



Health Research Board Annual Report 2005



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Health Research Board
Annual Report 2005



Mission

To improve health through research and information

In 2005 the Health Research Board continued to deliver successful results in line with the objectives set out in the Corporate Strategy 2002–2006:

- To encourage the creation and application of knowledge for health and social gain, the growth of intellectual property and evidence relevant to health and social gain and the emergence of a knowledge-based health system, economy and society
- To be the lead national organisation in relation to support for scientific research for health and social gain, including basic and translational research, health services research, population health and practice-based research
- To promote the growth of a value-added research and development capability in the health system, in partnership with other relevant health organisations
- To impact on health and social policy and services through high-quality research and information
- To be the main advocate for the development of research for health and social gain
- To make the HRB an employer of choice in its field



Contents

Board Members in 2005	4
Chairman's Statement	5
Chief Executive's Report	7
Research funded by the HRB	10
National Information Systems	15
■ Disability databases	
■ Drug misuse	
■ Mental health	
Research conducted in-house	18
■ Child health	
■ Mental health	
■ Drug misuse	
Corporate services	21
Publications	24
Extract from the Financial Statements	26
Appendices	29
1 Participation in national, European and international groups and committees	29
2 New grant holders in 2005	30

Board Members in 2005

Professor Desmond Fitzgerald (Chairman)

Vice-President for Research
University College Dublin

Dr Bernard Mahon

Director, Institute of Immunology
National University of Ireland, Maynooth

Dr Rebecca Cramp

Scientific & Regulatory Affairs Manager
Irish Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association

Professor Owen Corrigan

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Trinity College, Dublin

Professor Tom Cotter

Department of Biochemistry
University College Cork

Mr Niall Daly

McNulty Boylan and Partners, Solicitors
Cork

Mr David Doran

Chief Executive, The Children's Medical
& Research Foundation
Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children

Professor William Hall

Professor of Medicinal Microbiology
University College Dublin

Mr Tom Mooney

Deputy Secretary, Finance
Department of Health and Children

Professor Dermot Kelleher

Department of Clinical Medicine
Trinity College Dublin

Dr Kevin Kelleher

Director of Public Health
Mid-Western Health Board

Professor Hannah McGee

Director, Health Services Research Centre
Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

Professor Tim O'Brien

Department of Medicine
National University of Ireland, Galway

Professor Tony Pembroke

Dept of Chemical & Environmental Sciences
University of Limerick

Professor Anne Scott

School of Nursing
Dublin City University

Professor Bob Stout

Director, Research and Development Office
DHSSPS, Northern Ireland



Chairman's Statement

The year 2005 was a time for consolidation and preparation at the HRB.

An increase of almost a third in the annual revenue grant from the Department of Health and Children meant we were able to consolidate programmes of support for research. In addition to this, Ms Mary Harney TD, Tánaiste and Minister for Health and Children agreed to support the HRB five-year *Investment Programme for Research for Health and Wealth*. This meant that for the first time, the HRB could plan investments to build health research capacity in the medium term.

A major objective of this investment programme is to build world-class capacity in health research, particularly in the clinical area. Ireland has the potential to make a significant contribution at global level to clinical research that will improve patient outcomes. However, this can only take place if the necessary investments are made to support people to do the research, funding is available for their programmes of research and they have access to state of the art facilities and equipment needed to do research at the cutting edge.

During 2005 investments under this programme were made with the appointment of the first two Irish clinician scientists, the establishment of a national imaging centre for health research at St James's Hospital, and support for the

purchase of ultra-sound equipment in all the major maternity hospitals. This equipment will be used to screen expectant mothers to understand the causes of low-birth weight babies. We were pleased that the Industrial Development Authority agreed to work with the successful principal investigators on these infrastructure projects to maximise the impact of the HRB investment with the multi-national imaging industry.

The HRB was particularly pleased to appoint the first two Irish clinician scientists and support their research programmes to the value of €3 million over five years. The objective of the awards is to enable some of our best clinicians to focus on research while still retaining a small clinical service responsibility. I am confident that the award recipients, Dr Joe Keane in TCD/St James's Hospital and Dr Mary Cannon, RCSI/ Beaumont Hospital will make a major contribution to advancing knowledge in their respective fields of respiratory disease and mental illness as a result of these awards.

The HRB also participated in or supported a number of initiatives that we know will have positive results in the near future. The most significant was perhaps the partnership with the Wellcome Trust and other funding bodies in the UK to provide support for world-class clinical research facilities that

will benefit human health. The Wellcome Trust/HRB call was issued in July 2005 and results are expected in the middle of 2006.

The HRB welcomes recognition by the economic development agencies – Forfás, IDA and Enterprise Ireland - of the strategic significance of health research and of the Investment Programme in Research for Health and Wealth in the context of their objective of building national research and development capacity. HRB has worked closely with these agencies and the other research funding bodies to develop a framework to support commercialisation of knowledge from research to enhance Ireland's knowledge economy and society. In this context, the HRB welcomed the decision of the newly appointed Science Advisory Council to undertake a review of health research to establish the critical steps needed to strengthen health research capacity in Ireland.

The HRB also worked closely with the Department of Health and Children to prepare the submission on health for the draft *Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation*, which will form an important building block of the next National Development Programme. The HRB stressed the potential in this country to develop world-class research in health research, in experimental or translational research and clinical research in particular as well as to the contribution of research and high quality information to improve the quality of the health system. The Strategy will be published next year.

The legislation establishing the Health Service Executive gave it a mandate to develop a strong research function in the health service, which the HRB welcomes. To acknowledge the common interest of the HRB and the HSE in developing a strong culture of research in the health service, the HRB hosted a joint meeting of the boards of the HRB and the HSE in October to hear a lecture from Professor John Williams, Director of Research and Development in the Welsh health service on the challenge to developing a strong health research culture in Wales.

The Board was pleased that the CEO, Dr Ruth Barrington, was appointed to the Board of the interim Health Information and Quality Agency, which was established during the year. The interim board has a mandate to prepare for the appointment of the permanent authority, which will be responsible for improving the quality of health and social care, the governance of health information systems and health technology assessment.

I would like to thank Dr Don Thornhill and the members of the international panel who reviewed the operation of the HRB on an organisation wide basis in 2005. Their analysis of the environmental factors shaping the HRB, their understanding of HRB strengths and their stretching recommendations for the future development of the organisation were invaluable and will form an agenda for change in the HRB in the coming year.

The ongoing support and dedication of my fellow Board members must be acknowledged. As part of their commitment to excellence and in the context of the wider review of the organisation of the HRB, the Board in 2005 reviewed its operations to ensure that it was contributing maximum value to the achievement of objectives of the HRB. The review highlighted a number of ways that the Board could maximise impact with the time they have available and some changes were made to ensure the Board focus more on strategy and policy.

The commitment and professionalism of the staff of the HRB was demonstrated yet again in 2005. I would like to thank them for their hard work and support during the year and look forward to working with them again in 2006.

Professor Desmond Fitzgerald, FRCPI
Chairman



Chief Executive's Report

The Health Research Board had a highly productive year in 2005.

Mary Harney TD, Tánaiste and Minister for Health and Children, agreed to make €50 million in capital available for an investment programme in research for health and wealth over five years, beginning in 2005. This was in addition to a significant increase in the Department of Health and Children's annual revenue grant to the HRB. These increases allowed the HRB to increase the volume and range of its support for research and information systems.

A decisive step was made to partner the Wellcome Trust in the Clinical Research Initiative for the United Kingdom and Ireland. This will help meet a major long-term objective of the HRB to establish a network of clinical research centres which will link the university medical schools and their academic hospitals in undertaking research that will improve outcomes for patients.

The appointment of the first two HRB clinician scientists also marked a major advance in strengthening capacity in clinical research. The HRB is committed to funding many more of these posts, but is constrained by the existing terms of the current medical consultant contract and the long delays in agreeing changes to that contract.

Medical education was the centre of attention in 2005. I was a member of the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Group, chaired by Dr Jane Buttiner, which reported during the year. The recommendations of the Buttiner Report have significant implications for the training of medical graduates, and for the way in which the HRB currently supports those who are committed to gaining expertise in research. The Report recommends that the HRB support structured PhD programmes. The publication of the Report coincided with an evaluation of the HRB clinical research fellowship programme by a review group established by the Board. The work of this group is leading to significant changes in the way HRB supports clinical research training for medical graduates.

A highlight of the year was the HRB-sponsored lecture, 'It takes two to tango', delivered at the Royal Irish Academy in February by Professor Jonathan Lomas, director of the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation. The subject of the lecture was knowledge brokering – bringing policy makers and researchers together. Professor Lomas gave examples of how knowledge brokering between health policy

makers and researchers operates in his own organisation in Canada, indicating both the challenges and the rewards in building contacts between these two groups.

The HRB and the Northern Ireland R&D Office published a consultation paper on the proposed all-island GeneLibrary, which will be a vital resource for researchers. Under this proposal, 10,000 volunteers on the island of Ireland would agree to contribute their medical history and a blood sample for the purposes of establishing a unique control sample of the population. Once information from the medical history and the blood sample are matched, the record would be irreversibly anonymised. Consultation with the research community began with a seminar which examined the value and scope of the proposal, and was still in progress as the year ended.

The HRB is committed to supporting research on global health challenges, particularly on poverty-related diseases that take such a toll of human life in developing countries. The HRB was pleased to agree a Memorandum of Understanding with Irish Aid whereby the HRB will organise calls to the research community for proposals linked to objectives of Irish Aid. The HRB will administer these awards and Irish Aid will fund the programme. The first Global Health Research awards will be made in 2006.

