Annual Report

2017

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Outcomes and Impact in 2017

11,590 patients participating in trials at the three HRB Clinical Research Facilities (CRFs)

197 requests for data from the HRB’s NHIS received and responded to

650 people from 153 services trained to use the National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS) on LINK

74,000 live records on LINK

3,569 cancer patients recruited on 122 active Cancer Trials Ireland clinical trials

197 requests for data from the HRB’s NHIS received and responded to
€80.7m awarded (including €23.2m co-funding)

5 evidence reviews produced for the Department of Health

157 awards across 14 host institutions

8 peer-reviewed journal articles published using HRB NHIS data

€12.5m leveraged from H2020 for 12 health-related projects, of which two were industry led

325 clinical trials underway at the three HRB Clinical Research Facilities (CRFs)

9 HRB reports published

469 research jobs supported
Two years into our strategy, the HRB continues to gain momentum. The introduction of new award schemes is having an impact for researchers, supporting development of health research infrastructure and building capacity to embed research in our health system. Our growing reputation for the provision of quality data and evidence is reflected in national policies and invitations to our staff to take positions on national task forces and groups.

Our influence, and the impact of what we are doing, is evident both nationally and across Europe. In Ireland we are leading the way in key areas such as open research, and public and patient involvement in research. We had a pivotal role in the development of the new national drugs strategy, we provided key evidence to underpin decision-making in relation to regulation and financing of homecare services, and we were invited to participate in the government task force on personalised budgets for people with a disability.

In Europe we hold leading positions on advisory groups in areas such as research integrity, biobanking, open research and personalised medicine. All of these have significant implications for Irish researchers and it is essential that Ireland has a voice at the table.

We are building on the strong foundation outlined in the *Strategy 2016–2020, Research Evidence Action*. The progress made against objectives during 2017 included:

- Funding a selection of new awards worth more than €80 million aligned to our strategic priorities; some examples include
  > Collaborative Doctoral Awards
  > Emerging Investigator Awards
  > Investigator-led projects

- Increasing collaborative funding with research charities, EU joint programming initiatives, Wellcome and Science Foundation Ireland, Irish Research Council, Fulbright and the National Institutes of Health in the United States

- Growing participation in our new online data collection system, LINK, which is an ambitious programme designed to synchronise our five national health information systems and receive data from service providers online

- Delivering five evidence reviews for the Department of Health

- Introducing new supports and mechanisms that encourage a) the public to become active participants in the research process (and not just as subjects of research) and b) help researchers to develop and integrate appropriate public and patient involvement programmes in their research activities

Interim Chief Executive’s report

Interim Chief Executive

Dr Máiread O’Driscoll
Interim Chief Executive
Announcing our plan to launch HRB Open Research, Ireland’s first open access publishing platform

Delivering on a wide range of actions from our personal and organisational development programme

Exceeding Horizon 2020 health targets in terms of securing funding.

Through our funding mechanisms the HRB:

- Invested €80.7m supporting 157 awards across 14 host institutions
- Supported 469 research jobs
- Helped Irish researchers leverage €12.5 million from Horizon 2020
- Involved 11,590 patients in 325 clinical trials underway at HRB Clinical Research Facilities (CRFs)
- Enabled 3,569 cancer patients to enrol in Cancer Trials Ireland clinical trials
- Made our first Emerging Investigators awards to provide a springboard for mid-career researchers towards leadership.

Further examples and case studies which demonstrate what was achieved during the year are included throughout this report.

The dedication and drive of the people who work in the HRB is key to delivering on the ambitious targets outlined in the HRB Strategy 2016–2020 Research Evidence Action. I would like to acknowledge the progressive and flexible approach taken by staff throughout the year and their commitment to the core principles that guide all of the HRB’s activities. I would also like to acknowledge the ongoing support and commitment of our Board members.

Looking ahead, we are committed to embedding research at the heart of the health system and continuing to find new ways to use our data and evidence to inform policy and practice.

Dr Máiread O’Driscoll
Interim Chief Executive
Freshest blood not necessarily the best

Professor Alistair Nichol, who led the Irish arm of the TRANSFUSE study involving 4,919 patients at 59 centres in five countries, said: “These findings will save money and lives. Blood banks around the world will not need to change systems and storage practices in the mistaken belief that fresher blood is better for critically ill patients.”

More than 3,000 Irish patients are benefiting from a new intervention that prevents heart failure. If rolled out nationally, it could save 138,000 bed days.

€8.3m for 11 new Emerging Investigators who will help build research capacity in areas such as health economics, biostatistics, immunology, respiratory medicine, psychology, molecular and cellular biology, and health services research.

The HRB announced that it will launch Ireland’s first open research publishing platform. It will help ensure that the research it funds is open and accessible, so that results are available quickly and can have the widest possible impact.

Drug-Related Deaths in 2015

695 Deaths

→ 348 as a result of poisoning and

→ 347 Non-poisonings

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The HRB published detailed psychiatric admissions and discharges data.

Analysis of HRB–supported journal publications from 2013 to 2016 showed an average of 538 publications per year. The number of HRB–funded journal publications is increasing over time and 15% of those are in the top 10% of the most highly cited publications in their field worldwide.

Alcohol treatment figures
Classification of level of problem alcohol use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harmful</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependent</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

More than 900 expressions of interest to participate in the HRB public and patient involvement in research initiative:

‘It gave me a high degree of confidence that public money going to research went through a vigorous review process’.

Participant who took part in the reviews.

This is Jane
Jane knows that one day she might become ill.
Jane wants to get involved in health research to improve future healthcare.
Jane becomes a public reviewer for the Health Research Board.
Jane is smart.
Be like Jane

538
Finian Mc Grath, T.D., Minister of State with special responsibility for Disabilities, at a prize–giving ceremony to celebrate the two service users who won the competition to design the two disability service report covers; John Murphy from St. Michael’s House and Olga Forde from Brothers of Charity, Galway.

The HRB published drug treatment figures and compared the Irish drug situation with the rest of Europe.
Health research in action showcased some key deliverables from HRB work.

The HRB is supporting the National Office for Suicide Prevention to examine data about national levels of suicide and self-harm.

#HRBResearchInAction

Health research Board Annual Report 2017

**€1.75m** allocated to help researchers involve the public at the very start of the health research process.

**Health research in action**

Health research in action showcased some key deliverables from HRB work.

The HRB is supporting the National Office for Suicide Prevention to examine data about national levels of suicide and self-harm.

#HRBResearchInAction

**€10m**

The HRB to award and manage a new €10m contract for TILDA, The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing, on behalf of the Department of Health.

**New approaches to tackle superbugs**

The HRB has funded two Irish research projects that are studying how antibiotic resistance might be influenced by the food supply chain. The funding is part of a joint EU and international research collaboration to tackle the global challenge of antibiotic resistance.

**How tuberculosis hijacks the immune system.**

HRB-funded researchers at Trinity College Dublin and St James’s Hospital in Dublin are members of an international team who identified how TB hijacks our immune cells to establish an infection in the lungs.

The HRB, Science Foundation Ireland and Wellcome invest €5.5m in Irish biomedical research projects. Combatting superbugs (MRSA) and the neuroscience of memory are among the areas that are due to benefit.

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Potentially inappropriate medications were associated with a 29% higher rate of adverse drug events in older patients, notes Dr Frank Moriarty, HRB Centre for Primary Care Research at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.


A single injection of low-dose insulin-like growth factor-1 is safe and can improve cardiac repair after a large heart attack, notes Professor Noel Caplice, Chair of Cardiovascular Sciences, UCC. HRB–SFI Translational Research Award programme.

Researchers from the HRB-funded Perinatal Ireland consortium scooped two major honours at the world’s most prestigious obstetric research meeting, the Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine (SMFM) annual clinical meeting in the USA.

Cloughan’s Hill National School in Tuam, Co Galway claimed first place in the HRB–TMRN START competition, which is designed to increase young children’s understanding and awareness of randomised controlled trials.

