HEALTH RESEARCH BOARD Annual Report 2013

Improving people's health through research and information







Improving people's health through research and information

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HRB 2013 AT A GLANCE

Our work and a selection of outputs from our funded research portfolio











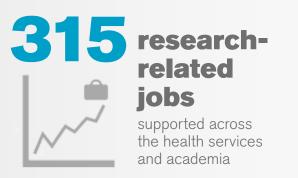


new international collaborations:

38 are with companies and 144 with academic institutions







150,000

visits to HRBs National Documentation Centre on drug use website drugsandalcohol.ie





from HRB-funded researchers







Dr Declan Bedford. Chairman, HRB

Chairman's statement

The Health Research Board made great progress during 2013. Throughout this report you will see how we have created the capacity, infrastructure and opportunity to underpin significant research discoveries and generate new evidence for policy and practice. You will also find out how our

activities led to better health outcomes, new approaches to care, and better conditions for the delivery of healthcare for Irish people into the future.

"Key breakthroughs included the discovery of new polymers that assist tissue healing and compelling evidence that excess salt contributes to one in four heart attacks and strokes..."

Three years ago the organisation started on a journey that saw every aspect of its work reviewed. Significant changes followed as we embarked on a five-year business plan designed to deliver better research, better evidence, better health and better care. Central to this was adapting or evolving our research grant schemes, advancing our health information systems and establishing a strong evidence unit to inform health policy and practice. 2013 was another year when notable advances were made on this journey.

At a glance some highlights include:

- **investing €39 million** for research programmes, capacity building and infrastructure
- opening the HRB-Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility at St James's Hospital
- launching the first Research Leader Awards, which aim to fill leadership gaps in strategic areas of population health and/or health services research
- enabling 1,600 new patients to participate in cancer clinical trials through continued funding for the All-Ireland Co-operative Oncology Research Group (ICORG)
- initiating a new collaboration with the Health Service Executive (HSE) and the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) to advance research on quality and patient safety emerging from the Irish health service and the HSE's National Clinical Programmes

building on our successful HRB
scholars programme in health
services research, we launched a new
programme and network, SPHeRE
(Structured Population and Healthservices Research Education), to
expand the scholars programme and
build capacity in population health and
health services research

•

- commissioning, designing and managing the first ever national alcohol diary survey in Ireland
- celebrating 10 years of the HRB's National Documentation Centre on Drug Use, which registered 150,000 website hits in 2013
- making data from our health
 information systems available
 online through the CSO website
- processing over 100,000 database
 records to assess service use and
 service requirements in areas of
 disability, drug use and mental health.

At a national level the organisation had a significant role in:

- 1. Healthy Ireland initiative: HRB reports and analysis were central to the development of *Healthy Ireland*. Our strategic business plan complements many of the aims outlined, and we will have an active role in underpinning the research aspects of this national initiative.
- 2. **Public Health Alcohol Bill:** The Evidence Unit designed and co-ordinated Ireland's first national alcohol diary survey. The survey results will be reported in 2014 and will be central to the development of the upcoming Public Health Alcohol Bill.
- 3. Universal health insurance: Provision of evidence reviews to inform Department of Health working group discussions on universal health insurance.

- 4. Provision of national statistics on service provision and demand in areas of disability, mental health and alcohol and drug use.
- 5. **Irish Presidency of the EU:** The HRB hosted the European Month of the Brain conference on behalf of the Department of Health and in collaboration with the European Commission. The conference attracted some of the top research minds and health policy makers to Ireland and resulted in 10 pan-European policy principles to progress research in the area of brain disorders.

Our funded research community also made significant discoveries that generated headlines.

Key breakthroughs included;

- compelling evidence that excess salt contributes to one in four heart attacks and strokes
- discovery of new polymers that assist tissue healing
- new statistics that put the spotlight on young people with mental ill-health, and
- identification of new slow-onset heart attack symptoms.

HRB awards completed during the year led to:

- 41 new products and interventions in development (ten patents, two spinouts and 29 healthcare innovations)
- 85 influences on policy and practice
- 54 new laboratory methods, including biological samples, data analysis, animal models and research software
- 182 new international collaborations of which 38 are with companies and 144 with academic institutions
- €12.6 million in funding leveraged, half from non-exchequer sources
- 315 research-related jobs supported across the health services and academia

Major changes were also underway internally. The HRB began the search for a new building to bring all staff together in one location. We continued the upgrade of our online grant application system, to streamline the grant management process.

In mid-2013, the HRB Chief Executive, Enda Connolly, announced his decision to retire. Enda, who took up the position 2008, was the driving force behind the *HRB Strategic Business Plan 2010-2014*. His commitment and focus during his tenure have made a genuine contribution to the long-term development of health research in Ireland. On behalf of the Board and staff, we want to thank him and wish him well. Dr Graham Love was recruited to the CEO role at the end of 2013. With a background in Life Sciences, and broad experience spanning management consulting at Accenture and a variety of roles at Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), he is well positioned to lead the HRB through the next phase of its strategic development.

Our achievements this year are a credit to the experience and expertise of our staff, who have shown genuine flexibility, hard work and commitment over the past year to deliver great results. The Board have provided leadership throughout the year and we would like to thank them for their insight and guidance.

Looking forward, we believe 2014 will be an exciting and challenging year as we start the process of developing a new strategy, move offices, reinvigorate the health research community, expand our research portfolio and generate new evidence that informs health policy and practice.

Dr Declan Bedford, Chairman



Research meets front line services. Speaking at the first workshop of the Research Collaborative for Quality and Patient Safety between the HRB, HSE and Royal College of Physicians in Ireland were (left to right) Prof Mary Dixon-Woods, University of Leicester; Dr Philip Crowley, National Director Quality and Patient Safety Directorate (HSE); Dr Teresa Maguire, Head of Population Health and Health Services Research, HRB; Dr Aine Carroll, National Director of Clinical Strategy and Programmes, (HSE); Prof Richard Costello, Director of Research, (RCPI)



Mairead O'Driscoll, Director, Research Strategy and Funding

"Discoveries emerging on foot of HRB funding made significant waves in Ireland and internationally. HRBfunded researchers are making substantial contributions to improving our health as individuals..."

