

Annual Report 2023



Research. Evidence. Action.

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Outcomes and impact in 2023



221

awards across 17 host institutions and research-performing organisations



€85m

awarded (including €18.8 million in co-funding/co-investment)



€21.3m

invested in 18 European joint awards (including €15.4 million in co-funding from European funding agency partners)



590,712

live records
on LINK



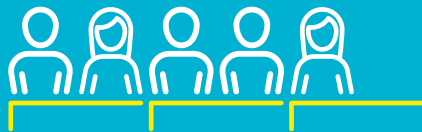
3,421

active users
on LINK online
data system



8

Applied
Programme
Grants which
span up to
60 months in
duration and are
valued at up to
€2.5 million each



205

funding applications underwent written Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) in research reviews



10

evidence products produced for the Department of Health (DOH), comprising 3 evidence reviews, 6 evidence briefs, and 1 comprehensive search and screen



HRB staff gave presentations at the Citizens' Assembly on Drugs Use at four out of five deliberative weekend sessions



The HRB hosted 3 significant knowledge sharing and brokering events in 2023



5

reports from our National Health Information Systems published, 3 peer-reviewed journal articles published, and responses given to 90 requests for data

Chairperson's statement



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bernadette Hannigan'.

Professor Bernadette Hannigan

Chairperson

I am delighted to welcome the publication of the 2023 HRB annual report. I firmly believe that it demonstrates that the organisation continues to make excellent progress towards achieving its strategic goals, driving excellence in health research, promoting the use of data and evidence to inform care, and putting people and their health at the heart of everything that we do.

I would like to thank the staff for their dedication during the year, and on delivering an outstanding body of work on both national and international stages. From supporting the Citizens' Assembly on Drugs Use to creating new research networks and opportunities in Europe, the organisation continues to build upon its already stellar reputation as a trusted voice and a thought leader in health research.

2023 represents the mid-point in our strategy for 2021–2025, *Health research – making an impact*. This report illustrates that the organisation has maintained a clear focus on making an impact and I have no doubt that in the years to come the HRB will continue to deliver on the ambitious goals set out in the strategy.

I step down this year as Chair of the HRB, after eight years as both Board member and then Chair. I would like to thank my fellow Board members for their sustained commitment, collegiality and leadership. I am grateful for their guidance which was particularly instrumental during challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and, perhaps more importantly, I am grateful for the way they have charted a clear direction for strengthening the many roles of research and evidence to shape future health and social care in Ireland.

I wish the Board, the new Chair, and the staff at the HRB continued success as they build on the excellent outcomes and new foundations already in place.

Chief Executive's report



Mairéad O'Driscoll

Dr Mairéad O'Driscoll

Chief Executive

2023 was another highly successful year for the HRB. It marks the mid-point in our strategy for 2021–2025, *Health research – making an impact* and this annual report demonstrates how the HRB continues to deliver on its mission to support research that improves people's health, promotes evidence-informed care and creates solutions to societal challenges.

Some key highlights during the year included the HRB making significant contributions to support the work of the Citizen's Assembly on Drugs Use (CADU). HRB staff provided expert evidence for CADU members at four of the five CADU deliberative weekends. These contributions helped to inform Assembly members' decision-making and policy proposals in relation to the current drugs policy landscape.

In 2023, there was a notable focus on mental health. With additional funding from the Department of Health, the HRB invested approximately €7 million in new mental health research projects. The HRB also established a National Mental Health Research Expert Group to develop a national mental health research strategy to deliver Recommendation 93 in *Sharing the Vision – A Mental Health Policy for Everyone*.

As part of our new *Monitoring and Evaluation Implementation Plan*, we launched Researchfish, a web-based platform to systematically track evaluation

metrics arising from HRB-funded grants. Researchfish will help track outputs and outcomes from HRB grants and will help clearly demonstrate the value of HRB investments in health research.

In November, we co-hosted a conference on research ethics with the National Office for Research Ethics Committees. Over 300 attendees discussed some of the crucial ethical issues facing health and health research today. These included issues such as ethics governance, consent, inclusion, and the challenges posed by new and emerging technologies such as genomics and artificial intelligence (AI).

We continued to deliver on our core strategic objectives, and other notable achievements in 2023 included the following:

Health research delivery and impact

- We made 221 new awards across 17 host institutions and research-performing organisations.
- We invested €85 million, including €18.8 million in co-funding.
- The HRB Evidence Centre continued to deliver evidence for policy, with 10 evidence review products covering a range of topics, including effectiveness of interventions to prevent dental caries, and the cost, safety and environmental impacts of reprocessing and reusing medical devices intended for single use.
- We published six major reports based on data from our National Health Information

Systems (NHIS) on topics that included alcohol, drugs, disability services, and in-patient psychiatric admissions.

- We invested €20 million in eight Applied Programme Grants which will tackle health and social care challenges nationally and internationally.
- We funded a €15 million investment in three new waves (waves 7–9) of the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) to collect information on health, economic and social circumstances of a representative group of adults aged 45 years and over between 2023 and 2030.
- HRB staff published eight peer-reviewed journal papers.
- The HRB continued to demonstrate leadership in the area of drugs and alcohol, with three significant knowledge sharing and brokering events, including:
 - the sixth annual National Drugs Forum titled ‘Building bridges for evidence-informed public policy’
 - a conference on advancing alcohol research in Ireland, and
 - a knowledge brokering event which brought together leading policy-makers, higher education researchers, research funders, and stakeholders to consider how we can align research with policy priorities in relation to young people and substance use.
- We highlighted the importance of enabling the use of health data by publishing the final report and findings from the HRB-

funded award Proof of Concept: Technical Prototype for Data Access, Storage, Sharing and Linkage (DASSL) to support research and innovation in Ireland.

- In October 2023, we increased the HRB PhD stipend from €19,000 to €25,000. This is aligned with the recommendations of the independent National Review of State Supports for PhD Researchers.

Enhancing national, European, and international collaborations

- The HRB participated in 10 European Union (EU) joint transnational calls where award outcomes were finalised in 2023. This included three networking group calls and seven research calls, and resulted in the HRB providing co-funding for 18 awards in the following collaborations and initiatives:
 - the Joint Programme – Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND)
 - Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance (JPI-AMR)
 - ERA-NET NEURON
 - The European Joint Programme on Rare Diseases (EJP RD)
 - TRANSCAN-3 (Translational Cancer) and the European Partnerships for Fostering a European Research Area for Health Research (ERA4Health), and
 - Transforming Health and Social Care Systems (THCS).
- The HRB was a partner on two successful

applications to the EU to establish a European Partnership for Personalised Medicine and a new European Partnership in Rare Diseases. EU partnerships provide significant opportunities for researchers in Ireland to work collaboratively, to build and to share expertise, and to tackle challenges that are beyond one country alone.

Supporting an evolving ethical and regulatory environment

- The HRB continued to host the Secretariat to the Health Research Consent Declaration Committee (HRCDC), which convened 10 times during the year. The committee made 22 consent declarations, and 18 amendment requests were approved to facilitate the use of personal data for health research in the public interest.
- The Secretariat processed 65 annual reviews of existing consent declarations made for health research to support the monitoring of consent declarations on behalf of the HRCDC.
- We continued to support the work and growth of the National Office for Research Ethics Committees. The National Research Ethics Committee for Clinical Trials (NREC-CT) delivered a single national opinion for 98 new clinical trial studies and 469 substantial modifications applications.
- The National Research Ethics Committee for Clinical Investigations of Medical Devices and Performance Studies of *In Vitro* Diagnostic Medical Devices (NREC-MD) delivered a national opinion for 29 new

medical device studies and 28 substantial modifications applications.

- The National Office supported 61 national research ethics committee meetings, to deliver a total of 625 single national ethics opinions.

Throughout the year, we continued to develop our processes in finance, governance and information and communications technology (ICT). We invested in leadership training and succession planning for senior management. All of our achievements were only possible through the hard work, dedication and expertise of our staff and the HRB Board, and we extend our sincere appreciation to all involved in our successes.

Lastly, 2023 saw the departures of Professor Charles Normand and Professor Bernadette Hannigan from the HRB Board. Both contributed eight years of distinguished service and made an enormous input to the success of the HRB during their tenure. I would like to acknowledge their work and to thank them sincerely for their wisdom and insight.

As we look ahead to 2024, we will ensure that we continue to deliver on the objectives in our current strategy. Working with partners at home and abroad, the HRB remains committed to providing leadership in health and social care research, collecting and analysing evidence and data, and enhancing health sector participation in research and innovation. We look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead and to delivering on our vision of better health through excellent research, data and evidence.

Snapshot of HRB activities 2023

€15 million to support ageing well in Ireland

The HRB will support a further three waves of The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) to collect information on the health, economic, and social circumstances of a representative group of adults aged 45 years and over between 2023 and 2030.



Developing Ireland's clinical trials ecosystem

The HRB invested €12 million in 12 new Definitive Intervention and Feasibility Awards which are central to developing Ireland's clinical trials ecosystem. The new awards will support clinical trials research in areas including cancer, type 1 diabetes, speech and language therapy for pre-schoolers, and pain management following spinal cord injury.



Awarding excellence

The HRB Impact Award 2023 recognised the exceptional and inspiring contribution to neurodegenerative disease research made by Orla Hardiman, Professor of Neurology at Trinity College Dublin, Consultant Neurologist at Beaumont Hospital, and National Clinical Lead, Neurology, Health Service Executive.



National Conference on Research Ethics

Co-hosted by the Health Research Board (HRB) and the National Office for Research Ethics Committees (NREC), inclusion, innovation, and trust were among the key takeaways from this engaging and vibrant event. Attracting over 300 registered participants, the conference brought together a range of stakeholders including researchers, practitioners, ethics committee members, and patients to address some of the most challenging ethical issues facing health research today.