Dr Maura Hiney, HRB, chaired the development of a new European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, which has since been translated into all European Union (EU) official languages, as well as Japanese and Turkish.

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INTERREG funding secured for cross-border investment in 10 healthcare intervention trials by the HRB in Ireland and the Health and Social Care Research and Development (HSC R&D) Division of the Public Health Agency in Northern Ireland.

€5.7m

for four new health research training schemes. These Collaborative Doctoral Awards will be in the areas of youth mental health, neonatal brain injury, elderly care, and multimorbidity in primary care settings.

€8.8m

INTERREG funding secured for cross-border investment in 10 healthcare intervention trials by the HRB in Ireland and the Health and Social Care Research and Development (HSC R&D) Division of the Public Health Agency in Northern Ireland.
The inaugural Dr Dermot Walsh Memorial award was presented by Dr Walsh’s widow Eilis to Maureen Buckley, who designed the front cover of the HRB report entitled *Activities of Irish Psychiatric Units and Hospitals 2016*. The report is compiled from the database that Dr Walsh established in 1963, the National Psychiatric In-Patient Reporting System.

Research shows that people presenting with drug addiction are now older. Anne Marie Carew (pictured), HRB was co-author of a paper about drug treatment trends among opioid users.

Ones2Watch conference
100 people attend the first conference and networking event for early and mid-career stage HRB-funded researchers. The HRB Ones2Watch Competition finalists are pictured here with Dr Anne Cody (far right), HRB.

Dr Siobhan Hendrick, HRB, photographed with Sophie Weldon, Laura Weldon and Emma Kleiser Byrne, Loreto Secondary School, Balbriggan, Co Dublin at the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition. The students’ project, which focused on diabetes, won the HRB Prize at the exhibition.
HRB data were used to examine the connections between homelessness, mental ill health and drug taking. Ena Lynn (pictured), HRB, was a co-author of the study published in the Irish Medical Journal.

**Psychoactive substances – HRB data illustrate policy impact.**

The first national study on the impact of the Psychoactive Substances Act 2010 found that average treatment rates for new psychoactive substances (NSPs) fell by almost 50% in the two years after the legislation was introduced in 2010. Dr Suzi Lyons, (pictured) HRB, was a co-author.

The HRB National Drugs Library launched a new website.

Dr Mairead O’Driscoll (front and right), Interim Chief Executive, HRB, and others at the launch of the Trinity Centre for Ageing and Intellectual Disability.
Key deliverables in line with HRB strategy 2016 - 2020
The HRB Strategy 2016–2020 charts a clear course for what the organisation will do over that time period. This annual report highlights key achievements made during 2017 in line with the strategy objectives, and it showcases some examples of significant outcomes and successes.

Figure 1. Core elements of HRB strategy 2016-2020

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

Focus areas

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

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

Enabling themes

Progress in the three focus areas will be enabled and maximised by policies and actions that affect all three:

- Supporting the exceptional researchers and leaders we need to undertake high-quality health research and generate evidence.
- Building a strong enabling environment for health research in Ireland and ensuring that we understand the outcomes and demonstrate the impacts of our investments.
- Ensuring that our policies and governance are robust and founded on best practices.
Focus area 1

Address major health challenges

2017 Objectives:
- Support high-quality, investigator-led, internationally competitive research
- Develop and implement co-funding opportunities with international agencies and institutions.

Key items delivered in 2017
- 109 awards, worth €8.9m, were made in this focus area.
- 19 awards, worth €1.4m, involved international collaboration.
- Launched the 9th HRB-MRCG co-funding programme in November 2017.
- Funded 37 new investigator-led awards at a value of €12.1m.
- Supported three new awards under a new funding instrument focused on paediatric research in partnership with the National Children’s Hospital Foundation (NCHF), fully funded by NCHF at a cost of €0.9m.
- Increased the number of applications and awards under the Wellcome/HRB/SFI Biomedical Research Partnership.
- Under the HRB *Strategy for engagement in EU research*, the HRB participated in four joint transnational calls in 2017. These included: Joint Programming in Neurodegenerative Diseases (JPND), Joint Programme Initiatives (JPI) in Antibiotic Resistance (AMR), and Healthy Diet for Healthy Living (HDHL). The HRB also prepared for six new transnational calls planned for 2018 (two JPND calls, two JPIs in AMR, one JPI in HDHL, and one call in the ERA-Net PerMed which addresses Personalised Medicine).
- Invested €0.66m in transnational research in antimicrobial resistance, ageing, and neurodegeneration. An Irish team led by Dr Fiona Walsh, NUI Maynooth, will lead one of the successful projects, Intervention of Antimicrobial resistance transfer into the food chain (INART).

109 awards, worth €8.9m, were made in this focus area.
The NCHF had almost €1 million to spend on research but did not have significant in-house experience of running research funding competitions. As a result, it contacted the HRB to discuss a possible collaboration.

‘To run a fair, equitable and open competition for research funding requires a substantial amount of below-the-line activity’, says Dr Anne Cody, Head of Pre-Award at the HRB. ‘Most people just see the total amount divided by the number of successful projects, when really that’s tip of the iceberg stuff’.

Every application has to be reviewed by at least three independent reviewers, and none of these can be from Ireland. First, you have to find domain experts and their contact details, establish that they don’t have a conflict of interest, and then for every ten possibles that you contact, you might only get four, or perhaps six replies. And from those replies it’s a smaller number yet again for those who might have the time to participate. We also have to find typically eight to twelve panel members who will assess the applications relative to each other and who need to have a broader perspective’.

A ‘small’ award scheme such as the HRB-NCHF partnership, with 15 applications, involved issuing 212 invitations for peer reviewers and convening a panel meeting to approve three scientifically excellent projects sharing funding of €1 million.

The figures outlined for the schemes below illustrate the level of commitment and effort required to run a robust, international peer review process, particularly as the number of applications increases.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applications to scheme</th>
<th>Invited peer reviewers</th>
<th>Reviews accepted</th>
<th>Reviews completed</th>
<th>Awards made</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NCHF 2017</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigator-led projects 2017</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>551</td>
<td>469</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Case Study 1:**

HRB expertise recognised in new paediatric research in partnership with the National Children’s Hospital Foundation (NCHF)
Case Study 2:
€5.1m investment to improve colorectal cancer treatment

“Professor Jochen Prehn, (pictured) Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), is a member of a consortium that won €5.1m under the US-Ireland Research and Development Partnership. The funding comes from four organisations: the National Institutes for Health in the United States, the Health and Social Care Research and Development Office (HSC R&D), Public Health Agency, Northern Ireland, and the HRB and Science Foundation Ireland in the Republic of Ireland.

According to Professor Prehn, the project will develop new diagnostic and prognostic biomarkers for people with colorectal cancer.

‘The aim is to provide customised, personalised treatment that will improve outcomes for people with the disease’.

According to Dr Anne Cody, HRB,

‘We have expanded our participation in this partnership and it now covers the full research remit of the National Institutes for Health. For researchers, it also has the advantage of being a rolling call, with three submission dates, 5 February, 5 June and 5 October – so it gives the community a lot of flexibility when it comes to making an application’.

‘This award has enabled our overall team to combine our expertise here in the RSCI in bioinformatics and systems biology with the clinical expertise and molecular sub-typing experience of Queen’s University Belfast, and the new ground-breaking technology of Cell DIVE that General Electric has developed, to work together and hopefully make some really profound breakthroughs in cancer treatment’.

‘For the first time, we can literally look at hundreds of thousands of cancer cells, each expressing 60–80 proteins, and know what proteins are causing individual cells to misbehave or become cancerous. This is game-changing’, Professor Prehn added.
Focus area 2

Support healthcare interventions

2017 Objectives:
• Support the design, conduct and evaluation of intervention studies.
• Facilitate the coordination, enabling mechanisms and national/international collaborations that improve the volume, quality, relevance and impact of trials and intervention studies in Ireland.