Research Strategy and Funding

During 2013, the HRB reviewed 339 grant applications and invested €39 million in 130 new research awards with a success rate, depending on the funding scheme, of between 17% and 20%. A full list of successful awardees is shown in Appendix B. In line with the goals set out in the strategic business plan, we have increased our funding for population health and health services research to 35% in the 2010-2013 period, up from 24% in the proceeding five years.

New schemes introduced

- Implementing a new scheme to support **definitive interventions** such as randomised clinical trials and/or other intervention studies. These studies provide high-quality evidence on the efficacy, effectiveness, cost and broad impact of the intervention to patients, population health and/or the healthcare system.
- Developing a new initiative to **support clinical trial** networks. This will bring about a step change in research activity aimed at improving health in thematic areas. We also issued a call for Clinical Trial Networks during 2013.
- Awarding second phase funding to the PhD Scholars Programme in Health Services Research, and expanding it to deliver a further 50 PhD graduates trained in population health and health services research between 2013 and 2021. This is now called the SPHeRE programme (**S**tructured **P**opulation and **He**alth services **R**esearch Education).



Former US Congressman Patrick Kennedy and co-founder of the 'One Mind' organisation addressing delegates at the 'Healthy Brain Healthy Europe' conference, which was organised by the HRB with the European Commission, as part of the Irish EU Presidency.

- Signing a four-year collaborative agreement with the Health Service Executive (HSE), and the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland (RCPI) to **support prioritised, peer-***reviewed research projects in quality and patient safety* emerging through the HSE's clinical care programmes.
- Announcing the first six Research Leaders Awards (RLAs).
- Supporting researchers from Ireland to engage in EU Joint Programmes Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND), A Healthy Diet for Healthy Life (HDHL) and a European trans-disciplinary network entitled Determinants of Diet and Physical Activity (DEDIPAC).
- Developing a new cancer nursing research project development grant.

Key investments

- Making 40 new Health Research Awards in patient-oriented research, population health and health services research and providing fellowships to 14 healthcare professionals to conduct part-time or full-time PhDs linked to practice.
- Investing a further €4.3million in the All-Ireland Cooperative Oncology Research Group (ICORG), which supported the enrolment of 1,600 new patients in ICORG clinical studies in 2013.
- Renewing funding (€0.43million) for the National Centre for Advanced Medical Imaging, St James's Hospital Dublin, the only 3Tesla MRI scanner in Ireland for clinical research.
- Reviewing the joint HRB-Medical Research Charity Group (MRCG) awards and awarding €0.92 million funding to nine new projects under this scheme.

Research infrastructure

- Opening the Wellcome Trust-HRB Clinical Research Facility at St James's Hospital, Dublin.
- Expanding operations at the HRB Clinical Research Facility, Cork to a portfolio of over 50 studies.

Exciting discoveries

Discoveries emerging on foot of HRB funding made significant waves in Ireland and internationally. HRB-funded researchers are making substantial contributions to improving our health as individuals, the health of the nation collectively, and at the same time raising Ireland's profile as a top-class country in which to do research. For example:

- a new range of slow-onset heart attack symptoms identified
- too much salt, saturated fats and trans fats implicated in one quarter of all heart attacks and stroke deaths
- a major breakthrough in compounds that assist tissue healing
- belly fat implicated in cancer risk
- adhering to hormone treatments improves breast cancer survival rates
- improved detection in the womb of small at-risk babies.



Policy links, evaluation and external relations:

- Completing the EU FP7 programme with a total of just over €80 million drawn down in funding for Irish health research, including funding for 29 Irish coordinators and 129 Irish partners.
- Working with key policy stakeholders in areas such as the National Research Prioritisation Action Group (PAG) and the Steering Group for an Irish Rare Diseases Plan.
- Analysing a portfolio of HRB funded-research from 2000-2009 for outputs, outcomes and impacts, in parallel with a commissioned bibliometric study for HRB-supported publications from 2000-2012, and publishing the findings.
- Co-chairing a National Open Access Committee with SFI, which successfully broadened coverage of national open access (OA) infrastructure beyond Higher Education Institutions, enabling the HRB to revert to mandatory OA policy.
- Chairing the Science Europe Working Group on Research Integrity.
- Participating in working groups on open access to publications and open data access.

European Union research funding – Horizon 2020 and Framework Programme 7 (FP7)

2013 saw the FP7 programme draw to a close. During FP7, Irish researchers were awarded €80 million, representing 1.78% of the total funding available for health. This exceeded the initial ambitious target of 1.25% which was set for health. During 2013, which was the last year of FP7, Irish researchers, with the assistance of the HRB's National Contact Point and Delegate for Health, secured €14.8 million in funding in 29 successful applications. Irish health researchers also enjoyed above average success rates, with 50% of project applications being successful, compared to an overall EU average success rate of just 35%.

Horizon 2020 was launched in December 2013 and will have a total budget for research and innovation funding of €80 billion, with €7 billion set aside for health research over the next seven years.

Wellcome Trust-HRB Clinical Research Facility at St James's Hospital, Dublin



Taoiseach Enda Kenny officially opened the Wellcome Trust-HRB Clinical Research Facility (CRF) at St James's Hospital on 30 May 2013. This is the third HRB-funded CRF in Ireland. CRFs give patients access to new and innovative technologies, allow them to participate in the latest clinical trials, and help increase the speed at which new innovations are absorbed into practice. They give researchers the dedicated space, equipment and management structures to conduct and participate in national and international clinical trials. They provide a link for the health system, academia and industry to work to develop better healthcare and health policies.

Research Collaborative for Quality and Patient Safety



Pictured from left: Enda Connolly, Chief Executive (retired), HRB; Philip Crowley, Director of Quality and Patient Safety, HSE and Leo Kearns, Chief Executive Officer, Royal College of Physicians in Ireland.