During the year, the HRB played a significant role in co-ordinating policies and operations among research funding bodies and economic development agencies. The Research Funders' Forum is helping

to increase coherence among the research funding bodies. The HRB was also involved in an initiative led by Enterprise Ireland to develop the agreed framework for commercialisation of intellectual property funded jointly by industry and public bodies. I joined the Medical Technology Council established by the Irish Medical Devices Association to assist in co-ordinating efforts to support a research-friendly environment for the development of medical devices.

The HRB continued to monitor the implementation of the EU Clinical Trials Directive, and expressed its concern to the Department of Health about the difficulties the implementation of the national regulations was causing for clinical trial activity in Ireland.

At European level, I chaired the working group of the European Strategy Forum charged with developing a priority list of research infrastructures for biology and medical science to be included in the first European roadmap for research infrastructure, which will be published in October 2006. This list was presented to the Commissioner in April 2005 and was later included in the Commission's proposals for the Seventh Framework Programme, the European Union's main instrument for funding research and development, that were subsequently adopted by the Council of Ministers.

The research and information programmes which are conducted at the HRB had a number of successes in 2005:

- The HRB was invited by the Government to develop and maintain a Drug-Related Deaths Index.
- The HRB published the first report from the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database, providing the first comprehensive information on the services requirements of the population with such disabilities.
- The HRB launched the first study of levels of psychological stress in Ireland.
- The HRB undertook to commission research studies on the impact of demographic change on demand for health services and on a resource allocation model for the Irish health system. The research will be commissioned in partnership with the Health Service Executive.
- Based on its extensive research on the role of folic acid in preventing neural tube defects in children, the HRB made a submission to the National Committee on Folic Acid Food Fortification strongly recommending that the Government make it mandatory to fortify staple foods such as flour with folic acid at a level that international research has shown to be effective in preventing these devastating disabilities in children.

A major challenge for the HRB in 2005 was the review of the entire organisation to establish the extent to which it was delivering on the objectives of the corporate strategy 2002–2006 and to help formulate a programme of quality improvement for the future.

The review involved a self-assessment exercise against a European standard, stakeholder and staff surveys, a review by the Board of its performance, and a visit over three days by a panel of national and international experts in research funding, health information systems and organisational development. The panel's report confirmed the HRB's success in achieving its corporate objectives but commented on the urgent need for a new strategy to adapt to the rapidly changing external environment. It recommended significant changes in the way the organisation is structured to enable the HRB to cope better with the challenges facing it.

I would like to thank the members of the Board and the staff for the enthusiastic manner in which they embarked on this innovative and demanding review project. I am most grateful to the members of the external panel, chaired by Dr Don Thornhill, for the skill and expertise that they brought to the task of assessing the performance of the HRB and making recommendations for the future development of the organisation.

I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to the Chairman, Professor Desmond Fitzgerald, and to the members of the Board for their excellent leadership of the organisation and for their commitment to developing the capacity of the HRB to support research and information systems of the highest quality.



Ruth Barrington PhD
Chief Executive



Research funded by the HRB

The HRB funding allocation from the Department of Health and Children increased in 2005. Capital funding of €50 million was also committed by the Department for the period 2005–2009 to support the Investment Programme in Research for Health and Wealth. This meant that the HRB was well placed to support capacity building and infrastructure.

The HRB proposes to use this additional funding in a strategic way to strengthen clinical research and build research and development capacity in the health system. The aim is to harness research to produce better patient outcomes and improved health in the population. Initiatives funded will also contribute to more effective and marketable diagnostics, pharmaceuticals and information technologies.

New and innovative awards were introduced throughout the year to meet these objectives. Awards worth €3 million were made to clinician investigators – medical consultants who focus on world-class research in areas that will have direct benefits for patient care. There was additional investment to support research programmes directly linked to the objectives of the health service. Further funding was also allocated to increase national capacity in imaging equipment for

health research and to develop an initial proposal for an all-island GeneLibrary which will contain a large body of samples for genetic research.

The HRB continued to support existing grant programmes that have proven successful and yielded excellent results. A new research funding online newsletter, *Research Funding News*, was introduced, which features detailed information about upcoming programmes and success stories.

Funding awarded

Funding provided under *science for health* supports investigator-led research in the health, life and social sciences that improves our understanding of health and disease and contributes to the discovery of improved therapies. The HRB provided 108 research awards across nine schemes in 2005 from a total of 598 applications received. A further 107 awards were made to build capacity through student summer schemes and science writing workshops.

A total of 125 peer-reviewed publications based on HRB funded research were published in 2005.

A number of other successful initiatives were also supported.

HRB scholars were literally climbing walls to celebrate the success of their PhD training schemes and the announcement that the HRB will provide additional funding to develop new HRB scholar sites for PhD training. The decision to underpin the new sites was based on a successful evaluation of an existing HRB scholar site in Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience. Institutions will be invited to apply in 2006 to establish HRB scholar sites which will focus on biomedical and clinical sciences, health services research or epidemiology and public health.



Dana Kilroy and Kevin Murphy,
Institute of Neuroscience TCD

CASE STUDY

New links between medical research and patient care

The new awards to support medical consultants in undertaking world-class research in areas that have direct benefits for patient care are the first of their kind in Ireland. Two awards, worth a total of €3 million, were presented to the new Clinician Scientists by the Tánaiste and Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney, in May 2005. Both recipients are consultants who have developed a strong research interest in their specialised field, guided by their experience of patient care and the most recent information about emerging trends.

Dr Mary Cannon, a senior lecturer in RCSI and a consultant in Beaumont Hospital, will investigate the onset of schizophrenia in young adults. The project will monitor the brain development of at-risk young adults using a variety of imaging techniques and psychological assessments with a view to improving early detection and prevention.

Dr Joe Keane, a consultant in respiratory medicine at St James's Hospital in Dublin, will focus on new ways to prevent and

treat tuberculosis. This is a chronic lung disease, which claims the lives of two million people worldwide each year. The incidence of this disease has increased in Ireland since 2003.

Speaking at the launch of the awards, the Tánaiste said that, to realise the benefit of the millions invested by the Government in research in the life sciences, in biotechnology and in developing this country's research infrastructure, we must improve links between the laboratory and the delivery of patient care. She believes that these awards will succeed in forging these links, as well as in raising the profile of Irish health research and improving patient outcomes.



Prof Des Fitzgerald, Chairman, HRB, Dr Mary Cannon, RCSI, Dr Joe Keane, St. James's Hospital

The third issue in the HRB's Picture of Health series, *A Picture of Health: A selection of Irish health research 2005*, was published during the year. Building on the success of past issues, it effectively promoted the key research outcomes from the project grants completed during the year. This popular presentation of research findings continues to help make health research relevant to a broader audience.

Participation in the BA Science Festival 2005 was a further opportunity to bring health research issues to the general public. The HRB joined forces with the British Council to host a public debate on alcohol, Sláinte: To our good health? An expert panel from around Europe, chaired by Brian Dobson from RTÉ, posed questions such as: Has our culture of hard drinking spun out of control? if so, should we be concerned? Can taking alcohol in moderation be good for your health? The lively debate included participation by the audience of industry experts, researchers, public health representatives and the general public.

Funding offered under *R&D for health* is targeted at developing a structure within the health system to support research and development that will encourage the application of knowledge to health problems and increase the effectiveness of the health system in achieving its goals. Given the changes under way in the HSE in 2005, it is important to build new relations and continue to keep the support for research active in the health services.

Based on the success of the Health Services Research and Development awards in 2004, a second call was issued to encourage further capacity building in R&D within the health services. A total of 27 proposals were received and five awards were made for projects that are specifically linked to the goals and priorities of the health strategy.

Working in co-operation with the Medical Research Charities Group (MRCG), the HRB launched a new scheme to help tackle

rare disease. A total of €600,000 will be awarded to three research fellows to help increase knowledge and build research capacity, leading to improved treatment and care for people suffering from a rare disease in Ireland. Rare diseases are classified as life-threatening or chronically debilitating diseases that affect fewer than five people in every 10,000. Examples of rare diseases in Ireland are cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy and epidermolysis bullosa.

The HRB also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Irish Aid to work collaboratively to support global health research and to increase research capacity in developing countries. This award scheme aims to generate high-quality research evidence directly related to the policy areas of the Irish aid programme and to build research capacity in developing countries. It will promote international partnerships in global health research, with particular emphasis on collaborative projects involving Irish research institutions.

Evaluation of research programmes

Evaluation is essential to ensure that the funding invested meets the objectives and achieves value for money. Among the reviews carried out by the HRB in 2005 were the mid-term review of the five-year programme grants and progress reviews of the PhD scholar sites and the career development schemes, with a special focus on the clinical research training fellowship scheme. A working group is being established to consider detailed recommendations following the review of the clinical research training fellowship scheme.

Review of ICORG

Since 2002, the HRB has invested €9 million in building a strong infrastructure for clinical trials in ten hospitals, all members of the All-Ireland Cooperative Group.

An additional €0.6 million was awarded in the form of a planning grant to ICORG, the Irish Clinical Oncology Research Group. ICORG acts as a central support office for the All-Ireland Cooperative Group of hospitals, supporting the initiation and conduct of cancer clinical trials in the hospitals and working with Irish investigators and organisations worldwide to increase the number of clinical trials available to cancer patients across the island.

During 2005, all components of the All-Ireland Cooperative Group were assessed, including trial activity in the hospitals and progress made with the planning grant application to ICORG for centralised support. The assessment panel acknowledged that ICORG had made progress in a number of areas and suggested that the group increase the number and type of trials available to cancer patients across the country. ICORG conducted a review and will deliver a response in early 2006 outlining their actions to tackle the changes proposed by the panel.