Key items delivered in 2017
• Made 32 awards, worth €11m, in this focus area.
• Invested €6.7m in 10 Definitive Interventions and Feasibility Awards (DIFAs). These awards are designed to boost research activity in the area of clinical trials and interventions and create a pipeline of research that could go on to become full-scale interventions in the future.
• Approved Phase II funding for HRB-TMRN worth €1.4m, following a review.
• Awarded pilot funding to HRB-TMRN for Primary Methodology Research projects, worth €0.35m.
• Coordinated an international review of the three HRB CRFs. The Phase II funding of €11.6m approved by the HRB is to commence in 2018.

• Launched a new INTERREG VA call for cross-border healthcare intervention trials jointly with the HSC R&D of the Public Health Agency, Northern Ireland.
• Participated as a partner in a successful EU Horizon 2020 ERA-NET Co-Fund application for Personalised Medicine. HRB involvement will ensure that Ireland can influence the broader policy agenda in Europe in this area.

€11m
Made 32 awards, worth €11m, in this focus area.
Case Study 3:
€6.7m boost to clinical research activity

The HRB Definitive Intervention and Feasibility Awards scheme is designed to boost research activity in clinical trials and interventions. It builds on a series of previous HRB investments that have put in place the facilities, support staff and research networks that are necessary in order to conduct clinical trials research to international standards.

According to Oonagh Ward (pictured), HRB,

‘There were 10 awards made under this scheme in 2017, with a total value of €6.7m. Five of these awards are major ‘definitive intervention’ projects with a combined value of €4.3m. The other five are smaller ‘feasibility studies’ which are designed to provide a pipeline for research that could go on to form future full-scale definitive interventions’.

Cardiac and stroke care were among the big winners in the definitive intervention projects, with three of the five awards going to projects in these areas. The remaining two definitive intervention projects were in pregnancy-related care.

2017 was a very successful year overall for clinical research trials in Ireland, with 11,590 people involved in 325 trials underway in HRB Clinical Research Facilities.

One of the highlight findings came from Professor Alistair Nichol, St. Vincent’s University Hospital, Elm Park, Dublin and University College Dublin. He discovered that freshest blood is not necessarily the best option when it is administered to critically ill patients. There had been some evidence to suggest that fresh blood was better than older blood, which had led to some calls for blood banks to change their storage policies and systems. Professor Nichol’s findings confirm that current practices are safe and optimal, and that there is no need for services to begin costly changes to systems and practices.

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€8.8m investment to fund 10 healthcare intervention trials in Northern Ireland and border region* in Ireland.

This project, the Cross-Border Healthcare Intervention Trials in Ireland Network (CHITIN), builds on an existing partnership between the HRB in Ireland and the HSC R&D of the Public Health Agency in Northern Ireland. The funding was secured as part of the INTERREG VA Programme for 2014–2020. This is one of 60 programmes across the European Union (EU) designed to promote greater levels of cross-border cooperation and address economic and social challenges that result from the existence of borders.

Many health trials currently take place in major centres in bigger cities, where patients are referred for specialist treatment. This project will allow participation in trials outside of these centres in a broader range of settings, including primary care, regional hospitals and the community.

The project will help develop and expand research infrastructure, and deliver training that enhances capability to do further research. It will also enhance all-Ireland partnerships for researchers and health professionals.

According to Dr Mairead O’Driscoll, Interim Chief Executive, HRB, 'The great thing about this partnership is that it creates the opportunity to conduct research in areas outside large specialist centres, in communities and primary care settings. The learning and health benefits that we get from this also have the potential to extend throughout the island of Ireland. As a result of this investment, we will see patient benefits, innovations in healthcare, and enduring progress in health and social care’.

Note: *the Border counties include Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo, Cavan, Monaghan and Louth.
Focus area 3

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

2017 Objectives:

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

Key items delivered in 2017

- Made 86 awards, worth €9.5m, in this focus area. It included:
  > Investing almost €1m in our Applied Partnership Awards scheme. A total of eight awards were made in 2017, with co-funding of €0.3m provided by healthcare organisations.
  > Making two new awards with the Health Service Executive (HSE) and the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) under the Research Collaboration in Quality and Patient Safety.
  > Opening a new call in 2017 to support capacity building across a broad range of evidence synthesis techniques, including Cochrane systematic reviews.
  > Awarding €0.9m to the Framework for Safe Nurse Staffing and Skill-mix research programme.
  > Supporting 17 new awards under the Knowledge Exchange and Dissemination Scheme.
- Participated as a partner in a successful EU Horizon 2020 Coordination and Support Action in Health Systems Resilience. HRB involvement will ensure that Ireland can influence the broader policy agenda in Europe in this area.
- Published three HRB National Health Information Systems (NHIS) annual reports.
- Published six national bulletins, generated six infographics and produced 45 quarterly performance indicator reports to provide clear and concise information to assist policy-makers and service planners in the area of disability, mental health and problem drug use.
- Completed and submitted 15 peer-reviewed journal articles based on NHIS data. Eight were published in 2017 with the remaining seven expected to be published during 2018.
- Trained 650 people from 153 services on the LINK system for the National Drug Treatment Reporting System.
Collected data on behalf of Road Safety Authority, the National Director of Fire and Emergency Management and the National Office of Suicide Prevention.

Published two evidence reviews, and completed three evidence briefs and one research highlight.

Collaborated with the Department of Health and Health Service Executive to produce one evidence review and one evidence brief.

Provided data on the drug situation in Ireland to inform European monitoring and trends in line with contractual commitments to the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction, (EMCDDA) in 2017.

Published two drug evidence reviews which contributed to the evidence base for the new national drug strategy which is titled Reducing harm, supporting recovery: A health-led approach to drug and alcohol use in Ireland, 2017-2025.

Published four issues of Drugnet Ireland.

The HRB’s National Health Information Systems (NHIS) provide high-quality, timely and relevant data for policy, service planning and research.
A four-way collaboration between Genio, a not-for-profit body funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies, the HRB, the University of Ulster and University College Dublin has enabled researchers to examine trends in intellectual disability service provision and service use by people with disabilities over a five-year period from 2009 to 2014.

Genio provided funding to employ a researcher to carry out secondary analysis of data from the HRB’s National Intellectual Disability Database.

According to Dr Sarah Craig (pictured), Head of National Health Information Systems, HRB, “While our annual reports provide a very useful snapshot of a single point in time, this collaboration enabled a much deeper examination of trends over a longer period. The main report, entitled *Adult Persons with Intellectual Disability in Ireland, Comparison of service provision in 2009 and 2014* (Genio, 2017), and several other peer-reviewed journal articles that arose from the research, will be of interest and use to those setting policy in this area. It is an interesting template that illustrates how HRB data can be used for future research’.

‘It is great to see our reputation for providing quality data and evidence grow. During 2017, the HRB was also asked to participate in the government’s task force on personalised budgets for people with a disability in Ireland. The task force met on a number of occasions throughout 2017 and their report is due in 2018’, Dr Craig added.

The HRB was also asked to participate in the government’s task force on personalised budgets for people with a disability in Ireland.
The Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People, Ms Helen McEntee TD, (pictured) published the HRB evidence review which looked at the regulation and financing of homecare in Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and Scotland.

The evidence review, which was commissioned by the Department of Health, described regulatory measures, such as legislation, national standards, staff and provider accreditation, eligibility and needs assessment, financing of regulation, and the financing of formal homecare services themselves in the four countries.

According to Minister McEntee, ‘This review is an important step in the process, currently underway in the Department of Health, to determine what type of homecare scheme would be best for Ireland, in terms of both regulation and funding’.

The report set out to answer three overarching questions. As follows:

1. Describe the regulation of formal homecare services in the selected countries.

2. Describe the (staff and client) experiences of, and effectiveness of, regulation for formal homecare in the selected countries.

3. Describe the approaches to assessing, financing and financial management of formal home care services in the selected countries.

