

HEALTH RESEARCH BOARD

HEALTHY PEOPLE THROUGH

EXCELLENT RESEARCH

AND **APPLIED KNOWLEDGE**

Published by:
Health Research Board, Dublin

Copyright:
Health Research Board 2015

ISSN: 0791 220X

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CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

OVERVIEW

Our future health depends on innovations in research and the practical application of new discoveries in health policy and practice. During 2014 the HRB invested €39 million in strategic initiatives and supported 225 jobs that will shape the health research and healthcare landscape for years to come.

It is clear that the strategic decision to direct more of our funding towards population health sciences, health services research and patient-oriented research is delivering real results for both patients and practice. The ongoing development of our evidence and information services is also making valuable contributions to health policy formation in areas such as alcohol, drug use, mental health, disability and water fluoridation.

We hope our 'snapshot' approach to explaining these developments throughout this report will give readers a great sense of how much has been achieved during the year.

Delivering for health research and healthcare during 2014

Our research community continues to deliver research excellence and trusted evidence of international acclaim. For example: HRB-supported researchers were cited in the Thomson Reuters 2014 list of the world's most influential scientific minds; several HRB-funded projects completed will change or enhance international approaches to care in their respective fields; more than 50% of peer-reviewed publications were published in the top 10% of scientific journals.

HRB investments in health research continue to improve people's health, save lives and transform the way we deliver care. We captured the outputs from 117 funding awards completed in 2014, reflecting an investment of €32 million.



DR DECLAN BEDFORD
CHAIRMAN



DR GRAHAM LOVE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

On foot of these awards:

- > 200 research jobs were supported.
- > €30.2 million in funding was leveraged for health research. Of this, €17.2 million was non-exchequer funding.
- > 379 papers were published in peer-reviewed journals.
- > 144 new academic collaborations and 30 industry collaborations were established.
- > 56 new research materials or methods were developed.
- > 26 new healthcare innovations were developed.
- > 50 projects had an impact on policy and practice.
- > 167 awards were made to HRB researchers.
- > 649 conference presentations were made; 410 of these were made at international scientific conferences.

€30.2m

**in funding was
leveraged for
health research.**

Delivering the HRB strategic business plan

2014 was a year when we looked back on success, but it was also a year where we laid the groundwork for developing a new corporate strategy. As we approach the final year of our strategic plan, it is good to see significant sections of the 2010–2014 plan come together. Some of our key strategic deliverables to date include:

- > opening three Clinical Research Facilities on the grounds of teaching hospitals in Dublin, Cork and Galway
- > establishing an evidence unit to deliver rapid reviews of policy and practice across a wide range of health areas
- > increasing funding allocations to develop clinical research, population health sciences and health services research
- > creating four major clinical trial networks in critical care, primary care, stroke and perinatal care
- > publishing key data to inform service planning in relation to drugs, disability and mental health
- > reforming many of our funding schemes and introducing new ones that will provide a wide range of opportunities for researchers at different levels across the research spectrum.

In November 2014 we convened an international panel of experts to independently assess HRB performance over the course of the 2010–2014 strategy. The aim was to determine how well the organisation performed against its objectives during the 2010–2014 period, and to provide expert advice to help shape the next strategic plan.

The panel concluded that: *‘The strategic business plan 2010–2014 had been implemented with considerable success considering the financial constraints and associated employment restrictions that the HRB experienced over the period of the plan’.*

It is only appropriate that we take this opportunity to acknowledge and commend everyone working in the HRB for their hard work and dedication, not only during 2014 but throughout the course of this strategy.

Looking to the future

We are doing a lot of things right; nonetheless, the international panel of experts’ report has provided new ideas and practical guidance on how to do some things differently. So, as we embark on the development of our new strategy we will use innovative methods to increase our funding base, engage more in public patient involvement, and place a strong emphasis on the integration of research into policy and practice.

This will require collaboration with the public, the Department of Health, the Health Service Executive, healthcare providers, health professionals, the health research community and other Government agencies, in order to ensure that our health research aims are aligned with the needs of people’s health, patient care and the healthcare system.

We look forward to further developing Ireland’s health research ecosystem for the benefit of the nation’s health.