The HRB, Health Service Executive, and the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland, signed a four-year agreement to set up the Research Collaborative for Quality and Patient Safety. The collaboration aims to generate new research evidence in response to specific quality and patient safety issues that emerge from the Irish health service. According to Dr Philip Crowley (pictured centre), Director of Quality and Patient Safety, HSE, 'Very little money is invested internationally on quality and patient safety research, and the Health Research Board should be commended for the foresight and initiative to seed fund and establish this important collaborative.'

Health Information and Evidence



Dr Hamish Sinclair, Director, Health Information and Evidence

The HRB manages five national health information systems (NHIS) in the areas of alcohol and drugs, disability and mental health. We also have an Evidence Unit conducting specific evidence reviews for policy, and Ireland's national library on drug and alcohol use.

During 2013, over 100,000 complex data records were collected, verified and processed by the five HRB information systems. After data quality assurance and detailed statistical analysis, 11 reports were published and disseminated based on this data. The reports from our five national health information systems provide timely and accurate figures to inform service planning and assist in evidencebased decision-making.

We generated seven evidence reviews in diverse areas, ranging from the professional regulation of dental practitioners to how best to implement changes to health service provision under a universal health insurance scheme. We welcomed more than 150,000 users to our drug and alcohol library website. We shared the latest news on the Irish alcohol and drug situation with more than 2,000 subscribers to our quarterly *Drugnet Ireland* newsletter and circulated our NHIS reports more than 1,000 stakeholders.

Re-use of HRB data

- Figures from our Drug Treatment Reporting System and Drug-Related Deaths Index provide some of the most comprehensive statistics on drug treatment and drug-related deaths of any country in Europe. These data are used to inform service planning and to fulfil part of Ireland's reporting obligations to the European Union. We are the national focal point for the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), and provide reports and analysis on the illict drugs situation in Ireland and the responses to it. The EMCDDA team in the HRB gather data through an extensive network of information providers in the health services, the criminal justice areas, laboratories, government departments and the community and voluntary sectors. We use our quarterly research and policy bulletin, *Drugnet Ireland*, for wider dissemination of the information we gather through our EMCDDA work. This reuse of information for local purposes is part of our remit from the EMCDDA to use data to encourage best practice in service provision and policy in the drugs area.
- The Disability Databases team were invited by Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) to present to its inspection staff in advance of their introduction of inspections

of residential care settings for people with a disability. The reporting capabilities of our databases were viewed by HIQA to be of enormous value in its work in identifying residential services and in profiling the individuals in those services.

• We continued to evolve our databases, to add more sophisticated analysis of statistics in complex environments. For example, having an ethnic identifier in our drug treatment reporting system enabled the first detailed analysis of the drug treatment needs of Travellers to be identified. We worked closely with Pavee Point at all stages in this process, so that the findings could be used sensitively to inform both health services accessed by Travellers and relevant Traveller support organisations. On a wider level, the ethnic identifier will enable better analysis of population sub-groups accessing our drug and alcohol treatment services.

Online data

The HRB is in the process of publishing anonymised data from our information systems in interactive online tables. Information from our drug treatment database is already available on the National Documentation Centre on Drug Use website

www.drugsandalcohol.ie. Interactive tables allow researchers and service planners to make in-depth, customised queries that are specific to their particular information needs. During 2013, the HRB undertook preparatory work to publish online information from our National Psychiatric In-Patient Reporting System, which records admissions and discharges from psychiatric hospitals and units. This data will be made available through the Central Statistics Office (CSO) website at www.cso.ie/en/databases.

Evidence for policy

The work of the Evidence Unit really started to gather pace this year. The Unit was established as a priority from the HRB strategic business plan. Much of the work carried out by the Evidence Unit in 2013 will make a significant contribution to national health policies. Key activities included:

- Designing and collecting data for a national alcohol diary survey which will form a key input to the upcoming Public Health Alcohol Bill. The findings from this survey will be published in 2014.
- Conducting two evidence reviews on health services integration to facilitate the proposed introduction of universal health insurance and one on the roles of economic regulation in health services in other countries.
- Collating the evidence-based criteria for prioritising topics for clinical audit and quality assurance for the Department of Health in order to facilitate the workings of the National Clinical Effectiveness Committee.
- Undertaking a review of evidence on the regulation of dentists and auxiliary dental professions.
- Participating in Department of Health working groups on minimum unit price per gram of alcohol, and to review the evidence base for universal health insurance.

50 years of psychiatric in-patient census data

On 31 March 2013 the HRB carried out its eighth census of patients in psychiatric in-patient care. It is 50 years since the first census was carried out in 1963 on the initiative of the 1961 Commission of Inquiry on Mental Illness. The Commission had been concerned that no reliable data existed on the users of Irish psychiatric in-patient services. Since then, the HRB (and its forerunner the Medico-Social Research Board) has been involved in the production of statistical data annually from its National Psychiatric Inpatient Reporting System (NPIRS) and through periodic census reports. Data about residents in 65 units and hospitals, including child and adolescent units, are included in the census. Preliminary findings, produced in December 2013, show that in line with national health policies, the numbers in in-patient care have reduced from 19,801 in 1963 to 2,401 in 2013.

The National Documentation Centre on drug use celebrates 10 years



Brian Galvin, Senior Information Specialist, HRB speaking at 'Putting knowledge to work through education: substance use workforce development in Ireland'.

The National Documentation Centre '...is a significant information resource for researchers, policy makers, and people working in the area of drug or alcohol use and addiction, or related fields.' (National Drugs Strategy (interim) 2009-2016: 70. 2009.) The drug and alcohol library provides electronic access to Irish and international research literature in the areas of drug and alcohol use and misuse, policy, treatment, prevention, rehabilitation, crime and other drug and alcohol-related topics. There were over 150,000 hits to its website www.drugsandalcohol.ie during 2013. The library marked its 10th anniversary this year with a major conference titled 'Putting knowledge to work through education: substance use workforce development in Ireland'. It also commissioned the first of two reports in a special series of drug and alcohol evidence reviews. Along with its electronic collections, the library maintains special collections of printed international literature which can be accessed by the public via the library in the HRB offices.