The report found that there were several principles that underpin regulated homecare. These were standards, transparency, consultation, choice, equity, and sustainability. These principles were in turn implemented through legislation, policy, strategy, service planning and financing.
2017 Objectives:

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

Key items delivered in 2017

- Made 59 awards, worth €7.7m under Enabler A, in line with our Framework for Health Research Careers published in 2016.
- Awarded €8.3m for 11 new emerging investigators to support career progression.
- Supported 39 Summer Scholarships and one Cancer Prevention Fellowship.
- HRB ICAT (established with Wellcome) recruited the first new doctors to participate in a PhD training programme for clinicians. The scheme will train 40 clinicians between 2016 and 2021.
- Launched a new Collaborative Doctoral Awards scheme in patient-focused research for thematic cohorts integrating health and social care professionals with academic health researchers.
- Awarded four postdoctoral researchers with intern positions at the HRB.
- Completed interim reviews of six Research Leaders Awards that received funding in 2013. These are substantial exercises in award oversight to help ensure that such a major investment (in excess of €8.7m) remains on track and delivers value for money.
The new HRB Emerging Investigator Awards will enable researchers at the mid stage in their career to shift gear to become independent investigators.

Speaking about the successful investigators, Dr Annalisa Montesanti, Programme Manager at the Health Research Board said,

‘What set these individuals apart was their diversity and ability to multitask. Their challenge now is to build their research team, advance their research programmes, foster collaborations and leverage funding to build a sustainable research programme. Everyone is well qualified for the challenge’.

These new Emerging Investigators will be recognised as principal investigators in their institutions. As well as doing research that will ultimately improve people’s health, or positively influence policy or practice, they will be expected to act as mentors and work well in collaboration with other disciplines.

The first 11 awardees will work in areas that include health economics, biostatistics, immunology, respiratory medicine, pharmacology, neurology and neuroscience, psychology, molecular and cellular biology, health services research.

Dr Niamh Humphries, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (pictured), is one of the awardees and her research focuses on why Ireland loses so many doctors to emigration.

‘My research – the Hospital Doctor Recruitment and Retention (HDRM) project – is of major significance to the Irish health system, which is currently experiencing widespread doctor emigration and is struggling to fill posts, even at consultant level. The project will involve fieldwork in Ireland and Australia and will consider what changes are necessary in order to encourage Irish-trained hospital doctors to remain, or return to, practise in Ireland. The ultimate goal is to inform policy change which will improve the working conditions for Ireland’s hospital doctors’.

The award has given me the opportunity to become a Principal Investigator, to build a research team focused on the health workforce and to connect with an incredible group of collaborators.
Launched at the end of 2016, the Wellcome – HRB Irish Clinical Academic Training Programme, (ICAT) will support an intake of eight postgraduate trainee doctors a year for a five-year period, providing fully integrated clinical and research training up to consultant level.

The scheme represents the largest ever investment in academic medicine through an all-island collaborative partnership.

Dr Sarah Cormican (pictured far right above) is just one of the eight Fellows participating in the first full year of the initiative, and she is already building a strong network with her peers through a shared WhatsApp group and monthly face-to-face meetings.

‘Between us we cover a broad range of interests, from psychiatry and public health to infectious disease, endocrinology, dermatology and my own chosen area, renal medicine, which looks at kidneys’, she says.

Ahead of starting her PhD in 2018, she had an opportunity to road-test her ideas with experts at the first ICAT Retreat in Dublin in September 2017. The event featured guest speakers such as immunologist Professor Luke O’Neill from Trinity College Dublin, obesity expert Professor Sir Stephen O’Rahilly from the University of Cambridge, stroke physician Professor David Williams from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and consultant surgeon Associate Professor Aoife Lowery from NUI Galway.

As Fellows, we had an opportunity to present our PhD proposals at the retreat’, says Dr Cormican. ‘We each heard about what everyone else is doing and we got feedback from the ICAT directors and external experts who gave us really helpful talks and advice about balancing careers’.

Dr Cormican experienced her first taste of research as an undergraduate medical student when she completed an eight-week HRB summer project with Professor Seán Dinneen in NUI Galway. She looked at a potentially new way of assessing the pressure points on the foot for people with diabetes, in order to figure out if they were likely to need specialised foot care. Her work earned her an award in that year’s HRB Watt Medal competition and boosted her interest in research.

Dr Annalisa Montesanti, Programme Manager, HRB said: ‘Dr Cormican’s particular case is a wonderful example of how the HRB provides researchers with career-stage appropriate support and opportunities. We are constantly evolving our funding schemes in order to provide a coherent pathway for doctors, scientists and other health professionals to follow research-active careers’.
Enabler B

Build a strong enabling environment

2017 Objectives:

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

Key items delivered in 2017

• Made eight awards, worth €2.2m, under Enabler B.
• Conducted an independent review of the HRB Clinical Research Facilities in Dublin (St James’s Hospital), Galway (UCHG) and Cork (Mercy Hospital). Approved funding of €11.6m for a second phase of activity at the three sites.
• Actively promoted public and patient involvement (PPI) in research. This included:
  > Making five PPI Ignite awards to bolster capacity for PPI in research in higher education institutions. This represented a €1.7m collaborative investment, with €1m coming from the HRB and €0.7m from the Irish Research Council (IRC).
  > Piloting a public review process in 56 funding applications to the Investigator-Led Projects scheme.
  > Committing to extend the public review process to two other schemes in 2018. These are the Definitive Interventions and Feasibility Awards, and the Applying Research into Policy and Practice Postdoctoral Fellowships.
• Took a leadership role in Open Science with a number of initiatives. This included:
  > Revising HRB policies on open access and research integrity.
  > Announcing Ireland’s first open research publishing platform, HRB Open Research.
  > Conducting two training events to raise awareness of FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) research data.
  > Assuming joint chair of the National Open Research Forum (NORF) with the Higher Education Authority (HEA).
  > Chairing the Funders Subgroup of the National Research Integrity Forum.
• Continued to improve HRB grant processes. This included:
  > Holding an independent review of HRB internal funding processes with regard to unconscious bias and beginning to implement recommendations to remain at the forefront of best practice.
  > Achieving excellent gender balance on:
    - HRB selection panels, with 53% female and 47% male representation, and
    - Success rates of applicants, with 29% of female applicants and 28% of male applicants successful.
  > Active member of a global forum for funders under the banner of ‘Ensuring Value in Research’. The Forum allows members to develop best practice in a variety of areas – from the selection of call topic to the reporting of outputs and outcomes.
• Published report entitled *Bibliometric Analysis of HRB-funded Publications 2012–2016*.
• Published report entitled *Outputs and Outcomes of HRB awards completed in 2014 and 2015*.
• Worked on an initiative to align research data management policy across Europe as part of the Science Europe Research Data Working Group.
• Confirmed Irish membership of EU Public Health Programme through the Department of Health, affording Irish researchers the opportunity to undertake policy-and practice-relevant health research.
• Chaired the International Consortium for Personalised Medicine (ICPerMed), a consortium of EU funding bodies established by the European Commission under the Horizon 2020 Programme.
• Chaired the drafting group of All European Academies (ALLEA), which published the revised *European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity*.
• Contributed to the health perspective in Ireland’s Position Paper on EU Framework Programme (FP9).
• Supported Irish researchers to compete for EU funding:
  > Irish researchers leveraged €12.5m in funding from H2020 programmes.
  > Ten Irish projects successfully competed for funding in the H2020 Health Challenge. Highlights included:
    - Professor Annette Byrne, RSCI will lead the COLOSSUS Project, a €2.1m award on precision medicine in metastatic colorectal cancer.
    - Altrech Ltd and Valitacell Ltd successfully competed in Phase Two Small Medium Enterprise (SME) Instrument Calls and won €2.9m and €2m funding, respectively.
Case Study 9:
Leading the way for public and patient involvement in research

The HRB is the first funding agency in Ireland to integrate a public and patient involvement (PPI) programme in its funded research projects.

‘We are using the definition of PPI in research proposed by INVOLVE, which spearheads the UK’s National Institute for Health Research activities in this area’, says, Dr Anne Cody, HRB.

‘PPI activities are carried out with or by members of the public rather than to, about or for them. It does not include asking people to participate in research (as research ‘subjects’) nor does it provide data for individual research projects’.

