

## **Cancer Prevention Fellowships**

### **Guidance Notes 2009**

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#### **Background**

The *Ireland-Northern Ireland-National Cancer Institute Cancer Consortium*, established in 1999, aims to provide world-class cancer care to the people on the island of Ireland. Developing a core of well-trained cancer specialists is central to attaining this goal and is a key activity of the Cancer Consortium.

This Fellowship Programme aims to encourage successful applicants to pursue careers in cancer prevention and control on the island of Ireland. It equips participants to embark on such careers by giving them an opportunity to obtain a Masters in Public Health (MPH) degree in Ireland/Northern Ireland in year one, followed by three years of mentored research in the National Cancer Institute's distinguished Cancer Prevention Fellowship Programme in Washington DC. Fellows may apply for a fifth year of research funding to facilitate their return to Ireland/Northern Ireland to set up independent research in collaboration with an established mentor in Ireland/Northern Ireland.

#### **Eligibility**

Applications are invited from researchers in any cancer-related discipline working on the island of Ireland. Applicants must:

- Hold a doctoral degree (MD, PhD, or equivalent) or expect to complete these requirements by the start date of the fellowship (summer 2009). (If the applicant already possesses an MPH degree and a primary degree in a health-related discipline OR if the applicant possesses a PhD in epidemiology or biostatistics, they can begin the fellowship directly at NCI for four years).
- Provide proof of Irish/UK/EU citizenship (birth certificate or passport) and proof of employment in Ireland/Northern Ireland. For those applicants who are not citizens of Ireland/UK/EU who wish to apply, you must be able to provide a copy of your work permit and details of your current employment on the island of Ireland. All applicants must be eligible to obtain a visa to work for three years in the US from the relevant US Embassy or Consulate. Please note, it is the responsibility of the applicant to

ensure that they will in principle satisfy the visa requirements before submitting an application.

- *For Northern Ireland applicants only:* be employed by the HSC; by voluntary, not-for-profit organisations in Northern Ireland involved in health or social care provision; by Queen's University Belfast or by the University of Ulster.
- Be able to demonstrate the benefits of the award in terms of research and career advancement.

### **Scope of the Fellowship award:**

The Health Research Board (HRB)/ Health and Social Care Research and Development (HSC R&D) Office will cover the cost of the salary for Phase One of the CPFPP (the first 10 months of the award during which the MPH is undertaken) and Phase Three (a fifth year of research funding to facilitate a return to Ireland/Northern Ireland which is dependant upon a successful peer review process). The NCI will fund the stipend based on the NCI fellowship scale whilst the award holder is based in the US. . As a guide, the NCI Fellowship rates in 2008 were between \$46,200 and \$78,000 depending on years' experience.

The HRB/HSC R&D Office will provide funding for the first phase to include salary at the relevant level based on national post-doctoral salary scales, MPH costs, and travel. In the second through fourth year, NCI will fund the fellow's stipend, medical insurance, research, and travel and training costs in line with current CPFPP policies. Fellows may apply for a fifth year of research funding to facilitate their return to Ireland/Northern Ireland to set up independent research in collaboration with an established mentor.

### **How to apply**

Applications for the Cancer Prevention Fellowship Programme (CPFPP) must be made directly to the NCI through an on-line application form. **However, applicants must first contact the HRB or HSC R&D Office to establish proof of eligibility and obtain an official tracking number to proceed with their online application.** This will entail satisfying the HRB or HSC R&D Office in relation to the educational requirements, citizenship (birth or passport) and proof of employment in Ireland/Northern Ireland.

Once applicants have received their official tracking number, they can proceed with the NCI online application. The closing date for receipt of applications is **1 September 2008** for entry into the programme in 2009. Additional information on the CPFPP and the link to the online application form is available from <http://cancer.gov/prevention/pob>.

Applicants should ensure that sufficient time is allowed to obtain confirmation of eligibility and to make the subsequent online application prior to the September 1 2008 deadline. All applications to the NCI for this Cancer Prevention Fellowship Programme (including those from the US and Ireland/Northern Ireland) will be evaluated by an NCI review panel. Short-listed candidates will be invited to the NCI for interview. The HRB or HSC R&D Office will cover all costs associated with attending the interview in the US if a candidate(s) from Ireland/Northern Ireland is short-listed. Please see [www.hrb.ie/fundingavailable](http://www.hrb.ie/fundingavailable) or [www.centalservicesagency.n-i.nhs.uk/display/rdo](http://www.centalservicesagency.n-i.nhs.uk/display/rdo) respectively.

**Who do you contact?**

If you have any further queries about this Fellowship Programme and in order to obtain your tracking number, you should contact Dr Sallyann O' Brien at the Health Research Board

**t** +353-1-2345 211      **e** [saobrien@hrb.ie](mailto:saobrien@hrb.ie) or

Dr Nicola Armstrong at the Health and Social Care Research and Development Office

**t** +44-28 90553617      **e** [nicola.armstrong@rdo.n-i.nhs.uk](mailto:nicola.armstrong@rdo.n-i.nhs.uk)