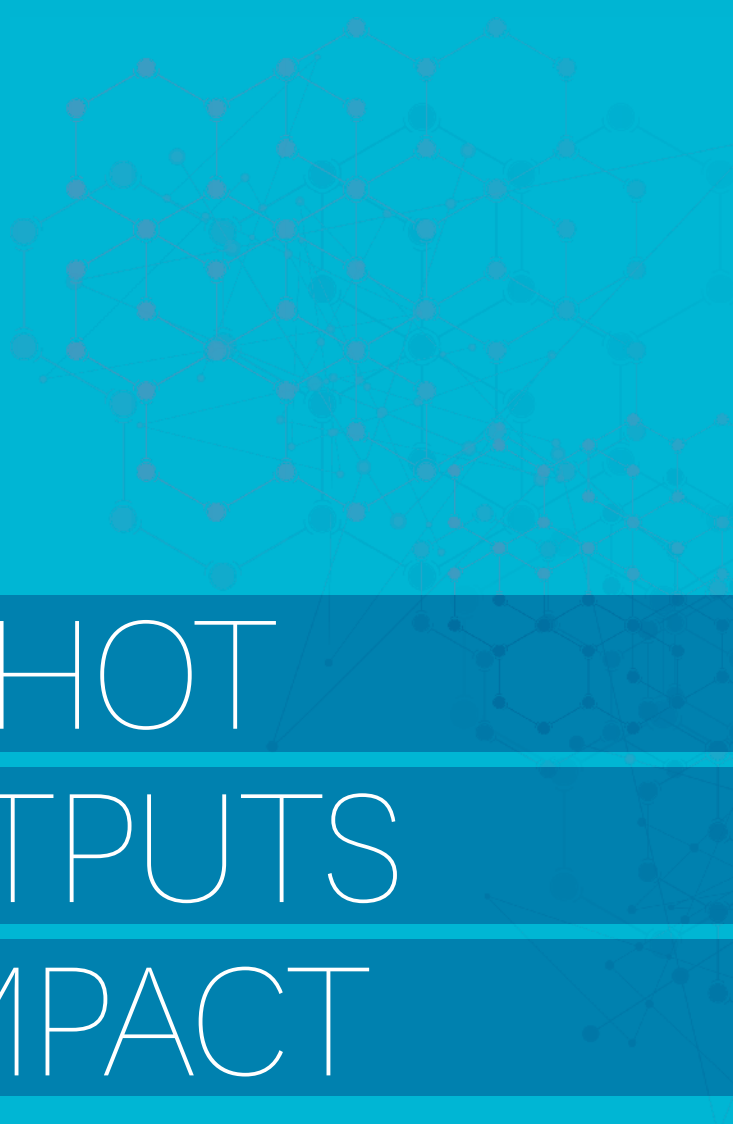
As we embark on the development of our new strategy we will use innovative methods to increase our funding base, engage more in public patient involvement, and place a strong emphasis on the integration of research into policy and practice.



DR DECLAN BEDFORD
CHAIRMAN



DR GRAHAM LOVE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

An abstract graphic in the top right corner of the page, consisting of a complex network of interconnected nodes and lines, resembling a molecular structure or a data network. The nodes are small circles, and the lines are thin, creating a web-like pattern that extends across the upper right portion of the cover.

SNAPSHOT OF OUTPUTS AND IMPACT

SNAPSHOT OF OUTPUTS AND IMPACT

THE BIGGER PICTURE

In 2014, the HRB invested a total of just under €39 million in health research. This money will be used to fund individual research projects along with larger, more complex research programmes. It will support networks and infrastructures, and will develop researcher skillsets at all career levels, including early, mid- and senior career stages. It will also generate new ideas, new devices and new methods of treating patients in our healthcare system.

225 research professionals to be engaged in these new ventures.

€13.5 million allocated to 36 specific projects that will improve health and treatments in areas such as cancer, asthma, kidney injury, and antibiotics.

€10 million approved by the HRB Board to establish four clinical trial networks to benefit stroke patients, mothers and babies, primary care and intensive care patients. Each network was selected on the basis of having outstanding health, scientific, societal and economic potential.

€8 million assigned to establish six key Research Leaders positions. These leaders will provide a direct link between their specialist research area and real-world clinical practice. Together, the six Research Leader positions will support a further 16 research posts that will boost our capabilities in areas such as health economics and biostatistics, which were traditionally underfunded.

€6.3 million earmarked to support a national postgraduate training programme to equip researchers with specialist skills to conduct population health research and health services research, and help to quickly turn research findings into new health policies and new healthcare practices.

€1.9 million invested with the Medical Research Charities Group. This programme has a particular resonance for families and people living with rare diseases, such as cystinosis, retinal degradation, Sjoren's syndrome and other rare conditions.

€13.5m

allocated to 36 specific projects that will improve health and treatments in areas such as cancer, asthma, kidney injury, and antibiotics.

Q1



THE FUTURE IS IN SAFE HANDS

Dr Mairead O'Driscoll, presents Eamonn Sweeney, Sligo student, with the HRB special prize at the BT Young Scientist Exhibition 2014 for a project using smartphones to help people deliver cardiopulmonary resuscitation.



NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE HRB

Dr Graham Love appointed in January 2014.

€1.7 million joint funding with the Wellcome Trust and Science Foundation Ireland to enable outstanding individuals pursue original research ideas.

Health-related research projects exceed Horizon 2020 funding targets.

2014 saw the largest ever number of Irish applicants in a single year, i.e. a total of 56 compared with 69 over the entire seven-year lifetime of Framework Programme 7 (FP7). Twenty-three successful projects secured €16.7 million, or 2.75% of the total Horizon 2020 health budget.

1,600 cancer patients participated in cancer clinical trials through continued HRB funding of ICORG, the All Ireland Cooperative Oncology Research Group.

HRB, Department of Health and Atlantic Philanthropies partnership.

Three organisations joined forces to launch the National Dementia Strategy with the HRB tasked to deliver the research pillar. This will place particular emphasis on research to prevent dementia in the first instance, as well as how to best to care for patients.

A ten-year retrospective study of HRB-funded research activities between 2000–2009 showed that ‘the HRB has funded quality research with strong influence’ for health, health services and the wider economy. In the period 2000–2009, the HRB made 1,000 awards; invested €300 million; leveraged over €200 million in additional funding; financed more than 2,000 research positions; generated 3,382 high-quality research publications (more than half of which were published in the top 10% of journals worldwide); led to 640 policy and practice outputs, 166 health innovations, 66 patents, 26 licences and two spin-out companies.

€1.7m

joint funding with the Wellcome Trust and Science Foundation Ireland to enable outstanding individuals pursue original research ideas.



TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF POPULATION HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCHERS

Dr Teresa Maguire, HRB, speaks at the launch of the HRB programme for Structured Population and Health-services Research Education (SPHeRE).
Photo: Ray Lohan/RCSI.



BETTER CARE FOR AT-RISK BABIES

Fiona Cody, Research Sonographer (left) and Dr Julia Unterscheider, HRB Perinatal Ireland at launch of new guidelines from the HRB-Perinatal Ireland research programme to improve monitoring and care for growth restricted babies.

AT A GLANCE

IMPROVING HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE

Mothers and vulnerable babies in the womb. Ground-breaking discoveries from the HRB-funded Perinatal Ireland programme led to better surveillance and identification of at-risk, growth restricted babies during pregnancy which will change perinatal care practices worldwide. *(Professor Fergal Malone, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and The Rotunda Hospital.)*

TB patients. Discovery of the mechanism that connects smoking with poorer tuberculosis outcomes will have major worldwide implications in the fight against the global TB epidemic. *(HRB Clinician Scientist, Professor Joe Keane, Trinity College Dublin (TCD).)*

Kidney disease patients. New findings that illustrate how healthy or 'good' heart diets can also reduce the burden of kidney disease. *(Dr Andrew Smith, NUI Galway (NUIG).)*

Breast cancer, aspirin benefit. New discovery shows aspirin may play an important role in reducing the risk of developing breast cancer. *(Professor Kathleen Bennett, Dr Ian Barron, TCD.)*

Spinal cancer treatment – fewer side-effects from radiation treatment. A HRB-funded clinical trial showed how lower overall radiation doses can be used to treat spinal cancer as effectively as higher doses. *(Professor Pierre Thirion MD, St Luke's Hospital.)*

Bring me sunshine. New finding reveals that sunshine may improve mobility in obese patients, as low vitamin D status is linked to poorer mobility scores. *(Dr Tomás Ahern, St Vincent's Hospital.)*

Breast cancer

New discovery shows aspirin may play an important role in reducing the risk of developing breast cancer.

Q2



HEALTH LITERACY AWARD

– winning app, Bug Run, to teach about antibiotic resistance. Bug Run was developed by HRB-funded researchers Dr Sinead Duane, Dr Aoife Callan, Dr Sandra Galvin and Dr Akke Vellinga from the School of Medicine, NUI Galway.



Kids with rare diseases – faster diagnosis. HRB researchers developed three new genetic tests to identify infant liver failure; anophthalmia, a condition where children are born with small or absent eyes; and a DNA repair disorder that causes debilitating endocrine and haematological illness. These tests will facilitate rapid diagnosis. (*Dr Sally Ann Lynch, Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin and Temple Street Children's University Hospital.*)

Your primary healthcare services – getting communities involved in how their health services are delivered. A practical guide that addresses a range of issues that are known to influence the likelihood of successful community participation in healthcare initiatives. (*Professor Anne MacFarlane, University of Limerick (UL).*)

Dementia patients – benefits from simple reminiscing. Research shows that reminiscence therapy benefits dementia sufferers, and the findings reinforce the importance of 'personal care' interactions. (*Professor Eamon O'Shea, NUIG.*)

Bowel cancer – risk from low selenium levels. Low levels of the micronutrient found in shellfish, salmon, Brazil nuts, meat, eggs, grains and onions was shown to be linked to a higher risk of bowel cancer. (*Dr David Hughes, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI).*)

Bowel disease – link to common gut bacterium. High levels of a common gut bacterium may act as an early warning sign or biomarker for bowel cancer. Controlling bacterial levels may also be a possible therapy. (*Dr David Hughes, RCSI.*)

Schizophrenia risk – cognition tests a potential early warning sign. A relatively simple cognition test may be an early marker for schizophrenia, thus enabling early intervention, and may result in better patient outcomes. (*Professor Gary Donohue, NUIG.*)

SteppingUp.ie

New website to help young people with mental ill health. Professor Imelda Coyne, Trinity College Dublin (TCD), and Geraldine Prizeman, TCD, won a Health Literacy Award for their website SteppingUp.ie.



THE NATION'S DRINKING HABITS REVEALED

At the National Alcohol Diary Survey launch were Dr Deirdre Mongan, HRB (joint author of the report, left); Professor Joe Barry, Faculty of Health Medicine, Trinity College Dublin; Dr Jean Long HRB (joint author of the report).

Obesity app – developed for young teenagers. A smartphone app to help young teenagers lose weight, exercise more, improve sleep and boost self-confidence. (*Grace O'Malley, Temple Street Children's University Hospital.*)

Tackling quality and patient safety challenges. The first two projects funded under the Research Collaborative on Quality and Patient Safety (RCQPS) involving the HRB, the HSE and the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI) got underway. They will address 'Emergency Department Monitoring and Clinical Escalation Protocol' and 'Supporting work participation through early intervention in patients with regional musculoskeletal pain'.

Q3



BACKING WINNERS – KEEPING IRELAND'S BEST RESEARCHERS AT HOME.

HRB Clinician Scientist, Professor Orla Hardiman is appointed first Professor of Neurology in Ireland based at Trinity College Dublin.



CAN I HAVE ICE WITH MY WATER PLEASE?

Dr Graham Love, HRB Chief Executive, joins Minister for Health, Leo Varadkar at an Ice bucket challenge.

AT A GLANCE

EVIDENCE TO INFORM NATIONAL HEALTH POLICIES

The National Alcohol Diary Survey sparked a vigorous national conversation about Irish people's drinking habits, and will provide the cornerstone of future alcohol-related public health initiatives. The survey involved almost 6,000 people, and highlighted that 54% of drinkers in Ireland (1.35 million people) drink in a harmful manner and 75% of all alcohol consumed was consumed in a binge session.