Table 1 Summary of funding awarded in 2005

Award schemes 2005	No. of applicants	No. of awards
Career support schemes		
Clinician Scientist Awards	13	2
PhD Training Sites	17	2
Post Doctoral Fellowships	45	8
Clinical Research Training Fellowships	43	8
Fellowships in Health Services Research	24	4
Clinical Research Fellowships in Nursing and Midwifery	19	4
NCI Summer Curriculum	20	17
Cancer Prevention Fellowship	1	1
Cochrane Fellowships	10	6
Summer Students	117	46
Research grants		
Project Grants – General	310	75
Programme Grants	36	3
Partnerships Awards	23	10
Strategic R&D Awards	27	5
Rare Diseases Research Awards	7	3
Infrastructure		
Imaging Awards	5	2
Health Information Systems Awards	20	6
Training and workshops		
HRB / British Council science writing workshops	101	60
Grant writing workshops	150	150
Cochrane three-day course on systematic reviews	73	39
Total	1061	451

Building capacity for health research

In 2005, the HRB led a number of support schemes for researchers and health professionals and provided seminars and courses to build capacity by supporting careers, training and infrastructure.

A new call was issued for four career development schemes which will be funded in 2006. Applications have been submitted and are currently undergoing peer review.

Science writing workshops continued to be popular. They help researchers develop skills in writing up their research in an effective way. One workshop this year was hosted with the British Council and the other with the national Alimentary Pharmabiotics Centre in University College Cork.

In an innovative approach to developing research capacity in the health services, the HRB hosted a series of workshops for people interested in doing such research. The purpose of these workshops was to highlight funding opportunities and to provide advice on how to apply successfully for funding.

The Cochrane collaboration began to pick up pace with the launch of another call for Cochrane fellowships, a series of three-day courses on conducting systematic reviews, and preparations for the World Cochrane Colloquium in Dublin in 2006. Irish researchers continued to enjoy the benefits of free access to the Cochrane Library with 124,255 users in 2005.

Working in partnership

A new working relationship was formed with INSERM, the French health research agency. Initial meetings resulted in a survey being conducted of all collaborations between researchers funded by the HRB and researchers in France. Initiatives being considered for 2006 include setting up an exchange programme between the two sets of researchers.

The Ireland–Northern Ireland–National Cancer Institute Cancer Consortium. Calls were developed and advertised for joint research fellowship schemes, the cancer prevention fellowship scheme and the summer curriculum in cancer prevention. Work continued in endeavour to highlight the key challenges to the clinical trials network.

The HRB agreed a common approach to funding policies in terms of the Protection of Employees (Fixed Term Work) Act and maternity leave for researchers, in collaboration with other agencies through the Standing Committee of the Research Funding Bodies.

The HRB is working with the Wellcome Trust to introduce a major new initiative to support key clinical research infrastructure in Ireland. The Irish strategy for health research, *Making Knowledge Work for Health*, identified clinical research facilities as a priority for building health research capacity in Ireland. The HRB and the Wellcome Trust have a strong track record of providing high-quality clinical research environments and building capacity. During 2005, the HRB and the Wellcome Trust invited proposals in two related areas:

- The development of new and existing clinical research facilities.
- Support for enabling technologies/infrastructure for clinical research.

This is an exciting development for the research community and for health in Ireland. Results of the peer-review process will be announced in July 2006.



National Information Systems

The HRB manages five national information systems which provide quality information for the planning, monitoring, and evaluation of health services disability, drug misuse and mental health. These information systems also provide an invaluable source of information for further research. The HRB plays a vital role in the organisation and development of the information systems, ensuring valid and reliable data, analysing and reporting the data and disseminating the information to relevant stakeholders.

The restructuring associated with the establishment of the Health Service Executive (HSE) presented a new challenge for the information systems divisions in 2005. Data from the previous year had been submitted from the original health boards, but had to be reported to reflect the new structures in place. This challenge was dealt with effectively and software was updated to reflect and report through the new HSE structures.

Some of the major developments in 2005 included:

National Physical and Sensory Disability Database (NPSDD)

The first annual report of the NPSDD Committee was published, containing information collected in 2004. This data was analysed and will be used as an indicator to inform service planners of the needs of people with physical and sensory disability nationwide.

An action plan was developed in response to the evaluation of the NPSDD. This was a useful exercise as it brought together various stakeholders who identified priorities for improvement.

The HRB made significant contributions to the publication of international classification of functioning and devised the 'Measure of Ability and Participation'. The Economic and Social Research Institute will take the national aspect of this project to the next stage.

A user manual was developed for telephone updating of NPSDD registrations and training was provided to people who will use the system.

CASE STUDY

First National Physical and Sensory Disability Database Report

The NPSDD was established to ensure that information is available to enable the Department of Health and Children, the HSE and the non-statutory sector to provide appropriate services designed to meet the changing needs of people with a physical or sensory disability. The database is intended to provide a comprehensive and accurate information base for decision making in relation to the planning, funding and management of services for people with a physical or sensory disability and, for the first time, to set priorities based on an objective evaluation of the needs of the population receiving or requiring specialised health and personal social services.

Progress towards reaching the target number of records on the database in 2004 was good. From the data it is possible to find out the gender, age profile, accommodation needs, services currently provided and services required for the population registered on the database. This information is essential in planning services for the future.

National Intellectual Disability Database (NIDD)

The NIDD Annual Report was published ahead of schedule, in September, meaning that decisions about service provision in 2006 can be based on the most up-to-date information available. Regional bulletins were produced to ensure that each HSE area could clearly identify key findings and requirements for their area. The national competition to design the cover of the annual report was again an outstanding success, with more than 300 entries from service users nationwide. The winner was Francis Gleeson from Nenagh who is actively involved in Ormond Resources,

where he produces arts, crafts and candles as well as painting.

New NIDD software is now installed in more than 100 sites. Multiple users at each site were supported throughout the implementation process and during the course of the year. A documentation resource was developed within the NIDD software and materials were uploaded in December. This means that support materials and regional analysis of data will be possible for users online.

Throughout the year, training was provided to encourage and support the regional use of both disability databases and to ensure that users could produce reports and interpret the information effectively. A protocol was introduced for access to these two databases at national and regional levels to maximise security of information.

National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS)

From the start of the year, existing participants in the NDTRS began submitting their data for 2005. This will bring the records of the databases up to date and will mean that the HRB can collate, analyse and report on the information gathered in the same year. This is extremely useful for identifying areas of need and furnishing service providers with the most recent information available to inform decision making.

A proactive approach was taken to developing participation in the NDTRS, which will help ensure more complete datasets. This, in turn, will give a more accurate picture of treated drug use in Ireland.

Collection of 2004 data at outpatient, inpatient and low-threshold services was almost complete by 2005. Following a concerted effort to encourage general practitioners to participate, significant progress was made during the year in collecting data for the years 2001 to 2004.

Prison services will report to the NDTRS from 2006 onwards and HRB staff are in the process of developing a database to facilitate this. Negotiations are under way with alcohol services in Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow with a view to their providing information about people presenting for treatment from 2005; these discussions are progressing well.

In 2004, an access database was developed to enable direct data entry from the centres providing a service to people who present for treatment for drug misuse. During 2005, research analysts, trained data co-ordinators and service providers in coding and entering the data at source.

Three reports based on information from the NDTRS were published during the year. These reports looked at trends in treated drug use in Ireland from 1998 to 2002. They showed that 33,350 people aged between 15 and 64 years were treated for problem drug use in Ireland. The reports compared trends in the numbers of cases in Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow (the greater Dublin area) with those in the rest of the country. They revealed that, while the number of new cases in the greater Dublin area decreased between 2000 and 2002, the number of new cases outside this area increased by 300% between 1998 and 2002. The reports also highlighted the risk behaviours associated with drug use, including polydrug use, which can lead to overdose, and injecting drug use, which is linked to acquiring blood-borne viruses.

Working closely with key Irish agencies and using information from the NDTRS, staff helped to address the priority information needs in the area of drug misuse in Ireland. Staff also had an active role on the National Advisory Committee on Drugs.

National Psychiatric In-patient Reporting System (NPIRS)

NPIRS data was successfully submitted by all in-patient psychiatric units and hospitals on a quarterly basis. The HRB provided

ongoing software support through the HRB PAS database, as well as by regular liaison with hospital staff who work with the system. Promotional efforts continue to encourage hospitals and units to submit data to NPIRS electronically.

Data collected by NPIRS was used to produce a detailed annual report on all psychiatric admissions and discharges in Ireland during 2004. As part of a customer service initiative, an evaluation questionnaire based on the annual NPIRS report was included in this year's report. The recommendations arising from this survey will be incorporated into future publications.

Information from the database was also used to produce regional bulletins specific to each HSE area twice a year. These help to facilitate decision making in relation to service provision at a local level.

Performance indicator reports were produced for the HSE areas and the Department of Health and Children. These quarterly reports provide comparable data for each local health office (LHO) in terms of admission, legal category, diagnosis and length of stay of all acute psychiatric in-patients in Ireland.

Community Care Database

In response to changing patterns of patient care, the HRB has developed a new database called COMCAR, designed to record mental health activity at community care level. The COMCAR database is now in use at eight locations around the country. The database has been customised to user needs and specific versions have been created for out-patient clinics, day centres, day hospitals, liaison psychiatry and old age psychiatry. This work has been crucial in guiding ongoing work on the new web-based national mental health information system. The COMCAR team is working closely with the HSE on a pilot project planned for Donegal.



Research conducted in-house

Child Health

The child health work programme has focused around the collaborative research programme with the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and Trinity College Dublin (TCD) on congenital malformations and other adverse pregnancy outcomes.

Based on last year's groundbreaking research that showed the relationship between folic acid and risk of neural tube defects (NTDs) in pregnancy among the Irish population, the HRB made a submission to the National Committee on Folic Acid Food Fortification to emphasise the importance of fortifying a staple food, like flour, with folic acid.

The same findings, which were part of a collaborative study with Trinity College Dublin and the National Institutes of Health in the US, provided the scientific evidence for an advertising campaign by the Food Safety Authority of Ireland to encourage women of childbearing age to take folic acid supplements in their diet, whether they were intending to become pregnant or not.

