. One hundred and four expressions of interest were received in response to the Board's call and, from among these, 40 detailed applications were invited. Following international peer review, the Board made 12 programme grant awards worth over €12 million in the five years to 2007. The Board has no doubt that these awards will raise the profile of Irish health research internationally and contribute to improved patient care and more effective health services. This investment represents a major step towards the implementation of the commitment to supporting science for health in *Making Knowledge Work for Health*.

The Board is also pleased with the growth in Government support generally for research, both through Science Foundation Ireland and through the education sector. The formal establishment of Science Foundation Ireland, the making of its first awards and the appointment of Dr William Harris as its first Director, are most welcome. The Board was particularly pleased that Professor Patrick Johnston, a member of the HRB, was appointed to the Board of Science Foundation Ireland. It was encouraging that so many proposals with a health research dimension have been funded under the Higher Education Authority's Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions, reflecting the strength of bio-medical research in this country. This investment has greatly increased the infrastructure available for health-related research in the universities and the Royal College of Surgeons and their associated teaching hospitals. The establishment in 2001 of the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology, funded by the Higher Education Authority, is also a positive development and will complement the work of the HRB.

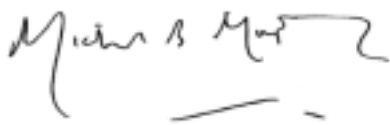
The emergence of a number of government agencies supporting research generated debate in 2001 about how best to co-ordinate their activities to maximise synergies and reduce duplication of effort and funding. Discussions took place between the key agencies concerned with a view to agreeing an approach to working together and a structure in which to do so. An agreed statement was signed in early 2002 by the HRB, the Higher Education Authority, the Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology, the Irish Research Council for Humanities and Social Sciences, and Enterprise Ireland. The HRB has agreed to chair the co-ordinating group for the first year.

The Board was pleased to learn in early 2002 of the establishment by the Government of a Commission, to be chaired by Dr Edward Walsh, to report on the co-ordinating arrangements that should apply at government department level in relation to research and research policy. The HRB will contribute actively to the work of the Commission.

If the Board has one concern on leaving office it is the lack of progress in agreeing changes to the contract governing the appointment of medical specialists to allow the appointment of physician scientists. Physician scientists have a major commitment to research and a minor commitment to teaching and patient care. *Making Knowledge Work for Health* rightly identifies the appointment of

physician scientists as critical to building the capacity in this country to conduct world-class health research. The Board hopes that the problems that have delayed agreement on the creation of these posts will be overcome without further delay.

Finally, no organisation can sustain the rate of expansion in activity and responsibilities I have indicated without dedicated, expert and enthusiastic staff. It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Board, to compliment and thank Dr Ruth Barrington, our Chief Executive Officer, for her commitment and superb, professional expertise during the life of the Board. The manner in which she has overseen the enlargement, re-structuring and empowerment of the staff has ensured that the Health Research Board is well equipped to discharge its role effectively and efficiently, in a future of opportunities. Many new skills and roles have been introduced, yet an excellent *esprit de corps* has been retained. It has been a privilege to work with such a dedicated team and we wish our



Professor Michael B Murphy
Chairman of the Board

Chief Executive's Report


The publication of *Making Knowledge Work for Health – A Strategy for Health Research* by Mr Micheál Martin, Minister for Health and Children, was the highlight of an eventful year for the Health Research Board (HRB). The document was based on a process of strategic thinking and consultation about health research initiated by the HRB in 2000. The HRB was pleased that the Minister and his Department adopted key proposals that emerged during that process. The document provides a blueprint for the further development of research to achieve greater health and social gain, to improve the effectiveness of the health system and to contribute to the economic and social development of the island.

Following publication of the Health Research Strategy, the HRB put considerable effort into preparing a corporate strategy to ensure that the organisation was properly organised and positioned to play its part in the implementation of the Minister's commitments. The corporate strategy covers the period 2002-2006 and was agreed by the Board early in 2002. The HRB is grateful to Prospectus consultants who provided valuable assistance in the preparation of the corporate strategy and guidance in the challenge of preparing an implementation plan. As the year closed, the creation of a new division in the HRB to support research and development for health was a high priority.

The substantial additional funding made available to the HRB by the Department of Health and Children in 2001 enabled the Board to offer an unprecedented level of support for research. The Chairman has outlined the importance of the research funding made available for programme grants. In addition, the HRB awarded 32 fellowships – an increase of 70 per cent on 2000, and approved 76 project grants – 25 per cent more than in 2000.

During the year, the Wellcome Trust undertook an evaluation of the Matching Funds Agreement that operated between the Trust and the HRB in the period 1998-2000. The evaluation confirmed the importance of the Agreement in building the capacity of the health research system in biomedicine and health services research. It was complimentary of the good working relationship that developed between the Trust and the HRB during the lifetime of the Agreement.

Substantial progress was made in developing opportunities for cancer research and training during the year under the Ireland, Northern Ireland, National Cancer Institute Cancer Consortium, established in 1999 following the signing of the Belfast Agreement. The most significant development was the progress made in establishing a cancer clinical trials network on the island of Ireland. Participation in cancer clinical trials is an important way of ensuring that patients benefit from the latest scientific advances in cancer treatment, and of enhancing the quality of clinical care in hospitals treating cancer. In April, the HRB invited applications from hospitals to develop the capacity to conduct high-quality cancer clinical trials. A panel of international cancer experts from Europe and the United States reviewed the proposals and recommended that major awards be made to University College Hospital, Galway, St Vincent's, St Luke's and Beaumont Hospitals in Dublin, and Cork University Hospital. Smaller awards were made to Limerick Regional Hospital and the Mater Hospital, Dublin. The value of the awards made was €4.6 million over three years. Each



award will be subject to review by the international panel. As the year closed, a second call to hospitals was being planned and an invitation to interested parties to develop an all-island co-ordinating group for clinical trials was in preparation.

The first group of professionals from both parts of the island, sponsored by the HRB and the R&D Office in Belfast, participated in the summer cancer prevention programmes organised by the National Cancer Institute. The 16 participants found the experience of great value to their work in treating cancer patients or in researching an aspect of cancer. It is proposed to offer the same opportunity to cancer professionals and researchers in 2002.

The HRB made substantial progress in 2001 in taking advantage of new technology to increase its effectiveness with the research and the wider community. A new website was launched that was more user friendly and carried more information about the organisation. A new electronic grants system was piloted, with applicants to the post-doctoral research fellowships and to two panels under the project grant scheme being required to use the new system. Although there were some teething problems, the new system was efficient and facilitated much speedier communication between the HRB, its panel of international reviewers and members of its research committees. Changes will be made to the E-grants system to remove problems identified in the pilot phase and its use will be gradually extended to cover all the external research funding schemes of the HRB.

The HRB was pleased during 2001 to assist the Department of Health and Children and the Department of Social, Family and Community Affairs in commissioning a design brief for a national, longitudinal, cohort study of children. Such a study has been recommended by a number of bodies over the years, including the *Report of the Commission on the Family* (1996), as a vital means of understanding the experience of childhood in Ireland. The HRB established an advisory group chaired by Ms Maureen Lynott to assist it in preparing the documentation on which to invite a call for proposals for a design brief for the study. The group advised that any study should be compatible with the methodology used in the Millennium Cohort study of children being undertaken in the United Kingdom so that all-island comparisons and contrasts could be made in relation to childhood. The HRB was pleased that, following a competition involving European reviewers, the tender for the design brief was awarded to a consortium chaired by Professor Brendan Whelan of the Economic and Social Research Institute. The consortium submitted the design brief for the study in July 2001 and the HRB subsequently submitted it to the two commissioning Departments.

A number of significant staff changes took place during the year. Ms Rosalyn Moran became head of the mental health research division and Dr Hamish Sinclair was appointed head of the drug misuse research division. In July Ms Sinead Duffy was appointed communications officer to assist the Board in developing a more effective corporate identity, improving its public relations and communicating its message more effectively to key stakeholders. The logo of the HRB – the Turnstone – was redesigned to be more effective in the electronic media and a single, corporate style was adopted for all HRB publications. As the year ended, there was a noticeable increase in the media coverage of HRB activities.

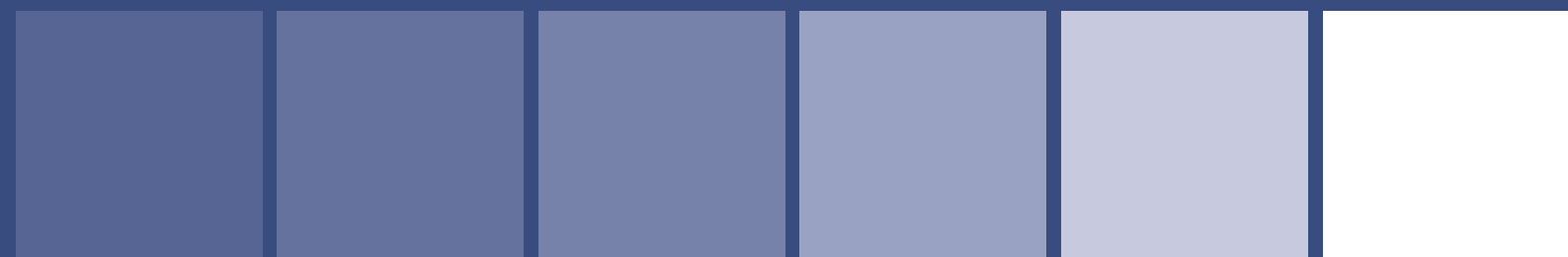
As the term of office of the Board comes to an end in early 2002, I would like to pay tribute to the commitment and expertise of the board members in carrying forward the work of the HRB. In particular, I would like to thank Professor Michael Murphy for his outstanding leadership as Chair of the Board and for his support and encouragement since I joined the Board in 1998.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ruth Barrington". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Dr Ruth Barrington
Chief Executive

Divisions of the Health Research Board

Research Funding and Policy Division



Research Funding and Policy Division

The Research Funding and Policy Division contributes to enhanced health and social gain by focusing on the 'science for health' function detailed in *Making Knowledge Work for Health*. The Division has four core objectives:

- To support high-quality health research relevant to health and social gain;
- To build health research capacity by supporting careers, training and infrastructure;
- To evaluate and communicate the HRB's contribution to health research, the outcomes of HRB funded research, and the growth of a knowledge-based economy;
- To support the strategic development of health research in Ireland in the context of national and international developments.

Achievements in 2001

Supporting Health Research


Funding for research awards in 2001 was a record £8.1 million (€10.3 million). This represented a 60 per cent increase over revenue spend in 2000. A full list of awards made by the HRB in 2001 is included as an appendix to this report.