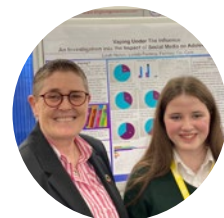


Horizon Europe success for Irish-based health researchers

45 projects across 41 Irish institutions secured funding worth more than €36 million from Horizon Europe, the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation. This represents nearly 2% of the entire Horizon Europe budget.

Young scientist examines influence of social media on teen vaping

Leah Nolan from Loreto Secondary School, Fermoy, Co Cork, won the HRB Special Prize at the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition for her project 'Vaping Under the Influence: An investigation into the impact of social media on adolescent attitudes towards vaping'. Her findings showed that social media does exert influence on teens to vape. Her project also won the Social & Behavioural Sciences intermediate category.



HRB informs Citizens' Assembly on Drugs Use

HRB staff joined other researchers, practitioners, policy-makers, and stakeholders from across society – including those with lived experience of drug use and harms – to help inform the deliberations of the Citizens' Assembly on Drugs Use. HRB staff presented evidence to the Assembly on topics that included drug patterns and trends, health-led approaches on drug-induced and drug-related harms, treatment sought by family members affected by problem substance use by a relative, and recent drug treatment data.



€20 million boost for evidence-informed decision-making

The funding will support eight Applied Programme awards to tackle challenges in mental health, dementia, breastfeeding, speech and language therapy, autoimmune disease, pandemic preparedness and climate-resilient healthcare systems.

Two of the projects were designed to specifically to support Sharing the Vision, the national mental health strategy.

HRB study explores impact of problem drug use on affected family members

Lead author Cathy Kelleher, HRB (pictured)



In the first study of its kind, HRB staff analysed data from the National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS) to better understand the characteristics of affected family members seeking help as a result of someone else's drug use. The findings highlight some of the hidden harms of problem substance use and the ripple effect they have.

Highlighting trends in psychiatric admissions

A report from the National Psychiatric Inpatient Reporting System (NPIRS) showed there were 16,136 admissions to Irish psychiatric units and hospitals in 2022. Depressive disorders and schizophrenia were found to be the most common diagnoses for adults, while eating disorders remain a key feature of admissions for children and adolescents.

Admissions appear to be returning to pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels, with smaller increases noted over the last two years.

Disability services in Ireland

Data from the National Ability Supports System (NASS) and published in our bulletin *Overview of people engaging with disability services, 2022* show a growing need for adult residential and respite services. More than 1,700 adults, who are currently living at home with ageing carers, were identified as needing residential care now or within the next 5 years. Overnight respite is required by more than 1,300 children and adults.

Deaths among homeless people in Ireland 2019

A report by the HRB showed that there were 84 deaths among people who were homeless in 2019, with males accounting for the majority (81.0%) of deaths. More than three-quarters of deaths (77.4%) occurred in the Leinster region, with 59.5% occurring in Dublin. Almost two-fifths (38.1%) of the overall group had a mental health issue. The report was commissioned by the Department of Health to improve understanding of premature mortality among people who are homeless nationally, and to provide more complete and accurate national data to inform policy.



Established a National Mental Health Research Expert Group to develop a national mental health research strategy

Launched two funding calls valued at €15 million to support the career development of emerging health researchers

Supported 61 National Research Ethics Committee (NREC) meetings to deliver a total of 625 unique national ethics opinions

Hosted three significant knowledge-sharing and brokering events, including the first on the subject of young people and substance abuse

Established a new Advisory Committee to support the work of the National Psychiatric Inpatient Reporting System (NPIRS)

Launched Researchfish, a web-based platform to systematically track evaluation metrics arising from HRB-funded grants

Increased our PhD stipends to €25,000

Supported 10 meetings of the Health Research Consent Declaration Committee (HRCDC)

Announced 13 new Postdoctoral Fellowships for outstanding researchers in health and social care

Profiled a sample of notable impacts and outcomes from HRB work in the annual *Health Research in Action* publication



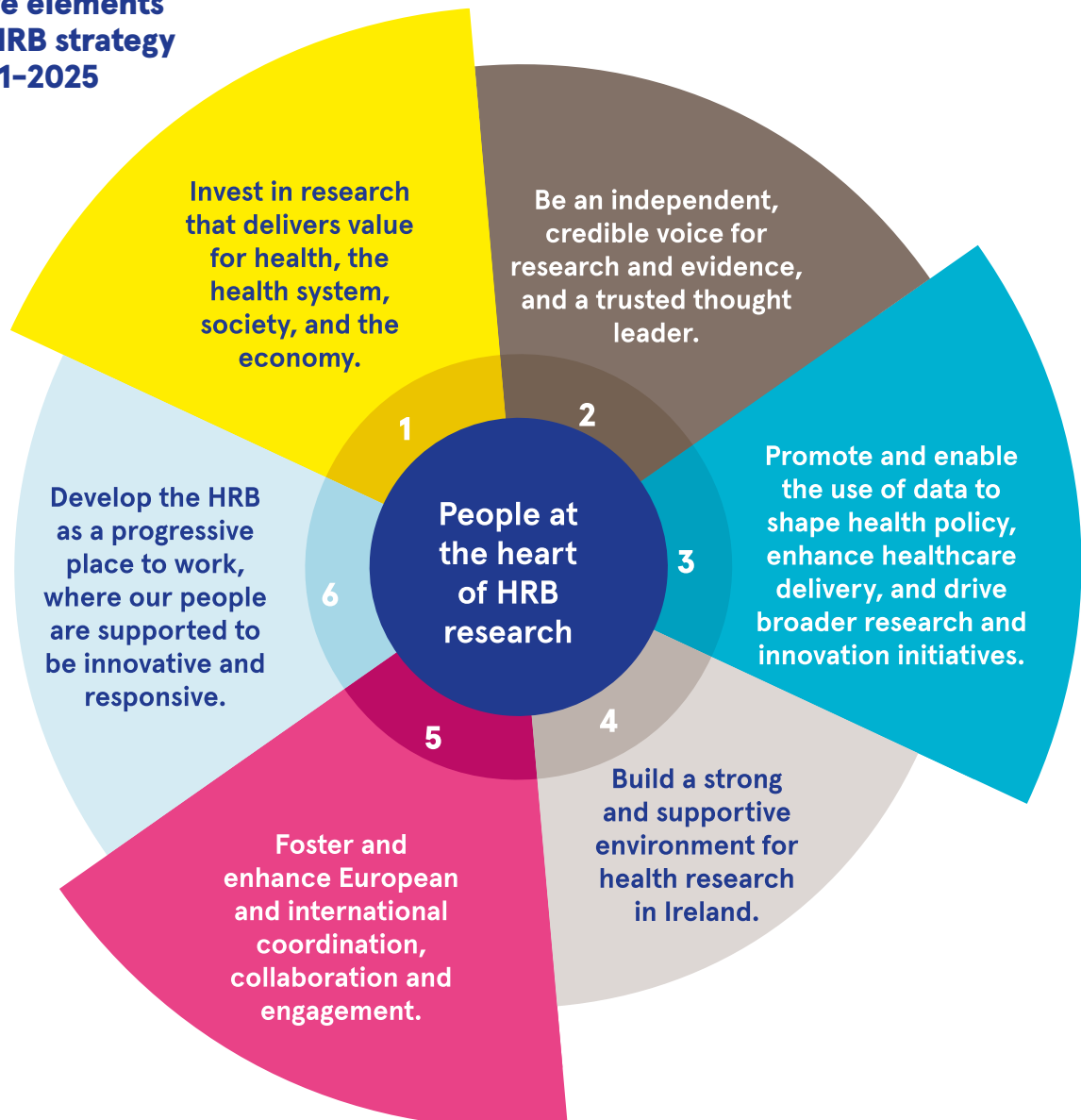
Key deliverables in line with HRB strategy 2021–2025

The HRB is Ireland's lead public funding agency supporting innovative health and social care research. As outlined in our recent strategy for 2021–2025, *Health research – making an impact*, our vision is for better health through excellent research, data, and evidence, and our mission is to support research that improves people's health, promotes evidence-informed care, and creates solutions to societal challenges.

Health research – making an impact also details our commitment to placing people at the heart of everything we do, as led by our values as an organisation: leadership, independence, accountability, quality, responsiveness, collaboration, and inclusiveness.

In order to achieve this, our new strategy describes six strategic objectives that will guide our activities. This annual report highlights key achievements during 2022 in line with these objectives, and showcases examples of significant outcomes and successes.

Core elements of HRB strategy 2021–2025



Strategic objective 1

Research that makes a difference

Research enables advances in health and social care that make a real difference to people's lives. The HRB is committed to investing in research that delivers value for health, the health system, society, and the economy.

We do this through a strategic, well-balanced funding portfolio that responds to real-world needs; by collaborating with partners to address challenges and drive innovation in our health system; and by supporting the meaningful involvement of patients, carers, and the public in research. This ensures that HRB-funded research is applied in practice and contributes to better health outcomes for Ireland and its people.

Key items delivered in 2023:

- We launched a new round of the HRB Investigator-Led Project scheme, which invites applications for clearly defined research projects in patient-oriented research, population health research or health services research, and we received 107 eligible applications.
- We opened a new round of the Health Research Charities Ireland–HRB Joint Funding Scheme, which is run in partnership with Health Research Charities Ireland (HRCI) and aims to support internationally competitive and innovative research in areas of strategic relevance to participating charities.
- We made 10 new Applied Partnership Awards, where co-lead applicants from knowledge user organisations join researchers to advance research over a 12–24-month period in areas of documented priority/need for health policy and practice.