Corporate Operations



Kevin Roantree, Director, Corporate Operations

Corporate Operations supports the efficient delivery of the HRB's primary goals. It encompasses Finance, ICT, Human Resources and Organisational Development, Communications and Corporate Governance. Its activities are designed to uphold best management practices, deliver value for money, and ensure excellent corporate governance. The Directorate also plays a key role in the dissemination of research findings.

Key activities carried out during 2013 included:

- Completing a workforce and services review to ensure continued delivery of strategic priorities in the context of national fiscal and recruitment constraints.
- Working with key staff, sought and secured approval from both the Department of Health and the Department of Finance for the redevelopment and the migration of the HRB's five national health information systems to a common platform. This will improve operational stability and enhance future services and capabilities.
- Continuing the development and implementation of the new Grant Electronic Management System (GEMS) a secure, user-friendly, web-based grant management application system that enables management of the full grant lifecycle process from application to expiration.
- Supporting Department of Health activities under the Irish Presidency of the EU; organising, managing and delivering the European Month of the Brain conference; and co-ordinating a health research showcase during E-health week.
- Securing media coverage to the advertising equivalent value of more than half a million euro. This coverage demonstrated the impacts of HRB-funded research, as well as findings from our national health information systems and the evidence unit.

Corporate Governance

The HRB board comprises 10 members appointed by the Minister for Health and Children as set out in Article 5 of the Health Research Board (Establishment) Order 1986 (S.I. No 279 of 1986) as amended. The quorum for meetings of the Board is five.

The members of the Board during 2013 were:



Dr Declan Bedford



Professor Conor Burke



Mr John McCormack



Dr Tom O'Callaghan



Dr Colin Doherty



Professor Prem Puri



Professor Joe Duffy



Dr Marion Rowland

There were two vacancies on the Board throughout 2013.

HRB Board and Board Committees

The Board has established two Committees to assist it in carrying out its functions:

Audit Committee:

Assists and supports the Board to monitor financial reporting, review the effectiveness of internal controls, control the internal audit function, and communicate with external auditors. The Committee met four times during 2013.

Members:

- Dr Eamonn Cahill (Chair) (External)
- Dr Declan Bedford
- Professor Conor Burke
- Professor Joe Duffy
- Dr Tom O'Callaghan
- Dr Marion Rowland

Management Development and Remuneration Committee

The Committee oversees the procedure for the selection of the Chief Executive, reviews the remuneration of the Chief Executive within the guidelines set from time to time by the government, and acts as a consultative group to the Chief Executive, to review the performance and development of the senior management team.

The Committee met twice during 2013.

The members of this Committee are:

- Dr Declan Bedford (Chair)
- Dr Colin Doherty
- Mr John McCormack
- Professor Prem Puri

Attendance at meetings during 2013

(Note: figures in brackets indicate the number of meetings that took place during the Board/Committee member's period in office)

	Board meetings	Audit Committee meetings	Management Development and Remuneration Committee meetings
Dr D Bedford (Chair)	7 (7)	4 (4)	2 (2)
Professor C Burke	2 (7)	0 (4)	-
Dr C Doherty	4 (7)	-	1 (2)
Professor J Duffy	7 (7)	3 (4)	-
Mr J McCormack	6 (7)	_	2 (2)
Dr T O'Callaghan	5 (7)	3 (4)	-
Professor P Puri	5 (7)	_	2 (2)
Dr M Rowland	7 (7)	4 (4)	-
External			
Dr E Cahill #	_	4 (4)	-

Legislation

The Health Research Board is an autonomous statutory agency set up under the Health Research Board (Establishment) Order 1986 (S.I. No. 279 of 1986) as amended (the "Acts"). The functions of the Health Research Board are set out as follows:

- to promote, assist, commission or conduct health research to improve health and increase the effectiveness of the health services
- to maintain, develop or support health information systems for the purposes of research and to provide the evidence for health policy and services
- to liaise and co-operate with other research bodies in the State and outside the State in the promotion, commissioning or conduct of relevant research
- to liaise with other health information bodies in the State and, where appropriate, outside the State in the development and support of health information systems.

In discharging its functions, the Health Research Board is required to have regard to such general research and objectives as the Minister for Health may, from time to time determine and convey to the Board.

In discharge of its functions in relation to health research and information systems, the Board shall have regard to excellence and relevance to health and best international practice. In addition to its own governing legislation, the Health Research Board is also required to comply with a range of other statutory (national and EU) and administrative requirements. In particular, but not limited to, it has put in place procedures to ensure compliance with the following specific requirements:

Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies

The Health Research Board fully complies with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. It reports to the Department of Health annually, and it has its own Governance Manual in place. The Health Research Board is compliant with the guidelines on risk management included in the Code. Risks are brought to the Audit Committee and to the Board, where appropriate, at regular intervals and are discussed at Executive Team meetings.

Disclosure of interests

In accordance with Article 13 of the Acts, members of the Board, members of committees and award selection/evaluation panels, as well as Health Research Board staff are required to disclose pecuniary or other beneficial interests in, or material to, any matter that falls to be considered by the Health Research Board, and to exclude themselves from the decision-making process.

In accordance with the provisions of the Ethics in Public Office Act, 1995 and the Standards in Public Office Act 2001, all Health Research Board members and staff holding designated positions have provided statements of interest, and the Health Research Board maintains a Register of Board and Committee Members' Interests.

Freedom of Information Acts, 1997 and 2003

The Health Research Board is a prescribed body under the Freedom of Information Acts. These Acts provide a legal right to individuals to obtain access to information held by public bodies, to the greatest possible extent, consistent with the public interest and the right to privacy. However, the Acts provide strong protections for individuals or research teams who supply information to the Health Research Board that is confidential, commercially sensitive or personal. Requests for information under this legislation should be addressed to the Freedom of Information Officer, Health Research Board, 67-72 Grattan House, Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2.

Data Protection Acts, 1988 and 2003

The Health Research Board is committed to a policy of protecting the rights and privacy of individuals in accordance with data protection legislation.

Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations, 2005

The Health Research Board complies with the regulations on the Re-use of Public Sector Information (European Communities (Re-use of Public Sector Information) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 279 of 2005)) and encourages the re-use of the information that it produces.