A total of 90 research project grants were awarded at a value of £5.75 million (€7.3 million), representing a doubling in the investment in this scheme over the previous year. This included four awards made jointly with the Health and Personal Social Services R&D Office of Northern Ireland as part of the Ireland–Northern Ireland Co-operation scheme, and two interdisciplinary awards. A special project grant was awarded with the UK-based Dr Hadwen Trust, with the aim of developing alternatives to the use of animals in research.

The HRB continued to build health research capacity in Ireland by supporting careers, training and infrastructure. A total of 30 career development awards were made. These included 11 clinical research training fellowships for medical doctors and dentists, 4 fellowships in nursing and midwifery research, 10 postdoctoral awards to research scientists and 5 awards for fellowships in the area of health services research. These awards were in addition to the 100 or more PhD students who were supported on research project grants throughout the year.

Programme Grants

A major initiative was launched in 2001 with the announcement of a £10 million (€12.7 million) investment in health research in Irish hospitals and universities for five-year programmes in health research. Research teams in clinical research, health services research, epidemiology, public health, primary care and nursing and midwifery were invited to submit bids for this funding and 104 teams responded with 'expressions of interest'. These were shortlisted by an international panel and 40 teams were invited to submit full applications. In clinical and biomedical sciences, research teams were asked to address the translation of advances in basic biomedical sciences into research that will benefit patients. Researchers in health services, epidemiology, public health and primary care were asked to address issues of relevance to health policy and health services in Ireland. For the first time in Ireland, funding was made available for a dedicated research programme in nursing and



midwifery research, addressing the clinical practice of nursing. All teams were encouraged to take an all-island approach, including researchers from Northern Ireland where appropriate. As the year closed, the 40 shortlisted applications were being reviewed by international experts.

The call was a substantial boost for health research in Ireland and came in the same year as the Minister for Health and Children published *Making Knowledge Work for Health – A Strategy for Health Research*, and *Quality and Fairness – A Health System for You*, which identified research as a core activity of the health services for the first time.

Wellcome Trust

The findings of an evaluation of the Matching Funds Agreement between the Wellcome Trust and the HRB were published. The review, which was carried out by the Policy Studies Unit of the Wellcome Trust, found universal acknowledgement that the partnership was an important catalyst to the substantial growth in the Irish research environment in the late 1990s and identified the criteria for future successful partnerships between funding agencies.

New Procedures

New procedures for reviewing grant applications were implemented. These included the establishment of new research committees and an increased emphasis on the use of international peer review. The changes were well received by the research community. A new development in 2001 included the requirement for the first time of ethical approval for all work involving the use of animals in biomedical research.

IT Initiatives

Two important IT initiatives were launched. In the first, a pilot project was developed to allow on-line grant applications through the HRB website. This will be formally evaluated in 2002. The second major initiative was the development of a new research grants database with the long-term goal of establishing a streamlined electronic system from application to assessment, administration and evaluation.

The Watts Medal

The Watts Medal for 2001 was awarded to Ms Shirley Potter, a fifth-year medical student at NUI Galway, for her project entitled, '*Corticosteroids and fetal vasculature: the effects of hydrocortisone, dexamethasone and beta methasone on the human umbilical artery*'.

The Annual Graves Lecture

The 2001 HRB / Royal Irish Academy Graves Lecture was given by Dr Owen Smith, Consultant Paediatric Haematologist at St James's Hospital, Dublin, on '*Altering outcome in severe sepsis / septic shock: The first major advance*'.

Staff changes in 2001

Fiona McGann joined the team as an administrative assistant.

Looking Forward

The call for programme grants will be completed in 2002 with the aim of awarding a number of large, five-year awards to teams of health researchers in areas relevant to health and social gain.

The Division's IT systems will be developed further, in particular the on-line applications system and the research grants database.

Two senior staff members will be recruited to support the increased work of the Division. A new evaluation function will be established in the Division with the aim of developing systems to track the outcomes and impact of HRB-funded research.

The Division will work closely with other research funding agencies to exchange information and address issues of mutual concern.

Staff of the Division

Mairead O'Driscoll PhD, Head of Division

Patricia Butler MA

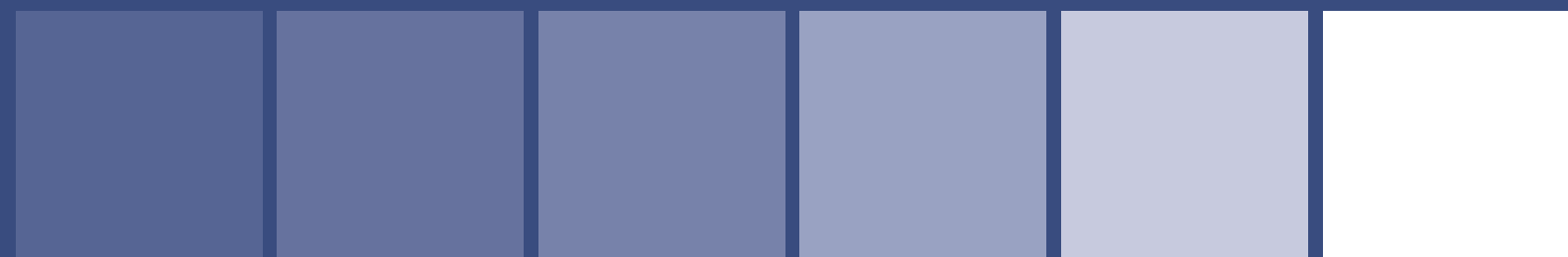
Judith Chavasse RGN MPhil

Patricia Cranley BA

Kay Duggan-Walls BSc HDip

Fiona McGann BSc

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. Key strategic objectives of the Child Health Epidemiology Division are:


- To continue the collaborative research programme with the US National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and Trinity College Dublin (TCD) on the aetiology and prevention of neural tube defects (NTDs), orofacial clefts and other congenital malformations.
- To bid for a further contract or contract renewal from the NICHD for a further two- to three-year period to finance the continuation of the above research programme.
- To investigate the outcome and recurrence risk of spina bifida in Ireland.

Achievements in 2001

Research on Congenital Malformations

Most of the work of the Child Health Epidemiology Division during 2001 continued to revolve around the collaborative research programme on congenital malformations involving the Health Research Board, Trinity College Dublin and the US National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). This research programme has already made significant contributions to understanding the aetiology and prevention of NTDs and other congenital malformations. The emphasis in this phase of our research is on recruitment of families affected by these conditions into the studies. 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. A study proposal was submitted to the UK-based Multi-Centre Research Ethics Committee (MREC) requesting permission to collect questionnaire data and DNA samples from members of ASBAH UK (England and Wales) and their parents. Ethical approval was received in March and recruitment of families commenced in June. Between June and December over 500 families agreed to participate in the study and 300 study packs (completed questionnaire and swab samples) were returned to the Division. The research team continued to liaise with the public health nurses in the various community care areas throughout Ireland with a view to recruiting families where a member has spina bifida. Meetings were held with public health nurses in the Mid Western, Midland, Southern, North Western, South Eastern and East Coast Area Health Boards and recruitment commenced in these areas.

A study proposal was submitted to the research ethics committee at the Children's Hospital, Temple Street, Our Lady's Hospital, Crumlin, St James's Hospital and Sligo General Hospital requesting permission to collect questionnaire data and DNA samples from families attending their cleft clinics. Ethical approval was received in the summer and recruitment of people with orofacial clefts and their parents commenced at cleft clinics held at the four hospitals. Approximately 200 families were recruited through the clinics between June and December. The research team also continued to liaise with the branches of the Cleft Lip and Palate Association of Ireland (CLAPAI) and recruited approximately 50 families.



Several papers on the Division's research on congenital malformations are in preparation and will be submitted for publication in 2002.

Hip fracture: risk factors and outcome

The Child Health Epidemiology 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 was published and a second paper examining the outcome of hip fracture two years after the event has been submitted for publication.

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, Northern Ireland, England and Wales and will continue recruitment of families through the public health nurses. Contact will be made with the Scottish Spina Bifida Association to ascertain the feasibility of recruiting their members in Scotland.

Continuing 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 the Children's Hospital, Temple Street, Our Lady's Hospital, Crumlin, St James's Hospital and Sligo General Hospital.

An important task for the division in 2002 will be to prepare a bid for a further contract, or contract renewal, from the NICHD for a further two- to three-year period to facilitate the continuation of our collaborative research programme on congenital malformations.

Publications

Fitzpatrick P, Kirke PN, Daly L, van Rooij I, Dinn E, Burke H, Heneghan J, Bourke G, Masterson J (2001) Predictors of first hip fracture and mortality post fracture in older women. *Irish Journal of Medical Science*, 170: 49-53.

Staff of the Division

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

Helen Burke BSocSc

Ena Lynn RGN RM HDip

Sarah Madden, BA

Mary Patricia McKeever PhD

Sharon Murray RGN RM

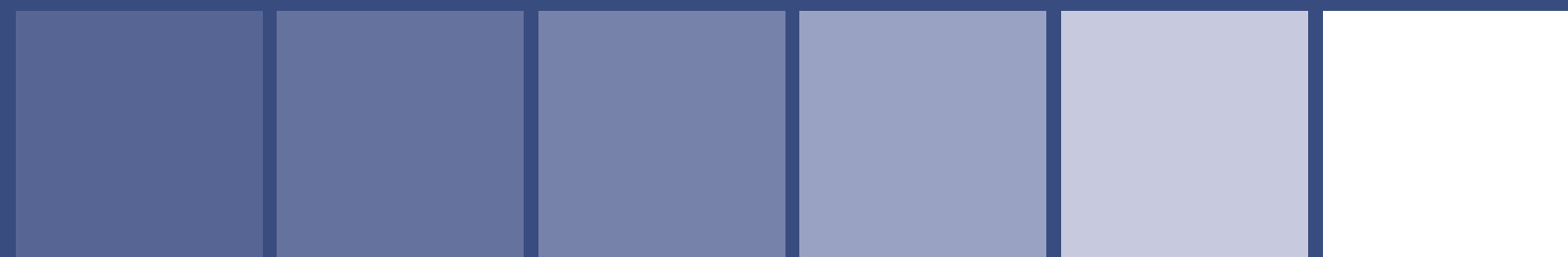
Maeve Royston RGN RM BA (Mod)

Marie Sutton MB, BCh BAO MPH

Deborah Watson BSc



Disability Databases Division



Disability Databases Division

The Disability Databases Division in the Health Research Board manages two national service-planning databases for people with disabilities. Established in 1995, the National Intellectual Disability Database 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 new database, the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database, has been co-ordinated by the Division. This database was piloted during 2001 and national implementation will commence in 2002. The Division has seven key objectives:

- To establish and build the reputation for the NPSDD nationally in conjunction with our strategic partners in the Department of Health and Children, the health boards and the voluntary sector;
- To establish an information system to provide accurate data on the numbers of people with autism and their service needs in conjunction with our strategic partners;
- To maintain appropriate, comprehensive, high-quality, accessible and timely information on which to plan and organise services for people with disabilities;
- To encourage and support regional use of the databases;
- To develop the research, policy, and planning functions of the databases;
- To promote the disability databases at national and international levels through presentations at national and international scientific conferences and through publications in national and international scientific journals;
- To ensure the disability databases comply with national objectives in relation to health information.