Eight papers on related research were published in international journals and two papers were presented at an international meeting on neural tube defects in London.

Mental Health

Family support study

A new study was undertaken to explore the experiences, needs and support requirements of families with direct exposure to mental illness. The study involved semi-structured interviews with 40–50 people who were close relatives of a person with an enduring mental illness (defined as an illness lasting for more than two years and requiring ongoing visits to a mental care service).

The research aims to find out what supports are currently available to families, whether families use them, if they are satisfied with them, and what other supports are needed. This information can then be used to inform service providers and policy makers so they can design effective services for families who support people with illnesses such as schizophrenia and depressive disorders.

Psychological distress – do we use services or seek help?

A new survey of psychological stress in a random sample of the Irish population aims to find out how many people suffered from psychological distress in the previous 12 months, whether they availed of a service for their problem and whether they would be willing to seek help for psychological problems in the future.

The HRB has commissioned the Economic and Social Research Institute to carry out the survey by telephone. Results will be available in 2006 and it is hoped that they will provide sufficient information for service planners to design early intervention programmes to prevent or reduce psychological distress.

Drug Misuse

The illicit drug market

The impact of drug use and drug markets can affect people's physical and psychological health. It is important to research the potential impact that this can have. Examining drug crimes and markets, it is possible to identify ways to help disrupt drug markets which would in turn reduce the potential impact they have indirectly or directly on health.

During 2005, the HRB published new research on the illicit drug market in Ireland. The research pulls together information from existing data sources and research on illicit drug markets. It identifies trends over time and highlights knowledge gaps. The research found that the drug market continues to grow in spite of huge global investment to eliminate it. Based on a commonly used estimation that the amount of drugs seized represents only 10% of the total imported, the combined estimated market value in Ireland for cannabis resin, ecstasy, cocaine, heroin, amphetamines, cannabis and LSD was €650 million in 2003.

The report reviews data from the Garda Síochána, the customs authorities, the Forensic Science Laboratory and drug users themselves. The author concludes that, because this data is collected by a variety of groups, each for their own purposes, there are gaps in the information and a lack of consistency in processes. The research points to the need for all the data to be compiled and researched annually in order to improve our understanding of how the drug market works. This, in turn, would make it possible to identify how the market could be disrupted and to monitor the effect of law enforcement efforts.

CASE STUDY

Drug-related deaths in Ireland

The HRB published the first comprehensive overview of drug-related deaths in Ireland in June 2005. This review, the first issue in the HRB's Overview series, analyses data collected from a variety of sources* in Ireland between 1990 and 2002. The trends identified show a substantial increase in drug-related deaths between 1995 and 2000 from 43 to 119, falling in 2001 to 88, with a small rise in 2002, to 91. This pattern reflects trends in Europe.

To date, deaths as an indirect result of drug use are not systematically documented and have been assessed only in localised studies within Dublin. The findings of the Overview indicate an underestimation of opiate-related deaths in Dublin and a lack of information about deaths as a result of other drugs. The National Drugs Strategy has identified the need for precise information on drug-related deaths as a priority area for research. For this purpose, the HRB was invited during the year to develop a National Drug-Related Deaths Index to collect and record data on drug-related deaths and deaths among drug users.

Work commenced on this initiative immediately. The index is an essential tool because drug-related deaths and deaths among drug users are indicators of drug misuse in Ireland. Accurate data will help identify the size of the problem and will indicate more precisely the causes of death. In time, this will allow policy makers, service planners and practitioners to develop appropriate responses to the consequences of drug misuse and to monitor the impact of supply and criminal justice issues, prevention measures, harm reduction intervention and rehabilitation responses.

*Sources for the initial review of drug related deaths were the General Mortality Register, studies that had extracted data from the Coroners office, the Central Treatment List and infectious disease statistics.

Key research findings, information and news on drug misuse were also disseminated through the *Drugnet Ireland* newsletter. Due to demand and the growing availability of new findings, four issues were published during the year.

European research

The drugs division is a national focal point for the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). Research and information on the drug situation in Ireland is compiled every year and sent to the EMCDDA.

Work is ongoing to:

- Maintain the Irish contribution to the European Database on Demand Reduction Activities – 10 new projects were added to the database in 2005.
- Develop the five existing epidemiological key indicators of drug misuse with a view to improving national data sources and increasing the comparability of Irish and EU data.
- Collaborate with other focal points in the REITOX network on the conceptualisation of new indicators of drug misuse and the identification of new areas for research. Two structured questionnaires, on alternatives to prison for drug users and on policy and institutional frameworks, were finalised during the year for inclusion in the EMCDDA work plan 2006.
- Provide national reports and information exchange on the drug situation in Ireland to the EMCDDA and help disseminate the findings in Ireland.

Disseminating the results of research – The National Documentation Centre on Drug Use (NDC)

The NDC is a unique information resource providing Irish researchers with access to electronic and hard-copy research documentation on all aspects of drug use. It provides valuable support to researchers, media and the public.

During 2005 the capacity of the library continued to increase:

- The website was re-launched to help profile the library materials in a more user-friendly way.
- Compared to 2004 figures, there was an 18% increase in the number of queries received by the NDC, a 75% increase in the number of new users and a 100% increase in the number of unique visitors to the website.
- A monthly electronic newsletter on the latest work in drug-use research was produced and circulated to 216 subscribers.
- The NDC's library collection increased by 500 volumes.
- The NDC's information services were developed and enhanced to ensure an efficient, thorough and well-presented delivery of information to the users of these services.



Corporate Services

Corporate services underpin the operational environment in which staff carry out their work, and provide support to the Board. Creating the best possible environment will lead to greater productivity and a more positive employee culture. A major focus for all staff in 2005, from a corporate perspective, was the organisational review (see case study insert).

Other key achievements are highlighted under the headings below.

Finance

In 2005 the Department of Health and Children committed €50 million over five years to support the HRB's Investment Programme in Research for Health and Wealth and the Department's annual revenue grant to the HRB increased significantly. The HRB used the additional funding available in 2005 to increase the number of research awards made and to grant-aid the purchase of research equipment and other infrastructure.

The internal auditors conducted reviews of the research grants administration procedures and the value for money procedures within the HRB.

Work commenced on the development of an online management accounting reporting system for implementation in 2006, and budgeting and financial planning procedures were enhanced.

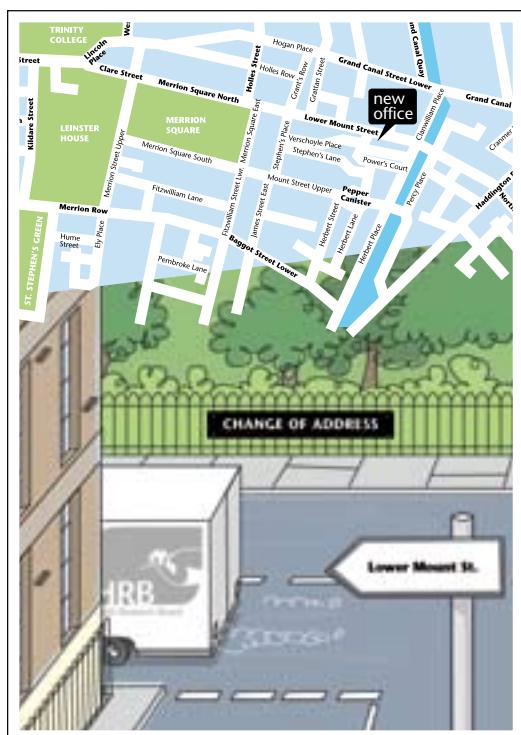
Information and communications technology (ICT)

Work continued on the implementation of the HRB's ICT strategy, which included the installation of broadband for all teleworkers, a new firewall server with improved security, and upgraded antivirus software on all computers. In consultation with the HRB's Partnership Committee, the ICT and Internet usage policy was updated.

The development of the functionality of the HRB website continued during 2005 and an extranet was built to allow the Board and members of research award selection panels to access relevant documentation online.

Facilities

A full review of the HRB's accommodation requirements was conducted during 2005 and ministerial approval was granted for the leasing of larger office accommodation in Lower Mount Street and the assignment of the HRB's lease on its offices in Holbrook House in Holles Street. Detailed plans were drawn up to facilitate the staff move scheduled for February 2006.



In addition, Board approval was granted for the HRB's Customer Service Charter, reception procedures were reviewed and new arrangements were put in place for catering for in-house events.

HR and organisational development

Staff performance is linked to a good working environment, excellent conditions, a positive culture and a good level of job satisfaction. The HRB conducted a second staff survey in 2005 as part of the organisational review. The results of this survey will be used as a benchmark to measure staff satisfaction over the coming years. The survey was completed in June, after which focus groups discussed some of the specific issues that had been raised. The management team completed an action plan which was referred to the HRB Partnership Committee for comment. The action plan will be implemented in 2006.

HR continued to support divisions in recruiting and training and in measuring performance through established best practice. Work continued on the implementation of the HR strategy and regular reports were submitted to the Performance Verification Group to profile the main achievements that had been made under the key headings highlighted in Sustaining Progress. All benchmarking payments were received by staff, based on ongoing delivery of business process improvements and modernisation in all key areas.

Communications

A communications strategy was devised to provide direction for a communications proactive effort commencing in 2006. The strategy identified key target audiences, the messages the HRB would like to take to them and the means by which this will be done.

The communications department supported the production of more than 25 publications, organised five key events, facilitated 11 sponsorships and secured sustained coverage in the national and medical media throughout the year.