Impact of austerity on health service performance. Detailed analysis showed that the Irish health service did more with less in the period 2008 to 2012, but that further cuts would lead to diminished returns and services. *(Professor Steve Thomas, TCD.)*

The National Documentation Centre on Drug Use. The HRB manages an online repository of more than 12,000 items as well as a publicly accessible information service on all aspects of drugs, alcohol and tobacco use. A new drug and alcohol evidence review series was introduced in 2014 and the first two reviews were published.

Local drug markets – How they develop and how they respond to law enforcement interventions. A new report on *Illicit Drug Markets* for the National Advisory Committee on Drugs and Alcohol was published. The report by the HRB provides an in-depth analysis of the nature, structure and organisation of illicit drug markets in Ireland. The report included detailed policy recommendations designed to inform and support the National Drugs Strategy.

Drug-related deaths – HRB figures track long-term and short-term trends. Key points include: Drug-related deaths increased 50% between 2004 and 2012. Alcohol is involved in one in three poisonings; an additional one–three poisonings involved benzodiazepines.

1.35m people

The number of Irish drinkers who drink in a harmful manner.

FUNDING RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

Three HRB-funded researchers were named on the Thomson Reuters 'The World's Most Influential Scientific Minds 2014' list. Congratulations to Professor Mary Cannon, RCSI; Professor Luke O'Neill, TCD, and Professor Des Higgins, UCD.

36 RESEARCH PROJECTS

Cancer, asthma, kidney injuries and antibiotic resistance among 36 research projects which received €13.5 million in funding from the HRB. Minister for Health, Dr Leo Varadkar, TD, launches HRB Health Research Awards.

THE WORLD'S MOST INFLUENTIAL SCIENTIFIC MINDS 2014

MOVING HEALTH

Drug and alcohol treatment data – HRB provides annual figures.

The total number of cases treated for problem alcohol use in Ireland in 2012 was 8,336.

Psychiatric hospitals and units. Data from the HRB National Psychiatric In-Patient Reporting system are now available online from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) website. This facility enables detailed analysis of trends and statistics on psychiatric admissions and discharges.

Intellectual disability database. HRB data clearly show that people with intellectual disability are living longer, and beyond the care-giving capacity of their carers. This will in turn create demands for a range of additional services and supports if people with intellectual disability are to continue living at home.

Physical and sensory disability database. HRB data on how more than 24,000 people interact with specialised health and social care services. The database provides a breakdown of current service use as well as future service needs.

Rapid evidence and information review service for the Department of Health. Some of the reviews underway in 2014 included:

- > Review of the food contents on carbohydrate and fats shelves of the food pyramid
- > Methods of GP remuneration for chronic disease management
- > Health effects of water fluoridation
- > Mentoring in postgraduate medical education and specialist training

8,336

The total number of cases treated for problem alcohol use in Ireland in 2012 was 8,336.

Q4



HRB FUNDS CANCER COOKBOOK

High-protein, high-calorie recipes for those experiencing cancer-induced weight loss.

Dr Aoife Ryan, UCC, one of the book's authors.

Photo: Domnick Walsh
www.dwalshphoto.ie

- > Review of the regulation and governance processes of independent hospital entities in England and New Zealand
- > International models of career structure for medical specialists, other tenured medical posts and general practitioners in public (funded) health systems.

SOBERING FIGURES FROM THE HRB DRUG-RELATED DEATHS INDEX PUBLISHED

Drug-related deaths have **increased** by almost

50% between **2004** and **2012**

432
663

Half of those who **died** were **40** years or younger

5,289 people have died as a direct or indirect result of drug use since 2004

ACCURATE STATISTICS FOR HEALTH POLICY AND PLANNING

Kathleen Lynch, TD, Minister of State with responsibility for Mental Health, congratulates Claire Madden, winner of the competition to design the cover of the Annual Report of the National Intellectual Disability Database Committee 2013.



INTERNATIONAL REVIEW PANEL

International Review Panel to assess HRB performance in meeting its 2010–2014 Strategic Business Plan objectives.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE



**DR DECLAN
BEDFORD**



**PROFESSOR
CONOR BURKE**



DR BARRY CULLEN



DR COLIN DOHERTY



**PROFESSOR
MICHAEL JOE DUFFY**



**MR JOHN
MCCORMACK**



**PROFESSOR
WILLIAM MOLLOY**



**DR TOM
O'CALLAGHAN**



**PROFESSOR
PREM PURI**



**DR MARION
ROWLAND**

HRB Board and Board Committees

The HRB Board comprises 10 members appointed by the Minister for Health, 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 2014 were:

- > Dr Declan Bedford
- > Professor Conor Burke
- > Dr Barry Cullen (appointed 26 May 2014)
- > Dr Colin Doherty
- > Professor Joe Duffy
- > Mr John McCormack
- > Professor William Molloy (appointed 26 May 2014)
- > Dr Tom O'Callaghan
- > Professor Prem Puri
- > Dr Marion Rowland

There were two vacancies on the Board until 26 May 2014

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 2014.

Members:

- > Dr Eamonn Cahill (Chair) (External) (until 27 June 2014)
- > Mr Thomas Lynch (Chair) (External) (from 7 November 2014)
- > 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 once during 2014.