Achievements in 2001


National Intellectual Disability Database (NIDD)

The Division is responsible for the ongoing management and development of the National Intellectual Disability Database. The Annual Report from the National Intellectual Disability Database for 2000 was published and detailed analyses of the published information were prepared for the Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA) and the seven health boards.

Data collected by all health boards in 2001 was imported and validated. The Division strives to establish good-quality baseline data in the ERHA and the seven health boards.

The Division oversaw the implementation of a major revision of the software which supports the National Intellectual Disability Database. This included a major increase in the number of services throughout the country that return their information electronically to the database. The NIDD Software Management Group, which was established by the Division during 2000, met regularly throughout 2001 and is a tremendous support to the Division.

An updated national training programme for the National Intellectual Disability Database was devised and administered to database personnel in the ERHA and the health boards. Associated with this programme, the Information Manual for the National Intellectual Disability Database was also revised and circulated.



In addition to its presence on the various committees directly related to the National Intellectual Disability Database, the Division represented the Health Research Board on the Legal Issues sub-committee of the National Health Information Strategy Committee. 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 significant investment programme in intellectual disability services.

As part of the Division's role in raising awareness of the National Intellectual Disability Database and acting as a resource to those engaged in the planning and delivery of services to people with intellectual disability, presentations were made during 2001 to the National Disability Authority, the Federation of Voluntary Bodies providing services to people with a mental handicap and the Co-operation and Working Together (CAWT) partners (the North Eastern and North Western Health Boards in the Republic of Ireland and the Southern and Western Health and Social Services Boards in Northern Ireland).

Overall, the availability of such detailed national data continues to be a key factor influencing the government's decision to allocate additional funding for the development of intellectual disability services with €105 million being allocated for service developments in 2001. The database will continue to be used to monitor the implementation of this substantial investment programme.

National Physical and Sensory Disability Database (NPSDD)

This Division has also played the lead role in the development of a National Physical and Sensory Disability Database. During 2001, the Division oversaw the implementation and evaluation of Phase I of this database in four Community Care Areas: Louth, Galway, South Tipperary, and Area 4 in the South-Western Area Health Board. This acted 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. The evaluation was conducted through the analysis of substantial feedback from all participants and through de-briefing sessions. The information was analysed over the summer months and detailed proposals were submitted to the Department of Health and Children in October 2001 in the form of the *Report of the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database Development Committee*. These proposals were accepted in December 2001 and national implementation was underway as the year ended. All supporting material, such as information manuals, training programmes and software, was updated to incorporate recommended changes following Phase I implementation.

Awareness of the database was raised through the production of information packs, information leaflets, articles, newsletters, use of websites and presentations.

Looking Forward

A number of priority areas in both databases have been identified for attention during 2002.

National Intellectual Disability Database

The Division will implement a programme to improve regional use of the NIDD information by further developing the reporting capacity of the National Intellectual Disability Database software and training database administrators on report preparation and interpretation.

National Physical and Sensory Disability Database

In 2002, the Division will oversee the implementation of the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database in the seven health boards and the Eastern Regional Health Authority. The Division will be responsible for co-ordinating the specification, commissioning and testing of the software which will be used nationally to support this database and for overseeing the implementation of this software. We will continue to play a key role in raising awareness of the database through presentations, publications, and the HRB website.

During 2002, the Division will seek to ensure that the disability databases comply with national objectives in relation to health information, namely the National Health Information Strategy (when published) and the Public Health Information System, and with health board objectives regarding performance management.

Autism Information System

The Division will work with the Department of Health and Children to develop an information system which will provide accurate data on the number of persons with autism and their service needs. This is one of the key initiatives in the Government's health strategy, *Quality and Fairness – A Health System for You*, designed to improve service delivery to this group.

Publications

Mulvany F (2001) *Annual Report of the National Intellectual Disability Database 2000*. Dublin: Health Research Board. Available at www.hrb.ie

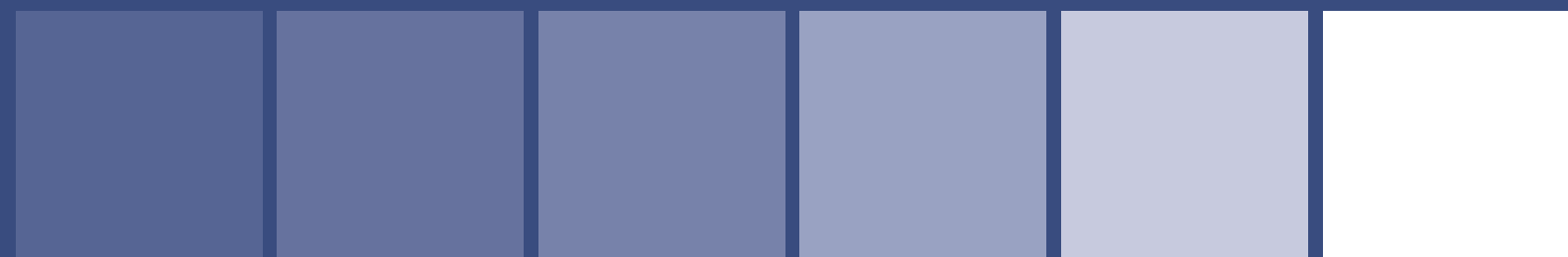
Mulvany F, O'Callaghan E, Takei N, Byrne M, Fearon P and Larkin C (2001) Effect of social class at birth on risk and presentation of schizophrenia: case control study. *British Medical Journal*, 323, pp. 1398-1401.

Gallagher P (2001) *Report of the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database Development Committee*. Dublin: Department of Health and Children. Available at www.doh.ie/publications/npsdddc.html

Staff of the Division

Fiona Mulvany BSocSc DipStats, Head of Division
Dr Pamela Gallagher PhD DipStats (to December 2001)
Aisling Walsh MSocSc (to September 2001)
Karen Galligan MSc (from October 2001)

Drug Misuse Research Division



Drug Misuse Research Division

The Drug Misuse Research Division (DMRD) of the HRB is involved in national and international research, information gathering and dissemination activities, in relation to drugs and their misuse in Ireland. Through its activities the DMRD aims to inform policy and contribute to the academic understanding of drug misuse. The DMRD is funded by national and EU sources, and by contract research. The Division maintains the National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS), the main national epidemiological database on treated drug misuse in Ireland. The Division is also the designated Irish Focal Point of REITOX (the European Information Network on Drugs and Drug Addiction) which is co-ordinated by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). As the National Focal Point, the Division co-operates with other centres across the EU to develop and disseminate standardised drug-related information. The Government has designated the DMRD as the central point to which all research data and information should be channelled. To facilitate this informational role the Division is developing a National Documentation Centre on Drug Use. This will provide access to all relevant and up-to-date information and research in the field of drug use in Ireland and internationally.

The Drug Misuse Research Division has five core objectives:


- To undertake and facilitate research of the highest scientific standards in the area of drug misuse;
- To establish the National Documentation Centre as a national and international resource on drug misuse;
- To respond in a timely and appropriate manner to the annual workplan of the EMCDDA;
- To continue to expand the coverage of the NDTRS and to increase awareness of the value of the NDTRS data as a basis for research and planning;
- To work closely with key Irish agencies to help address the priority information needs in the area of drug misuse in Ireland.

Achievements in 2001

Under its contractual obligations with the EMCDDA, the Division prepared a National Report on the drug situation in Ireland and a progress report on the implementation of the Joint Action on New Synthetic Drugs. In March the Division convened a national expert group meeting on drug-related deaths as part of its Focal Point role, to further the development of this key indicator of drug misuse in Ireland. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Department of Health and Children, the Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA), the Central Statistics Office, the State Laboratory, and the Dublin City Coroner.

During the year 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 the Government launched its *National Drug Strategy 2001-2008*. In the strategy the Division was designated as one of the two lead agencies under the research pillar. The Government also designated the Division as the central point to which all research data and information should be



channelled. In order to deliver on this role, the Division is developing a National Documentation Centre on Drug Use which policy-makers and other interested parties can use to access all relevant and up-to-date information and research in the field of drug misuse in Ireland and internationally. The Documentation Centre will build on the existing resources of the DMRD and will capitalise on its position as the National Focal Point for the EMCDDA.

The Division continued to expand the coverage of the National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS). Progress was made on expansion of coverage of NDTRS to include the prison service. DMRD staff continued to provide training to health professional and service providers involved in the provision of drug treatment services on the concepts and requirements of the NDTRS.

In July John O'Donoghue TD, Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform, launched the report, *Drug use among prisoners: An exploratory study*, by Lucy Dillon, a researcher in the Division. At the launch Minister O'Donoghue also announced new measures to tackle the issue of drug use in prisons.

Staff of the Division participated in the expert group on the epidemiology of drug misuse, convened by the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe. They also contributed information on the Irish situation for the Annual Report of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme on the extent, patterns and trends in drug misuse.

The third issue of *Drugnet Ireland* was published in July 2001. *Drugnet Ireland* is the newsletter of the DMRD. Its role is to disseminate information, news and research among interested parties involved in the drugs area in Ireland. The readership has continually grown during 2001, with over 1,200 copies distributed.

During the year the Division had input into Masters degree courses at both Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin.

A number of new appointments were made during the year. Dr Hamish Sinclair was appointed Head of Division, Mr Martin Keane was appointed Research Officer. Mr Brian Galvin (Senior Information Specialist) and Ms Louise Farragher (Information Specialist) were appointed to set up the new National Documentation Centre on Drug Use. Ms Brigid Pike joined the Division as a Researcher in December.

Looking Forward

The National Documentation Centre on Drug Use will be opened in 2002. A bibliographical database and an electronic library of Irish drug-related research will be developed. On-line access to these information resources will be provided through a new website. A special library on drug-related issues will also be opened to the public.

A collaborative research paper will be prepared for publication in an academic journal on adolescents presenting to addiction treatment services in Dublin between 1990 and 2000.

A follow-up study to *Drug-Related Knowledge, Attitudes and Beliefs in Ireland* (published in August 2000) will be published.