CASE STUDY

In pursuit of excellence

The HRB undertook an organisational review in 2005 to establish the extent to which the organisation was delivering on its corporate strategy and to provide a programme of quality improvement for the future. The review began early in the year with a process of self-assessment when, with external facilitation, staff rated the performance of their divisions and of the organisation in terms of best practice. Using the Business Excellence Model, they compared performance on leadership, policy and strategy, people, resources, processes, customer results, people satisfaction, society results and key performance results. The Board undertook a facilitated review of its own performance. Staff and stakeholder reviews were undertaken by external companies.

The outcome of this self-assessment was collated into an organisational self-assessment report. This report was issued to an international, external review panel in October, along with the detailed results of a stakeholder survey and the review of the Board. The panel spent three days in the organisation in November reviewing the working processes and conducting interviews with key stakeholder groups.

The chair of the panel, Dr Don Thornhill, Chair of the National Competitiveness Council, presented the panel's findings to Board members and staff at the end of the third day. The panel's report confirmed the HRB's success in achieving its objectives, but emphasised the urgent need for a new corporate strategy to adapt to the rapidly changing environment in which the HRB now operates. The panel reported that the organisation had reached a very promising stage in its organisational development and was well positioned to seize opportunities presented by the profound external changes in the health, research and information sectors. It commended the HRB on its performance to date, on the respect it had earned from stakeholders and on the commitment of its staff. The panel recommended a number of changes to the structure and processes of the HRB to enhance its capacity to cope with current and future change.

A Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) based on the recommendations of the review panel will be adopted, and the recommendations will have a major impact on the shape of the HRB corporate strategy for the period 2007–2011.

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Health Research Board

Extract from Financial Statements

Revenue Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2005

	2005 €	2004 €
Income		
Department of Health and Children revenue grant	19,459,000	14,953,000
Other research funding	1,209,370	1,948,534
Projects undertaken for the Department of Health and Children	5,505,325	6,058,873
Interest receivable	44,376	45,736
Rental income	53,775	33,887
	26,271,846	23,040,030
 Expenditure		
Research Funding and Policy	16,562,617	13,846,741
Child Health Epidemiology	692,823	1,094,160
Drug Misuse Research	1,071,773	824,637
Mental Health Research	666,667	498,162
Disability Databases	426,716	417,966
R&D for Health	4,499,941	4,327,904
Administration costs and general overheads	2,351,018	1,983,982
Pensions paid to retired members of staff	(10,849)	30,111
	26,260,706	23,023,663
 Surplus for the year	 11,140	 16,367

Capital Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2005

	2005 €	2004 €
Income		
Department of Health and Children capital grant	1,813,089	7,677,490
Other capital income	1,590	-
Amortisation of capital fund account	145,562	142,284
	1,960,241	7,819,774
Expenditure		
Equipment grants paid to third parties	1,616,965	7,472,138
ICT development	106,678	113,156
Contribution to fixed assets	81,158	19,235
Maintenance of premises	9,878	72,961
Depreciation	145,562	142,284
	1,960,241	7,819,774
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	-	-

Health Research Board

Extract from Financial Statements

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2005

	2005 €	2004 €
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	381,042	451,083
 Current assets		
Debtors	724,011	867,215
Investments	641	641
 Cash at bank and on hand	 7,569,644	 4,724,905
 <hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<hr/> 8,294,296	<hr/> 5,592,761
 Current liabilities		
<i>Amounts falling due within one year:</i>		
Creditors and deferred income	8,205,333	5,514,938
 <hr/>	<hr/> 8,205,333	<hr/> 5,514,938
 <hr/>	<hr/> 88,963	<hr/> 77,823
 <hr/>	<hr/> 470,005	<hr/> 528,906
 Reserves		
Accumulated surplus on income and expenditure account	88,963	77,823
 Capital fund	 381,042	 451,083
 <hr/>	<hr/> 470,005	<hr/> 528,906

Appendix 1

Participation in national, European and international groups and committees

The Health Research Board invests a significant amount of time contributing to a wide variety of national, European and international bodies. These include:

- European Science Foundation Member Association Group
- The Standing Committee of Research Funding Agencies
- Ad hoc group of European Nurse Research Developers
- HEA Infrastructures Group
- The Research and Development Office, Northern Ireland
- The Institute of Public Health in Ireland
- The Irish Forum on Global Health
- The Environmental Protection Agency
- Development Cooperation Ireland
- The Irish College of General Practitioners
- The Cystinosis Foundation
- The Medical Research Charities Group
- The Irish Council for Bioethics
- National Intellectual Disability Database Committee
- National Physical and Sensory Disability Database Committee
- National Intellectual Disability Database Regional Database Administrators' Group
- National Physical and Sensory Disability Database Regional Database Administrators' Group
- National Monitoring Committee overseeing the state investment programme in intellectual disability services
- National Advisory Committee on Drugs – Prevalence, Treatment, Consequences, Early Warning and Emerging Trends sub-committees
- Health Implementation Committee of the National Drugs Strategy, Department of Health and Children.
- Membership of addiction services performance management group
- Membership of the drug treatment services in prisons research group
- Membership of the Hepatitis C Scientific Advisory Subgroup of the Blood Borne Virus Forum
- Irish Health Sciences Library Group
- Pompidou Group
- European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction
- EDDRA
- Expert Group on Mental Health Policy
- Mental Health Advisory Subgroups including - Research and Information Manpower, Education and Training Mental Health Services for Later Life, Forensic Mental Health Services, Services for eating disorders, Children and Adolescent Psychiatric Service Working Group Research
- Advisory Group Membership – National Disability Authority
- Adoption Agency
- Nursing Research Development Group
- Irish Internet Association
- Irish Evaluation Network
- Irish Society of Clinical Research Professionals
- Science Foundation Ireland

Appendix 2

New grant holders 2005

Grant holder	Title
PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES	
Research Project Grants – General	
Dr Catherine Greene Medicine Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland €216,475.20	Regulation of apoptosis by misfolded Z alpha-1 antitrypsin
Mr Ronan Conroy Epidemiology & Preventive Medicine Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland €210,889.40	Can psychological models of mood and positive affect inform interventions to improve outcomes for individuals with acute coronary syndrome?
Dr Dermot Walls Faculty of Science and Health Dublin City University €229,298.40	Role and mechanisms of changes to the transcriptome that lead to enhanced cell survival during Epstein-Barr virus infection and in related malignancies.
Dr Mauro Adamo Chemistry Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland €256,346	Investigating the role of the PGHS-peroxidase: rational design of a novel inhibitor
Professor Kingston Mills Biochemistry Trinity College Dublin €238,333.20	Regulation of T cell responses in immunity to <i>Bordetella pertussis</i>
Dr Philip Newsholme Biochemistry University College Dublin €237,796.80	Immune regulation of pancreatic beta cell function and integrity in Diabetes
Dr Michael Gill Psychiatry Trinity College Dublin €79,077.60	A prospective study of the clinical genetics of methylphenidate response in children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
Professor Charles Dorman Microbiology Trinity College Dublin €101,203	Regulatory Evolution in a Bacterial Pathogen
Dr Lorraine Kyne Dept of Medicine and Therapeutics Mater Misericordiae Hospital €220,605.70	A prospective study of the incidence, outcomes, immune response and antimicrobial susceptibility of toxin-variant <i>C. difficile</i> .

Grant holder	Title
Professor Walter McNicholas Respiratory Medicine University College Dublin €244,659.60	Cell and molecular mechanisms of cardiovascular complications in sleep apnoea syndrome
Professor James Docherty Physiology Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland €240,694.80	The role of Nitric oxide synthase-2 in the development and maintenance of portal hypertension
Dr Aideen Sullivan Anatomy/Neuroscience University College Cork €241,403.80	Embryonic stem cells for Parkinson's disease
Dr Ronan Murphy Biotechnology Dublin City University €168,110	The Role of Lasp-1 Expression and Signaling in Cardiovascular Disease
Dr Caroline Herron Physiology University College Dublin €129,432.40	Effect of altered cholesterol and lipid metabolism on synaptic plasticity: Possible neuroprotective effects in transgenic model of Alzheimer's disease.
Dr Fionnuala McAuliffe Obstetrics & Gynaecology University College Dublin €145,018	Heart function in infants of insulin dependent diabetic mothers.
Dr Bernard Mahon Biology National University of Ireland, Maynooth €176,498	The role of CCL28 in human airway inflammation
Dr Sally-Ann Cryan Pharmacy Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland €228,354	Targeted siRNA delivery to the lungs for the treatment of inflammatory lung disease.
Dr Jana Haase Biochemistry University College Dublin €245,485.20	Characterisation of serotonin transporter-associated protein complexes within lipid microdomains - a proteomic approach
Dr Maura Grealy Pharmacology National University of Ireland, Galway €231,688.40	A signalling role for desmosomal proteins in vertebrate heart development?
Dr Heinz Peter Nasheuer Dept. of Biochemistry National University of Ireland, Galway €228,400.40	Interactions of Primase with DNA

Grant holder	Title
Dr James O'Gara Industrial Microbiology University College Dublin €120,944	Characterisation of ica-independent biofilm development in methicillin resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
Dr Aideen Long Biochemistry Trinity College Dublin €248,287.20	CD44 - a pivotal molecule in endothelial cell fate?
Professor Jochen Prehn Physiology and Medical Physics Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland €244,722	Molecular analysis of cell death induced by defects in protein processing and protein degradation in Alzheimer's disease
Dr Tom Moore Biochemistry University College Cork €105,132	Pleiotrophin-mediated shedding of fetal DNA
Dr Yuri Volkov Clinical Medicine Trinity College Dublin €230,930.80	The role of flow dynamics and chemokine-induced cell polarization in the multi-step leukocyte navigation
Dr Deirdre Hurley Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences University College Dublin 2135,298	Irish medical practitioners attitudes and beliefs to chronic low back pain
Professor Gerald O'Sullivan Cork Cancer Research Centre University College Cork €240,756.80	Long-term, systemic antitumour immunity via local, non-viral gene therapy of malignant tumours.
Dr Declan Gilheany Chemistry University College Dublin €229,745.20	Libraries of Modified Sugars for Anticancer and Antimicrobial Studies
Dr Neil Rowan Biological Science Athlone Institute of Technology €113,134	Disinfection and sterilisation of medical instruments, devices and contact surfaces using novel electrotechnologies
Dr Kieran McDermott Anatomy-Neuroscience University College Cork €216,554.40	Role of neuroepithelial stem cells in development and repair.