Members:

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



Attendance at meetings during 2014

(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)	6 (6)	4 (4)	1 (1)
Professor C Burke	2 (6)	0 (4)	–
Dr B Cullen (from 26 May 2014)	4 (4)	–	–
Dr C Doherty	6 (6)	–	(1)
Professor J Duffy	6 (6)	4 (4)	–
Mr John McCormack	6 (6)	–	1 (1)
Professor W Molloy (from 26 May 2014)	4 (4)	–	–
Dr Tom O'Callaghan	5 (6)	2 (4)	–
Prof P Puri	4 (6)	–	1 (1)
Dr M Rowland	5 (6)	4 (4)	–
External			
Dr E Cahill (until 27 June 2014)	–	2 (2)	–
Mr T Lynch (from 7 November 2014)	–	2 (2)	–

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 to:

- > promote, assist, commission or conduct health research to improve health and increase the effectiveness of the health services
- > maintain, develop or support health information systems for the purposes of research and to provide the evidence for health policy and services
- > liaise and co-operate with other research bodies in the State and outside the State in the promotion, commissioning or conduct of relevant research
- > 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 which 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 Act, 2014

The Health Research Board is a prescribed body under the Freedom of Information Act. This Act provides 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 Act provides 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, Grattan House, 67-72 Lower Mount Street, Dublin 2, DO2 H638.

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.

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.

Employment Equality Acts, 1998 to 2011

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.

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.

Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Acts 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2013

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.

Protected Disclosures Act, 2014

There were no protected disclosures made to the Health Research Board in 2014.

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, SI 383/2000 and the European Communities (Late Payment in Commercial Transactions) Regulations 2012, and it is committed to meeting its obligations under the 15-day Prompt Payment Rule, which came into effect on 2 January 1998. It has processes in place to track all invoices, and weekly payment runs are carried out, in order to ensure prompt payment.

EXTRACT FROM THE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Revenue Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31 December 2014

	2014 €	2013 €
INCOME		
Department of Health Revenue Grant (Vote 38 B.1)	30,654,000	31,815,713
Other research funding	1,090,268	782,887
Interest receivable and other income	13,906	10,068
Transfer to Capital Reserves of amount allocated to fund fixed assets	(13,561)	(860)
	31,744,613	32,607,808
EXPENDITURE		
Awards	25,308,296	25,118,047
Health Information Systems	1,172,898	1,131,308
Evidence Generation and Knowledge Brokering	1,185,024	1,585,462
Corporate expenditure and programme management	4,181,856	4,689,997
Deferred benefit from rent-free period	188,356	–
	32,036,430	32,524,814
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	(291,817)	82,994
Revenue reserves at 1 January 2014	137,642	54,648
REVENUE RESERVES AT 31 DECEMBER 2014	(154,175)	137,642

Capital Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 December 2014

	2014 €	2013 €
INCOME		
Department of Health Capital Grant (Vote 38 B.1)	13,880,141	10,312,602
Amortisation of Capital Fund Account	169,285	46,343
	14,049,426	10,358,945
EXPENDITURE		
Awards	12,786,400	10,227,424
Office fit-out	998,996	–
Grants database	12,500	45,036
Computer equipment	15,621	25,259
Office furniture	50,803	–
Depreciation	160,051	46,343
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	9,234	–
National Health Information Systems ICT Project	15,821	–
Eprints upgrade	–	14,883
	14,049,426	10,358,945
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	–	–

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2014

	2014 €	2013 €
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible assets	780,667	78,629
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	536,071	406,522
Investments	641	641
Cash at bank and on hand	(81,182)	134,997
	455,530	542,160
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
<i>Amounts falling due within one year:</i>		
Creditors	421,349	404,518
	421,349	404,518
<i>Amounts falling due greater than one year:</i>		
Creditors	188,356	–
	188,356	–
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ASSETS	(154,175)	137,642
NET ASSETS	626,492	216,271
RESERVES		
Accumulated surplus on Income and Expenditure Account	(154,175)	137,642
Capital fund	780,667	78,629
	626,492	216,271

APPENDIX A

– LIST OF HRB PUBLICATIONS IN 2014

HRB reports

Carew AM and Doyle A (2014) *Annual Report of the National Physical and Sensory Disability Database Committee 2013*, HRB Statistics Series 23. Dublin: Health Research Board.

Daly A (2014) *NPIRS National Bulletin 2013*. Dublin: Health Research Board.

Daly A (2014) *NPIRS HSE Dublin Mid-Leinster Bulletin 2013*. Dublin: Health Research Board.

Daly A (2014) *NPIRS HSE Dublin North-East Bulletin 2013*. Dublin: Health Research Board.

Daly A (2014) *NPIRS HSE South Bulletin 2013*. Dublin: Health Research Board.

Daly A (2014) *NPIRS HSE West Bulletin 2013*. Dublin: Health Research Board.