In early 2017, the HRB launched its PPI pilot programme with a series of nation-wide advertisements. In the first three weeks, we received 900 expressions of interest and almost 400 completed application forms.

From the applications, 60 people (30 men and 30 women) were selected at random. They received training on how to evaluate grant applications, and they began the process of evaluating applications from a selected funding call.

At this point, the public reviews are only used for feedback to the applicants and do not feed into decision-making. However, we do aspire to using some public reviews for this purpose in the future.

‘There’s obviously a huge appetite among the general public to contribute to health research’, Dr Cody adds. ‘Many of the people contacting us told us that they were motivated simply by a desire to help others’.

At the same time, there clearly was a need to support researchers in doing meaningful PPI work, and for this reason, the HRB and the Irish Research Council launched the PPI Ignite programme. This €1.75m investment is designed to help institutions create the right environment, training, support and processes to help researchers engage the public and patients in their research from the outset.

Dublin City University, NUI Galway, Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin and the University of Limerick were the first successful applicants under this scheme. Each of these universities will receive €350,000 to develop its PPI capacity.

‘A critical component of the overall success of our PPI initiative was getting the researcher community on board. Before engaging with the public we made sure that we reached out to the research community, and we consulted widely about our proposals. And, ultimately, they have been very supportive of the programme’, concluded Dr Cody.

‘There’s obviously a huge appetite among the general public to contribute to health research Dr Anne Cody adds. ‘Many of the people contacting us told us that they were motivated simply by a desire to help others’.

This is Jane
Jane knows that one day she might become ill.
Jane wants to get involved in health research to improve future healthcare.
Jane becomes a public reviewer for the Health Research Board.
Jane is smart.
Be like Jane

Research. Evidence. Action 29
In 2017, the HRB announced it was planning to launch Ireland’s first open access publishing platform.

Following rapidly on the heels of Wellcome in the UK, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in the US, the HRB believes that open access publishing is the best way to deliver maximum value from the publicly funded research portfolio that it supports.

‘As Ireland’s leading voice in health research, the HRB has a specific duty to ensure that decisions are supported by the best available evidence’, Dr Mairead O’Driscoll, Interim Chief Executive, HRB said. ‘We believe this is best achieved through the public disclosure of all results, regardless of outcome – and that a failure to do so can have adverse consequences, including exposing patients to unnecessary research, engendering misinformation, and skewing priorities in health research’.

To support the introduction of HRB open research, the HRB has added its signature to the San Francisco Declaration of Research Assessment (DORA).

Open access aligns with core HRB principles such as transparency and openness. These values themselves are underpinned by research integrity, which is core to science itself and is the basis of society’s trust in the scientific approach. In 2017, the HRB continued to play a leading role in relation to adopting a European-wide approach to research integrity.

Dr Maura Hiney (pictured above), HRB, chaired the drafting group for the 2017 ALLEA (the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities) European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity which has been adopted by the European Commission as a standard for its funding programmes. The Code of Conduct has now been translated into all EU official European languages as well as Turkish and Japanese.
Enabler C

Enhance organisational performance

2017 Objectives:
• Ensure a high-performing working environment built on innovation, adaptability and teamwork.
• Enable transparent and accountable decision-making based on the best possible information.
• Ensure that HRB systems and processes are robust, flexible and scalable.
• Enhance recognition of the value of health research and the HRB’s role nationally and internationally.

Key items delivered in 2017
• Worked to establish a framework for greater employee resilience, employee engagement and enhanced performance through initiatives such as the HRB’s Personal and Organisational Development programme (POD) and a greater emphasis on organisation training initiatives.
• Reviewed and enhanced the HRB’s business planning and reporting mechanism in order to meet the operational needs of the HRB staff and Board and the Department of Health, and also in order to improve decision-making and ensure best use of resources.
• Progressed development projects on two core HRB information systems (GEMS and LINK). Both projects met agreed target dates in 2017.
• Hosted HRB Grant Holders and HRB Ones2Watch conferences for key stakeholders.
• Launched and promoted two strategic initiatives in which the HRB has taken leadership roles: public and patient involvement and HRB open research.
• Aligned HRB financial statements to a format that reflects the goals and objectives set out in the HRB Strategy 2016–2020: Research, Evidence, Action.
• Progressed implementation of the updated Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.
• Extracted multi-annual financial information held in the Grants Electronic Management Systems (GEMS) and used this as the basis for financial planning and modelling.
Case Study 11: HRB Ones2Watch

The Ones2Watch conference was the HRB’s first dedicated community building and networking event for its early and mid-career stage funded researchers. The event is part of the HRB’s overall efforts to build a strong sense of community among all HRB-funded researchers.

According to Dr Mairead O’Driscoll, Interim Chief Executive, HRB,

‘By making people feel part of something worthwhile, something that makes a difference to people’s lives, we hope to create future champions who will advocate for health research and the benefits that a research active culture brings to our health services and our health policies’.

The programme included three main strands:

• A communications theme, with real-world case studies presented by experienced research communicators about how they get their messages across.

• Career guidance, with reflections on their career journeys from a wide spectrum of current and former health researchers.

• The Ones2Watch competition, where four attendees showcased their communications skills and competed for the Ones2Watch trophy.

A great event. Learned something from every speaker.

Great mix of topics and speakers for the day.

Thank you. Hugely inspiring and invigorating day.

Loved the innovation and different communication methods.
Case Study 12: 
Putting our personal and organisational development plan into action

As an organisation we identified in 2016 a personal and organisational development plan (POD) that would enhance and shape how we work together as an organisation to deliver our strategy.

Five themes emerged from a staff survey which we could focus on for improvement. In early 2017, people participated in facilitated sessions to define what actions could be taken to enhance and develop the organisation in relation to these five themes. Key progress against the themes during 2017 included:

**Communications**
- Establishing a series of meetings to ensure that teams were aware of developments, progress updates and work schedules.
- Rotating the chairmanship of meetings, in order to build capacity, and providing the training to facilitate the achievement of this objective.
- Continuing team talks, so that people could learn what people in other areas are working on.
- Introducing a brief, regular update in person by the Interim Chief Executive with all staff.
- Circulating Executive Team meeting minutes, in order to keep people up to date with decision-making.

**One HRB**
- Creating an intranet page featuring a photograph, seating location, and description of the role of each staff member. This helps identify who does what and who sits where.
- Ensuring that the corporate reports were representative of the entire organisation.
- Establishing cross-organisational teams to work on large projects. This was done for the new HRB website development project and for implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- Organising a ‘Contribution day’ at St Michael’s House, where people worked together in teams to bring about improvements in the facility.

**Training and career development**
- Introducing an induction programme and ‘induction buddy’ for people when they first join the organisation.
- Publishing the training plan annually.
- Acknowledging people’s achievements regularly at team talks and other update events.
- Providing structured management training for senior managers in house.
- Encouraging people to engage in personal development initiatives through training, conferences, and secondments.

**Culture, openness and trust**
- Encouraging team spirit, such as rotating the chairmanship of team meetings.
- Enabling staff to present their papers or work at Executive Team meetings or Board meetings.
- Creating awareness of the designated support available to staff.
- Supporting and equipping people to deal with difficult situations through training.

**Management team**
- Creating more consistency in management team style through training.
- Reviewing actions proposed in the POD plan and ensuring that they are being implemented.
- Participating in training to enhance consistent leadership qualities in key areas.