Grant holder	Title
Dr Catherine Comiskey Mathematics National University of Ireland, Maynooth €72,176	An analysis of the drug using career and its impact on prevalence and incidence of drug use in Ireland
Professor Cliona O'Farrelly Education & Research Centre, S.V.U.H. Trinity College Dublin €237,586	Investigation of KIR genotype in the resolution of HCV infection
Professor Finian Martin Pharmacology University College Dublin €150,000	A role for JNK in supporting adhesion molecule expression in mammary epithelial cell 3D-acinar assemblies
Professor Noel Lowndes Biochemistry National University of Ireland, Galway €253,156.80	Biochemical characterisation of 53BP1, a putative RAD9 orthologue
Dr James Jones Human Anatomy and Physiology University College Dublin €9,900	Mechanism of laryngeal sensing of expired carbon dioxide
Professor Desmond Fitzgerald Molecular Medicine University College Dublin €234,344.40	Identifying the protein targets of the anti-inflammatory prostaglandin J2
Professor Martin Kinirons Oral Health Services Research Centre University College Cork €146,549.60	Improving the Efficiency of Dental Screening with Respect to Fissure Sealing
Professor Luke O'Neill Biochemistry Trinity College Dublin €229,298.40	A polymorphism in the gene encoding the Toll - IL-1 receptor adapter Mal that protects against infection
Dr Carmel Breslin Chemistry National University of Ireland, Maynooth €217,381.20	A Novel Drug Delivery System Using Conducting Polymers
Dr Ursula Fearon Rheumatology University College Dublin €130,274	A-SAA regulates cytoskeletal rearrangement and cell matrix interactions to promote cell migration and cartilage invasion in inflammatory arthritis ?
Dr Julie Kelly Biochemistry Trinity College Dublin €238,702.80	Furthering the development of potent thyrotropin-releasing hormone-degrading ectoenzyme (TRH-DE) inhibitors – toward a novel therapeutic for CNS disorders

Grant holder	Title
Professor Tom Cotter Biochemistry University College Cork €237,464.40	Identification and biological characterisation of novel anti-apoptotic compounds for the potential treatment of retinal degeneration: in vitro and in vivo studies
Professor John Joseph Morrison Obstetrics & Gynaecology National University of Ireland, Galway €126,427	Human Uterine Mitochondrial K-ATP Expression and Modulation
Dr John Laffey Department of Anaesthesia National University of Ireland, Galway €223,717.20	Oxidant Stress, Hypercapnia and Acute Lung Injury: From Mechanistic Insights to Therapeutic Strategies
Professor Edward Johns Physiology University College Cork €222,465.60	Oxidative stress in the kidney: interactions of superoxide anions and nitric oxide on fluid reabsorption at the proximal tubule
Dr Aidan Bradford Physiology and Medical Physics Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland €14,888.40	Does oxidative stress contribute to impaired respiratory muscle function following chronic episodic hypoxia?
Dr Paul Moynagh Pharmacology University College Dublin €167,220	Exploring human SEF as a regulator of Toll-like Receptor Signalling
Dr Ciaran Morrison Biochemistry/ NCBES National University of Ireland, Galway €218,642.40	Molecular mechanisms of DNA damage-induced centrosome amplification
Dr Ziarih Hawi Genetics Trinity College Dublin €240,220.80	Noradrenergic System Candidate Genes in an Irish ADHD Population: Linkage Disequilibrium Mapping (LD) and Refined Neuropsychological Phenotypes
Dr Paul Cotter Microbiology University College Cork €118,415	Activity of the lantibiotic, lacticin 3147, against vancomycin resistant enterococci (VREs) and methicillin resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (MRSA)
Dr Susan Smith Department of Public Health and Primary Care Trinity College Dublin €234,660.20	Improving Outcomes in Type 2 Diabetes Across the Primary-Specialty Care Interface: A Brief Family Intervention
Dr Padraig Strappe Regenerative Medicine Institute National University of Ireland, Galway €221,065.20	Lentiviral Vector Delivery of siRNA and Neurotrophic Growth Factors for the Treatment of Injury to the CNS

Grant holder	Title
Dr Gianluca Pollastri Computer Science University College Dublin €156,600	New models for the prediction of Quantitative Structure-Property Relationships of chemical compounds
Professor Kay Ohlendieck Biology National University of Ireland, Maynooth €168,640	Role of the dystrophin-glycoprotein complex and associated regulatory elements in non-obese type 2 diabetic skeletal muscle
Dr Rosemary O'Connor Biochemistry University College Cork €127,993	Function of Mystique in epithelial cell migration and in cancer progression.
Dr Birgit Greiner Epidemiology and Public Health University College Cork €252,666	The Effects of the Smoking Ban in Ireland: Smoking Prevalence, Respiratory Health and Smoking Risk Perception.
Professor David Coleman Oral Surgery, Oral Medicine and Oral Pathology Dublin Dental School and Hospital €230,084.40	The role of cell wall di-tyrosine in <i>Candida albicans</i> : potential novel antifungal drug targets
Professor Hannah McGee Department of Psychology Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland €182,587.20	Alcohol and unsafe sex in young Irish adults: Understanding their complex interaction in a general population sample
Dr Angus Bell Microbiology Trinity College Dublin €228,914.40	Inhibition of the terminal stages of host haemoglobin degradation by malarial parasites: a new approach to antimalarial therapy?
Dr Walter Cullen Department of General Practice University College Dublin €119,377.20	Prevalence of problematic alcohol consumption among current or former heroin users attending general practice: a cross sectional survey
Dr Anne Parle-McDermott School of Biotechnology Trinity College Dublin €251,924.90	Folate Polymorphisms: gene expression, haplotypes and disease risk
Dr Anne MacFarlane Dept of General Practice National University of Ireland, Galway €169,343	Patients' perspectives of continuity of care in general practice out of hours co-operatives: A combined methods study
Professor Finbarr O'Sullivan Statistics University College Cork €235,829.36	Statistical Methods for Quantitative Dynamic PET Imaging Studies with Extension to MR and CT

Grant holder	Title
Dr Evelyn Murphy Biochemistry and Physiology University College Dublin €123,412	Elucidating the molecular mechanisms of methotrexate action
Dr Orina Belton Molecular Medicine University College Dublin €246,617.20	The anti-atherogenic activity of CLA isomers
Dr David Finn Department of Physiology National University of Ireland, Galway €236,679.20	Elucidating the role of the endocannabinoid system in fear-conditioned analgesia
Dr Ciaran Simms Mechanical Engineering Trinity College Dublin €201,154	Numerical and Experimental Analysis of Wheelchair and Occupant Crash Safety
Dr Jane Ann Irwin Veterinary Physiology and Biochemistry University College Dublin €120,760	The mucinase system in the lung - the key to mucus degradation?
Dr Yvonne Birney Vascular Health Research Centre Dublin City University €121,404	Notch-mediated Migration of Vascular Smooth Muscle Cells
Professor Cecily Kelleher Public Health Medicine and Epidemiology University College Dublin €241,944.50	Prospective follow-up of Lifeways Cross-Generation Cohort families
Dr Helen Whelton Oral Health and Development, Oral Health Services Research Centre University College Cork €251,185.20	Dental Erosion in Irish Teenagers: An Epidemiological and Laboratory Investigation
Dr Veronica Campbell Physiology Trinity College Dublin €148,574	Tissue engineering of cartilage and bone in a hypoxic environment
Dr Michael P. Carty Biochemistry National University of Ireland, Galway €232,892.80	The role of DNA polymerase eta and Fanconi anemia D2 protein in the cellular response to cisplatin and mitomycin C.
Dr David Henshall Physiology Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland €258,710	Role of Bcl-2-interacting mediator of cell death in seizure-induced brain injury and epileptogenesis

Grant holder	Title
Dr Mary McCaffrey Biochemistry University College Cork €235,574	A functional molecular and cellular analysis of Haemochromatosis
Programme Grants	
Professor Paul McLoughlin Human Anatomy and Physiology University College Dublin €951,438.40	Hypoxic lung disease
Professor Joe Duffy Nuclear Medicine University College Dublin €1,060,935.30	Breast Cancer Metastasis: Biomarkers and Functional Mediators
Professor William Powderly Medicine University College Dublin €1,009,609	Dublin City HIV Cohort
Partnership Awards	
Dr Sinead McGilloway Department of Psychology NUI Maynooth €60,000.00	Health promotion in palliative care: identifying and responding to attitudinal barriers to service use
Maeve Martin Community Care Psychology Department HSE South East €29,040.00	The epidemiology of psychiatric disorders in children and adolescents in Clonmel: An interview study following a preliminary Child Behaviour Checklist screening of a population of 3000 youngsters
Hilary Dunne Research Department Irish Society for Quality & Safety in Healthcare €60,000.00	Healthdata –Are there benefits to multidisciplinary collaboration for the development of an All-Island research information database on health initiatives
Margaret Leahy Clinical Speech and Language Studies Trinity College Dublin €59,905.00	Standardisation of the Diagnostic Evaluation of Articulation and Phonology (DEAP) on Irish children, aged 3;0- 6;11 years
Dr Padraig MacNeela Department of Psychology NUI Galway €60,000.00	Chronic low back pain: A judgement analysis of GPs' clinical judgements and decisions