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APPENDIX B

– LIST OF HRB AWARDS MADE IN 2014

Projects and Programmes – Health Research Awards

Project title	Grant Holder Institution	Grant holder title	Grant holder first name	Grant holder surname	Scheme	Amount Awarded €
Inequalities in access to GP care in Ireland: An analysis using longitudinal data	Economic and Social Research Institute	Professor	Alan	Barrett	Health Research Awards - Population Health Research	329,988
Genetic basis of reflux nephropathy-related hypertension and renal failure in children	The Children's Medical and Research Foundation	Professor	David	Barton	Health Research Awards - Patient-oriented Research	301,664
The CHARMS Intervention to improve sexual assessment and counselling in hospital cardiac rehabilitation: A pilot study	National University of Ireland, Galway	Dr	Molly	Byrne	Health Research Awards - Health Services Research	243,278
A prospective assessment of the biological burden of stress in caregivers: Impact on cognitive performance, mood and the benefits of mindfulness	University College Cork	Dr	Gerard	Clarke	Health Research Awards - Patient-oriented Research	329,140
INCA SUN: A prospective randomised multicentre study to optimise the management of symptomatically uncontrolled asthma	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Professor	Richard	Costello	Health Research Awards - Definitive Intervention	798,681
Examining the effects of S1P receptor drugs in Alzheimer's disease	Trinity College Dublin	Professor	Kumlesh K	Dev	Health Research Awards - Patient-oriented Research	299,808
The heme oxygenase system as a therapeutic intervention for psoriasis	Trinity College Dublin	Dr	Aisling	Dunne	Health Research Awards - Patient-oriented Research	329,604

Project title	Grant Holder Institution	Grant holder title	Grant holder first name	Grant holder surname	Scheme	Amount Awarded €
Single blind randomised trial of supportive text messages for patients with alcohol use disorder and a co-morbid depression	Trinity College Dublin	Dr	Conor	Farren	Health Research Awards - Patient-oriented Research	329,813
Functional as well as structural brain connectivity and epigenetic changes in major depressive disorder associated with remission and persistence of symptoms over a five-year course	Trinity College Dublin	Prof	Thomas	Frodl	Health Research Awards - Patient-oriented Research Prof	329,670
Unlocking HIV-1 latency with metabolic cues	University College Dublin	Dr	Virginie	Gautier	Health Research Awards - Patient-oriented Research	329,332
A multi-pronged translational approach towards testing a novel JAM-A inhibitor to reduce aggressive HER2-dependent breast cancer progression	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Dr	Ann	Hopkins	Health Research Awards - Patient-oriented Research	312,745
Rehabilitation following oesophageal cancer: Identifying rehabilitative needs and strategies	Trinity College Dublin	Dr	Juliette	Hussey	Health Research Awards - Patient-oriented Research	329,850
The STRIDER Trial: A randomised controlled trial of sildenafil therapy in dismal prognosis early-onset intrauterine growth restriction	University College Cork	Professor	Louise	Kenny	Health Research Awards - Definitive Intervention	791,777
Hypotension, vasoreactivity and white matter intensities in the ageing brain: The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA)	Trinity College Dublin	Professor	Rose Anne	Kenny	Health Research Awards - Population Health Research	330,000
Proof of concept studies to validate clinical microsensors for the real-time detection of oxygen and pH	National University of Ireland, Maynooth	Professor	John	Lowry	Health Research Awards - Patient-oriented Research	329,830
Alendronate for prevention of antiretroviral therapy-associated bone loss (APART study)	University College Dublin	Dr	Patrick	Mallon	Health Research Awards - Definitive Intervention	795,667
Ketamine for depression relapse prevention following electroconvulsive therapy: a randomised pilot trial with blood neuroplasticity biomarker evaluation	Trinity College Dublin	Professor	Declan	McLoughlin	Health Research Awards - Patient-oriented Research	286,209

Project title	Grant Holder Institution	Grant holder title	Grant holder first name	Grant holder surname	Scheme	Amount Awarded €
An antimicrobial susceptibility testing-based approach for <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> eradication: will tailored therapy overcome the increasing failure of standard empirical therapy?	Trinity College Dublin	Prof	Deirdre	McNamara	Health Research Awards - Patient-oriented Research	181,570
Evaluating the impact of the systematic implementation of advance care directives and palliative care education on quality of care at end of life in long-term care settings	University College Cork	Professor	D William	Molloy	Health Research Awards - Health Services Research	324,093
Disease modification in rheumatoid arthritis using AMPK directed therapies: Restoring metabolic balance to innate immune pathways	Trinity College Dublin	Dr	Ronan	Mullan	Health Research Awards - Patient-oriented Research	329,799
Resistant hypertension in general practice: prevalence, prognosis, description and development of platform cohort for future research	National University of Ireland, Galway	Professor	Andrew	Murphy	Health Research Awards - Patient-oriented Research	329,651
Preventing chemotherapy resistance in triple negative breast cancer	University College Dublin	Dr	Madeline	Murphy	Health Research Awards - Patient-oriented Research	329,995
STandaRd Issue TrANsfusion versuS Fresher red blood cell Use in intenSive carE (TRANSFUSE) – a randomised controlled trial	University College Dublin	Professor	Alistair	Nichol	Health Research Awards - Definitive Intervention	799,045
Development of bioactive therapeutics harnessing stem cell mechanobiology	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Professor	Fergal	O'Brien	Health Research Awards - Patient-oriented Research	285,163
Splintcost - Sensor providing longitudinal information on nocturnal toothgrinding and compliance of splint therapy	Dublin Dental University Hospital	Professor	Brian	O'Connell	Health Research Awards - Patient-oriented Research	323,027
The Low Von Willebrand factor Ireland Cohort (LoVIC) study	Trinity College Dublin	Professor	James	O'Donnell	Health Research Awards - Patient-oriented Research	328,970