The POD plan is something that will constantly evolve as part of the way we work. Many changes that have been put into action as a result of this staff feedback are now part of the way we work, which is a great indication of progress. In 2018, we will focus on some of the medium- and long-term actions that are remaining.
Appendices
Appendix A

List of HRB publications in 2017

HRB REPORTS


EVIDENCE REVIEWS


PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES, AUTHORED BY HRB STAFF OR USING HRB DATA


# Appendix B

List of HRB awards made in 2017 - to Principal Investigators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES</th>
<th>Host institution</th>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Lead Researcher forename</th>
<th>Lead Researcher surname</th>
<th>Lead Researcher title</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enhancing Doctors’ Engagement with Regulation of Professional Competence</td>
<td>University College Cork</td>
<td>Applied Partnership Awards</td>
<td>Dr</td>
<td>Deirdre</td>
<td>Bennett</td>
<td>€238,692.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementing Evidence-based Guidance for Dementia Palliative Care through Participatory Action Research</td>
<td>University of Limerick</td>
<td>Applied Partnership Awards</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Alice</td>
<td>Coffey</td>
<td>€119,339.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EOLAS: Building capacity for collaborative education between service users, family members and practitioners within mental health services</td>
<td>Trinity College Dublin</td>
<td>Applied Partnership Awards</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Agnes</td>
<td>Higgins</td>
<td>€240,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promoting Assisted Decision-making in Acute Care Settings (PADMACS) for Care Planning Purposes</td>
<td>University College Dublin</td>
<td>Applied Partnership Awards</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Thilo</td>
<td>Kroll</td>
<td>€239,337.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest and Community First Response: international best practice, national consultation and prospective evaluation</td>
<td>National University of Ireland, Galway</td>
<td>Applied Partnership Awards</td>
<td>Ms</td>
<td>Siobhan</td>
<td>Masterson</td>
<td>€249,689.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title</td>
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<td>Lead Researcher forename</td>
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<td>Lifetime exposure to community water fluoridation and associations with key indicators of health in community-dwelling adults aged 50 years and over in Ireland</td>
<td>Dublin Dental University Hospital</td>
<td>Applied Partnership Awards</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Brian</td>
<td>O’Connell</td>
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<td>What influences cervical screening uptake in older women and how can screening programmes translate this knowledge into behaviour changing strategies? A CERVIVA-CervicalCheck co-production project</td>
<td>Trinity College Dublin</td>
<td>Applied Partnership Awards</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>John</td>
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<td>Resource Allocation, Priority-Setting and Consensus in Dementia Care in Ireland</td>
<td>National University of Ireland, Galway</td>
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<td>Professor</td>
<td>Eamon</td>
<td>O’Shea</td>
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<td>Traumatic Brain Injury: Epidemiology and Rehabilitation in Ireland</td>
<td>Dublin City University</td>
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<td>Professor</td>
<td>Anthony</td>
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<td>The Utility of High-Tech Drug Analysis to the Decision-maker</td>
<td>University of Limerick</td>
<td>Applied Partnership Awards</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Cathal</td>
<td>Walsh</td>
<td>€239,997.00</td>
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<td>Area-level deprivation and funding equity in public hospitals in Ireland: an examination of hospital groups and activity-based funding</td>
<td>University of Limerick</td>
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<td>Longitudinal profiling of adverse events in Irish hospitals and provision of a standardised assessment tool to the Irish healthcare system: the INAES-2 study</td>
<td>Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland</td>
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<td>Professor</td>
<td>David</td>
<td>Williams</td>
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<td>Patients’ Satisfaction in a Nurse-Led Oral Chemotherapy Clinic</td>
<td>University College Dublin</td>
<td>Cancer Nursing Research Project</td>
<td>Ms</td>
<td>Paula</td>
<td>Briscoe</td>
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<td>To determine how the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Guidelines for Tamoxifen and Aromatase Inhibitors (AIs) can be adapted to address the symptom burden for women with breast cancer in the follow-up phase of treatment, who are receiving care in the North East of Ireland</td>
<td>University College Dublin</td>
<td>Cancer Nursing Research Project</td>
<td>Ms</td>
<td>Elizabeth</td>
<td>Summersby</td>
<td>€8,525.00</td>
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<td>Reducing caesarean section rates in Ireland: a feasibility study and pilot randomised trial of an evidence-based intervention designed to reduce unnecessary caesarean section</td>
<td>Trinity College Dublin</td>
<td>Definitive Intervention and Feasibility Awards</td>
<td>Professor</td>
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<td>A randomized placebo-controlled trial of low-dose aspirin initiated in the first trimester for optimising pregnancy outcome in pregestational diabetes</td>
<td>Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland</td>
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<td>Professor</td>
<td>Fionnuala</td>
<td>Breathnach</td>
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<td>Improving outcomes for young adults with type 1 diabetes in Ireland: the D1 now feasibility and cluster randomised pilot study</td>
<td>National University of Ireland, Galway</td>
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<td>Professor</td>
<td>Sean</td>
<td>Dinneen</td>
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<td>The SEA-CHANGE study: a pilot randomised controlled trial of the Self-management After Cancer of the Head And Neck Group Intervention</td>
<td>Dublin City University</td>
<td>Definitive Intervention and Feasibility Awards</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Pamela</td>
<td>Gallagher</td>
<td>€349,319.00</td>
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<td>We Can Quit2: A cluster randomised pilot trial of a community-based smoking cessation intervention for women in disadvantaged areas of Ireland</td>
<td>Trinity College Dublin</td>
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<td>Catherine</td>
<td>Hayes</td>
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<td>Colchicine for prevention of Vascular Inflammation in Non-CardioEmbolic stroke – a randomised clinical trial of low-dose colchicine for secondary prevention of Stroke. Northern Europe Extension</td>
<td>University College Dublin</td>
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<td>Professor</td>
<td>Peter J</td>
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<td>Feasibility of an Intervention to Improve Attendance for Diabetic Retinopathy Screening</td>
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<td>Low molecular weight heparin to prevent recurrent venous thromboembolism in pregnancy: a randomized trial of two doses: the HIGHLow study</td>
<td>Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland</td>
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<td>Professor</td>
<td>Fionnuala</td>
<td>Ni Ainle</td>
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<td>Targeted therapeutic mild hypercapnia after resuscitated cardiac arrest: A phase III multi-centre randomised controlled trial</td>
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<td>Professor</td>
<td>Alistair</td>
<td>Nichol</td>
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<td>Community Risk-based monitoring for Atrial Fibrillation Trial (CRAFT)</td>
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<td>Martin</td>
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<td>Using Genetics and CRISPR to Personalise New Targeted Treatments for Patients with Familial Breast Cancer</td>
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<td>Investigator-led projects</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Adrian</td>
<td>Bracken</td>
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<td>Exercising Control over Runaway Kynurenine Pathway Metabolism: Towards Improved Treatment Outcomes in Major Depression</td>
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<td>Dr</td>
<td>Gerard</td>
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<td>The relationship of medication adherence and environmental factors to exacerbations in patients with severe asthma</td>
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<td>Professor</td>
<td>Richard</td>
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<td>Biomarker Discovery in Ultra High Risk for Psychosis: towards prediction of psychotic disorder, non-psychotic mental disorders and recovery</td>
<td>Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland</td>
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<td>Professor</td>
<td>David</td>
<td>Cotter</td>
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<td>The Impact of Stress on Maternal Gastrointestinal Permeability During Pregnancy: Implications for Maternal Immunology and Infant Neurodevelopment</td>
<td>University College Cork</td>
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<td>Alpha Melanocyte Stimulatory Hormone and Improvements in Glucose Tolerance in Humans: Role of Enhanced Skeletal Muscle Glucose Uptake and Utilisation</td>
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<td>Dr</td>
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<td>The Heme Oxygenase System as a Therapeutic Intervention for Inflammatory Bowel Disease</td>
<td>Trinity College Dublin</td>
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<td>Dunne</td>
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<td>Assessment of the predictive value of immune and histological parameters in oesophageal adenocarcinoma using digital pathology</td>
<td>Trinity College Dublin</td>
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<td>Phenotypic and functional characterisation of immune cell populations in ACPA+ vs ACPA– RA patients: Implications for treatment strategies</td>
<td>Trinity College Dublin</td>
<td>Investigator-led projects</td>
<td>Professor</td>