Other publications planned during 2002 include a new series of Occasional Papers. The first eight of these will examine trends in treated drug misuse by health board area. Further editions of *Drugnet Ireland* are also planned.

Publications

Dillon L (2001) *Drug use among prisoners: An exploratory study*. Dublin: Health Research Board.

Moran R, O'Brien M, Dillon L, Farrell E, Mayock P (2001) *Overview of drug issues in Ireland 2001: A resource document*. Dublin: Health Research Board.

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Drug Misuse Research Division (2001) *Drugnet Ireland, July 2001*. Dublin: Health Research Board.

Staff of the Division

Hamish Sinclair BA MSc PhD, Head of Division

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Lucy Dillon BA MLitt

Mary Dunne RGN BSc DipH&SocWelfare

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Brian Galvin MA MLIS

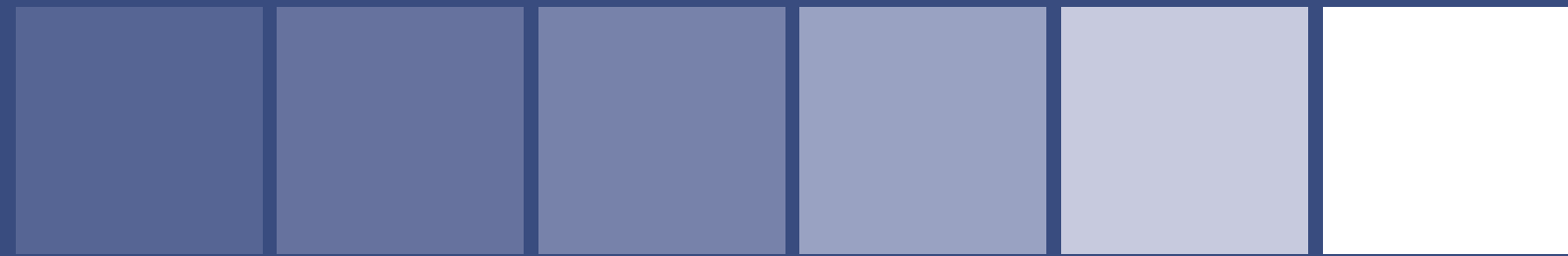
Martin Keane MSc

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Brigid Pike MA MPhil

Mental Health Research Division



Mental Health Research Division

The Mental Health Research Division (MHRD) of the HRB compiles and analyses national epidemiological information on mental illness in Ireland. Two important databases relating to mental health, the National Psychiatric In-patient Reporting System, (NPIRS) and the Psychiatric Case Register, are hosted by the Division. NPIRS collects information on all admissions to and discharges from psychiatric hospitals and units in Ireland. The Case Register collects longitudinal information regarding users and usage of in-patient and outpatient psychiatric services in defined geographical areas in Ireland. 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 dependence; service availability, need and usage in the mental health area; depression and suicide.

Key objectives of the Mental Health Research Division are:


- To further develop the MHRD as a centre of excellence in mental health research;
- To develop the quality and timeliness of the National Psychiatric In-patient Reporting System as the national epidemiological database in the mental health area and promote its use as research, policy and planning tool;
- To develop the quality of the Psychiatric Case Registers based in the MHRD;
- To ensure that the NPIRS and Case Register databases comply with national objectives in relation to health information, e.g. the National Health Information Strategy, the Public Health Information System, and with health board objectives regarding performance management and performance indicators;
- To improve communication and dissemination in relation to activities of the MHRD in accordance with HRB policy and corporate style.

The publication of the national health strategy document, *Quality and Fairness*, provides challenges and opportunities for the Division. There will be an increasing opportunity to input quality data from the databases and research work based in the Division into policy, planning and decision-making in the mental health area in Ireland. This challenge will continue to be addressed during 2002.

Achievements in 2001

National Psychiatric In-patient Reporting System (NPIRS): The MHRD continued to work with the health boards and in particular the ERHA in an effort to advance computerisation of NPIRS returns. The NPIRS Futures Committee was established in October 2001. Preliminary interrelated issues identified for consideration and action include:

The future development of NPIRS,
Further development of the computerisation of NPIRS,
Implications of *Making Knowledge Work for Health* document for NPIRS,
Implications of National Health Information Strategy and National Health Strategy for NPIRS,
Responsiveness of NPIRS to client needs,
Resource implications of above.



The Committee is chaired by Yvonne Dunne. Members of the Committee are Dr Dermot Walsh, Antoinette Daly, Lorraine Caprani and Rosalyn Moran. It is anticipated that this committee will improve the timeliness and quality of data returned to the system. Priority issues on the agenda are improvement of data in relation to socio-economic group and ICD coding.

NPIRS information is being integrated into the Public Health Information System (PHIS) managed by the Department of Health and Children.

The annual report *Activities of Irish Psychiatric Services* was published in 2001.

Census of Psychiatric Hospital and Units 2001: The decennial census of patients resident in Irish psychiatric units and hospitals was carried out on 31 March 2001. The census included those resident in hostel facilities. The census report will be published in 2002.

The Two County and St Loman's Psychiatric Case Registers: During 2001, data input on the Roscommon and Westmeath Case Registers continued, as did input on the St Loman's register. Associates working on the registers were visited and a general meeting of all register associates and staff took place. A bibliography of publications based on the register was compiled and circulated. Funding is being sought for a researcher who could work on this invaluable database. Re-engineering of the software system is planned for 2002 and this should result in significant efficiencies in the recording of information.

Website: The MHRD web text has been expanded with a listing of staff and associates and the addition of bibliographic information. It is planned to better exploit the web's potential as a communication tool with external researchers and policy makers. The alcohol and schizophrenia studies will provide on-line explanatory material on both studies and potential participants will be able to make contact readily with the study.

Members of the MHRD participated in the activities of a number of research-related bodies and groups – review of research studies under the EU Fifth Framework Programme and evaluation of research for the Rape Crisis Centre. Teleworking arrangements have been initiated in the Division and will be monitored on an ongoing basis.

Mental Health Research

The MHRD is in the process of carrying out a number of research projects in the mental health area and funding is being sought for new project start-ups in 2002.

The Irish-Affected Sib-Pair Study of Alcohol Dependence: This project has as its objective the recruitment and interview of sibling pairs suffering from alcohol dependence and, through blood sampling, the identification of the specific loci of the genes that may be involved in susceptibility to alcohol dependence. The Alcohol Research Project is funded by the National Institute of Health, USA, and is carried out in collaboration with Virginia Commonwealth University, USA. The fieldwork for the study commenced in late 1997 and there are six field researchers strategically placed throughout the island recruiting and examining subjects. Good progress has been made in the recruitment of families to the study. At end November 2001, 1,188 participants had been successfully recruited to the study.

The Irish Schizophrenia Study: This study aims to investigate possible locations for genetic linkage in schizophrenia, based on a large body of previous research suggesting a strong genetic component to the familial transmission of schizophrenia. The study is funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, USA. The research is a collaborative endeavour involving the Virginia Commonwealth University, the Health Research Board Dublin and Queen's University Belfast.

Fieldwork has been carried out in Northern Ireland, the Eastern Regional Health Authority, and in the Mid-Western, Western and Southern Health Board areas. At end November 2001, there were 358 participants recruited successfully to the study.

As from November 2001, the inclusion criteria for this study have undergone an important change. Single individuals with schizophrenia or poor outcome schizo-affective disorder can now participate. It is not necessary that they have affected relations. This important change arises out of developments in design of studies in genetic epidemiological research and the difficulty of recruiting large numbers of families to the project.

The Day Hospital Study: A study of day hospitals in two health board areas is nearing completion. The project examines (a) the nature of day hospital and day centre services (b) the utilisation of the day hospital and (c) day hospital staff and patient views. The aims of the study are to:

- Identify the extent and appropriateness of current provision
- Explore the views of mental health specialists
- Examine the profile of day hospital patients
- Explore patients' satisfaction with day hospitals
- Provided useful indicators as to how the existing provision may be strengthened and revised if this appears appropriate.

Data were collected by means of questionnaires, psychometric measurement and interview techniques. Fieldwork has been completed and the study is due for publication in 2002.

Needs Assessment and Service Use – Patients with Chronic Schizophrenia: The clinical and social needs of a sample of 64 patients with chronic schizophrenia in the St Loman's catchment area were assessed using a variety of instruments. This study is being carried out in co-operation with researchers in six other European countries. Results will be published in 2002.

North–South collaboration in the mental health care delivery field: Discussions between the MHRD and colleagues in Northern Ireland have been initiated regarding collaboration around areas of mutual research interests. The Head of the Division was part of a HRB group to visit colleagues in Belfast and fruitful discussions took place. Interesting insights into the type of data collected in the North and the rationale for collection emerged. Discussions are ongoing. The Division has contributed to a meeting convened by the Department of Health Promotion, UCG, regarding cross-border collaborations in the mental health promotion area.

Funding is being sought to carry out two new research projects in the mental health area – a study of community psychiatric residences and a study of community psychiatric facilities and usage in three areas based on the HRB case register data. Discussions have taken place between the MHRD, the Department of Health and Children and the Eastern Regional Health Authority in relation to these projects.

Looking Forward

The five strategic objectives of the MHRD will guide work in 2002. Priorities in relation to NPIRS include increasing the quality and timeliness of data and the facilitation of computerisation of returns by health boards. Developments in relation to Case Register software are planned and the exploitation of these databases for research purposes will be a particular focus. Research work on the genetics of schizophrenia and alcohol dependence will continue with the further recruitment of study participants. The Day Hospital study will be completed.

Publications

Daly A, Walsh D (2001) *Activities of Irish Psychiatric Services 2000*. Dublin: Health Research Board.

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Sullivan PF, O'Neill AF, Walsh D, Yunlong M, Kendler KS, Straub RE (2001) Analysis of epistasis in linked regions in the Irish study of high-density schizophrenia families. *American Journal of Medical Genetics*, 105:266-270.