- We awarded eight Applied Programme Grants which span up to 60 months and are valued at up to €2.5 million each. This scheme sought applications in thematic areas that reflect broad health and social care challenges nationally and internationally, such as areas that cause significant burden or emerging areas where there is a need for increased capacity and additional long-term commitment of funds. Successful grants were in areas such as pandemic preparedness, climate-resilient healthcare systems, and prevention and management of non-communicable diseases.
- We made 12 new Definitive Intervention and Feasibility Awards, which aim to deliver high-quality evidence on the efficacy, effectiveness, cost and broad impact of drugs, devices, technologies, programmes or services.
- We funded three new Waves (waves 7–9) of the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA), at a cost of €15 million, following an extensive application and peer review process at the request of the Department of Health (DOH).
- We funded an award for a Clinical-Academic Patient Safety Research Network (PSRN) to advance patient safety research in Ireland. The multidisciplinary network (comprising 22 co-applicants and 28 collaborators) will work in close collaboration with the Health Service Executive (HSE) National Quality and Patient Safety Directorate (NQPSD), which provided matched funding for the network.
- As per Recommendation 93 in the national mental health policy, *Sharing the Vision – A Mental Health Policy for Everyone* the HRB established a National Mental Health Research Expert Group to develop a national mental health research strategy. The Expert Group met four times in 2023 and will continue to meet monthly, with a plan to complete the strategy in 2024.
- With dedicated funding made available by the DOH, the HRB invested approximately €7 million in new mental health research projects.
- We undertook a written PPI review process for 205 funding applications.

- The HRB was showcased in a Science Europe report *Science–Policy in Action: Insights for the Green and Digital Transition 2023*. Dr Mairéad O’Driscoll, HRB Chief Executive, participated in the high-level panel discussion at the report launch in Amsterdam.
- The HRB joined a working group of CoARA (the EU Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment) which will focus on improving practices in the assessment of research proposals. This group will focus on many areas, including selection of and guidance for peer reviewers, criteria and processes used for assessment of grant proposals and streamlining of the information required from applicants. The HRB was also a co-applicant on a successful application from Ireland that secured CoARA National Chapter recognition in late 2023.
- We co-hosted a dissemination event with the Health and Social Care (HSC) Research and Development Division in Northern Ireland to mark the completion of 11 cross-border clinical trials projects co-funded under the European Union’s Interreg CHITIN programme.
- We participated on the research subgroup chaired by the National Cancer Control Programme to advance cancer research in support of the National Cancer Strategy. In partnership with the NCCP Cancer Research Group, the HRB initiated an exercise to conduct a detailed analysis of cancer research expenditure by research funders in Ireland from 2019 to 2022 to support the work of this group. This analysis will be completed and shared in 2024.
- Following an independent external review of the HRB’s evaluation capabilities, processes and practices (by Mazars), the Board approved a monitoring and evaluation implementation plan (2023–2025). The HRB subsequently commenced a partnership with Researchfish to enable the collection of high-quality longitudinal data on outputs, outcomes and impacts of HRB grants. HRB researchers will make the first annual return in Researchfish in early 2024.



Case Study 1

HRB invests €20 million to support team-based, applied research

The investment will support eight Applied Programme (APRO) Awards, which are designed to provide evidence in order to promote change in healthcare policy and practice and lead to better health outcomes.

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The awards will create new evidence in areas such as mental health and well-being, dementia, breastfeeding supports, speech and language interventions for children, autoimmune disease, pandemic preparedness, and climate-resilient healthcare systems.


Thinking strategically

The APRO scheme invited proposals in areas that cause significant ill-health burden both nationally and internationally, and it included new or emerging areas that may need increased research capacity. Proposals were also expected to align with the Department of Health's *Statement of priorities: health & social care research 2023-2025*.


Dr Mairéad O'Driscoll, Chief Executive of the HRB, said:

We were delighted to receive additional funding from the Department of Health that allowed us to support a greater number of projects that addressed recognised evidence gaps identified in its *Statement of Priorities*. In particular we were able to include two projects on mental health that were designed specifically to support Sharing the Vision, the national mental health strategy.

All eight projects will address important areas where evidence is required for better decision-making and contribute to improving people's health.



It's a groundbreaking collaboration, where clinical research meets patient involvement and implementation science.



Programme awards have a scale and reach that make them distinct from project grants. They are designed to provide support for the long-term development of a health research field by established investigators with an outstanding track record of achievement.

Dr Anne Cody, Head of Investigator-Led Grants, Research Careers and Enablers at the HRB, added:

We designed the awards specifically to ensure that knowledge generated from the research can be quickly put into policy and/or practice.

All of the teams involve people who will use the research outcomes and they all have strong public and patient involvement which will help ensure the application of findings into practice quickly and deliver the greatest benefit.

Supporting Sharing the Vision

Two of the successful projects will directly support Ireland's national strategy for mental health, both of which are focused on recovery and improving patient outcomes.

According to Professor David Cotter, Professor of Molecular Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), and the lead applicant on VISTA: VISION To Action for promoting mental health and recovery; An Implementation Science approach to "Sharing the Vision":

What sets our research apart is its commitment to ensuring that mental health policies translate into tangible improvements. It's a groundbreaking collaboration, where clinical research meets patient involvement and implementation science, ultimately benefiting patients, families and all those affected by mental health difficulties. Our focus is on making a real impact, addressing areas of proven policy need.

Professor Brian O'Donoghue, University College Dublin, added that his project, Achieving Recovery in Psychotic Disorders with Comprehensive Clinical Guidelines, will bring us "a step closer to precision medicine in psychiatry, and it will lead to the development of Irish clinical guidelines for the treatment of psychosis."

Case Study 2

Recognising the impact of health research

Combining academic prowess with clinical work that matters, Professor Orla Hardiman was the very worthy recipient of the HRB Impact Award 2023.

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The award recognises how her exceptional contribution to research has informed policy and practice in a way that positively impacts both the care and the well-being of patients living with neurodegenerative conditions and their families.

From her early days establishing the first specialist multidisciplinary clinics in Ireland for neurological conditions, to her current role as National Clinical Lead in Neurology at the Health Service Executive (HSE), Professor Hardiman has been an inspirational leader and trailblazer in research who has delivered outstanding results for healthcare and her patients.

Acknowledging Professor Hardiman's contribution, Dr Mairéad O'Driscoll, Chief Executive of the HRB, said:

The HRB Impact Award celebrates people whose research improves health policy and practice and leads to meaningful change for people's health and care. And I can't think of a better example of that than Professor Hardiman.

Throughout her career, Professor Hardiman has put her patients and their families first. This has been the main driver for her research and her contributions to advancing professional practice. Her ability to deliver is not just down to her innovative ideas, clinical excellence, or her ability to advocate, but because she is guided always by the impact that her work has on patients.

Professor Hardiman's achievements span from pioneering multidisciplinary clinics to influencing national care models. Her HRB-funded work underpins the world's longest-running amyotrophic lateral sclerosis/motor neurone disease (ALS/MND) register and inspires similar initiatives globally.

Professor Hardiman's dedication to patient care led to the first published *Standards of Care for People with Disabling (Progressive and Static) Neurological Conditions in the Hospital and Community*, which she authored with the Neurological Alliance of Ireland and which informed the HSE's 2016 *National Clinical Programme for Neurology: Model of Care*. The National Motor Neurone Disease Clinic she established at Beaumont Hospital is now a global centre of excellence, providing care for the majority of Irish ALS patients.

Accepting the HRB Impact Award, Professor Hardiman, Consultant Neurologist at Beaumont Hospital and National Clinical Lead in Neurology at the HSE, said:

My guiding light throughout my research career has been to continuously ask myself whether the research work we do “matters” in a real-world sense to those we serve.

Very early in my professional life, I made a conscious decision that all of my research endeavours would be guided by my experience as a working clinician, and by my desire to improve the lives of those whom I have the privilege of serving as a consultant neurologist.

I am also truly fortunate to collaborate with many wonderful international colleagues, those like-minded clinician scientists across the world with whom I share a passion for high-quality clinical research.

My genuine hope is that I, and our research group, have made an impact that will outlast our own professional careers and in the future that we will be able to say that ALS/MND is a chronic, rather than a fatal, condition.

HRB Impact Award winner Professor Orla Hardiman, HSE, with Dr Mairéad O'Driscoll, Chief Executive of the HRB.



Strategic objective 2

An independent voice

We aim to be an independent, credible voice for research and evidence, and a trusted thought leader. The HRB Evidence Centre continues to support the generation of independent, credible evidence to inform the decisions of policy-makers, practitioners, and the public.

We also seek to enhance coordination between those involved in evidence synthesis nationally and internationally, and strive to earn and maintain people's trust in the evidence produced, while facilitating dialogue on emerging health research topics.

Key items delivered in 2023:

- The HRB Evidence Centre completed 10 evidence products. These included:
 - Three evidence reviews covering the safety and effectiveness of medicinal cannabis, effectiveness of interventions to prevent dental caries, and cost, safety and environmental impacts of reprocessing and reusing medical devices intended for single use.
 - Six written evidence briefs for the DOH, covering diverse topics, including an analysis of clinical negligence claims in a range of jurisdictions; advisory structures on infectious disease medical countermeasures; mental health-related indicators for measuring performance and impact of mental health policy; cross-border healthcare collaboration; measures for reducing reliance on agency staff and overtime expenditure in health services; funding and access to assisted reproductive technologies
 - One written comprehensive search and screen on co-payments for home care

- Publishing eight research papers by HRB staff on their work in peer-reviewed journals. These were on topics that included alcohol use and cannabis use.
- Launching a call for applicant teams to provide systematic review and budget impact analyses to inform the development of Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) prioritised by the National Clinical Effectiveness Committee (NCEC). The review process will complete in early January 2024.
- Hosting the first in-person HRB Grant Holders Conference since the COVID-19 pandemic in February 2023, with the theme of 'Collaboration and Partnership in Research'. Through keynote presentations, case studies and lively discussions, perspectives were shared on adopting interdisciplinary and knowledge approaches in health research, the future of data collaboration in/for research, and the growing importance of research networks and international collaboration.
- Conducting an interim review of the PPI Ignite Network grant and integrating approximately 440 public reviews into the assessment processes of 9 funding schemes.
- Making 18 awards under the Conference and Event Sponsorship scheme to support health research-related conferences and events aimed at knowledge user, public or scientific audiences at any or all career stages, or any combination thereof.