Project title	Grant Holder Institution	Grant holder title	Grant holder first name	Grant holder surname	Scheme	Amount Awarded €
Sodium inTake In Chronic Kidney disease (STICK): A randomised controlled trial	National University of Ireland, Galway	Professor	Martin	O'Donnell	Health Research Awards - Patient-oriented Research	329,724
Effect of glucagon like peptide-1 therapy on obesity-driven inflammation and comorbid inflammatory conditions	University College Dublin	Professor	Donal	O'Shea	Health Research Awards - Patient-oriented Research	324,794
A systems-based patient stratification tool of Bcl-2 family protein interactions to evaluate acute treatment responses in rectal cancer patients	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Prof	Jochen	Prehn	Health Research Awards - Patient-oriented Research	313,839
Enhancing the antimicrobial efficacy of mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) for eliminating sepsis induced Acute Lung Injury (ALI) using a novel combination of immune-stimulants	Athlone Institute of Technology	Professor	Neil	Rowan	Health Research Awards - Patient-oriented Research	285,246
The natural history of cystic fibrosis liver disease - refining the phenotype	University College Dublin	Dr	Marion	Rowland	Health Research Awards - Population Health Research	325,169
Inhibiting XBP1s production as a novel therapeutic strategy in Sepsis	National University of Ireland, Galway	Professor	Afshin	Samali	Health Research Awards - Patient-oriented Research	327,116
An inter-sectoral analysis by geographic area of the need for and the supply and utilisation of health services in Ireland	Economic and Social Research Institute	Dr	Samantha	Smith	Health Research Awards - Health Services Research	318,669
Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) in the Irish health system; Incidence, severity and clinical consequences	University of Limerick	Professor	Austin	Stack	Health Research Awards - Population Health Research	325,481
Mapping the pathway to universal health care in Ireland	Trinity College Dublin	Dr	Steve	Thomas	Health Research Awards - Health Services Research	329,647
Galactosaemia, translating novel monitoring approaches into improved clinical practice	Trinity College Dublin	Professor	Eileen	Treacy	Health Research Awards - Patient-oriented Research	286,546

Projects and Programmes - Other

Project title	Grant Holder Institution	Grant holder title	Grant holder first name	Grant holder surname	Scheme	Amount Awarded €
Investigate the impact of bile aspiration on chronic respiratory infection - Bile Paradigm	Irish Thoracic Society	Ms	Suzanne	McCormack	Medical Research Charities Group/ HRB Joint Funding Scheme	108,226
Identification of drugs that can safely and effectively maintain visual function in models of inherited retinal degeneration	Fighting Blindness	Dr	Maria	Meehan	Medical Research Charities Group/ HRB Joint Funding Scheme	295,837
Inherited retinal degenerations: All Ireland Retinal Degenerations Partnership (AIRDP)	Fighting Blindness	Dr	Maria	Meehan	Medical Research Charities Group/ HRB Joint Funding Scheme	236,028
Altered lipid raft cholesterol content contributes to the dysregulated activity of neutrophils in alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency	Alpha One Foundation	Ms	Kitty	O'Connor	Medical Research Charities Group/ HRB Joint Funding Scheme	138,000
Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency: Which is important phenotype, level, activity or all three?	Alpha One Foundation	Ms	Kitty	O'Connor	Medical Research Charities Group/ HRB Joint Funding Scheme	296,996
Modelling cystinosis with human stem cells and the therapeutic potential of aspartate	Cystinosis Foundation Ireland Limited	Ms	Anne Marie	O'Dowd	Medical Research Charities Group/ HRB Joint Funding Scheme	287,939
Drug eluting contact lenses for cystinosis therapy	Cystinosis Foundation Ireland Limited	Ms	Anne Marie	O'Dowd	Medical Research Charities Group/ HRB Joint Funding Scheme	72,039
Restoring immune balance in patients with patients with primary Sjogrens Syndrome (pSS) by modulating microRNA expression	Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Hospital Research Foundation Limited	Ms	Emma-Jayne	Verner	Medical Research Charities Group/ HRB Joint Funding Scheme	39,490
Exploring clinical learning environments for postgraduate medical education and training	University College Cork	Dr	Deirdre	Bennett	Medical Education Research Grant	149,570
Can implementation of an Emergency Department monitoring and escalation protocol of adult patients in a large teaching hospital reduce the number of critical incidents and improve timely intervention in patients requiring a high level of care and improve clinical outcomes?	University College Cork	Dr	Conor	Deasy	Research Collaborative in Quality and Patient Safety Awards	248,745

Project title	Grant Holder Institution	Grant holder title	Grant holder first name	Grant holder surname	Scheme	Amount Awarded €
Supporting work participation through early intervention in patients with regional MSK pain	National University of Ireland, Maynooth	Dr	Deirdre	Desmond	Research Collaborative in Quality and Patient Safety Awards	272,952
Imbuing Medical Professionalism (IMP)	University College Dublin	Professor	Eilish	McAuliffe	Medical Education Research Grant	149,991
Irish cancer survivors' knowledge and perceptions of their lifestyle risk factors for cancer	HSE - Letterkenny General Hospital	Dr	Janice	Richmond	Cancer Nursing Research - Project Development Grant	19,978