Grant holder	Title
Dr Edel Conway Centre for Research in Management Learning & Development, Dublin City University Business School €29,450.00	The impact of change on the attitudes and behaviour of staff in the health service: a longitudinal study
Dr Susan O'Shea Department of Haematology Cork University Hospital	Randomised Controlled Trial of Supervised Patient Self-Management of Warfarin Therapy Using an Internet Based Expert System
Sarah Jane Dillon Research and Programmes RehabCare €60,000.00	Rare Disabilities on the Island of Ireland – Investigation into the Development of an all Island Support Service
Dr Pauline Faughnan Equality Studies Centre and Social Science Research Centre University College Dublin €60,000.00	Empowerment for Healthy Communities: An action research programme on tackling health inequalities in three communities through a community development approach
Health Services R&D Awards	
Dr Sean F Dinneen Diabetes and Endocrinology University College Hospital Galway €1,185,245.00	Implementing and evaluating a structured education programme and a new model of ongoing for Type 1 diabetes in Ireland
Dr Fidelma Dunne Department of Medicine/ Clinical Science Institute HSE - Western Region €1,243,428.00	Atlantic DIP: Atlantic Diabetes in Pregnancy Network. Prospective studies to examine the outcome of pregnancy in diabetic women
Prof John O'Leary Department of Pathology Coombe's Women's Hospital €1,250,000.00	Working towards a world class cervical screening system for Irish Women: The Irish Cervical Screening Research Consortium
Prof Carol Fitzpatrick Mater Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Mater Hospital €1,232,040.00	Adolescent Depression and Suicidal Behaviour - Making Knowledge Work for Health
Mary Fitzsimons Epilepsy Programme Beaumont Hospital €1,248,397.00	Revolutionising Chronic Disease Management with Information and Communication Technology : A socio-technical project applied to epilepsy care in Ireland

Grant holder	Title
Rare Diseases Research Awards	
Dr Paul Kenna Ocular Genetics Unit Trinity College Dublin €150,000.00	Exploration of exogenous microRNAs as a suppression tool and endogenous microRNAs in the context of retinal degenerations
Dr Maryanne Donovan Biosciences Institute University College Cork €150,000.00	Pro-apoptotic BH3-only protein BIM and the regulation of photoreceptor apoptosis in retinal degeneration
Dr Marion Rowland Children's Research Centre Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children €150,000.00	The Epidemiology of Cystic Fibrosis Associated Liver Disease

INFRASTRUCTURE

Equipment Grants

Professor John Scott Department of Biochemistry Trinity College Dublin €106,049	Application to the Health Research Board for a robotic system required for intra-mural research activities of the Health Research Board
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Imaging Facilities

Professor Fergal Malone Obstetrics and Gynaecology Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland €3,458,697	National Obstetric Ultrasound Research Consortium of Ireland (NOURCI)
Dr James FM Meaney Radiology St James's Hospital €3,999,655	Proposal for a National Centre for Advanced Medical Imaging

Grant holder	Title
Health Information Systems Grants to underpin R&D	
Dr William Gallagher School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science University College Dublin €158,849.00	Digital slide management system: application to biomarker discovery and validation
Ronan Hearne Adult Mental Health Service Cluain Mhuire Services €39,947.00	Mental health research system development
Julian Pugh Planning Commissioning and Change Directorate Health Services Executive €242,250.00	Integrated case management information system for drug users and related services
Professor Jane Grimson Department of Computer Science Trinity College Dublin €250,000.00	A biobank information management system for prostate cancer
Professor Ivan J Perry Department Epidemiology and Public Health Cork University Hospital €164,319.00	A multidisciplinary application to support data transfer and spatial analysis of intentional and unintentional injuries
Professor Henry Paul Redmond Department of Academic Surgery Cork University Hospital €111,500.00	A dynamic wound care database to facilitate interdisciplinary combined care, allow further education of health care professionals and to support evidence based practice in the community

Grant holder

Strengthening Clinical Trials

Dr Meave Leahy
Mid Western Regional Hospital
€360,000.00

Dr John Kennedy
St James's Hospital
€3,120,000.00

Dr Seamus O'Reilly
Cork University Hospital
€960,000.00

Dr Ray McDermot
AMNCH Tallaght Hospital
€960,000.00

Dr John McCaffrey
Mater Misericordiae
€960,000.00

Dr Paula Calvert
Waterford Regional Hospital
€576,000.00

Dr Liam Grogan
Beaumont Hospital
€576,000.00

Dr Macon Keane
University College Hospital Galway
€1,608,000.00

Dr John Crown
St Vincent's University Hospital
€936,000.00

Prof John Armstrong
St Lukes Hospital
€1,440,000.00

Grant holder	Title
CAREER DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES	
Clinician Scientist Awards	
Prof Mary Cannon Department of Psychiatry Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland €1,412,055.50	Adolescent brain development and risk for psychosis
Dr Joe Keane Clinical Medicine St James's Hospital €1,596,683.00	Dissecting out the pathways of successful macrophage responses to infection with M. tuberculosis
PhD Training Sites	
Professor Marina Lynch Department of Physiology Trinity College Dublin €1,000,189	From basic neuroscience to clinical applications: an integrated PhD programme
Dr Dermot Kelleher Department of Clinical Medicine Trinity College Dublin €1,074,608.60	Molecular Medicine - from genes to function
Post Doctoral Research Fellowships	
Dr Steven W Kerrigan Department of Clinical Pharmacology Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland €214,807.01	The influence of shear stress to investigate the interactions between Streptococcus sanguis and Staphylococcus aureus with perfused human blood platelets.
Dr Aedin Culhane Bioinformatics Section University College Dublin €207,247.01	Application of multivariate methods to the analysis of a compendium of gene expression profiles in Leukaemia
Dr Patrick Kiely Department of Biochemistry University College Cork €214,906.61	To determine the role of RACK1 and its IGF-1R regulated binding partners in IGF-1 mediated metastasis and motility
Dr Aileen Houston Medicine University College Cork €214,906.61	Elucidation of the molecular mechanisms underlying Fas ligand (FasL/CD95L) expression in human colon tumour cells
Dr Andrew Lindsay Department of Biochemistry University College Cork €214,847.01	Characterisation of the Role of the Human Myosin V Family in Cell Division and Disease

Grant holder	Title
Dr Brona Murphy Department of Physiology and Medical Physics Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland €214,907.01	Investigation of death receptor signalling in neuronal death & neuroplastic changes during epilepsy development
Dr Gerard Sergeant Regional Development Centre Dundalk Institute of Technology €214,652.01	Pacemaker Activity in Urethral Interstitial Cells
Dr Emer Bourke Department of Biochemistry National University of Ireland, Galway €214,907.01	Proteomic Definition of DNA Damage Response in Human Cells
Clinical Research Training Fellowships	
Dr Matthew Greenway Department of Clinical Neurosciences Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland €168,993.05	Hypoxia-induced Neurotrophic Factors in the Irish ALS Population
Dr Martina Ni Chongaile Department of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care National University of Ireland, Galway €183,612.60	Evaluation of the effects and mechanisms of action of Therapeutic Hypercapnic Acidosis in Severe Pulmonary Sepsis
Dr Tom Cawood Department of Endocrinology University College Dublin €182,719.19	Potential Therapeutic Targets in Thyroid Associated Ophthalmopathy
Dr Eoghan O'Neill Department of Industrial Microbiology University College Dublin €183,612.60	Genetic analysis of the biofilm phenotype in clinical isolates of methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>
Dr Marina O Kane Department of Biochemistry and Physiology University College Dublin €180,212.60	Corticotrophin-Releasing Hormone mediated responses in Psoriasis
Dr Catherine McVeigh Department of Geriatric Medicine Belfast City Hospital €171,790.18	Is inflammation involved in the development of cognitive impairment or depression after stroke
Dr Tora Leong Department of Cardiology Trinity College Dublin €110,861.60	The Role of Novel Risk Markers in Predicting Atherosclerosis in Patients with Chronic Stable Angina

Grant holder	Title
Dr John McDermott Department of Endocrinology and Diabetes Mellitus National University of Ireland, Galway €183,612.60	Circulating endothelial progenitor cell number and function in progressive diabetic renal disease: declining in tandem with increasing cardiovascular risk?
Mr Michael Rosato Epidemiology and Public Health Queens University Belfast €205,307.01	Towards a better understanding of self-reported health: a series of studies using the ONS-LS
Ms Emma White Department of Mathematics National University of Ireland, Maynooth €130,531.46	Modelling the Drug Using Career with a View to Informing and Assisting Health Services and Policy
Dr Lisa Kelly Departments of Neurology and Medicine for the Elderly University College Dublin €132,126.46	Dementia Following Stroke: A sub-study of The North Dublin Population Stroke Study
Dr Karen Ryan Palliative Medicine St Francis Hospice, Raheny €128,923.21	Towards a Patient-centred and Carer-oriented Service: Identification of the Palliative Care Needs of Adults with Intellectual Disability, Development and Delivery of a Local Quality Improvement Programme

Clinical Research Fellowships in Nursing and Midwifery

Ms Patricia Larkin School of Nursing and Midwifery Trinity College Dublin €204,507.01	Women's expectations of and preferences for childbirth
Ms Kate Frazer School of Public Health and Population Science University College Dublin €205,157.11	An evaluation of the knowledge and attitudes of primary care nurses towards Hepatitis C Virus infection
Ms Aoife Moran School of Nursing Dublin City University €135,026.46	The experience of the person with end stage renal disease on haemodialysis therapy
Ms Patricia Leahy Warren The Catherine McAuley School of Nursing and Midwifery University College Cork €205,307.01	First Time Mothers: The Relationship Between Support, Infant Care Self-Efficacy and Satisfaction with Parenting