Staff of the Division and Irish Associates

Rosalyn Moran MA MSc HDE, Head of Division

Dermot Walsh FRCPI, Principal Investigator

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Diarmaid Daly
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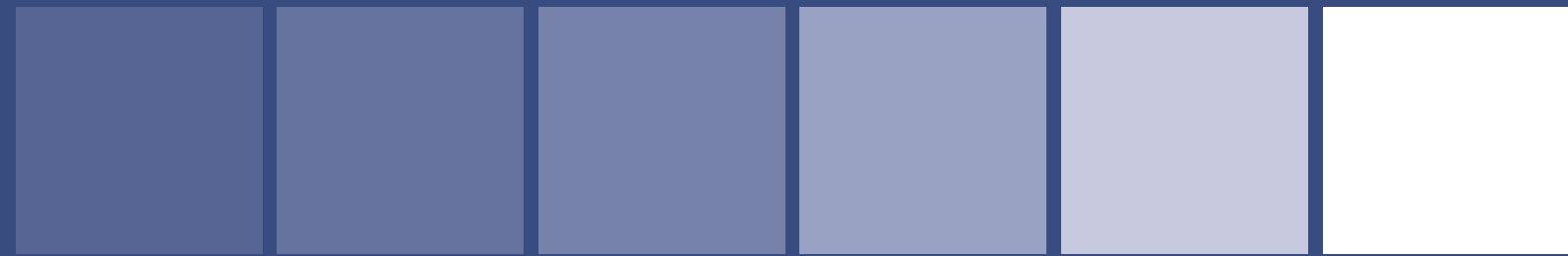
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Margaret Devitt RGN RM BSc, Project Co-ordinator
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Michael Crossan RGN RPN
Victor Robinson SRN
Amanda Mullan SRN

Roscommon Case Register Associates
Maura McLoughlin, Register Controller
Anne Brehony CPN
Gerry Keane CPN
John McLoughlin CPN
Lily Murphy CPN

Westmeath Case Register Associates
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 equip the HRB with the necessary corporate governance practices, resources, skills, competencies and internal support structures and systems to achieve its corporate objectives.

The Divisional objectives are:

- To ensure that the HRB has the qualified and competent workforce necessary to meet its corporate objectives and that the HRB remains an employer of choice;
- To develop and implement systems, policies, and procedures that ensure the most effective and efficient use of the HRB's financial resources to enable it to achieve its corporate objectives;
- To provide the information and communication technology (ICT) capability required to facilitate effective and flexible work practices and the efficient delivery of services to the HRB's clients;
- To facilitate the enhanced performance of the organisation by the provision of adequate office accommodation and other support services.

Achievements in 2001

Human Resources

At the end of 2001 the HRB employed 49 staff members, including highly qualified and experienced scientific and social researchers engaged directly in research. The HRB also met the salary costs of 16 research associates involved in its intramural research and information activities.

The year began with the successful implementation of the new staff grading structures and job families developed during 2000. Karen O'Donnell was appointed to the new post of Human Resources Assistant in March and successfully undertook the process of computerising personnel records for existing staff.

The updating and revision of the HRB's Safety Statement commenced in the spring, and IBEC conducted a full safety audit in April. The continued assistance of all of the staff, and in particular the HRB's Partnership Committee, in this process is gratefully acknowledged. The Board formally adopted the new Safety Statement at its December meeting.

Following a recommendation received through Partnership, a new policy on respect and dignity in the workplace was developed by the staff of the HRB with the assistance of Burtenshaw Kenny Associates. The introduction of the policy was accompanied by a series of successful workshops attended by all staff. The Board, at its December meeting, adopted the policy on respect and dignity in the workplace.

The HRB encourages staff to avail of third-level, post-graduate, or equivalent courses considered to be of value to them in their work and in their personal development. In addition to attendance at relevant courses, seminars and conferences during 2001, most of the staff of the HRB availed of the opportunity to attend courses on stress management and computer skills during the year.

Finance

The total income of the HRB for 2001 was €15,314,079. This was made up of revenue income of €14,869,594 and capital income of €444,485.

US-sponsored intramural research activities in the Child Health Epidemiology Division and the Mental Health Research Division, and EU-sponsored research in the Drug Misuse Research Division continued to be the main source of other research funding, which increased by 25 per cent to €1,946,270 in 2001.

Revenue expenditure on research grants and fellowships increased by 60 per cent, to €10,383,035, with the General Project Grants scheme accounting for 56 per cent of the total. Administration costs and general overheads increased, reflecting enhanced activity in the organisation, and the policy of investment in IT and website development.

The result for the year was a deficit of €25,325.

Information and Communications Technology

The technology required to support teleworking was improved during 2001 and by the end of the year four members of the HRB's staff were teleworking.

The upgrading of the computerised database of grants and fellowships was undertaken and this was linked to the phased introduction of on-line grant applications and the continued development of the HRB's website and network security.

Buildings, Facilities and Other Services

During 2001 the staff of the HRB were accommodated in three premises: at Lower Baggot Street and Clanwilliam Terrace, Dublin 2, and at St Loman's Hospital, Dublin 20. The office space requirements of the HRB were reassessed following the publication of the national health research strategy and a plan put in place to meet the additional requirements. The office space within the Lower Baggot Street premises was redistributed.

Partnership continued to provide an excellent source of ideas and advice on the development of all of the HRB's facilities.

Looking Forward

In 2002 the Finance and Administration Division will continue the process of developing human resource policies and procedures that will further enhance staff recruitment and retention and focus particularly on the areas of performance management and staff training and development.

The implementation of the office accommodation plan developed in 2001 will continue throughout 2002 and a major programme to refurbish the Baggot Street premises will commence.



Staff of the Division

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

Ashling Dwyer

David Flood

Leo Johnson

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 H Brady

Board Member

Professor D Fitzgerald

Board Member

Date: 15 January 2003



Health Research Board

Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General for Presentation to the Houses of the Oireachtas

I have audited the financial statements on pages 40 to 53 under Section 5 of the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act, 1993.

Respective Responsibilities of the Board and 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 38. It is my responsibility, based on my audit, to form an independent opinion on the financial statements presented to me by the Board and to report on them.

Basis of Audit Opinion

In the exercise of my function as Comptroller and Auditor General, I conducted my audit of the financial statements in accordance with auditing standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board and by reference to the special considerations which attach to State bodies in relation to their management and operation.

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 judgments made in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Board's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations that I considered necessary to provide me with sufficient evidence to give me reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. 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 Health Research Board at 31 December 2001 and of its income and expenditure and cash flow for the year then ended.

Gerard Smyth

For and on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General

17 January 2003

Health Research Board

Statement of Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

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 instalments over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Premises | 4% |
| Office Furniture and Equipment | 15% |
| Computer Equipment | 25% |

Tangible fixed assets costing less than €650 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 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 2001

| | Notes | 2001 € | 2000 € |
|--|-------|-------------------|-----------|
| INCOME | | | |
| Department of Health and Children Revenue Grant | | 10,714,050 | 6,386,783 |
| Other Research Funding | 1 | 1,946,270 | 1,553,993 |
| Projects Undertaken for the Department of Health and Children | 2 | 2,179,260 | 1,943,096 |
| Interest Receivable | | 29,289 | 21,738 |
| Other Income | | 725 | 1,810 |
| | | 14,869,594 | 9,907,421 |
| Less: Transfer to Capital Fund of Amount Allocated to Fund Fixed Assets | 13 | - | (73,167) |
| | | 14,869,594 | 9,834,254 |
| EXPENDITURE | | | |
| Research Grants and Fellowships | 3 | 10,383,035 | 6,490,321 |
| Child Health Epidemiology Division | | 984,300 | 744,437 |
| Drug Misuse Research Division | | 545,114 | 391,648 |
| Mental Health Research Division | | 866,220 | 757,437 |
| Disability Databases Division | | 164,608 | 166,905 |
| Administration Costs and General Overheads | 4 | 1,700,504 | 1,040,956 |
| Pensions Paid to Retired Members of Staff | 5 | 62,180 | 53,401 |
| Research Staff at Trinity College Dublin | 6 | - | 45,700 |
| Other Activities | | 188,958 | 112,968 |
| | | 14,894,919 | 9,803,773 |
| (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR | | (25,325) | 30,481 |

All income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2001 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 H Brady
Board Member

Professor D Fitzgerald
Board Member

Health Research Board
Capital Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31 December 2001

| | 2001 € | 2000 € |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| INCOME | | |
| Department of Health and Children Capital Grant | 444,485 | 3,458,767 |
| Amortisation of Capital Fund Account | 101,293 | 90,256 |
| | 545,778 | 3,549,023 |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| Equipment Grants Paid to Third Parties | 365,406 | 3,458,767 |
| Contribution to Fixed Assets | 79,079 | - |
| Depreciation | 101,293 | 90,256 |
| | 545,778 | 3,549,023 |
| SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR | - | - |

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

Professor H Brady
Board Member

Professor D Fitzgerald
Board Member

Health Research Board Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2001

| | Notes | 2001 € | 2000 € |
|---|-------|------------------|-----------|
| FIXED ASSETS | | | |
| Tangible Assets | 7 | 398,703 | 420,917 |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Debtors | 8 | 935,843 | 832,251 |
| Investments | 9 | 445,960 | 425,843 |
| Cash at Hand and in Bank | | 2,623,805 | 1,601,862 |
| | | 4,005,608 | 2,859,956 |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | |
| <i>Amounts falling due within one year:</i> | | | |
| Bank and other advances | 10 | 36,278 | 250,237 |
| Creditors and Deferred Income | 11 | 3,915,731 | 2,530,795 |
| | | 3,952,009 | 2,781,032 |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| | | 53,599 | 78,924 |
| NET ASSETS | | | |
| | | 452,302 | 499,841 |
| RESERVES | | | |
| Accumulated Surplus on | | | |
| Income & Expenditure Account | 12 | 53,599 | 78,924 |
| Capital Fund | 13 | 398,703 | 420,917 |
| | | 452,302 | 499,841 |

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

Professor H Brady
Board Member

Professor D Fitzgerald
Board Member

Health Research Board
Cash Flow Statement
for the year ended 31 December 2001

| | Notes | 2001 € | 2000 € |
|---|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS TO NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| (Deficit)/Surplus for the Year | | (25,325) | 30,481 |
| Less Interest Receivable | | (25,289) | (21,738) |
| (Increase) in Debtors | | (103,592) | (401,391) |
| Increase in Creditors and Deferred Income | | 1,384,936 | 977,430 |
| | | 1,226,730 | 584,782 |
| NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Net Cash Inflow from Returns on Investments and Servicing of Finance | | 29,289 | 21,738 |
| Amount Allocated to Fund Fixed Asset Additions | | (79,079) | (73,167) |
| | | 1,176,940 | 533,353 |
| NET CASH INFLOW BEFORE INVESTING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| INVESTING ACTIVITIES | | | |
| Expenditure on Fixed Assets | | 79,079 | 73,167 |
| | | 1,256,019 | 606,520 |
| INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | 14 | | |