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<td>Adverse outcomes in older adults attending emergency department (ED): an impact analysis study of the identification of seniors at risk (ISAR) clinical prediction rule</td>
<td>University of Limerick</td>
<td>Investigator-led projects</td>
<td>Dr</td>
<td>Rose</td>
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<td>Targeting HIV persistent reservoirs: Evaluation of new classes of latency-reversing agent as part of novel strategies for HIV cure approaches</td>
<td>University College Dublin</td>
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<td>Dr</td>
<td>Virginie</td>
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<td>IRISH-1: A retrospective cohort study of PD-L1 by RNA ISH (RISH) as a potentially superior companion biomarker for immune checkpoint inhibitors in NSCLC</td>
<td>Trinity College Dublin</td>
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<td>Dr</td>
<td>Steven</td>
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<td>Gastric Cancer Risk: The Influence of Selenium Status and Selenoprotein Genetic Variation</td>
<td>University College Dublin</td>
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<td>Dr</td>
<td>David</td>
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<td>Do we die as we live? Age, socioeconomic status, healthcare utilisation and pathways to death in Ireland</td>
<td>Trinity College Dublin</td>
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<td>Prospective validation of the complement system as a novel treatment stratification tool in oesophageal adenocarcinoma patients</td>
<td>Trinity College Dublin</td>
<td>Investigator-led projects</td>
<td>Dr</td>
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<td>Skin in Parkinson’s disease – a potential biomarker?</td>
<td>University College Dublin</td>
<td>Investigator-led projects</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Tim</td>
<td>Lynch</td>
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<td>Elucidating the pathological role of obesity, inflammation and immunity in cancer-related sarcopenia in upper gastrointestinal cancers</td>
<td>Trinity College Dublin</td>
<td>Investigator-led projects</td>
<td>Dr</td>
<td>Joanne</td>
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<td>CERVIVA-Vax: Monitoring the impact of HPV vaccination in Ireland</td>
<td>Trinity College Dublin</td>
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<td>Professor</td>
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<td>A population-based, longitudinal investigation of changes in multisensory integration with ageing and its causal role in the incidence of falls and cognitive decline in older adults</td>
<td>Trinity College Dublin</td>
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<td>Professor</td>
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<td>Advanced scaffold-based therapeutics for regeneration of large volume, vascularised bone defects</td>
<td>Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland</td>
<td>Investigator-led projects</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Fergal</td>
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<td>The Low Von Willebrand factor Ireland Cohort of Kids (LoVIC-K) study</td>
<td>Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland</td>
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<td>Professor</td>
<td>James</td>
<td>O’Donnell</td>
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<td>Sex matters! Identification of novel therapeutic targets to mitigate the increased prevalence of depression in women versus men</td>
<td>University College Cork</td>
<td>Investigator-led projects</td>
<td>Dr</td>
<td>Olivia</td>
<td>O’Leary</td>
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<td>Monoclonal xIL-6R antibodies as a treatment for memory dysfunction in the mdx mouse model of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy</td>
<td>University College Cork</td>
<td>Investigator-led projects</td>
<td>Dr</td>
<td>Dervla</td>
<td>O’Malley</td>
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<td>Development of a Nebulised Cell-based Therapy for Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome</td>
<td>National University of Ireland, Galway</td>
<td>Investigator-led projects</td>
<td>Dr</td>
<td>Daniel</td>
<td>O’Toole</td>
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<td>The microbiome as a risk factor and biomarker of oesophageal cancer</td>
<td>University College Cork</td>
<td>Investigator-led projects</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Paul</td>
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<td>Multimodal Cardiovascular Modelling for Predicting and Preventing Disability in TILDA</td>
<td>Trinity College Dublin</td>
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<td>Professor</td>
<td>Richard</td>
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<td>A mixed methods research study to develop an acceptable, evidence- and practice-based model for palliative care for people with dementia in the community</td>
<td>University College Cork</td>
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<td>Dr</td>
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<td>Epigenetics in the Pathogenesis of Pseudoexfoliation Glaucoma</td>
<td>University College Dublin</td>
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<td>Dr</td>
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<td>Wallace</td>
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<td>Alternative approaches to achieving universal healthcare – potential costs, outcomes and challenges</td>
<td>Economic and Social Research Institute</td>
<td>Investigator-led projects</td>
<td>Dr</td>
<td>Maev-Ann</td>
<td>Wren</td>
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<td>Biological Resource Analysis to Identify New Mechanisms and phenotypes in Neurodegenerative Diseases &quot;BRAINMEND&quot;</td>
<td>Trinity College Dublin</td>
<td>Joint Programme in Neurodegenerative Diseases</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Orla</td>
<td>Hardiman</td>
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<td>Intervention of Antimicrobial resistance transfer into the food chain (INART)</td>
<td>Teagasc</td>
<td>JPI Antimicrobial Resistance</td>
<td>Dr</td>
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<td>Preventing transmission of MRSA from livestock to humans through competitive exclusion (EXCLUDE MRSA)</td>
<td>University College Cork</td>
<td>JPI Antimicrobial Resistance</td>
<td>Dr</td>
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<td>Intervention of Antimicrobial resistance transfer into the food chain (INART)</td>
<td>Maynooth University</td>
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<td>The Biology of Mood: What brain imaging and genetic studies tell us about Bipolar Disorder</td>
<td>National University of Ireland, Galway</td>
<td>Knowledge Exchange and Dissemination Scheme</td>
<td>Dr</td>
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<td>Communicating and Promoting SAFE Medicines Use in Ireland</td>
<td>Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland</td>
<td>Knowledge Exchange and Dissemination Scheme</td>
<td>Professor</td>
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<td>INTeRACT for Health: Increasing Integrated Knowledge Translation Capacity for Impact</td>
<td>National University of Ireland, Galway</td>
<td>Knowledge Exchange and Dissemination Scheme</td>
<td>Professor</td>
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<td>Brain, Mind and Psychosis: Engaging young people in learning about research</td>
<td>Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland</td>
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<td>The Youth Mental Health Animation Creation Project</td>
<td>Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland</td>
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<td>Ms</td>
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<td>Brain Superheroes and Villains</td>
<td>Trinity College Dublin</td>
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<td>Kumlesh K</td>
<td>Dev</td>
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<td>Learning about Trials – for children, by children</td>
<td>National University of Ireland, Galway</td>
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<td>Family Carer Knowledge Exchange Project</td>
<td>University College Dublin</td>
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<td>Driving policy with data: A long term sustainable specialist service for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis</td>
<td>Trinity College Dublin</td>
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<td>The StrokeCog partnership: effective intervention through collaboration</td>
<td>Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland</td>
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<td>Non-motor symptoms in Dystonia and Musician’s Dystonia</td>
<td>University College Dublin</td>
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<td>Evidence to Support Prevention Implementation and Translation – Knowledge Translation (ESPRIT-KT)</td>
<td>University College Cork</td>
<td>Knowledge Exchange and Dissemination Scheme</td>
<td>Professor</td>
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<td>Developing a Website for Public Awareness about Computer Use in Aphasia Rehabilitation</td>
<td>University College Cork</td>
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<td>The Art of Pregnancy</td>
<td>Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland</td>
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<td>Professor</td>
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<td>Speaking Up About Safety (SUAS)</td>
<td>University College Dublin</td>
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<td>Professor</td>
<td>Eilish</td>
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<td>Our Voices, Our Impact</td>
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<td>Professor</td>
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<td>The LinKT (Linking into Knowledge Translation) project: connecting, integrating and translating evidence to make a difference for families</td>
<td>Maynooth University</td>
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<td>Professor</td>
<td>Sinead</td>
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<td>Development of an online Cancer Genetics educational resource for undergraduate and postgraduate healthcare learners</td>
<td>National University of Ireland, Galway</td>
<td>Knowledge Exchange and Dissemination Scheme</td>
<td>Dr</td>
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<td>PATHFIndEr: Parental information on Therapeutic Hypothermia Following Neonatal Encephalopathy</td>
<td>Trinity College Dublin</td>
<td>Knowledge Exchange and Dissemination Scheme</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Eleanor</td>
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<td>Let’s talk – and act – about adherence in multimorbidity – a teaching and learning resource for general practice</td>