Case Study 3

Aligning Ireland's medicine and medical devices policies with Europe

As of May 2021, European Union (EU) member states are required to adopt a legislative stance on single-use device (SUD) reprocessing, following which the Department of Health asked the HRB to conduct an evidence review in order to provide input on its review of Ireland's national policy position.

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The HRB completed three evidence reviews on this general topic during 2023. In September 2023, the HRB published the largest of these three evidence products, a report titled *Cost, safety, and environmental impact of reprocessing single-use medical devices: A systematic review and meta-analysis.*

A systematic review is a type of research study that aims to evaluate and summarise existing research evidence on a specific topic in a comprehensive, structured, and transparent way.


Dr Niamh McGrath, a Research Officer in the HRB Evidence Centre who led the review, commented, "The review formed part of a wide, targeted consultation by the Department of Health to gather feedback on Ireland's legislative approach to the EU Medical Device Regulation. Ours is one of only a few systematic reviews on SUD reprocessing and sets out the fullest picture of available published research evidence on the topic."

The report provided a detailed examination of the cost, safety, and environmental impacts of reprocessing and reusing medical devices that are intended for single use. The devices examined ranged from external, non-invasive devices, such as face masks and compression sleeves, to invasive devices, such as endoscopes (which are used to look inside the body with a camera), implantable cardiac devices, and cardiac catheters.


Dr McGrath said:

The evidence underpinning patient safety remains largely inconclusive, but no additional adverse safety outcomes were reported in more recent studies. Cost-effectiveness remains unknown but is likely to differ by device.

Similar device-related differences were observed for environmental outcomes, with deep vein thrombosis compression sleeves offering the best environmental outcomes.



The research produced by the HRB enables the Department of Health to examine and build on international policy approaches, ensuring that policies implemented in Ireland are best designed to benefit the people of Ireland.



The HRB Evidence Centre also completed two smaller pieces of bespoke research focused on Irish–EU health policy alignment. One looked at medical countermeasures – that is, medicines and medical supplies that can be used to diagnose, prevent, or treat diseases related to health threats, including infectious diseases. The second examined biosimilar medicines, namely medicines that are very similar, but not identical, to an existing approved biological medicine.

The research on medical countermeasures explored the processes of selecting, procuring, and stockpiling medical countermeasures to infectious disease threats in Australia, England, and Finland. Expert groups in the areas of immunisation and infectious diseases independently advised on medical countermeasures, while government task forces usually arranged procurement.

For biosimilar medicines, the HRB described automatic pharmacy-level biosimilar substitution in five countries in Europe that implement biosimilar substitution or that are further along than Ireland is in their development of a policy framework regarding this process. The selected countries were Estonia, the Netherlands, Norway, Germany, and Finland. The policies in these countries enable prescribers to provide medical justifications prohibiting specific patients from receiving a biosimilar, and were influenced by health system factors (e.g. e-health infrastructure, biosimilar adverse event surveillance, private health insurers, and the dispensing of the preferred medicine rather than the cheapest biosimilar).

According to Niall Redmond, Assistant Secretary for Primary Care Oversight and Performance at the Department of Health, “The research produced by the HRB enables the Department of Health to examine and build on international policy approaches, ensuring that policies implemented in Ireland are best designed to benefit the people of Ireland.”

Case Study 4

HRB providing evidence for the Citizens' Assembly on Drugs Use

With an internationally acknowledged expertise in both qualitative and quantitative research on illicit drugs and illicit drug use, HRB staff made important contributions to the work of the Citizens' Assembly on Drugs Use (CADU).

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CADU was established to consider the legislative, policy, and operational changes that Ireland could make to significantly reduce the harmful impacts of illicit drugs on individuals, families, communities, and wider Irish society. The Assembly was made up of 100 people, including 99 members of the general public and one independent chairperson.

As representatives of the leading national body providing data and evidence on drug use and harm, HRB staff had a prominent role in providing expert evidence for CADU members to inform their thinking as the Assembly reviewed the current drugs policy landscape.

According to Brian Galvin, Programme Manager for Drug and Alcohol Research at the HRB and Chair of Ireland's National Drugs Strategy (NDS) Research Subcommittee on Drugs, "Our staff presented at four out of the five CADU deliberative weekends, which contributed to decision-making and policy proposals at the Assembly on the sixth and final weekend."

HRB staff made presentations across a variety of areas including:

- drug use, drug prevalence, and the socioeconomic impacts of illicit drugs
- how drug use affects family members
- drug-related deaths
- drug treatment demand, and
- health-led policy approaches to reduce harm from licit and illicit drugs.

During one of the HRB presentations, the members of the Assembly were asked to take into consideration the lived experiences of people impacted by drug use, and Cathy Kelleher, a HRB Research Officer, described what 11 years of HRB data reveal about people affected by the problem drug use or addiction of a family member, partner, colleague, or friend.

In the first study of its kind in Ireland or internationally, Ms Kelleher analysed data from almost 14,000 referrals for affected family members seeking support and treatment from substance use and family support services between 2010 and 2020.

It is so important to make sure that evidence is accessible to support informed decision-making and effective problem-solving.

Ms Kelleher said, “Our data tell us about who is affected by other people’s problem drug use and give us an insight into their need for treatment. It is so important to remember that there are individual stories behind the figures.”

Dr Suzi Lyons, Senior Researcher, National Health Information Systems, presented new data from the National Drug-Related Deaths Index (NDRDI) for the years 2011–2020, which had not been previously published. Dr Lyons explained:

These data showed that there had been a sustained increase in the number of poisoning deaths between 2011 and 2020, with opioids and cocaine implicated in many deaths and almost eight in ten involving more than one drug.

It was very rewarding to hear The Assembly Secretariat acknowledge these new data on drug-related deaths as an example of the valuable support the HRB provided to the Citizens’ Assembly throughout their process.

Mr Brian Galvin concluded:

While Ireland is internationally recognised as a leader in high-quality drug data collection and analysis, there is always room for improvement. It is so important to make sure that evidence is accessible to support informed decision-making and effective problem-solving, and we were delighted to do this as the Assembly make their important decisions that will help address the challenges drugs pose to Irish society.



Strategic objective 3

Trusted data

Access to health and social care data, especially when linked with research and statistical data, has the potential to transform healthcare delivery and how we manage our own health. The HRB is already playing a leading role in enabling this.

We are committed to promoting and enabling the use of data to shape health policy, enhance healthcare delivery, and drive broader research and innovation initiatives. Moreover, we will work to increase public understanding of the importance of facilitating secure access to health and social care data for research, policy, and planning. We will also support the adoption of best practice in data management, governance, and reuse by data producers and researchers.

Key items delivered in 2023:

- HRB staff contributed extensively to the research, information, and evidence provided to the Citizens' Assembly on Drugs Use in 2023.
- The HRB hosted three significant knowledge sharing and brokering events in 2023, including:
 - the sixth annual National Drugs Forum titled 'Building bridges for evidence-informed public policy: young people and substance use'
 - a conference on advancing alcohol research in Ireland, and
 - a knowledge brokering event which brought together leading policy-makers, higher education researchers, research funders, and stakeholders to consider how we can align research with policy priorities in relation to young people and substance use.
- We fulfilled Ireland's contractual requirements for the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) for the year 2023, based on 2022 data.
- We published three issues (84–86) of *Drugnet Ireland*.
- We awarded five new Secondary Data Analysis Projects (SDAP) grants to incentivise researchers to make best use of existing health and social care data sources, and to ensure that these sources are exploited to the full to deliver high-quality, high-impact evidence for policy and/or practice.
- We published the final report and findings from the HRB-funded award Proof of Concept: Technical Prototype for Data Access, Storage, Sharing and Linkage (DASSL) to support research and innovation in Ireland.
- The HRB was a partner on a DOH-led application to the EU4Health programme, which successfully secured co-funding towards designing and establishing a Health Data Access Body (HDAB) for



access to and linkage of health data for secondary purposes. This followed on from the work conducted in the last two years under the Joint Action Towards the European Health Data Space (TEHDAS), in which the HRB has been an active participant since 2021. Work will begin on the design and development of the HDAB in early 2024.

- The HRB continued to host the Secretariat to the Health Research Consent Declaration Committee (HRCDC), which convened 10 times during the year. Twenty-two consent declarations were made and 18 amendment requests were approved to facilitate the use of personal data for health research in the public interest.
- The Secretariat processed 65 annual reviews of existing consent declarations made for health research to support the monitoring of consent declarations on behalf of the HRCDC.
- The Secretariat supported the development of the HRCDC by hosting subject matter experts to speak on areas such as the Decision Support Service and Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015, the national research ethics system in Ireland, and the conduct of clinical trials.
- The Secretariat engaged with the DOH on the Health Information Bill 2023 and participated in TEHDAS working groups to ensure preparedness for any changes that may influence the work of the HRCDC and the Secretariat.
- The Secretariat continues to engage with health research groups such as Cancer Trials Ireland, Dementia Trials Ireland, and FutureNeuro to support an efficient consent declaration application process.
- The HRB continues to support the Genomic Data Infrastructure (GDI) project in Ireland (co-funded with Digital Europe to deliver on the goals of the 1+ Million Genomes (1+MG) initiative) where agencies, research organisations, technology providers, government representatives, and patient organisations across 20 countries come together to design, develop, and operationalise a cross-border federated network of genome data to advance personalised medicine for the benefit of European citizens.
- We published five HRB NHIS national reports and bulletins, three supplementary bulletins and 18 regional bulletins.
- We published three peer-reviewed journal articles using the NHIS data.
- We responded to 90 requests for data from external data users, researchers and academics.
- We began reporting on deaths among the homeless population on behalf of the Drugs Policy Unit in the Department of Health.
- Our cross-organisational working group on health data met five times in 2023.