The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 as amended

The Health Research Board continues to take appropriate measures to protect the safety, health and welfare of all employees and visitors within its offices in order to meet the provisions of this Act, and it has taken steps to communicate both the rights and obligations of employers and employees under the Act.

Disability Act, 2005

The Health Research Board is required to comply with the Disability Act, 2005. The Act places obligations on public sector employers to meet the target of ensuring that at least 3% of its workforce comprises people with disabilities, and that they report on an annual basis in relation to the numbers of people with disabilities in their employment and the measures they are taking to employ people with disabilities.

Employment Equality Acts, 1998 and 2004

The Health Research Board is committed to a policy of equal opportunities, and it strives to be an employer where individual contributions are encouraged and differences are valued. To this end, the HRB is committed to ensuring that no staff member, or applicant for employment, receives less favourable treatment than any other on grounds of gender, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, race, membership of the Traveller community, or any other grounds that are not relevant to good employment practice.

Public procurement

The Health Research Board applies national rules and EU public procurement Directives to the purchase of goods and services. Where practicable, the Health Research Board avails of framework agreements put in place by the National Procurement Service.

Prompt payment of accounts

The Health Research Board comes under the remit of the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act, 1997 and the European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations 2002, and it is committed to meeting its obligations under the 15-day Prompt Payment Rule which came into effect on 1 July 2011. It has processes in place to track all invoices, and weekly payment runs are carried out, in order to ensure prompt payment.

Corporate management reporting

The Acts sets out a requirement to prepare an annual service plan and five-year corporate plans. The Health Research Board has a process in place for guiding the development of these documents and it also has in place a reporting framework for monitoring progress.

Financial emergency measures

The Health Research Board is required to adhere to the measures set out in the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Acts 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2013. The Health Research Board has implemented all measures required by the aforementioned legislation.

Official Languages Act, 2003

The Health Research Board in compliance with its obligations under this Act makes all documents produced available in the Irish language on request.

Extract from the Financial Statements

Revenue Income and Expenditure Account

for the year ended 31 December 2013

		••••••
	2013	2012
	€	€
INCOME		
Department of Health Revenue Grant (Vote 38 B.1)	31,815,713	31,916,000
Other Research Funding	782,887	1,207,291
Interest Receivable and Other Income	10,068	20,850
Transfer to Capital Reserves of Amount Allocated to Fund Fixed Assets	(860)	(14,669)
	32,607,808	33,129,472
EXPENDITURE		
Awards	25,118,045	26,154,534
Health Information Systems	1,131,308	1,231,950
Evidence Generation & Knowledge Brokering	1,585,462	1,028,412
Corporate Expenditure and Programme Management	4,689,997	4,695,950
	32,524,812	33,110,847
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	82,996	18,626
Revenue reserve at 1 January	54,649	36,023
REVENUE RESERVES AT 31 DECEMBER	137,644	54,649

Capital Income and Expenditure Account

for the year ended 31 December 2013

	2013	2012
	€	€
INCOME		
Department of Health Capital Grant (Vote 38)	10,312,602	7,047,988
Amortisation of Capital Fund Account	46,343	44,489
	10,358,945	7,092,477
EXPENDITURE		
Awards	10,227,424	6,987,306
Grants Database	45,036	45,000
Desktops And Laptops	25,259	-
Eprints Upgrade	14,883	-
National Documentation Centre Interactive Tables	-	15,682
Depreciation	46,343	44,111
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	-	378
	10,358,945	7,092,477

Balance Sheet

as at 31 December 2013

0010	0010
	2012 €
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
78.629	104,276
406,522	280,425
641	641
134,998	156,126
542,161	437,192
404,517	382,543
404,517	382,543
137,644	54,650
216,273	158,926
	·····
137,644	54,649
78,629	104,276
216,273	158,925
	641 134,998 542,161 404,517 404,517 137,644 216,273 137,644 78,629 216,273

# **Appendix A – List of HRB publications in 2013**

## **HRB** reports

A Picture of Health 2013 – A snapshot of HRB-funded research. Dublin: Health Research Board.

Carew AM and Doyle A (2013) *Annual Report of the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database Committee 2012*, HRB Statistics Series 21, Dublin: Health Research Board.

Daly A (2013) NPIRS National Bulletin 2012. Dublin: Health Research Board.

Daly A (2013) NPIRS HSE Dublin Mid-Leinster Bulletin 2012. Dublin: Health Research Board.

Daly A (2013) NPIRS HSE Dublin North-East Bulletin 2012. Dublin: Health Research Board.

Daly A (2013) NPIRS HSE South Bulletin 2012. Dublin: Health Research Board.

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# Appendix B – List of HRB awards made in 2013

## **Projects and Programmes – Health Research Awards**

Project title	Grant Holder Institution	Grant holder title	Grant holder first name	Grant holder surname	Scheme	Category	Amount Awarded €
Psychosocial, psychiatric and work-related risk factors associated with suicide in Ireland: A case-control study	National Suicide Research Foundation	Professor	Ella	Arensman	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	329,243
Doctor emigration project	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Professor	Ruairi	Brugha	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	301,997
Genetic variation in the muscarinic cholinergic M2 receptor gene and cholinergic neurotransmission in bipolar disorder	National University of Ireland, Galway	Dr	Dara	Cannon	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	302,586
A novel anti-angiogenic approach of EP receptor antagonism for the prevention of oesophageal adenocarcinoma	Trinity College Dublin	Dr	Mary Clare	Cathcart	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	312,291
Recovery and first episode psychosis: 18 years on	St John of God's Research Foundation Limited	Dr	Mary	Clarke	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	308,486
Investigation of novel protein targets associated with metastatic uveal melanoma	Dublin City University	Professor	Martin	Clynes	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	328,135