Grant holder	Title
Cochrane Fellowships	
Mr Brendan Dineen Department of General Practice National University of Ireland, Galway €33,184.00	Laser treatment for diabetic retinopathy
Dr Clodagh Cashman CIE Occupational Health Unit CIE €79,346.00	Alcohol and drug screening of people whose work involves driving to prevent injury
Ms Genevieve Becker National University of Ireland, Galway €67,711.00	Methods of milk expression in lactating women
Ms Josephine Hegarty Faculty of Medicine and Health University College Cork €93,774.00	Watchful waiting versus prostatectomy for prostate cancer
Professor Malcolm MacLachlan School of Psychology Trinity College Dublin €62,456.00	Psychosocial Interventions for Physical Disability arising from Injury
Dr Patrick Manning Department of Respiratory Medicine St James's Hospital Hospital €121,256.00	Ciclesonide for chronic asthma in adults and children

NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer

Anthony O'Grady Department of Pathology Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Molecular Prevention
Shelagh Wright School of Nursing Dublin City University	Molecular Prevention
Antoinette Perry Department of Haematology Trinity College Dublin	Molecular Prevention
Nicola Miller Department of Surgery St James's Hospital	Molecular Prevention

Grant holder	Title
Juliette Sheridan Centre for Colorectal Disease St Vincent's University Hospital	Molecular Prevention
Alan Coss Centre for Colorectal Disease St Vincent's University Hospital	Molecular Prevention
Niamh O'Rourke Primary, Community and Continuing Care Health Services Executive - East Coast Area	Molecular Prevention
Fiona Quinn Cancer Molecular Diagnostics St James's Hospital	Molecular Prevention
Mary-Clare Cathcart Department of Oncology Trinity College Dublin	Molecular Prevention
Barbara McNamara Department of Biochemistry St James's Hospital	Molecular Prevention
Paul Kavanagh Public Health Department Health Services Executive - Southern Area	Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control
Marie Lavin Department of Oncology Mater Misericordiae University Hospital	Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control
Suzanne Rowley Department of Surgery St James's Hospital	Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control
Aine McNamara Public Health & Planning Health Services Executive - Midlands Area	Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control
Ursula Bond Department of Microbiology Trinity College Dublin	Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control and Molecular Prevention
Emer O'Connell Public Health and Epidemiology University College Dublin	Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control and Molecular Prevention
Lisa O'Connor Department of Haematology/ Oncology St James's Hospital	Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control and Molecular Prevention

Grant holder	Title
Joint Research Fellowships in Cancer	
Dr Zubair Kabir Pharmacology and Therapeutics Department St James's Hospital Hospital €158,545.00	Tobacco control policies, lung cancer and smoking patterns: Ireland and Massachusetts
Edward Fox Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research University College Dublin €131,131.00	Frequency of random mutations and genomic instability events during colorectal cancer progression
Summer Students	
Mr Edmond Ang Medicine University College Dublin €1,400	Regulation of gene expression in a clonal pancreatic beta-cell line
Mr Ciaran Skerry Department of Chemistry National University of Ireland, Maynooth €1,600	Synthesis and Anti-Microbial Screening of New Metal-Based Drugs
Ms Siobhan Ryan Chemical and Life Science Dept South Eastern Health Board €1,600	Retinal Visual Acuity in Patients with Age-Related Maculopathy
Ms Karen McDermott Science Adelaide and Meath Hospital (incorporating NCH) €1,200	Malnutrition in Inflammatory Bowel Disease: identifying patients at risk
Mr Brendan Lawless Medicine St Vincent's University Hospital €1,600	Validation of Functional Transcranial Doppler Imaging Across Motor and Verbal-Production Tasks
Ms Carol Keigher Medicine University College Hospital, Galway €1,600	Treating to target in type 2 diabetes
Mr Alif Adlan Mohd Thabit Medicine Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland €1,600	Inflammatory cells in COPD and Alpha-1 Antitrypsin deficiency

Grant holder	Title
Ms Allison Bradley Electronic & Electrical engineering St Vincent's University Hospital €1,600	The influence of motor unit firing rates on peri-stimulus time histograms: a quantitative study
Ms Irene Walsh Biochemistry University Dental School, Cork €1,600	Diet, oral hygiene, salivary parameters and dental erosion amoong dental students
Mr Harivinthan Sellappan Faculty of Medicine University College Dublin €1,600	The effect of partial D2 receptor agonists on globus pallidus GABA, glutamate and aspartate release in a rodent model of Parkinson's disease
Ms Puspha Raman Medicine University College Dublin €1,600	Exploring the differences between in situ and invasive breast cancer
Ms Maureen Clarke Medicine Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland €1,200	Removing patients from a GPs list: Patient and Doctor perspectives
Ms Ciara O'Riordan General Practice National University of Ireland, Galway €1,600	General Practice Utilisation Patterns in 1124 Mothers and Babies over the first three years of follow-up in Lifeways Cross-Generation Cohort Study.
Ms Sinead McKenna Respiratory St Vincent's University Hospital €1,600	Cystic Fibrosis
Ms Ciara O'Hagan Department of Human Anatomy and Physiology University College Dublin €1,600	Influence of gender and inspiratory muscle training on perception of dyspnea on normal healthy subjects
Ms Dervla Connaughton Student Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland €1,600	The role of angiogenin in motoneuron degeneration
Mr Tonye Wilcox Medicine Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland €1,600	Identification of novel interactions between <i>S. gordonii</i> and human blood platelets.

Grant holder	Title
Mr Robert Scully General Practice National University of Ireland, Galway €1,600	What determines patients' satisfaction with out of hours primary medical care?
Ms Anita Maria Sheahan Biology Department Trinity College Dublin €1,600	Mechanism of action of alum as a vaccine adjuvant
Ms Hebah Nashat Medicine National University of Ireland, Galway €1,600	Identification of factors responsible for influencing mesenchymal stem cell migration towards prostate cancer cells
Mr Mark Hehir Obstetrics and gynaecology University College Hospital, Galway €1,600	The feto-placental unit in association with obesity in pregnancy
Ms Sinead Kelly Biology National University of Ireland, Maynooth €1,600	The role of genetic polymorphism in natural killer cell receptors and alcohol consumption in susceptibility to psoriasis
Ms Gillian Murphy Department of General Practice National University of Ireland, Galway €1,600	A cross sectional study to describe the clinical impact of Ambulatory Blood Pressure Monitoring in routine general practice.
Mr Khaled Almansoori Medicine Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland €1,600	The ability of BMP-7 to promote osteogenesis on collagen-glycosaminoglycan scaffolds
Ms Lisa McAnena Department of Surgery National University of Ireland, Galway €1,600	Evaluation of the expression and prognostic significance of HER1-4 in breast cancer
Ms Doireann O'Flaherty Surgery National University of Ireland, Galway €1,600	Characterisation of Cell Sub-Populations in Primary Breast Cell Culture
Ms Clare O'Sullivan Medicine St Vincent's University Hospital €1,600	EEG correlates of positive and negative future thinking

Grant holder	Title
Ms Sarah Kandil Neuroscience Trinity College Dublin €1,600	Are interferon gamma-primed microglia more responsive to amyloid-beta?
Mr David Costello Department of Physics Dublin Institute of Technology €1,600	Development of a novel method for differentiating breast lesion in diagnostic ultrasound images
Mr Stephen Penney Biotechnology University College Dublin €1,600	Effect of Plasma Treatment on Cellular Response
Ms Elyssa Majawit NA University College Dublin €1,600	The relationship between lifestyle and socio-demographic profile at recruitment and first outcome follow-up through general practice in 2000 adult participants in the Lifeways Cross-generation Cohort Study
Ms Mei Ann Choong Paediatrics, NUI, Galway National University of Ireland, Galway €1,600	Determinants of Metabolic Control in Young People with Type 1 Diabetes: Audit of Clinical Attendees
Mr James O'Dwyer Physiotherapy St James's Hospital €1,600	Validation of the RT3 activity sensor in patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
Ms Sheila Sullivan Pathology Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland €1,600	Determination of cyclooxygenase-2 (cox-2) expression in bladder cancer samples from smokers and non-smokers.
Mr Henrik Wahlberg Pathology Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland 1,600	Assessment of telomerase expression levels in squamous cell carcinoma from both renal transplant and non-transplant patients
Mr Hugh Ramsay Medicine Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland €1,600	Antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties of nicotine
Ms Annie Ngu Medicine University College Dublin €1,600	Prevalence of Epilepsy

Grant holder	Title
Mr Dónal Tighe Student Mater Misericordiae Hospital €1,600	The role of net1 and myeov in colorectal cancer cell proliferation and invasion.
Ms Romaine King Gastroenterology St Vincent's University Hospital €1,200	Bile acids and oesophageal metaplasia
Ms Cliodhna Ni Choisdealbha Physiotherapy East Coast Area Health Board €1,600	The relationship between physical fitness, physical functioning and psychological status in patients one year post non-acute ischaemic stroke.
Ms Roisin Colleran Medicine National University of Ireland, Galway €1,600	Viral vector delivery of oligodendrocyte differentiation factors to adult mesenchymal stem cells
Ms Audrey Melvin Medicine University College Dublin €1,600	Analysis of the imprinted insulin like growth factor 2 (IGF2), and alpha-T-catenin genes in transitional cell carcinoma of the bladder (TCCB)
Mr Michael Blake School of Pharmacy University College Cork €1,600	Investigation into pain control achieved by drug delivery to peripheral opioid receptors
Ms Jennifer Rouine Physiology Trinity College Dublin €1,200	Analysis of exercise-induced neurogenesis in the rat brain
Mr John Byrne Student National University of Ireland, Galway €1,600	Transcription complex formation in pleuripotential mesenchymal
Ms Norah Jordan Department of Psychology Beaumont Hospital €1,600	Factors influencing referral pathways from acute neurosurgical services- A systematic audit
Ms Lakshmi Penugonda Clinical Pharmacology Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland €1,600	Characterization of a novel prognostic assay for platelet activation in human blood