Case Study 5

Making data work better for us all

The HRB is taking the lead nationally to promote new and expanded access to data for health and social care research. Working with national and international partners, including researchers, funders, policy-makers, and other State authorities, we aim to advance Ireland's potential in this area.

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Better access to, and use of, health and social care data has the potential to transform how healthcare is delivered and to provide quality information to policy-makers and service planners.

However, the health data space is a complicated landscape with nuanced medical, technical, legal, and ethical considerations to be navigated.

"We are working in close collaboration with the Department of Health [DOH] to plot a course through both national and international requirements for data access, storage, sharing and linkage," says Dr Teresa Maguire, Director of Research Strategy and Funding at the HRB. "The HRB was the driving force behind the DASSL [Data Access, Storage, Sharing and Linkage] model, a proof of concept technical infrastructure to support data sharing for research purposes."

Dr Maguire adds:

And the HRB is also contributing to policy and planning discussions around health data sharing via a Health Data Access Body [HDAB] in Ireland. This builds on our successful collaboration with the Central Statistics Office [CSO] on the establishment of a Research Data Governance Board to support decision-making on access requests to the COVID-19 Data Research Hub. This provided timely lessons on safe data access and has significantly contributed to planning discussions on data access expansion.

Taking steps to improve data access, reuse, and sharing

The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) is one of the largest awards managed by the HRB. It collects data on a nationally representative sample of people aged 45 years and over in Ireland, and examines factors that influence healthy ageing.

The HRB commissioned an independent evaluation of the State's investment in TILDA. The evaluation, published in late 2023, demonstrated that TILDA is a high-quality and invaluable resource, both nationally and internationally, that is gaining even more utility and importance the longer it progresses.

However, the evaluation emphasised the need for any new investment to facilitate enhanced access to data generated from TILDA. To this end, the HRB, DOH, CSO, and TILDA came together and decided to transfer all existing and newly collected TILDA data to the CSO Administrative Data Centre, where they can be accessed in a manner that is secure and controlled.

Having agreed to the terms of this agreement, in December 2023, the HRB and DOH announced a new €15 million investment in TILDA to support three further waves of data collection.

Dr Maguire concluded:

This new investment will facilitate greater access to data at national level. It is one of the numerous interwoven strands that the HRB is driving in the health data space. We are also working closely with the DOH on the interplay between the Health Information Bill 2023, the General Data Protection Regulation, and the new European Health Data Space Regulation to ensure greater access to health and social care data in Ireland.



Dr Simon Wong, Irish Centre for High-End Computing (ICHEC); Dr Teresa Maguire, HRB; Dr Orna Fennelly, ICHEC; Launch of the DASSL (Data Access, Storage, Sharing and Linkage) report.

Case Study 6

Creating a better understanding of deaths among people who are homeless

The HRB published the first Irish study on deaths among people who are homeless, which provides accurate data that could be used to inform healthcare services and policy.

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The findings were presented to the National Homeless Action Committee, which is responsible for delivering policies and actions relating to homelessness.

For the study, which was commissioned by the DOH, the HRB examined closed files from Coroners' Offices of people who were known to be homeless. The team extracted anonymised information on demographics such as age, sex, and place of death, and collected important health-related data on substance use, comorbidities, and mental health issues.

Dr Mairéad O'Driscoll, Chief Executive of the HRB, said, "In Ireland and internationally, there is a lack of robust research in relation to deaths among people who are homeless. This new data is both timely and vital to inform harm reduction strategies and future policies to support those experiencing homelessness."

Homeless death findings

There were 84 deaths among people who were homeless in 2019, equivalent to 7 deaths per month. Four in every five of those who died were male. The median age was 40.5 years for men and 39.5 years for women. Three-quarters of the deaths took place in Leinster, and the majority took place in public places or buildings, or in derelict buildings.

Almost all of the deceased (more than 90%) had a history of substance use, with a high level of polydrug use. Of the total 84 deaths, 46 were classified as poisoning deaths, also known as overdoses. Opioids were the most common drug group implicated in these poisonings, followed by benzodiazepines and Z-drugs.

There were 38 non-poisoning deaths. Death by hanging was the most common cause in this group of deaths, responsible for one in four of all non-poisoning deaths. Two-thirds of those who died by hanging had a history of mental health issues, while 16% had a history of drug use.

There is no one single solution to these challenges, but our findings can help shape holistic responses across healthcare services.

Dr Ena Lynn, Senior Researcher at the HRB and the lead author of the report, added:

Two important insights emerging from this data are the role of substance use and the high levels of mental health and medical issues among those who died, showing that this is a vulnerable population with complex needs.

There is no one single solution to these challenges, but our findings can help shape holistic responses across healthcare services.

The report showed that it is possible, cost-effective, and a good use of resources to continue to use the NDRDI to collect and publish these data. As such, the DOH has requested that the HRB continue to collect and publish annual data on deaths among people who are homeless in Ireland.



Dr Ena Lynn, HRB

Strategic objective 4

Thriving research environment

Health research that delivers value needs an enabling environment in order to thrive – from skilled researchers and access to infrastructure, to policies that support and enhance good research practice.

The HRB plays a lead role in building a strong, supportive environment for health research in Ireland, fostering connections between the academic and healthcare systems in the process. In partnership with a wide range of stakeholders, we work to ensure that funding for researchers and infrastructure is delivered effectively; that the highest standards of governance, quality, and ethics are met; and that innovative practices are developed and adopted in Ireland.

Key items delivered in 2023:

- We awarded more than 100 HRB Summer Student Scholarships to enable undergraduate students to engage in health research with experienced investigators for up to 8 weeks.
- We co-funded three Fulbright-HRB Health Impact Awards for Irish professionals to travel to the United States of America (USA) to undertake research or professional development in any area of health.
- We approved and implemented an increase in the HRB PhD stipend from €19,000 to €25,000 starting October 2023, aligned with the recommendations of the independent National Review of State Supports for PhD Researchers.
- We awarded an additional 13 HRB Postdoctoral Fellowships, which support health and social care researchers working in academic settings with a PhD (or PhD equivalency) and from 2 to 6 years of active postdoctoral experience and health and social care practitioners involved in the delivery of patient or social care, who have a PhD (or PhD equivalency) who wish to advance a research-active clinical career.

- We co-funded a second cohort of postdoctoral fellows with the Irish Research Council (IRC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the DOROTHY MCSA COFUND programme, which aims to build the skills and capacity of researchers to address public health crisis in a cooperative fashion.
- We launched a call for the Emerging Investigator Awards (academic track) and Emerging Clinician Scientist Awards (clinician-researcher track), with the aim of supporting talented individuals at a critical career transition stage to establish themselves as independent investigators.
- We awarded the Rare Diseases Research and Innovation Catalyst Awards (RDCat) to boost rare disease research capacity at clinical sites in Ireland as they transition to become active members of the European Reference Networks and to maximise preparedness for the planned European Partnership on Rare Diseases.
- We awarded Cancer Clinical Trials Enhancement grants to Saolta University Health Care Group and UL Hospitals Group to enhance cancer clinical trials capability and capacity and to facilitate networking on an all-island and international basis, thereby ultimately enhancing patient access to cancer clinical trials in these regions.
- Under the auspices of Ireland's membership of the 1+MG initiative, the HRB worked closely with the DOH, HSE, and other stakeholders to ensure that Ireland is a participant in a Genome of Europe (GoE) application submitted to the EU in November which aims to build a high-quality European network of national genomic reference cohorts that is representative of the European population.





- We hosted HRB Engagement Forum meetings across the relevant Clinical Trials Infrastructure awards to discuss governance, performance, and financial matters with senior representatives of the HRB host institutions and co-funding partners.
- We continued to support the work and growth of the National Office for Research Ethics Committees, which is hosted by the HRB. The National Research Ethics Committee for Clinical Trials (NREC-CT), which reviews ethics applications related to Clinical Trials of Investigational Medicinal Products (CTIMP), delivered a single national opinion for 98 new clinical trial studies and 469 substantial modifications applications.
- The National Research Ethics Committee for Clinical Investigations of Medical Devices and Performance Studies of *In Vitro* Diagnostic Medical Devices (NREC-MD) delivered a national opinion for 29 new medical device studies and 28 substantial modifications applications.
- The National Office supported 61 national research ethics committee meetings, to deliver a total of 625 unique national ethics opinions.
- In response to the EU Clinical Trial Regulation coming into force in January 2023, the National Office and NREC-CT transitioned from an application form process to the Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS), a single-entry point for sponsors and regulators of clinical trials for the submission and assessment of clinical trial data.
- The National Office supported the National Irish COVID-19 Biobank Research Ethics Committee (NICB-REC) to deliver a single national ethics opinion for the National Irish COVID-19 Biobank, underpinned by best international ethics practices for biobanks.