Project title	Grant Holder Institution	Grant holder title	Grant holder first name	Grant holder surname	Scheme	Category	Amount Awarded €
Enhancing physical activity behaviour in people with multiple sclerosis	University of Limerick	Dr	Susan	Coote	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	253,639
Lung selective dysregulation of the CXCR7/CXCL12 biological axis: a novel pathomechanism in human pulmonary vascular disease	University College Dublin	Dr	Christine	Costello	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	297,768
A metabolomic study of subjects in the at risk mental state; a longitudinal biomarker study with discovery and validation components	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Professor	David	Cotter	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	318,356
Developing an intervention to improve outcomes for young adults with type 1 diabetes in Ireland	National University of Ireland, Galway	Dr	Sean	Dinneen	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	304,673
Targeted actions to identify novel inflammatory and immunological factors associated with predisposition to AMD in the TILDA population cohort	Trinity College Dublin	Dr	Sarah	Doyle	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	329,987
The effect of age and sex on the time course and mechanisms of adaptation in cardiovascular and metabolic health with exercise training in type 2 diabetes	Trinity College Dublin	Dr	Mikel	Egana	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	282,202
Development of gene therapies for recessively inherited RP2- and TULP1-linked retinopathies	Trinity College Dublin	Professor	Jane	Farrar	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	329,882
To examine the regulatory role of prolyl hydroxylases on hypoxia-induced inflammatory pathways and cartilage degradation in rheumatoid arthritis	University College Dublin	Dr	Ursula	Fearon	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	310,427

Project title	Grant Holder Institution	Grant holder title	Grant holder first name	Grant holder surname	Scheme	Category	Amount Awarded €
Early evaluation of the clinical and economic effects of the Cystic Fibrosis Newborn Screening Programme	University College Dublin	Dr	Patricia	Fitzpatrick	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	328,475
Implications for patient therapy of dental resin restoratives: Does simplifying the curing protocol increase patient risk?	Trinity College Dublin	Dr	Garry	Fleming	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	289,151
Exploring clues from the changing phenotype of Crohn's disease: role of diet, microbes, and bile salts	University College Cork	Dr	Cormac	Gahan	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	321,388
Evaluating BMS-777607 as a candidate therapeutic agent in Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma	St. James's Hospital Foundation Limited	Dr	Steven	Gray	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	224,541
Novel biomarkers of ALS subphenotypes using advanced imaging and spectral EEG technology	Trinity College Dublin	Professor	Orla	Hardiman	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	329,772
MicroRNA-134 as a target for the prevention and treatment of epilepsy	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Professor	David	Henshall	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	316,482
The influence of interactions between selenium supply biomarkers and genetic variation and gene expression in the selenium pathway on CRC risk and survival	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Dr	David	Hughes	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	329,987
Developing improved therapeutics for ocular neovascularisation and inflammation	University College Dublin	Dr	Breandan	Kennedy	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	324,632

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Project title	Grant Holder Institution	Grant holder title	Grant holder first name	Grant holder surname	Scheme	Category	Amount Awarded €
Why is blood group a risk marker for myocardial infarction?	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Professor	Dermot	Kenny	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	325,745
Primary care reform in Ireland – An analysis of 'top down' and 'bottom up' innovation	University of Limerick	Professor	Anne	MacFarlane	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	329,269
An investigation into the utility of prosaposin as a marker of PI3K inhibitor responsiveness in aromatase inhibitor resistant breast cancer	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Dr	Marie	McIlroy	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	207,250
Novel approaches to determining procoagulant state in early onset preeclampsia: diagnostic relevance and therapeutic opportunities	University College Dublin	Dr	Fionnuala	Ní Áinle	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	326,746
A risk model for prediction of venous thromboembolism in gynaecological cancer patients post surgery	Trinity College Dublin	Dr	Lucy	Norris	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	294,230
Exosomal Neuromedin U and miR-X: potential predictive biomarkers for HER2- targeted drugs	Trinity College Dublin	Dr	Lorraine	O'Driscoll	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	318,237
New immunological parameters as prognostic indicators of liver colorectal metastasis	Trinity College Dublin	Professor	Cliona	O'Farrelly	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	327,272
An investigation of the effects of maternal depression during pregnancy on the baby's HPA (hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal) axis during the first year of life	Trinity College Dublin	Professor	Veronica	O'Keane	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	329,382

Project title	Grant Holder Institution	Grant holder title	Grant holder first name	Grant holder surname	Scheme	Category	Amount Awarded €
Defining the role of human dendritic cell subsets in host immune responses to mycobacterial infection	Trinity College Dublin	Dr	Mary	O'Sullivan	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	326,445
Molecular mechanisms linking excess adipose tissue with oesophageal cancer: Targeting tumour metabolism and 5-lipoxygenase	Trinity College Dublin	Dr	Graham	Pidgeon	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	166,145
Angiogenin as a therapeutic for the treatment of ALS	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Professor	Jochen	Prehn	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	329,302
A translational systems medicine approach to provide predictive capacity for DTIC-based chemotherapy responsiveness in metastatic malignant melanoma	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Dr	Markus	Rehm	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	309,520
Novel topical treatment for inflammatory diseases of the skin and eye using vesicles released from human mesenchymal stem cells	National University of Ireland, Galway	Dr	Thomas	Ritter	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	329,149
Understanding the link between molecular and microenvironmental influence on immunity in colorectal cancer	University College Dublin	Dr	Elizabeth	Ryan	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	326,295
Assessing the burden and progression of chronic kidney disease in the Irish health system	University of Limerick	Professor	Austin	Stack	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	329,904
Redox regulation of angiogenesis and innate immunity in inflammatory arthritis	University College Dublin	Professor	Douglas	Veale	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	312,440

Project title	Grant Holder Institution	Grant holder title	Grant holder first name	Grant holder surname	Scheme	Category	Amount Awarded €
Preconditioning Shields Against Vascular Events in Surgery (Preconditioning- SAVES): A multi-centre feasibility trial of preconditioning against adverse events in major vascular surgery	University of Limerick	Professor	Stewart	Walsh	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	260,678
Delivery of type VII collagen gene (COL7A1) for topical treatment of Recessive Dystrophic Epidermolysis Bullosa (RDEB)	National University of Ireland, Galway	Dr	Wenzin	Wang	Health Research Award	Projects and Programmes	292,541