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

Professor H Brady
 Board Member

Professor D Fitzgerald
 Board Member

Health Research Board

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2001

| 1. OTHER RESEARCH FUNDING | 2001 | | 2000 | |
|---|----------------|------------------|---------|-----------|
| | € | € | € | € |
| Research Grants and Fellowships | | | | |
| Irish Heart Foundation | - | | 33,331 | |
| Arthritis Foundation | 38,092 | | 38,092 | |
| Dept of Social Community and Family Affairs | - | | 16,650 | |
| The Hadwen Trust | 25,395 | | - | |
| | | 63,487 | | 88,073 |
| Child Health Research Division | | | | |
| National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (USA) | 901,401 | | 683,557 | |
| | | 910,401 | | 683,557 |
| Drug Misuse Research Division | | | | |
| Dept of Justice Equality and Law Reform | - | | 8,433 | |
| Dept of Tourism Sport and Recreation | 134,300 | | - | |
| Eastern Regional Health Authority | 12,697 | | - | |
| European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction | 100,000 | | 100,000 | |
| | | 246,997 | | 108,433 |
| Mental Health Research Division | | | | |
| Eastern Regional Health Authority | 124,970 | | 113,653 | |
| Virginia Commonwealth University | 609,415 | | 560,277 | |
| | | 734,385 | | 673,930 |
| | | 1,946,270 | | 1,553,993 |

Health Research Board
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2001

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

Research Grants and Fellowships

| | 2001 | | 2000 | |
|--|----------------|------------------|-------------|-----------|
| | € | € | € | € |
| Hepatitis C Research | 240,058 | | 295,114 | |
| Nursing Homes Research | 15,981 | | 19,364 | |
| Nursing and Midwifery Research | 437,669 | | 330,368 | |
| Health Status Research | 76,184 | | 76,184 | |
| North-South Research Schemes | 452,248 | | 457,257 | |
| Cancer Research | 271,047 | | 152,368 | |
| | | 1,493,187 | | 1,330,665 |
| Drug Misuse Research Division | | 298,117 | | 296,165 |
| Mental Health Research Division | | 56,748 | | 31,235 |
| Disability Databases Division | | 164,608 | | 172,074 |
| Other Activities | | | | |
| Wellcome Trust VAT Refund Scheme | | 166,600 | | 112,967 |
| | | 2,179,260 | | 1,943,096 |

Health Research Board

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2001

| 3. RESEARCH GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS | 2001 | 2000 |
|--|-------------------|-------------|
| | € | € |
| General Research Project Grants | 5,808,880 | 2,724,813 |
| Research Units | 440,396 | 695,702 |
| Equipment Grants | - | 74,069 |
| North/South Co-operative Research Grants | 452,248 | 457,257 |
| Discipline Integration Grants | 173,152 | 105,726 |
| Post Graduate Training Grants | - | 381 |
| Co-operative Health Services Research Grants | 88,519 | 69,836 |
| Research Visits Scheme | 18,218 | 13,396 |
| Summer Student Grants | 64,066 | 38,396 |
| Science Degree Scholarships | 12,696 | 45,046 |
| Post Doctoral Research Fellowships | 756,697 | 541,503 |
| Clinical Research Training Fellowships | 902,047 | 504,304 |
| Health Services Research Fellowships | 619,209 | 406,010 |
| Nursing Homes Research | 15,981 | 19,364 |
| Nursing and Midwifery Research Fellowships | 437,669 | 330,368 |
| Hepatitis C Research | 240,058 | 295,114 |
| Study of National Cohort of Children | 37,712 | 16,664 |
| Cancer Research | 315,487 | 152,372 |
| | 10,383,035 | 6,490,321 |

Health Research Board
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2001

**4. ADMINISTRATION COSTS AND
GENERAL OVERHEADS**

| | 2001 | 2000 |
|--|------------------|-------------|
| | € | € |
| Salaries and Pensions | 568,388 | 394,117 |
| Travel, Subsistence and Training | 110,309 | 95,794 |
| Insurance | 37,406 | 23,026 |
| Printing and Stationery | 32,708 | 28,523 |
| Postage | 19,072 | 9,029 |
| Telephone | 23,254 | 18,505 |
| Light and Heat | 4,330 | 3,719 |
| Repairs and Maintenance | 153,998 | 84,289 |
| Cleaning | 8,438 | 6,317 |
| Subscriptions to International Organisations | 59,164 | 29,263 |
| Bank Interest and Charges | 1,741 | 2,525 |
| Annual Reports and Newsletters | 35,200 | 1,231 |
| Computer Costs | 195,707 | 63,611 |
| Website | 85,611 | 8,467 |
| Consultancy | 156,517 | 119,551 |
| Audit Fees | 4,152 | 4,190 |
| Advertising | 114,453 | 89,153 |
| Partnership | 30,925 | 7,269 |
| Office Rental | 59,131 | 52,377 |
| | 1,700,504 | 1,040,956 |

Health Research Board

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2001

5. PENSIONS PAID TO RETIRED MEMBERS OF STAFF

| | 2001 € | 2000 € |
|--|---------------|-----------|
| Pension Payments | 124,901 | 112,931 |
| Less: Contributions from Current Staff | (62,721) | (59,530) |
| | 62,180 | 53,401 |

The Health Research Board operated two pension schemes.

a) Defined benefit scheme - unfunded

A full actuarial valuation was carried out at 31 December 2001 by a qualified independent actuary. The scheme is an unfunded defined benefit scheme.

The major assumptions used by the actuary were:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Discount rate of interest | 5.85% per annum, pre and post retirement |
| Rate of inflation | 1.85% per annum |
| Rate of salary escalation | 3.85% per annum |
| Rate of state pension increase | 2.85% per annum |
| Rate of pensions escalation | 3.85% per annum |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Fair value of assets | €nil |
| Present value of scheme liabilities | €3,811,826 |

b) Defined benefit scheme - funded

A full actuarial valuation was carried out at 1 May 2002 by a qualified independent actuary. The scheme is a funded defined benefit scheme.

The major assumptions used by the actuary were:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Discount rate of interest | 7% per annum |
| Rate of inflation | 2.5% per annum |
| Rate of salary increase | 6% per annum |
| Rate of pensions escalation | 0% per annum |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Fair value of assets | €1,538,000 |
| Present value of scheme liabilities | €215,000 |

Health Research Board

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2001

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 6th October 2000.

7. FIXED ASSETS - TANGIBLE ASSETS

| | Premises | Office Furniture & Equipment Computers | | Total |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---|---------|--------------|
| | € | € | € | € |
| COST | | | | |
| At beginning of year | 384,782 | 195,145 | 194,796 | 774,723 |
| Additions | - | 49,918 | 29,161 | 79,079 |
| Disposals | - | - | - | - |
| At end of year | 384,782 | 245,063 | 223,957 | 853,802 |
| DEPRECIATION | | | | |
| At beginning of year | 141,167 | 95,931 | 116,708 | 353,806 |
| Charge for year | 15,392 | 33,471 | 52,430 | 101,293 |
| Disposals | - | - | - | - |
| At end of year | 156,559 | 129,402 | 169,138 | 455,099 |
| NET BOOK VALUE | | | | |
| AT 31 DECEMBER 2001 | 228,223 | 115,661 | 54,819 | 398,703 |
| AT 31 DECEMBER 2000 | 243,616 | 99,214 | 78,087 | 420,917 |

Health Research Board

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 December 2001

| | | |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| 8. DEBTORS | 2001 | 2000 |
| | € | € |
| Department of Health and Children | 95,287 | 63,356 |
| Other Debtors | 695,819 | 524,272 |
| Prepayments and Sundry Receivables | 144,737 | 244,623 |
| | 935,843 | 832,251 |
| 9. INVESTMENTS | 2001 | 2000 |
| | € | € |
| | At Cost | At Cost |
| ACC Bank PLC Commercial Paper | 445,319 | 425,202 |
| Prize Bonds | 641 | 641 |
| | 445,960 | 425,843 |
| 10. BANK AND OTHER ADVANCES | 2001 | 2000 |
| <i>Amounts falling due within one year:</i> | € | € |
| Bank overdraft | 36,278 | 250,237 |
| 11. CREDITORS AND DEFERRED INCOME | 2001 | 2000 |
| <i>Amounts falling due within one year:</i> | € | € |
| Creditors and Accruals | 1,786,460 | 1,375,044 |
| Deferred Income | 2,129,271 | 1,155,751 |
| | 3,915,731 | 2,530,795 |

Health Research Board
Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 December 2001

| 12. ACCUMULATED SURPLUS ON INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT | 2001 € | 2000 € |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| At the beginning of the year | 78,924 | 48,443 |
| (Deficit)/Surplus for the year | (25,325) | 30,481 |
| Retained Surplus | 53,599 | 78,924 |

| 13. CAPITAL FUND | 2001 € | 2000 € |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| At the beginning of the year | 420,917 | 438,006 |
| Transfer from Revenue Income and Expenditure Account to fund Fixed Assets | - | 73,167 |
| Transfer from Capital Income and Expenditure Account to fund Fixed Assets | 79,079 | - |
| Depreciation charge for the year | (101,293) | (90,256) |
| At the end of the year | 398,703 | 420,917 |

| 14. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | Change in year | |
|--|-----------------------|------------------|
| | 2001 € | 2000 € |
| Investments | 20,117 | 16,790 |
| Cash at Bank and in Hand | 1,021,943 | 839,967 |
| Bank Overdraft | 213,959 | (250,237) |
| | 1,256,019 | 606,520 |



Health Research Board Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2001

15. BOARD MEMBERS' INTERESTS

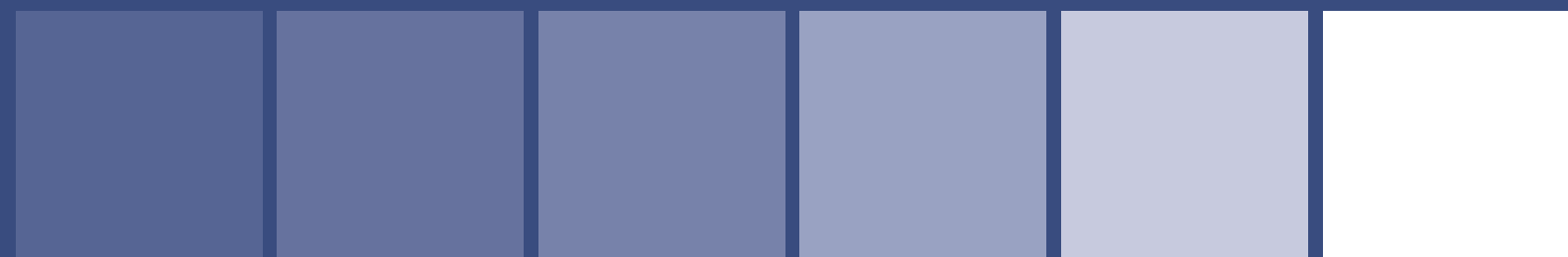
Grants are, from time to time, made to bodies with which members are connected whether through employment or otherwise. The Board has instituted a confidential scoring system for decision making purposes which also ensures that no one member can exercise undue influence over grant allocations.