- The National Office launched an Expression of Interest call that resulted in a further 22 NREC members being appointed by the Minister for Health, strengthening capacity and building sustainability for the national research ethics system in Ireland.
- The National Office operationalised a critical restructure of the NREC-CT, from two to four committees, enabling weekly NREC-CT meetings to ensure that EU regulatory timelines are met.
- The HRB and National Office co-hosted the National Conference on Research Ethics, which was attended by more than 250 delegates and brought together stakeholders such as health and social care researchers and practitioners, ethics committee members, patients, and members of the public to address some of the most important ethical issues currently facing the health research sector.
- The National Office represented Ireland's interests on ethics expert working groups and clinical trial programmes, such as the MedEthicsEU forum and Accelerating Clinical Trials in the EU, to drive harmonisation of the implementation of EU regulations and clinical trial research activity in Ireland.
- The National Office participated in a number of public consultations, surveys, and benchmarking initiatives set by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the World Health Organization (WHO): the EMA's guidance on good clinical practice, the WHO's consultation on best practices for clinical trials, and the WHO's Global Benchmarking Tool (GBT) for evaluation of national regulatory systems.
- The National Office hosted seven 'Lunch and Learn' educational sessions for the benefit of the NRECs and the wider research ethics community, with topics such as genetics and genomics, children and pregnant participants in clinical trials, and good clinical practice.

Case Study 7

Heart attacks and carbon dioxide levels in the brain

Results from the HRB-funded TAME Cardiac Arrest Trial illustrate how HRB investments in clinical trial networks and facilities ensure that Irish researchers and patients can participate in international clinical trials and benefit from the research outcomes of such trials.

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The Targeted Therapeutic Mild Hypercapnia After Resuscitated Cardiac Arrest (TAME) trial was an international, multi-centre randomised controlled trial examining resuscitated cardiac arrest patients, and was one of the largest trials ever conducted on cardiac arrest patients admitted to intensive care units (ICUs).

The trial looked at whether slightly higher blood carbon dioxide levels (hypercapnia) might reduce brain injury in patients who survive an out-of-hospital heart attack.

The trial tested a hypothesis discovered by Alistair Nichol (Professor of Critical Care Medicine at the University College Dublin School of Medicine, Consultant at St Vincent's University Hospital, and Director of the Irish Critical Care Clinical Trials Network (ICC-CTN)) that higher levels of carbon dioxide in the brain have a potential anti-inflammatory effect and might improve outcomes among heart attack patients being treated in ICU.

The trial recruited 1,700 participants from 63 ICUs in 17 countries, including Ireland and Northern Ireland, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. In Ireland, patients were recruited from five sites across the ICC-CTN: St Vincent's University Hospital, Beaumont Hospital, St James's Hospital, University Hospital Galway, and the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast.

The trial was supported by the HRB Clinical Research Facilities (CRFs) at the ICC-CTN hospital sites.

Research is not just about creating new treatments – it can be just as meaningful when results demonstrate that current practice is still valid.

Professor Alistair Nichol said:

Our findings impact clinical practice and future cardiac arrest research in a number of ways. Firstly, while we found no additional harm from targeting hypercapnia in these patients, the lack of benefit means there's no need to change practice at present. So, doctors can rest assured that patients aren't missing out if they receive standard practice.

Secondly, while we are somewhat disappointed we haven't discovered a new therapy to improve outcomes for these patients, we demonstrated that these patients can tolerate hypercapnia without causing any harm. This can be important in ICU settings, as this allows doctors to less intensely ventilate patients on breathing machines, which can be helpful in some patient groups.

Thirdly, it points to a need for further trials and basic science research, as we seem to have a gap in our knowledge and theories about the role of arterial carbon dioxide and how it impacts on the body's responses.

HRB Chief Executive Dr Mairéad O'Driscoll added:

Research is not just about creating new treatments – it can be just as meaningful when results demonstrate that current practice is still valid.

The TAME Cardiac Arrest Trial also illustrates the importance of the HRB's strategic investments across the clinical trials ecosystem and how having that infrastructure in place allows researchers like Professor Nichol to apply to other grant schemes to develop networks, and to participate in, or take lead roles in multi-centre international clinical trials.



Professor Alistair Nichol

Case Study 8

Postdocs taking on big questions

For the latest grant recipients under the HRB's postdoctoral career development schemes, making a difference is part of the job.

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The seven Clinician Scientist Fellowships (CSF) fellows and six Applying Research into Policy and Practice (ARPP) fellows have their sights set on tackling topics such as imported pathogens, cost-effective prescribing, and the impact of cognitive impairment on outcomes for older adults with hip fracture.


The HRB is investing in people who drive change that leads to health impacts. The two postdoctoral schemes support applied health and social care research aimed at finding practical solutions to specific problems, and in the process help to develop the next generation of research leaders. The CSF scheme targets health and social care practitioners who wish to combine service provision and a research career. The ARPP fellowships are open to health and social care researchers in academic settings.

According to Dr Anne Cody, Head of Investigator-Led Grants, Research Careers and Enablers:


The aims of the schemes go beyond simply funding a discrete piece of research. They were designed to support the fellows and enhance their development and growth as researchers. Fellows have individualised training and development plans and are supported by a personal mentor and a wider multidisciplinary team.

We want to train researchers to engage with knowledge users in relevant policy and/or practice organisations throughout their project, rather than simply disseminating their results to them towards the end of a grant.

The list of topics the fellows will research is wide-ranging and includes projects on reducing intentional overdose, artificial intelligence approaches to improving blood pressure treatment, and protecting children from tuberculosis infection.



These awards are part of our plan to support early-career researchers who not only address important research questions in their own right, but who are essential in order for Irish health research to thrive.



From this impressive group, meet two of our newest postdoctoral fellows.

From his role as a senior physiotherapist in the Central Remedial Clinic, Dublin, Dr Colm Daly knows that most children with cerebral palsy (CP) will walk, and that maintaining walking ability is an important goal for many. This often becomes increasingly difficult around the time of the teenage growth spurt. It is currently not possible to predict which children will experience a decline in walking ability. Dr Daly says, “Defining early warning signs would allow us to focus key interventions on those with the highest need.”

Dr Daly has co-designed his project with two children with CP and their parents.

The CSF fellowship will give Dr Daly protected time to investigate the trajectory of walking in children with CP as they progress through adolescent growth and translate these findings into care pathways which are timely, effective, and responsive to individualised need.

How might researchers make sure that research results are well communicated to the public? That’s what Dr Melissa Sharp’s research will address. As an epidemiologist and senior postdoctoral fellow specialising in science communication, she will explore the media coverage of health research in Ireland and the current communication and collaboration practices between researchers, communication specialists, and journalists. Dr Sharp says that “These relationships are often complex, affected by organisational politics, the speed of the 24-hour news cycle, and different views on responsibilities. Close collaborative relationships built on trust can offer the best results but there is little research on how best to create, maintain, and build upon these relationships.”

Her research aims to improve connections and communication between these three groups and to identify potential training needs for early career researchers working in different areas.

Dr Cody adds, “These awards are part of our plan to support early-career researchers who not only address important research questions in their own right, but who are essential in order for Irish health research to thrive.”

Strategic objective 5

Productive international partnerships

From pandemics to climate change, many of the greatest health challenges we face are global and can only be addressed through international partnership.

In order to meet these challenges, we are committed to fostering and enhancing European and international coordination, collaboration, and engagement in health research. We support Ireland's research community to compete for EU and international funding, and we work with policy-makers and other stakeholders to identify opportunities to engage in initiatives that can advance health and broader government objectives.

Key items delivered in 2023:

- The HRB participated in 10 EU joint transnational calls where award outcomes were finalised in 2023. This included three networking group calls and seven research calls, and resulted in the HRB providing co-funding for 18 awards in the following collaborations and initiatives:
 - the Joint Programme – Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND)
 - Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance (JPI-AMR)
 - ERA-NET NEURON
 - European Joint Programme on Rare Diseases (EJP RD)
 - TRANSCAN-3 (Translational Cancer) and the European Partnerships for Fostering a European Research Area for Health Research (ERA4Health), and
 - Transforming Health and Social Care Systems (THCS).
- The HRB was a partner on a successful application to the EU to establish a European Partnership for Personalised Medicine and a partner on an application to the EU to establish a new European Partnership in Rare Diseases (outcome to be known in early 2024). EU partnerships provide significant opportunities for researchers in Ireland to work collaboratively to achieve common goals and to secure funding via joint translational calls.
- The HRB performed the National Delegate and National Contact Point roles for Horizon Europe (Health Cluster) as well as for the Cancer Mission. In 2023, the success rate for Irish health researchers in the Horizon Europe Health Work Programme was 23.5%, compared with an EU average success rate of 20.6%.



- The HRB performed the National Focal Point role for the EU4Health programme, working closely with the DOH to support policy-makers, the HSE and other agencies and researchers to maximise engagement in tenders and calls for proposals (results from the second wave of calls will be available in 2024).
- The HRB engaged as an active member of the International Alliance of Mental Health Research Funders to ensure that Ireland's mental health research agenda both informs and is informed by global best practice.
- We awarded a grant to a multi-centre applicant team, led by Queen's University Belfast (QUB), to address capacity in precision cancer medicine on the island of Ireland as one of three identified priorities of the Ireland-Northern Ireland-National Cancer Institute Cancer Consortium. The grant, co-funded by the HRB and the Health and Social Care (HSC) Research and Development Division in Northern Ireland, will support up to 15 PhD candidates across 3 annual intakes to avail of specialist training at the National Cancer Institute.
- The HRB worked with Science Foundation Ireland and other partners to promote and coordinate applications from researchers in Ireland to the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) under the US-Ireland R&D Partnership (which links researchers across Ireland, Northern Ireland and the United States to accelerate innovation in a number of key sectors including health, energy and sustainability). Eleven applications were submitted to the NIH, with results due in 2024.
- In September, Ireland hosted the first in-person meeting of the European Commission Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) Board, established in 2021 to prevent, detect, and rapidly respond to health emergencies. The visit included a Research and Innovation showcase, where the HRB presented an overview of measures to strengthen health emergency research in Ireland.