# **Projects and Programmes – other**

Project title	Grant Holder Institution	Grant holder title	Grant holder first name	Grant holder surname	Scheme	Category	Amount Awarded €
Irish national adverse event study: A national evaluation of the prevalence and nature of adverse events in Irish acute hospitals	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Prof	David	Williams	Irish National Adverse Event Study	Projects and Programmes	381,022
ALS Care: A programme for ALS care in Europe	Trinity College Dublin	Professor	Orla	Hardiman	Joint Programme in Neurodegenerative Disease	Projects and Programmes	195,743
ActifCare: Acces to timely formal care	Dublin City University	Dr	Kate	Irving	Joint Programme in Neurodegenerative Disease	Projects and Programmes	199,812
The collaborative development of an evidence-based educational resource for self-disclosure strategies for people with epilepsy. (How-To-Tell)	Epilepsy Ireland	Dr	Naomi	Elliott	Medical Research Charities Group Co-Fund Award	Projects and Programmes	74,505

Project title	Grant Holder Institution	Grant holder title	Grant holder first name	Grant holder surname	Scheme	Category	Amount Awarded €
Genetic characterisation of a cohort of Irish retinal degeneration patients	Fighting Blindness	Professor	Jane	Farrar	Medical Research Charities Group Co-Fund Award	Projects and Programmes	149,995
Self-management for head and neck cancer survivors: Living well with and beyond HNC	Irish Cancer Society	Professor	Pamela	Gallagher	Medical Research Charities Group Co-Fund Award	Projects and Programmes	109,510
Identification of the genetic causes of developmental delay with mitochondrial dysfunction in the Irish Traveller population	Children's Fund for Health	Dr	Sally Ann	Lynch	Medical Research Charities Group Co-Fund Award	Projects and Programmes	114,132
HANDLE: Hemodynamic Assessment iN pregnancy anD neonataL Echocardiography assessment. Identifies abnormal hemodynamic profiles in pregnancy as a predictor of adverse obstetric outcome and characterisation of neonatal myocardial performance in infants	Friends of the Rotunda	Professor	Fergal	Malone	Medical Research Charities Group Co-Fund Award	Projects and Programmes	94,063
Ignoring the nonsense - personalised medicine for genetic lung disorders	Irish Thoracic Society	Professor	Noel	McElvaney	Medical Research Charities Group Co-Fund Award	Projects and Programmes	50,000
PHARLAP: A multi-centre randomised controlled trial of an open lung strategy in patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome	St. Vincent's Anaesthesia Foundation	Professor	Alistair	Nichol	Medical Research Charities Group Co-Fund Award	Projects and Programmes	62,923
Clinical implications and utility of an endotoxin-tolerant (ET) state in cystic fibrosis	Irish Thoracic Society	Dr	Barry	Plant	Medical Research Charities Group Co-Fund Award	Projects and Programmes	44,303

Project title	Grant Holder Institution	Grant holder title	Grant holder first name	Grant holder surname	Scheme	Category	Amount Awarded €
Post-translational modifications modify the anti-inflammatory effect of alpha-1 antitrypsin	Alpha One Foundation	Dr	Emer	Reeves	Medical Research Charities Group Co-Fund Award	Projects and Programmes	148,470
Interdisciplinary Scientific Coordinator to support the National Steering Committee on Neurodegenerative Disease Research	The Alzheimer Society of Ireland	Ms	Grainne	McGettrick	Scientific Coordinator for National Committee on Neurodegenerative Disease	Projects and Programmes	70,000

# **Infrastructure and Networks**

Project title	Grant Holder Institution	Grant holder title	Grant holder first name	Grant holder surname	Scheme	Category	Amount Awarded €
Towards sustainability of the Centre for Advanced Medical Imaging	St James's Hospital	Professor	James	Meaney	Imaging Award	Infrastructure and Networks	430,521
Supporting the operation of the Irish Clinical Research Infrastructure Network (ICRIN)	University College Dublin	Professor	Patrick	Murray	Irish Clincial Research Infrastructure Network	Infrastructure and Networks	273,819
Award for the Irish Platform for Patient Organisations, Science and Industry	IPPOSI	Ms	Eibhlin	Mulroe	Irish Platform for Patient Organisations, Science and Industry	Infrastructure and Networks	78,000
Determinants of diet and physical activity; Knowledge hub to integrate and develop infrastructure for research across Europe	Dublin City University, Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin, University of Limerick and University College Cork	Dr	Donal	O'Gorman	JPI_HDHL DEDIPAC Knowledge Hub	Infrastructure and Networks	749,315

# Leadership and Capacity Building

Project title	Grant Holder Institution	Grant holder title	Grant holder first name	Grant holder surname	Scheme	Category	Amount Awarded €
ER stress-induced microRNAs in insulin resistance	University College Dublin	Dr	Siobhan	Bacon	Research Training Fellowship for Health Professionals	Leadership and capacity building	178,074
The efficacy and effectiveness of capnogaphy monitoring during intravenous conscious sedation with midazolam for oral surgery	University College Cork	Dr	Paul	Brady	Research Training Fellowship for Health Professionals	Leadership and capacity building	177,014
Designing and implementing effective behaviour change interventions to improve population health and health services in Ireland	National University of Ireland, Galway	Dr	Molly	Byrne	Research Leaders in PHHSR Award	Leadership and capacity building	1,331,901
Antiviral agents for infectious mononucleosis	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Dr	Muireann	De Paor	Cochrane Training Fellowship	Leadership and capacity building	90,275
Assembly and function of Drosophila melanogaster centromeric chromatin during meiosis and development	National University of Ireland Galway	Dr	Elaine	Dunleavy	Welcome Trust- HRB-SFI Biomedical Partnership	Leadership and capacity building	322,400
Direct acting antivirals in Hepatitis C: developing a personalised model of care	Trinity College Dublin	Dr	Omar	El-Sherif	Research Training Fellowship for Health Professionals	Leadership and capacity building	243,539
Economics of personalised health	University of Limerick	Dr	John	Forbes	Research Leaders in PHHSR Award	Leadership and capacity building	1,461,275