16. BOARD APPROVAL

The Financial Statements were approved by the Board on 15 January 2003.



Appendix



Appendix

Health Research Board Grants Awarded in 2001 Autism Project Grant

| Grant Holder | Department, Institution | Project Title |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Professor John O'Leary | Coombe Women's Hospital | Assessment of GI disturbance, genetic analysis and immunology of gastrointestinal dysfunction in children and adults with autism |

Clinical Research Training Fellowships

| Grant Holder | Department, Institution | Project Title |
|---------------------|--|---|
| Dr Paul Ryan | Cork Cancer Research Centre Mercy Hospital | Micrometastases in oesophago-gastric cancer – phenotypic and genetic characterisation to better understand the processes of progression, dormancy and clearance |
| Dr Aiveen Kirley | Department of Psychiatry St James's Hospital | Quantitative traits and epigenetic phenomena in the genetics of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder |
| Dr Sean Cochrane | Department of Veterinary Physiology & Biochemistry University College Dublin | Mechanisms involved in Clostridium Difficile adherence to Peyer's patch epithelium and its effect on epithelial cell function |
| Dr Michael Scully | Department of Clinical Pharmacology Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland | Regulation of cardiomyocyte cell death by eicosanoids: potential for limiting cardiac toxicity of chemotherapy |
| Dr Philip Thomas | Office of the National Department of Neurosurgery Beaumont Hospital | Amino acid neurotransmission in epilepsy – a study of intracerebral microdialysis (ICMD) in animals and man |
| Dr Eleanor Molloy | Surgical Research Lab Mater Misericordiae Hospital | The role of inflammation in neonatal encephalopathy |

| Grant Holder | Department, Institution | Project Title |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Dr Sinead Byrne | Department of Gastroenterology Beaumont Hospital | Gene regulation by COX2 in colon cancer |
| Dr Trevor Duffy | Department of Rheumatology St Vincent's University Hospital | The profibrotic potential of ankylosing spondylitis synovial |
| Dr John Laffey | Department of Anaesthesia St Vincent's University Hospital | The protective effects of Hypercapnic Acidosis in sepsis induced lung injury |
| Mr Kevin McEleny | Department of Surgery UCD/Mater Misericordiae Hospital | The role of inhibitors of apoptosis proteins in prostate cancer |
| Dr Niamh Kieran | Department of Medicine & Therapeutics Mater Misericordiae Hospital | Evaluation of the therapeutic potential and mechanisms of action of the lipoxins in experimental ischaemic acute renal failure with special emphasis on tubule epithelial cell transcriptomic responses |

Hadwen Trust Project Grant

| Grant Holder | Department, Institution | Project Title |
|------------------------|---|--|
| Professor Michael Ryan | Department of Pharmacology University College Dublin | Novel human renal In Vitro co-culture systems for long-term toxicity and mechanistic studies of renal cell dysfunction |

Health Services Research Fellowships

| Grant Holder | Department, Institution | Project Title |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Mr Michael Cronin | Oral Health & Development University Dental School, Cork | Development of methods for measuring outcome of treatment provided within a third party funded dental service |
| Ms Blaithin Gallagher | Department of Ophthalmology Royal Victoria Hospital | An assessment of quality of life in people of 65 years and older who are registered as visually impaired in Ireland |
| Ms Maire O'Reilly | Department of Epidemiology & Public Health University College Cork | Talking to Patients - Writing to Patients |

| Grant Holder | Department, Institution | Project Title |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Dr Lourda Geoghegan | Department of Public Health & Epidemiology University College Dublin | Traumatic brain injury and subsequent rehabilitation – Focusing on the future |
| Ms Celine Mullins | Department of Psychology Trinity College Dublin | Development of a measurement of the perception of time as an adjunct to the assessment of children presenting with hyperactivity and inattention |
| Ms Rosalyn O'Loughlin | Department of Public Health & Primary Care AMNCH | Development of a weighted capitation formula for resource allocation within the Irish health services: A statistical framework |
| Ms Rebecca Garavan | Department of Psychology Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland | Complex barriers to health service utilisation: strategies to investigate and overcome embarrassment and stigma |

Nursing & Midwifery Fellowships

| Grant Holder | Department, Institution | Project Title |
|---------------------|--|---|
| Ms Helen Mulcahy | Department of Nursing Studies University College Cork | A study of the nurse/client relationship: Mothers of vulnerable families and Public Health Nurses |
| Ms Carol Condon | Department of Nursing Studies University College Cork | A qualitative study to explore patients' experiences of lifestyle changes following a myocardial infarction |
| Ms Sharon O'Donnell | School of Nursing & Midwifery Studies St James's Hospital | Myocardial Infarction care pathways – are delays gender specific? |
| Mr Owen Barr | School of Health Sciences University of Ulster | The coping strategies of parents who have a child with disabilities: the role of genetic information |

Post-Doctoral Research Fellowships

| Grant Holder | Department, Institution | Project Title |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Dr Thomas Connor | Department of Pharmacology National University of Ireland Galway | An investigation of the interplay between catecholamines and IL-10 in mediating methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA; "Ecstasy")-induced suppression of TNF- α in response to bacterial lipopolysaccharide |
| Dr Lucy Golden Mason | Education & Research Centre St Vincent's University Hospital | Development pathways from adult hepatic stem cells |
| Dr Peter McGuirk | Department of Biochemistry Trinity College Dublin | Regulatory T cells induction – an immune subversion strategy by <i>Bordetella pertussis</i> |
| Dr Emma Creagh | Department of Genetics Trinity College Dublin | Dissecting the role of the inhibitor of apoptosis proteins (IAPs) in regulating caspase activation and activity during apoptosis |
| Dr John Crean | UCD Department of Medicine & Therapeutics Mater Misericordiae Hospital | Connective tissue growth factor: a putative therapeutic target in Type I Diabetes |
| Dr Orla Barry | Cork Cancer Research Centre Mercy Hospital | An investigation of the In Vitro and In Vivo effects of PI 3-kinase inhibition, COX-2 inhibition, kinase-deficient Pak1 overexpression and adenoviral PKC isozyme delivery on esophagogastric metastatic growth |
| Dr Philip Cummins | School of Biotechnology Dublin City University | Mechanical forces and cellular signalling in vascular endothelial |
| Dr Mary Theresa Kelly | Department of Biochemistry University College Dublin | Investigation of chitinase regulation as a virulence factor in pathogenic yeast <i>Candida Albicans</i> |

| Grant Holder | Department, Institution | Project Title |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Dr John Mackrill | Department of Biochemistry National University of Ireland, Cork | Type 1 Ryanodine receptor expression in the vascular system |

Research Project Grants – General

| Grant Holder | Department, Institution | Project Title |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Professor H Paul Redmond | Department of Surgery Cork University Hospital | Role of endothelial progenitor cells in the tumour angiogenesis |
| Professor Brian A Lawlor | Department of Psychiatry St James's Hospital | The utility of measures of electrophysiological and information processing variability in distinguishing between normal age-related cognitive decline, Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) and Alzheimer's disease (AD) |
| Dr Bernard P Mahon | Mucosal Immunology Laboratory National University of Ireland Maynooth | The role of the novel chemokine, CCL28, in pathogenesis and protection against respiratory disease |
| Dr Paula Catherine Byrne | Department of Pathology University College Dublin | Functional analysis of spastin, a novel protein implicated in the degenerative spinal chord disorder, hereditary spastic paraplegia |
| Dr Eamon G Kavanagh | Departments of Surgery, Medicine and Microbiology University College Cork | The interaction between dendritic cells and regulatory T-cells in the host immune response to bacterial and self-antigens in inflammatory bowel disease |
| Professor Kingston HG Mills | Trinity College Dublin | Nasal vaccination – a balance between beneficial immunity and neurotoxicity |
| Dr Patrick Brennan | UCD School of Diagnostic Imaging University College Dublin | Image quality standardisation within diagnostic imaging |

| Grant Holder | Department, Institution | Project Title |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Dr Richard Costello | Department of Medicine Beaumont Hospital | Eosinophils and nerve interactions in asthma |
| Dr Breda McLeavey | Department of Psychiatry Cork University Hospital | A large-scale parasuicide intervention programme: Evaluation of interpersonal problem-solving training as an alternative treatment approach |
| Dr Caroline Sharkey | Department of Clinical Pharmacology Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland | Structural and functional analysis of novel hydroxamic acid inhibitors of prostaglandin H2 synthase |
| Dr Carmel B Breslin | Department of Chemistry National University of Ireland Maynooth | A study on the inclusion of Hydroxyapatite particles into Electroactive Films on Orthopaedic Implant Materials |
| Dr Frances Horgan | School of Physiotherapy Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland | Validation of a stroke recovery scale |
| Dr Mark Lawler | Department of Haematology St James's Hospital | Gene profiling and functional analysis of adhesion defects and apoptosis resistance in CML; understanding the mechanism of STI571 action in this disease |
| Dr Ziarh Hawi | Department of Genetics and Psychiatry Trinity College Dublin | Structural and functional analysis of Dopamine DRD5 Receptor gene in Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) |
| Dr Catherine Godson | Department of Medicine and Therapeutics Mater Misericordiae Hospital | Functional Proteomics of Lipoxin- Stimulated Macrophages |
| Professor Timothy O'Brien | Clinical Science Institute University College Hospital Galway | Modulation of vascular tone and structure via nitric oxide synthase gene transfer |
| Professor Noel McElvaney | Respiratory Research Division Beaumont Hospital | To examine the control mechanisms of mucin gene expression and its significance in Cystic Fibrosis |

| Grant Holder | Department, Institution | Project Title |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Professor Gerald O'Sullivan | Cork Cancer Research Centre Mercy Hospital Cork | DNA methylation in micrometastatic stem cells: epigenetic regulation of metastatic tumour spread |
| Dr B Therese Kinsella | Biochemistry Department University College Dublin | The role of prostacyclin as a regulator of vascular smooth muscle mitogenesis |
| Professor Conor Keane | MRSA Reference Laboratory St James's Hospital | Epidemiological typing of MRSA isolates submitted from Irish hospitals participating in the European Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (January 1999 to December 2000) |
| Dr Orina Belton | Department of Clinical Pharmacology Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland | Differential effects of conjugated linoleic acid isomers in cardiovascular disease |
| Dr Paul Cahill | School of Biotechnology Dublin City University | Pulse-pressure induced vascular cell fate: the role of Notch receptor ligand interactions |
| Dr Catherine Woods | Centre for Sport Science & Health Dublin City University | The development and validation of an Irish Physical Activity Questionnaire (IPAQ) |
| Dr Shane Allwright | Department of Community Health & General Practice AMNCH | In-depth study examining the determinants of hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV in Irish prisoners |
| Dr Walter Cullen | Department of General Practice Coombe Women's Hospital | Initiative to improve management of hepatitis C virus (HCV) among drug users attending general practice |
| Dr Anna Clarke | Department of Public Health Medicine & Epidemiology University College Dublin | Women asylum seekers/refugees delivering in Dublin maternity hospitals and their children: health needs, pregnancy outcomes and satisfaction |