Case Study 9

New opportunities for Irish researchers in precision cancer medicine

In a collaborative effort, the HRB and its sister agency in Northern Ireland offered a unique opportunity for 30 early-career researchers to participate in PhD training at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Bethesda, Maryland, USA.

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The Ireland–Northern Ireland–NCI Cancer Consortium aims to reduce cancer incidence and mortality on the island of Ireland through cross-border and transatlantic collaborations in research and education. Initiated by President Bill Clinton following the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, the Consortium has at its heart the training of early-career researchers from the island of Ireland at the renowned NCI in Bethesda, Maryland, USA.

The Consortium has a particular interest in the rapidly evolving field of precision cancer medicine. Precision cancer medicine takes into account individual variability in genes, environment, and lifestyle for each person, meaning that doctors can more accurately predict which treatment and prevention strategies will work in which groups of people.

According to Dr Anne Cody, Head of Investigator-Led Grants, Research Careers and Enablers at the HRB, “Precision medicine holds great promise to advance cancer services. There are several well-established research groups in this space in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland; however, we need more well-trained early-career researchers to ensure progress in the long term.”

To support advances in future precision medicine in cancer the HRB and the Health and Social Care Research and Development office in Northern Ireland will fund 15 scholars to participate in a joint training programme to PhD level under the auspices of the Consortium.

Five universities will match that commitment, funding a total of 30 PhD candidates. The five universities involved are Queen’s University Belfast, University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin, University of Limerick, and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) University of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Precision cancer medicine takes into account individual variability in genes, environment, and lifestyle for each person, meaning that doctors can more accurately predict which treatment and prevention strategies will work in which groups of people.

These universities have a variety of relevant master's programmes available, and each student will complete one at the start of their journey. They will then transition into the 3-year Doctoral Training Programme in Precision Cancer Medicine based at the NCI at Bethesda, Maryland, USA. The first cohort will start their training in 2024.

In order to ensure a strong ongoing connection with Ireland, each PhD candidate will have three supervisors: one from their 'home' university, one from the NCI, and one from the remaining Irish jurisdiction. This collaborative approach fosters individual growth and will also aid wider research collaborations between the supervisors. While the research will be carried out in the USA, the candidates will obtain a PhD from an institution on the island of Ireland.

Dr Cody concludes, "In the past, NCI supervisors have been impressed by the quality of the PhD candidates from the island of Ireland and recognise the value of the master of science as part of the programme so that the PhD candidates start at the NCI with a significant knowledge base. We are sure that the latest iteration of joint training programmes will keep flying the flag for Irish researchers."



Dr Anne Cody

Case Study 10

Expanding opportunities for Irish researchers to access EU funding and collaboration

International collaborations play a pivotal role in fostering a rich pool of expertise and enabling researchers to achieve more than they could if they operated alone.

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Promoting enhanced participation of Irish researchers in EU research programmes is a strategic priority for the HRB. Over the last decade, the HRB has increased its activities and support for a number of EU co-funding initiatives, including European Research Area Networks (ERA-NETS) and other types of EU partnerships.

ERA-NETS are “networks of public research organisations that coordinate joint research activities on topics which are of important strategic value and relevance to the EU,” says Dr Amanda Daly, Programme Manager for International Cooperation and National Focal Point for EU4Health at the HRB. Dr Daly continues, “HRB participation in these networks provides Irish researchers with the opportunity to secure funding through joint transnational calls which consolidate critical mass in key areas of national priority as well as build and foster collaboration with colleagues across Europe and beyond.”

During 2023, the HRB significantly enhanced its activity in this area and participated in 10 joint transnational calls across key research areas, such as mental health, neurodegeneration, antimicrobial resistance, health inequalities, rare diseases, chronic pain, cancer, and health service research. Our enhanced engagement and dissemination of these opportunities resulted in a very high number of competitive applications in response to these calls.

By the end of 2023, the HRB had approved funding for 18 awards under these calls. This represents a significant increase (more than threefold) from an average of five awards per year from 2020 to 2022.

At the same time, there has been an increase in the number of researchers from Ireland leading transnational research projects; this is a direct result of the HRB providing a higher level of funding to those partners in order to support coordination-related costs. This increase in activity and success rates as well as the number of Irish researchers leading European projects has raised Ireland’s research profile in Europe.



When we share common challenges with our European neighbours, such as changing demographics, rising costs of living, climate change, or workforce issues, it makes sense to collaborate to find common solutions that can improve treatments and social care services for all.



Research projects involving partners across Europe have the added value of facilitating additional expertise and knowledge transfer between different healthcare systems and countries. The potential impact of this is illustrated in one of the projects that was approved for funding in 2023.

MyRIAD (which stands for (Micro)RNA and informatics approaches for diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and Dementia) is supported through the EU Joint Programme – Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND), which aims to tackle the challenges of neurodegenerative diseases. Led by Dr Katarzyna Whysall (University of Galway) and with partners in Poland, Italy, and Turkey, the project aims to better understand the mechanisms underlying Alzheimer's disease by identifying and validating new non-invasive biomarkers. Together, expert partners across Europe will explore how these biomarkers contribute to neurodegeneration, and consequently have the potential to uncover new therapeutic targets for Alzheimer's and other related diseases.

Dr Daly adds, “When we share common challenges with our European neighbours, such as changing demographics, rising costs of living, climate change, or workforce issues, it makes sense to collaborate to find common solutions that can improve treatments and social care services for all.”

Strategic objective 6

Organisational excellence

As a leading agency for health and social care research, evidence, and data, the HRB's goal as an organisation is to be the best in every way.

We will further develop the HRB as a progressive place to work, where our people are supported to be innovative and responsive. We will maintain our culture of organisational excellence based on shared values, which attracts the best talent, embraces change, and delivers solutions. Our governance structures will support informed and accountable decision-making, and we will communicate with impact in order to strengthen our reputation with our stakeholders.

Key items delivered in 2023:

Finance

- We enhanced the internal controls in relation to procurement and contract management processes.
- We developed a centralised software solution to manage our payroll and HR requirements.
- We continued to enhance the capability of our financial management system, including training for key staff.

Governance

- We undertook internal audits of key risk areas within the HRB to benchmark against best practice.
- We monitored and reported on strategy implementation to provide information to support decision-making.
- We monitored and reported on adherence to the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2016).
- We established and maintained best practice for information governance.
- We adhered to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) policies for data management.
- We ensured the effectiveness of internal controls.



Information technology

- We achieved continuous improvement of our cybersecurity landscape for both internal and public-facing IT systems.
- We tested invocation of the HRB disaster recovery and business continuity plan.
- We migrated all files and folders from our shared drives to the cloud.
- We obtained assurance on our cybersecurity environment as part of an internal audit.
- We continued to develop a proactive approach to the management of our data for retention and deletion purposes.

Communications

- We organised three major conferences: the HRB Grant Holders Conference, the National Conference on Research Ethics, and the annual National Drugs Forum.
- We enhanced our communications infrastructure, including websites and social media platforms, to support key messaging.
- We communicated the impact of HRB work clearly and effectively to increase awareness, reinforce credibility, and build trust.
- We profiled the impact HRB is having on policy and practice, a highlight being participation in the CADU.

Human resources

- We monitored the HRB workforce plan regularly to align resourcing skills and needs to the HRB's ongoing requirements and proactively manage succession planning.
- We updated and refreshed our human resources (HR) policies as part of an internal audit process.
- We implemented a number of actions to advance our health and well-being framework.
- We introduced leadership training for the senior management team.
- We developed innovative ways of working using emerging technology and flexible working methods.
- We ensured a high quality of candidate responses as part of robust recruitment processes.
- We promoted a culture of equality, diversity and inclusion, and ethical behaviour in all aspects of HRB work.

Case Study 11

Fostering multidisciplinary collaboration for better research outcomes

Collaboration requires new ways of working and thinking, as well as commitment, so the HRB made collaboration and partnership the focus of the Grant Holders Conference in 2023.

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In recent years, the HRB has increased its focus on funding multidisciplinary, collaborative partnerships in health and social care research.

“We don’t underestimate the complexity involved and the major effort required to set up, nurture and collaborate during the research process. But we can’t move forward on any issues if we can’t work side by side with others as well,” said Dr Mairéad O’Driscoll, Chief Executive of the HRB, as she opened the event which brought together more than 100 members of our funded research community.

Adopting interdisciplinary and knowledge approaches in health research

[Dr Isabel Fletcher](#) from the University of Edinburgh opened the event and described an EU-funded project, SHAPE-ID, that explored ways to improve interdisciplinary cooperation and developed top tips for collaborative partnerships, including a series of questions that are useful to reflect on at the beginning of a project.

Among other case studies, [Professor Gary Donohoe](#) from the University of Galway spoke about the doctoral programme he directs in youth mental health leadership, which trains participants from psychology, psychiatry, occupational therapy, and social work backgrounds. He highlighted how beneficial the students found interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary activities and how it was a terrific opportunity to learn from other colleagues.

The future of data collaboration

[Dr Sarah Craig](#), Head of the HRB's National Health Information Systems, opened the session on data collaboration and talked about the impending European Health Data Space, how it could benefit researchers, and how the HRB is preparing in Ireland. She stressed the urgent need for health identifiers in Ireland in order to enable data linkage.