Project title	Grant Holder Institution	Grant holder title	Grant holder first name	Grant holder surname	Scheme	Category	Amount Awarded €
(1) Institutional smoking bans for reducing smoking prevalence and tobacco consumption & (2) Legislative smoking bans for reducing second hand smoke exposure, smoking prevalence and tobacco consumption, published 2010	University College Dublin	Dr	Kate	Frazer	Cochrane Training Fellowship	Leadership and capacity building	110,698
Structured Population Health and Health- services Research Education (SPHERE) Programme	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Professor	Anne	Hickey	Structured Population Health and Health Services Research Education Programme	Leadership and capacity building	6,308,507
Aspirin and anti-inflammatory drugs for the prevention of dementia	National University of Ireland, Galway	Ms	Fionnuala	Jordan	Cochrane Training Fellowship	Leadership and capacity building	56,162
Improving care for people with diabetes: A population approach to prevention and control	University College Cork	Dr	Patricia	Kearney	Research Leaders in PHHSR Award	Leadership and capacity building	1,444,275
Multimodal characterisation of the benign prostate	University of Limerick	Dr	Niall	Kelly	Research Training Fellowship for Health Professionals	Leadership and capacity building	245,218
Psychological therapies for chronic pain and adjustment difficulties in multimorbid health conditions: Development and delivery of e-health solutions	National University of Ireland, Galway	Dr	Brian	Mc Guire	Research Leaders in PHHSR Award	Leadership and capacity building	1,488,660
A randomised controlled trial to measure the effects of an augmented prescribed exercise programme on mobility, quality of life and healthcare utilisation for frail hospilised older medical in-patients	University College Cork	Ms	Ruth	McCullagh	Research Training Fellowship for Health Professionals	Leadership and capacity building	171,976
Role of extra-oesophageal reflux in the development and severity of non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis	National University of Ireland, Galway	Dr	Melissa	McDonnell	National SpR/SR Academicl Fellowship programme	Leadership and capacity building	61,145

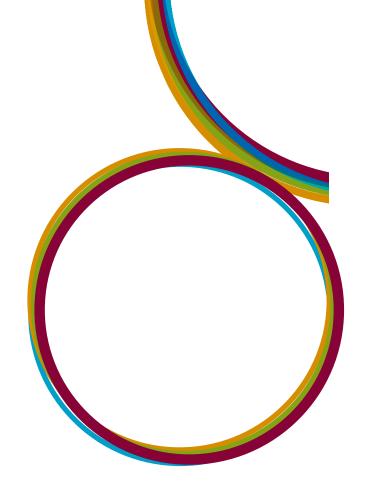
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Project title	Grant Holder Institution	Grant holder title	Grant holder first name	Grant holder surname	Scheme	Category	Amount Awarded €
Wound cleansing for treating venous leg ulcers	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Ms	Niamh	Mclain	Cochrane Training Fellowship	Leadership and capacity building	58,706
Probing the metabolic response to vasculitic injury: towards a tool for non- invasive monitoring of immune activation in ANCA vasculitis	Trinity College Dublin	Dr	Sarah	Moran	National SpR/SR Academicl Fellowship programme	Leadership and capacity building	63,165
ADAM 10 and ADAM 12 as therapeutic targets for triple negative breast cancer	University College Dublin	Dr	Maeve	Mullooly	Cancer Prevention Fellowship	Leadership and capacity building	120,447
Interventions to improve end-of-life care in dementia	National University of Ireland, Galway	Ms	Edel	Murphy	Cochrane Training Fellowship	Leadership and capacity building	59,364
Concealed pregnancy in 21st century Ireland. Concealing and revealing by explaining: The care study	Trinity College Dublin	Ms	Sylvia	Murphy-Tighe	Research Training Fellowship for Health Professionals	Leadership and capacity building	240,835
Nervous system sensitisation in people with osteoarthritis of the knee : A prospective cohort study	University College Dublin	Miss	Helen	O'Leary	Research Training Fellowship for Health Professionals	Leadership and capacity building	243,615
Interventions for breast cancer awareness amongst women of all ages	University College Cork	Ms	Mairin	O'Mahony	Cochrane Training Fellowship	Leadership and capacity building	92,899
Maternal health And Maternal Morbidity in Ireland (MAMMI) – Sexual Health Strand	Trinity College Dublin	Ms	Deirdre	O'Malley	Research Training Fellowship for Health Professionals	Leadership and capacity building	251,421

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Project title	Grant Holder Institution	Grant holder title	Grant holder first name	Grant holder surname	Scheme	Category	Amount Awarded €
Health Economics: the development and analysis of the health technology assessment infrastructure in Ireland and an analysis of the quality of care among primary providers and designated care centres	National University of Ireland, Galway	Professor	Ciaran	O'Neill	Research Leaders in PHHSR Award	Leadership and capacity building	1,594,442
Functional capacity and thought disorder in first episode psychosis: an investigation of their clinical correlates and predictors over the first year of illness	St John of God's Research Foundation Limited	Dr	Eric	Roche	Research Training Fellowship for Health Professionals	Leadership and capacity building	180,234
The ability of urinary albumin excretion and estimated kidney function to predict short-term all cause and cardiovascular mortality in community dwelling individuals	National University of Ireland, Galway	Dr	Donal	Sexton	Research Training Fellowship for Health Professionals	Leadership and capacity building	231,837
Patient education for the prevention of venous leg ulceration	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Ms	Emer	Shanley	Cochrane Training Fellowship	Leadership and capacity building	51,041
Inter-regional synaptic integration of sensorimotor signals within episodic memory networks	Trinity College Dublin	Dr	Marian	Tsanov	Welcome Trust- HRB-SFI Biomedical Partnership	Leadership and capacity building	203,556
Does early detection and treatment of psychosis improve employment outcomes?	St John of God's Research Foundation Limited	Dr	Niall	Turner	Research Training Fellowship for Health Professionals	Leadership and capacity building	225,055
Development of a Bayesian Unit for Health Decision Sciences	Trinity College Dublin	Professor	Cathal	Walsh	Research Leaders in PHHSR Award	Leadership and capacity building	1,399,657
Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDS) for perineal pain in the early postpartum period	Trinity College Dublin	Ms	Francesca	Wuytack	Cochrane Training Fellowship	Leadership and capacity building	4,000







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