Infrastructure and Networks

Project title	Grant Holder Institution	Grant holder title	Grant holder first name	Grant holder surname	Scheme	Amount Awarded €
HRB Trials Methodology Research Network	National University of Ireland, Galway	Professor	Declan	Devane	Trials Methodology Research Network	749,835
HRB Centre for Primary Care Research	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Professor	Tom	Fahey	Health Research Centre	2,994,054
HRB Stroke Clinical Trial Network Ireland	University College Dublin	Professor	Peter J	Kelly	Clinical Trials Networks	2,499,248
Neuroexercise: The effects of an extensive exercise programme on the progression of mild cognitive impairment (MCI)	Trinity College Dublin	Professor	Brian	Lawlor	Joint Programme on Neurodegenerative Disease	243,829
HRB Perinatal Clinical Trial Network Ireland	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Professor	Fergal	Malone	Clinical Trials Networks	2,481,709
Irish Platform for Patient Organisations, Science and Industry	IPPOSI	Ms	Eibhlin	Mulroe	IPPOSI	75,600
HRB Primary Care Clinical Trial Network Ireland	National University of Ireland, Galway	Professor	Andrew	Murphy	Clinical Trials Networks	2,499,652
HRB Critical Care Clinical Trial Network Ireland	University College Dublin	Professor	Alistair	Nichol	Clinical Trials Networks	2,267,620
HRB Centre for Health and Diet Research	University College Cork	Professor	Ivan	Perry	Health Research Centre	2,999,448

Leadership and Capacity Building

Project title	Grant Holder Institution	Grant holder title	Grant holder first name	Grant holder surname	Scheme	Amount Awarded €
Methods to improve physical health and their efficacy and effectiveness in people with schizophrenia: An overview of Cochrane and non-Cochrane systematic reviews	Trinity College Dublin	Dr	Julie	Broderick	Cochrane Training Fellowships	77,298
Determining the breadth and burden of chronic kidney disease in Ireland: Associations with cognitive impairment, functional decline and quality of life	Trinity College Dublin	Dr	Mark	Canney	Research Training Fellowships for Healthcare Professionals	244,593
The cost of survival: Understanding colorectal cancer survivors' quality of life	Trinity College Dublin	Ms	Amanda	Drury	Research Training Fellowships for Healthcare Professionals	210,797
Interventions for fatigue in inflammatory bowel disease	University College Cork	Dr	Dawn	Farrell	Cochrane Training Fellowships	64,488
Botulinum toxin for sialorrhea in people with Parkinson's disease	Trinity College Dublin	Ms	Fiona	Hill	Cochrane Training Fellowships	79,942
The role of angiopoietins and their mediators in symptomatic gastrointestinal angiodyslasia; novel diagnostic and therapeutic targets in chronic anaemia and obscure gastrointestinal bleeding	Trinity College Dublin	Dr	Grainne	Holleran	National SpR Academic Fellowship Programme/HRB Joint Funding Scheme	480,088
Overcoming mechanism of treatment resistance in castration-resistant prostate cancer: Defining a new treatment paradigm	St James's Hospital	Dr	Anuradha	Jayaram	Research Training Fellowships for Healthcare Professionals	221,142
The use of eccentric exercises and topical glyceryl trinitrate (GTN) in the treatment of midportion Achilles tendinopathy: a randomised placebo-controlled trial	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Mr	Paul D	Kirwan	Research Training Fellowships for Healthcare Professionals	193,246
A geographic model for improving out-of-hospital cardiac arrest survival in Ireland	National University of Ireland, Galway	Ms	Siobhan	Masterson	Research Training Fellowships for Healthcare Professionals	250,838

Project title	Grant Holder Institution	Grant holder title	Grant holder first name	Grant holder surname	Scheme	Amount Awarded €
The genomic architecture of human nucleolar organizer regions and its role in nucleolar biology.		Prof	Brian	McStay	Wellcome Trust-HRB-SFI Investigator Award	1,419,864
An analysis of genetic and environmental modifiers of breast cancers risk	National University of Ireland, Galway	Dr	Terri	McVeigh	National SpR Academic Fellowship Programme/HRB Joint Funding Scheme	489,145
Cancer Prevention Fellowship 2014	University College Dublin	Dr	Claire	Meaney	Cancer Prevention Fellowship	119,249
Evaluation of next generation sequencing to investigate the epidemiology of Clostridium Difficile infection	Trinity College Dublin	Dr	Geraldine	Moloney	Research Training Fellowships for Healthcare Professionals	247,274
Use of fresh frozen plasma to prevent intraventricular hemorrhage in premature neonates	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Dr	Elaine	Neary	Cochrane Training Fellowships	30,188
Convenor of Cochrane Ireland Award	Dublin City University	Dr	Dónal	O'Mathúna	Convenor of Cochrane Ireland Award	196,364
The cognitive thalamus: more than a relay.	Trinity College Dublin	Prof	Shane	O'Mara	Wellcome Trust-HRB-SFI Investigator Award	1,198,787
Different insulin types and regimens for pregnant women with pre-existing diabetes	University College Cork	Dr	Sinéad	O'Neill	Cochrane Training Fellowships	46,717
The progression of crouch gait in Diplegic Cerebral Palsy	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland	Mr	Rory	O'Sullivan	Research Training Fellowships for Healthcare Professionals	191,875
Parent training to promote spoken language in pre-school children with Down syndrome	University College Cork	Dr	Ciara	O'Toole	Cochrane Training Fellowships	104,197
Environmental and genetic epidemiology of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis	Trinity College Dublin	Dr	James	Rooney	Research Training Fellowships for Healthcare Professionals	251,449,
The Impact of Genetic Heterogeneity on Synthetic Lethality in Cancer	University College Dublin	Dr	Colm	Ryan	Wellcome Trust-HRB-SFI Sir Henry Wellcome Postdoctoral Fellowship	300,775
Pneumococcal vaccination for prevention of Streptococcus pneumoniae in HIV-infected persons	Trinity College Dublin	Dr	Corinna	Sadler	Cochrane Training Fellowships	99,440



