

Key Highlights

HRB outputs and impacts
– grants completed in 2018–19



Strategic Health Research Board (HRB) decisions over the past 10 years have led to significant results across many areas. Given the lag time before we see long-term outputs and impacts of research, this summary captures some short-term outcomes from grants completed in 2018–19.

170
awards and
€49.5m
led to:

Researchers securing
€110 million
in additional funding
on foot of these awards

451 new jobs

- 266 academia and 185 healthcare
- supporting research informed care



57 health sector innovations – clinical decision support tools, care models or information videos



190 policy or practice outputs – developing policy and informing products and services



28 commercial or economic benefits – patents, copyrights, licencing agreements and start-ups



46 industry collaborations – driving new innovations



116 novel research tools, methods or materials – biobanks, data handling or education materials

Researchers supported by these awards took **leading positions in:**

Academia – **284**
Clinical practice – **55**
Industry – **52**



87% stayed on the island of Ireland



Capacity building:
103 PhDs and six Masters' degrees

792 peer review publications with increasing number **(85%)** in open access journals – rapidly sharing results

158 keynote or international speaker presentations delivered – Irish research with influence

473 engagements with key stakeholders (non-academic) workshops, open days, talks and presentations

*Detailed breakdown of results can be found in the full report.

The HRB is instrumental in driving positive change that is improving health, advancing healthcare and supporting innovation. Key HRB actions that underpin this include:

Changing investment strategy

The HRB shift from funding basic biomedical research to invest in patient-oriented research, population health sciences and health services research has led to a significant increase in new knowledge to improve health and care, an increased capacity to do this type of research and a growth in evidence to inform policy and clinical practice.

Our investments in these awards positioned researchers to double their money by leveraging alternative funding and contributed to the development of 57 healthcare innovations, such as clinical decision support tools.

Applying research in policy and practice

The HRB's objective to 'generate relevant knowledge and promote its application in policy and practice' has led to engagement with policy makers, healthcare providers as well as decision-makers, patient groups and the public. This is reflected in 190 policy and practice outputs in these latest figures.

Leading on Public, Patient and Carer Involvement (PPI)

The HRB is taking a strong lead in promoting and supporting PPI in research. This leadership is having a clear impact as the period in review shows the highest level of PPI ever among our awards along with an increase in meaningful engagement at all stages of the research process, from developing a research question to dissemination of results.

Building research capacity and retaining talent

With 451 new posts created it is encouraging to see that, in line with the HRB shift to support multidisciplinary approaches to research, more than four-in-10 of these jobs were in healthcare. We also retain the people we invest in, with 87% remaining on the island of Ireland.

Creating rapid and open access to research results for everyone

The HRB is central to driving policy change and creating the infrastructure to support open access publication of HRB results. This means research can inform practice faster and creates access to research results for all. Open access publications from our awards increased from 70% in 2016-17 to 85% in 2018-19.

Supporting commercialisation and economic benefits

The HRB is supporting the innovation agenda with these awards delivering 28 unique commercial or enterprise outputs, such as start-ups or licencing agreements, and 46 industry collaborations.

Driving international standards and approaches

The HRB continually strives to support high-quality research which is underpinned by international peer review and methodological rigour. In 2018-19 alone this is reflected in the awardee's success in peer-reviewed papers, their ability to leverage funding, collaborations in more than 20 countries and invitations to deliver keynote addresses at international conferences.