<td>National University of Ireland, Galway</td>
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<td>Professor Andrew</td>
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<td>Cracking the Mysteries of Cancer Immunotherapies – e.Courses For Oncology Healthcare Professionals</td>
<td>Trinity College Dublin</td>
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<td>Professor Cliona</td>
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<td>The Stressed Brain and Depression</td>
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<td>Professor Veronica</td>
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<td>CERVIVA: The HPV Educate Project</td>
<td>Trinity College Dublin</td>
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<td>Professor John</td>
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<td>Overweight and Obesity in Ireland: translating policy into action</td>
<td>University College Cork</td>
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<td>Professor Ivan</td>
<td>Perry</td>
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<td>Listening to the Newborn Brain</td>
<td>University College Cork</td>
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<td>Dr Andriy</td>
<td>Temko</td>
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<td>Expert forum to advance the potential of IL-1 family members as novel therapeutics in IBD</td>
<td>Trinity College Dublin</td>
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<td>Dr Patrick</td>
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<td>Supporting individuals and organisations involved in implementation of community water fluoridation</td>
<td>University College Cork</td>
<td>Knowledge Exchange and Dissemination Scheme</td>
<td>Professor Helen</td>
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<td>Longitudinal Assessment of Cardiac Function in Infants with Down Syndrome Using Novel Echocardiography Techniques</td>
<td>Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland</td>
<td>NCHF/HRB Funding Scheme</td>
<td>Professor Afif</td>
<td>EL-Khuffash</td>
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<td>Children’s unscheduled primary and emergency care in Ireland: decision-making, trends, outcomes and parental perspectives (CUPID)</td>
<td>University College Dublin</td>
<td>NCHF/HRB Funding Scheme</td>
<td>Professor Eilish McAuliffe</td>
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<td>Lending an ear: “iPeer2Peer” plus “Teens Taking Charge” Online Self-Management to Empower Children with Arthritis</td>
<td>National University of Ireland, Galway</td>
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<td>Professor Brian McGuire</td>
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<td>Research Programme – Taskforce on Staffing and Skill-Mix for Nursing</td>
<td>University College Cork</td>
<td>Nursing Staffing and Skill-Mix</td>
<td>Professor Jonathan Drennan</td>
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<td>How can a multi-disciplinary prescribing strategy support appropriate prescribing of oral nutritional supplements (ONS) by Irish general practitioners (GPs)?</td>
<td>University College Dublin</td>
<td>Research Collaborative in Quality and Patient Safety</td>
<td>Professor Clare Corish</td>
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<td>How can mental health services and primary care best collaborate to enhance physical health outcomes among patients presenting with first episode of psychosis? A mixed methods study</td>
<td>University College Dublin</td>
<td>Research Collaborative in Quality and Patient Safety</td>
<td>Professor Walter Cullen</td>
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<td>OPTI-MEND: Optimising Early Assessment and Intervention by Health and Social Care Professionals in the Emergency Department (ED)</td>
<td>University of Limerick</td>
<td>Research Collaborative in Quality and Patient Safety</td>
<td>Dr Rose Galvin</td>
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<td>The Irish Longitudinal Study of Ageing Wave 5 and 6 (TILDA)</td>
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<td>TILDA</td>
<td>Professor Rose Anne Kenny</td>
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<td>Systems modelling of tumour heterogeneity and therapy response in colorectal cancer</td>
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<td>US-Ireland R&amp;D Partnership Award</td>
<td>Professor Jochen Prehn</td>
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<td>Development and validation of diagnostic biomarkers for neurodegenerative conditions based on MRI measures of pathognomonic brain regions</td>
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<td>Peter</td>
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<td>Biomarker Discovery and Validation in Autism Spectrum Disorder: A study of Neonatal Cord Blood in International Birth Cohorts</td>
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<td>Jane</td>
<td>English</td>
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<td>Using Bayesian network models to predict the impact of public health interventions on disease prevalence in population health research</td>
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<td>The Hospital Doctor Retention and Motivation (HDRM) Project</td>
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<td>Niamh</td>
<td>Humphries</td>
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<td>Development of a workplace-based programme to promote health and self-care behaviours among working family carers</td>
<td>University College Dublin</td>
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<td>Dr</td>
<td>Attracta</td>
<td>Lafferty</td>
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<td>Targeting metabolism for individualised rectal cancer treatment: Development of an omics-led predictive signature of chemoradiation therapy response and novel neoadjuvant therapeutic strategy</td>
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<td>Niamh</td>
<td>Lynam-Lennon</td>
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<td>Investigating mitochondrial dysfunction and meta-inflammation as a shared pathogenic network in pre-eclampsia and gestational diabetes mellitus</td>
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<td>An allostatic load framework for understanding social differences in health and mortality</td>
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<td>Enhancing the Evidence Base for Cost-Effectiveness Analysis in Ireland: Building Improvements from the Intervention-Specific to System-Wide Levels</td>
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<td>The liver neighbourhood watch: regulatory tissue-resident natural killer (NK) cells protect against liver decompensation in patients with chronic liver disease</td>
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<td>Targeting Adipose Tissue Inflammation by Intermittent Hypoxia: Towards Personalized Medicine in Obstructive Sleep Apnoea</td>
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<td>Dr</td>
<td>Maeve</td>
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<td>Inhibitory representations: their formation, modulation and function in memory circuits</td>
<td>Trinity College Dublin</td>
<td>Wellcome Trust Investigator Award</td>
<td>Professor</td>
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<td>Ramaswami</td>
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<td>Primary cilia and cellular senescence</td>
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<td>Wellcome Trust Seed Award</td>
<td>Dr</td>
<td>Ciaran</td>
<td>Morrison</td>
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<td>Amount</td>
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<td>HRB Clinical Research Facility University College Cork 2018–2021</td>
<td>University College Cork</td>
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<td>Professor</td>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>Eustace</td>
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<td>Professor</td>
<td>Martin</td>
<td>O’Donnell</td>
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<td>HRB Trials Methodology Research Network (HRB–TMRN) 2017 – 2021</td>
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<td>Trials Methodology Research Network</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Declan</td>
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<td>HRB Trials Methodology Research Network (HRB–TMRN) 2017 - 2021 - Pilot: Education and training for recruiters to randomised trials</td>
<td>National University of Ireland, Galway</td>
<td>Trials Methodology Research Network</td>
<td>Professor</td>
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<td>Dinneen</td>
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<td>PPI Ignite Scheme</td>
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<td>Thilo</td>
<td>Kroll</td>
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<td>Lambert</td>
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<td>Professor</td>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>McCarron</td>
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<td>PPI Ignite Scheme</td>
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<td>MacFarlane</td>
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<td>Project Manager and Knowledge Exchange Manager</td>
<td>Our Lady’s Hospice Limited</td>
<td>AIIHPC</td>
<td>Ms</td>
<td>Karen</td>
<td>Charnley</td>
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<td>Wellcome–HRB Clinical Research Facility at St James’ Hospital 2018–2021</td>
<td>Trinity College Dublin</td>
<td>Clinical Research Facility</td>
<td>Professor</td>
<td>Martina</td>
<td>Hennessy</td>
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### Appendix C

#### HRB Co-funded awards

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<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Cofunding partner</th>
<th>Co-funding allocation</th>
<th>Total award</th>
<th>HRB share</th>
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<tr>
<td>Applied Partnership Awards</td>
<td>Co-funding partners from Irish health sector organisations</td>
<td>€453,456.00</td>
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<td>NCI Cancer Prevention Fellowship</td>
<td>National Cancer Institute, USA</td>
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<td>NCHF/HRB Funding Scheme</td>
<td>The National Children’s Hospital Foundation</td>
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<td>Research Collaborative in Quality and Patient Safety</td>
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<td>US-Ireland R&amp;D Partnership Award</td>
<td>Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and co-funding partners in Northern Ireland and the USA</td>
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<td>Wellcome Trust Investigator Award</td>
<td>Wellcome and Science Foundation Ireland (SFI)</td>
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<td>Wellcome Trust Seed Award</td>
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Total: €23,194,839.00  €39,074,669.00  €15,879,830.00