| Grant Holder | Department, Institution | Project Title |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| Dr Aideen Long | Department of Biochemistry Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland | Investigation of COX induction and angiogenesis via CD44 |
| Professor Brian Sheppard | Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology St James's Hospital | The role of trophoblast cells in maintaining uteroplacental blood flow in pregnancy |
| Professor Keith Tipton | Department of Biochemistry Trinity College Dublin | Cytoprotective actions of taurine |
| Dr Gary Henehan | School of Food Science & Environmental Health Dublin Institute of Technology | Aldehyde metabolising enzymes of Helicobacter Pylori |
| Dr Clare O'Connor | Department of Medicine & Therapeutics University College Dublin | Evaluation of the effects of a1- antichymotrypsin on bacterial killing in Cystic Fibrosis |
| Professor Finian Martin | Department of Pharmacology University College Dublin | Strategies determining mammary epithelial cell survival |
| Dr Derek Doherty | Department of Biology National University of Ireland Maynooth | The role of intraheptic yo T cells in immunity against hepatitis C |
| Dr Gethin McBean | Department of Biochemistry University College Dublin | Molecular mechanism of sodium- dependent L-cystine transport |
| Dr Veronica Campbell | Department of Physiology Trinity College Dublin | Analysis of the effects of cannabinoids on cortical neurones |
| Mr Colm O'Brien | Mater Misericordiae Hospital | The role of nitric oxide in retinal ganglion cell death following retinal ischemia-reperfusion injury: Implications for glaucoma |
| Dr Clive Williams | Department of Biochemistry Trinity College Dublin | Regulation of serotonin transporter function by the neuronal SNARE protein syntaxin 1A |
| Dr Shane O'Mara | Department of Psychology Trinity College Dublin | The effect of interferon alpha on synaptic transmission, synaptic plasticity and learning |

| Grant Holder | Department, Institution | Project Title |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| Professor Ciaran Regan | Department of Pharmacology University College Dublin | Investigation of putative memory-related functions for the low density lipoprotein receptor-related protein (LRP) – relevance to the aetiology of Alzheimer's Disease |
| Professor Michael Gill | Department of Psychiatry St James's Hospital | Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: deficits in attention and executive function in relation to genotype |
| Dr Evelyn Murphy | Department of Rheumatology St Vincent's University Hospital | The proinflammatory effects of corticotropin releasing hormone in human arthritis |
| Dr Paul Moynagh | Department of Pharmacology University College Dublin | I κ B β : The Key to sustained activation of NF κ B |
| Professor Fergus Shanahan | Department of Medicine Cork University Hospital | Molecular mechanism of probiotic binding to intestinal epithelium |
| Dr Mary McCaffrey | Biochemistry Department University College Cork | Investigation of the role of phosphoprotein 75 in receptor-mediated endocytosis |
| Dr Kieran Sheahan | Department of Histopathology St Vincent's University Hospital | Molecular analysis of colorectal cancer: its role in detecting familial cancer and predicting response to chemotherapy |
| Dr Kathleen Bennett | Department of Therapeutics St James's Hospital | Modelling adherence to medication using a national prescribing database |
| Dr Donal O'Shea | School of Biotechnology Dublin City University | Automated grading of ductal carcinoma In Situ |
| Professor Charles Dorman | Department of Microbiology Trinity College Dublin | DNA gyrase gene regulation in <i>Samonella</i> Enterica |
| Dr Angus Bell | Department of Microbiology Trinity College Dublin | The Plasmodium Falciparum P-glycoprotein homologue (Pgh1) and its role in the antimalarial action of cyclosporin and other |

| Grant Holder | Department, Institution | Project Title |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| Dr Anthony Moran | Department of Microbiology National University of Ireland Galway | Studies on the role of Lewis antigen mimicry in Helicobacter pylori lipopolysaccharides in the development of autoreactive antibodies against the gastric mucosa |
| Dr Wim Meijer | Department of Industrial Microbiology National University of Ireland Dublin | Molecular analysis of the VirR regulon of the intracellular pathogen Rhodococcus Equi |
| Professor Fergal O'Gara | BIOMERIT Research Centre University College Cork | The regulation of signal mediated virulence and biofilm formation in Pseudomonas Aeruginosa |
| Dr Stephen Smith | Department of Microbiology Trinity College Dublin | Pathogenesis of Escherichia Coli neonatal meningitis: mechanisms of adhesion and invasion |
| Dr Aiden Corvin | Department of Psychiatry St James's Hospital | A genetic association study of Schizophrenia and related disorders |
| Dr Patricia B Maguire | Department of Clinical Pharmacology Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland | To identify novel proteins associated with the GPIIb/IIIa receptor complex in platelets using proteomics |
| Dr Eleanor Ryan | Centre for Liver Disease Mater Misericordiae Hospital | Molecular Pathophysiology of Iron Metabolism: An investigation of the molecular interactions of HFE with key components of cellular iron homeostasis |
| Dr Deirdre Campion | Department of Veterinary Physiology & Biochemistry University College Dublin | Nerve-immune interactions in gut-associated lymphoid tissue |
| Dr Kay Ohlendieck | Department of Pharmacology University College Dublin | Molecular pathogenesis of calcium-regulatory membrane complexes in dystrophic fibres from mdx heart and diaphragm |

| Grant Holder | Department, Institution | Project Title |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Dr Judith Harmey | Department of Surgery Beaumont Hospital | Novel angiostatic gene therapy for solid tumours |
| Dr Andrew Bowie | Department of Pharmacology University College Dublin | Use of the vaccinia virus proteins A46R and A52R to characterise interleukin-1 and toll-like receptor signalling pathways with a view to therapeutic intervention |
| Professor Paul McLoughlin | Department of Physiology University College Dublin | Somatic gene transfer (eNOS) in chronic lung infection |
| Dr Desiree Bennett | The Meningococcal Reference Laboratory The Children's Hospital Temple Street | Impact of emerging drug resistance in <i>N. meningitidis</i> on the treatment of invasive meningococcal disease in Ireland: antimicrobial susceptibility testing and molecular analysis of the organisms |
| Dr Cliona O'Farrelly | Education & Research Centre St Vincent's University Hospital | Adult stem Cells: Development of T cells in the human intestine |
| Professor Thomas G Cotter | Department of Biochemistry University College Cork | Exploring the role of caspases and apoptosis in animal models |
| Dr Dermot Cox | Department of Clinical Pharmacology Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland | Role of <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> surface proteins in platelets |
| Mr Tim Holland | Department of Preventive and Paediatric Dentistry University Dental School, Cork | Prevalence and distribution of dental caries amongst young adults |
| Dr David Croke | Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland | Genetic variation at the Phenylalanine Hydroxylase (PAH) locus and the population history of Phenylketonuria in Europe |
| Dr Gerardene Meade | Department of Clinical Pharmacology Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland | Targeting adhesion in thrombosis |

| Grant Holder | Department, Institution | Project Title |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| Dr Grainne Marie Kearns | Rheumatology Section Beaumont Hospital | Gene mapping for human systemic lupus erythematosus in a cohort of Irish families |
| Professor Andrew Green | Department of Medical Genetics Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children | Expanding the phenotype of human MECP2 mutations beyond classic Rett syndrome |
| Professor James Docherty | Department of Physiology Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland | Cardiovascular and autonomic actions of MDMA and other amphetamine-like agents involve adrenergic mechanisms |
| Dr Philip Newsholme | Department of Biochemistry University College Dublin | Development of high density cell perfusion systems for the study of insulin secreting cell line performance and metabolism |
| Dr Peter Smyth | Endocrine Laboratory University College Dublin | Control of iodide uptake in the human breast |
| Professor John Morrison | Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology University College Hospital, Galway | Myometrial beta-3 adrenoreceptors and human labour, term and preterm |
| Dr Timothy Mantle | Department of Biochemistry Trinity College Dublin | Structural and functional studies on biliverdin reductases A and B (BVR-A and BVR-B) |

Research Project Grants – Co-Funded in Health Services Research

| Grant Holder | Department, Institution | Project Title |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Ms Angela Fitzgerald | Eastern Regional Health Authority | An evaluation and outcome study of a drug rehabilitation service in the Eastern Regional Health Authority |
| Mr Mike Watts | GROW in Ireland | Leadership training programme for members of GROW |

| Grant Holder | Department, Institution | Project Title |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Dr Martin Henman | Department of Pharmacology Trinity College Dublin | Feasibility study of the contribution of Community Pharmacists to assessing compliance with treatment among patients with cardiovascular disease |
| Ms Mary Fitzsimons | Neuroscience Division Beaumont Hospital | Needs analysis for tele-neurophysiology in the North Western Health Board and requirements for implementation |
| Ms Marie Lawless | The Merchants Quay Project Merchants Quay Ireland | An investigation into the health status of male drug users |
| Professor Carol Fitzpatrick | Department of Child & Family Psychiatry Mater Misericordiae Hospital | Reaching out to adolescents with suicidal behaviour |
| Ms Maria Walls | Enable Ireland | Qualify of life for young people with disability in Ireland |

Research Project Grants – Interdisciplinary

| Grant Holder | Department, Institution | Project Title |
|---------------------|--|---|
| Dr Mary Meegan | Pharmaceutical Chemistry Department Trinity College Dublin | Development of an In Silico high-throughput screening system for the oestrogen receptor |
| Dr Helen Fenelon | Department of Radiology Mater Misericordiae Hospital | Assistive image analysis based virtual colonoscopy |

Research Project Grants – Ireland-Northern Ireland Co-operation

| Grant Holder | Department, Institution | Project Title |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Dr Niamh Moran | Department of Clinical Pharmacology Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland | A novel, endogenous, thiol isomerase activity within integrin cell adhesion molecules: a molecular explanation for their conformational switch |

| Grant Holder | Department, Institution | Project Title |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Professor Andrew Murphy | Department of General Practice National University of Ireland, Galway | The effect of a General Practice consultation charge on the rates and patterns of patient consultation |
| Dr Denis Shields | Department of Clinical Pharmacology Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland | Inflammatory and thrombotic genetic variation in a large prospective study of cardiovascular disease |
| Dr Harry Comber | National Cancer Registry | All-Ireland case-control study of Oesophageal Adenocarcinoma and Barrett's Oesophagus |