[Dr Frances Burns](#) from the Northern Ireland Trusted Research Environment spoke about moves in Northern Ireland to create a trusted environment for health data that ensures safety and builds trust with the public, and pointed to countries that have more fluid health data access, such as Estonia and Finland.

Collaboration in action

[Dr Karen Salt](#) from the University of Nottingham was the keynote speaker on day two of the conference, and highlighted the often-overlooked operational supports (such as human resources, finance, and management) that form the unseen structural supports and pipework necessary to draw everything together.

Dr Salt stressed how difficult it can be for institutions to fit some partners into collaborative research relationships, and how damaging it can be for working relationships when the pipes clog or workarounds fail and, for example, invoices are not paid on time.

In the closing session, delegates were organised into round tables and came up with topics for the final panel discussion [to tackle the overall question: Working together for innovation and impact – are we there yet?](#) Panellists with expertise in medicine, research, innovation, and policy discussed public-private partnerships, the need to build overarching frameworks and skills and to reform research ethics approvals, the importance of resourcing such work, and how having a cross-cutting 'department of linked-up thinking' could help facilitate research and innovation.



HRB Grant Holders Conference 2023

Case Study 12

Building HRB leadership capacity with a view to the future

With regular deadlines, work schedules, and day-to-day management, it can often be difficult to take time to focus on strategic goals and future vision. In 2023, the HRB management team made a commitment to focus on developing leadership skills and succession planning.


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In line with a commitment to develop the HRB as a progressive place to work, a key ambition was to ensure that current and future leaders were equipped to lead effectively, with clear purpose and strategic intent. Working with consultants, the HRB management team defined a training programme that would enhance leadership skills among senior management and help develop a clear, shared vision for the HRB.

The programme was a combination of workshops, peer connect groups (which were designed to create solutions to existing leadership challenges), one-to-one coaching, and individual 360-degree emotional capital reports, which sought input and feedback on specific competencies for each management team member from people at all levels in the organisation.

Speaking about the training programme, Dr Mairéad O'Driscoll, Chief Executive of the HRB, said, "The diverse range of training approaches helped ensure that we were empowering individuals as leaders as well as developing as a leadership team. This helped us focus on creating a culture of continuous improvement aligned with shared values and goals."

The workshops covered a range of topics, from thinking as one team and the factors influencing that (such as building trust and team culture) to reconnecting with our vision, mission, and values and leading change, which touched on strategic versus tactical leadership and the skill set future leaders will require.



Overall, the training programme tackled not only what needed to be done and the relevant approaches and models to guide this, but also how the team members should go about it. This involved teaching and having conversations around leading with emotional intelligence, dealing with conflict constructively, and fostering innovation, agility, and resilience. The one-to-one mentoring and the emotional capital reports complemented this, as they enabled individual team members to identify both their strengths and areas for improvement across a wide range of competencies based on feedback from their peers, direct reports, and managers.

According to Martin Morgan, Director of Corporate Operations, “There was an emphasis on building trust and connections, and developing a strong, aligned group of leaders whose impact will be felt internally across the HRB and with external stakeholders.”

Future

It is said that a leader’s task is not to see the future, but to enable it. To that end, plans are already in place to deliver an adapted version of the leadership training programme to line managers across the HRB. This will be key to succession management in the HRB, as well as to the development of the next organisational strategy.



Appendices



Appendix A

List of HRB publications in 2023

HRB REPORTS

- Casey C, Fanagan S, O'Sullivan M, Caffrey N and Lynn E. *Overview of people engaging with disability services*, 2022. Dublin: Health Research Board; 2023. HRB StatLink Series No. 14.
- Condrón I, Lyons S and Carew AM. *2022 Alcohol treatment demand*. Dublin: Health Research Board; 2023. HRB StatLink Series No. 15.
- Daly A and Lynn E. *Annual Report on the Activities of Irish Psychiatric Units and Hospitals, 2022*. Dublin: Health Research Board; 2023. HRB StatLink Series No. 13.
- Lynn E, Devin J, Craig S and Lyons S. *Deaths among people who were homeless at time of death in Ireland*, 2019. Dublin: Health Research Board; 2023. HRB StatLink Series No. 11.
- O'Neill D, Lyons S and Carew AM. *2022 Drug treatment demand*. Dublin: Health Research Board; 2023. HRB StatLink Series No. 12.
- Timmins F and Drennan J. *Independent programme of evaluation of the State's investment in The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) – Main Report*. Dublin: Health Research Board; 2023.
- Irish Focal Point to the EMCDDA. *Drugnet Ireland*. Issue 84. Dublin: Health Research Board; 2023.
- Irish Focal Point to the EMCDDA. *Drugnet Ireland*. Issue 85. Dublin: Health Research Board; 2023.
- Irish Focal Point to the EMCDDA. *Drugnet Ireland*. Issue 86. Dublin: Health Research Board; 2023.

EVIDENCE REVIEWS

- McGrath N, Waldron C, Keshtkar L, Farragher A, Burns A, Teahan Á, Walsh C and Long J. *Cost, safety, and environmental impact of reprocessing single-use medical devices: A systematic review and meta-analysis*. Dublin: Health Research Board; 2023. Available from: <https://www.hrb.ie/publications>
- Murphy L, Farragher L, Clements K, Burns A, Archibald M and Long J. *Primary prevention of dental caries: An evidence review*. Dublin: Health Research Board; 2023. Available from: <https://www.hrb.ie/publications>

Calnan S, Millar SR and Mongan D (2023) Support for evidence-based alcohol policy in Ireland: results from a representative household survey. *European Journal of Public Health*, 33(2): 323–330. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckad031>

Cousins G, Durand L, O’Kane A, Tierney J, Maguire R, Stokes S, O’Reilly D, Arensman E, Bennett K, Vázquez MO, Corcoran P, Lyons S, Kavanagh Y and Keenan E (2023) Prescription drugs with potential for misuse: protocol for a multi-indicator analysis of supply, detection and the associated health burden in Ireland between 2010 and 2020. *BMJ Open*, 13(3):e069665. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36863742/>

Devin J, Lyons S, Murphy L, O’Sullivan M and Lynn E (2023) Factors associated with suicide in people who use drugs: a scoping review. *BMC Psychiatry*, 23(1): 655. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12888-023-05131-x>

Doyle A and Houghton F (2023) Alcohol availability and accessibility around schools in Ireland: an examination of liquor licences proximity. *Irish Journal of Medical Science*, 193(2): 1109–1110. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11845-023-03514-3>

Doyle A, O’Dwyer C, Mongan D, Millar SR and Galvin B (2023) Factors associated with public awareness of the relationship between alcohol use and breast cancer risk. *BMC Public Health*, 23: 557. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-023-15455-8>

Guilfoyle S, Daly A, Craig S, Corroon Sweeney E and O’Donnell P (2023) Revisiting the profile of patients with no fixed abode admitted to psychiatric inpatient units, 2017–2021. *Irish Medical Journal*, 116(6): 786.

Kelleher C, Carew AM and Lyons S (2023) Characteristics of affected family members seeking treatment in their own right: A secondary analysis of existing Irish health data for 2010–2020. *Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy*, 1–10. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1080/09687637.2023.2232243>

Mongan D, Millar SR, O’Dwyer C, Galvin B and Smyth BP (2023) Trends in public attitudes to permitting cannabis for recreational use: analysis of Irish survey data since 2002. *European Journal of Public Health*, 33(4): 627–632. Available from: <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpub/ckad054>

Appendix B

List of HRB awards made in 2023 to Principal Investigators

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES					
Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead researcher title	Lead researcher name	Total awarded
The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing Wave 7 to 9	Trinity College Dublin	The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing	Professor	Rose Anne Kenny	€15,000,000
Achieving recovery in psychotic disorders with comprehensive clinical guidelines	University College Dublin	Applied Programme Grants	Associate Professor	Brian O'Donoghue	€2,499,904
VISTA: VISION To Action for promoting mental health and recovery. An Implementation Science approach to "Sharing the Vision" – Ireland's national mental health policy	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences	Applied Programme Grants	Professor	David Cotter	€2,499,608
Educating Healthcare Professionals for Climate Change Resilient and Sustainable Healthcare Systems	University College Cork	Applied Programme Grants	Professor	Deirdre Bennett	€2,475,908
Maximising the benefits of intervention research to support language and communication in children	University College Cork	Applied Programme Grants	Dr	Pauline Frizelle	€2,493,765
EMERALD-Lewy: Improving the diagnosis, management, and lived experience of overlooked dementias in Ireland	Trinity College Dublin	Applied Programme Grants	Professor	Iracema Leroi	€2,499,659
Maximise support for breastfeeding for sustainable population health and wellbeing: Integrated knowledge translation approach MaxSBF	University College Cork	Applied Programme Grants	Professor	Patricia Leahy-Warren	€2,446,536
PRIME Ireland Pandemic Resilience Ireland Clinical Platform: Refining, Performing, Predicting and Applying a globally integrated clinical research response for future pandemics in Ireland	University College Dublin	Applied Programme Grants	Professor	Alistair Nichol	€2,499,982
The SYNERG-IE Programme	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences	Applied Programme Grants	Dr	Michelle Flood	€2,498,925

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES					
Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead researcher title	Lead researcher name	Total awarded
Diabetes and depression comorbidity in Ireland and internationally: an investigation of longitudinal associations and multilevel predictors of comorbidity in Europe	University College Dublin	Secondary Data Analysis Projects	Dr	Sonya Deschenes	€239,600
Utilisation of IPCOR data to Augment NCCP Prostate Cancer Guidelines and Services: Informing Implementation Planning by Embracing Partnership between a Healthcare Organization & Academia	University College Dublin	Secondary Data Analysis Projects	Assistant Professor	David Gavin	€249,886
MiHealth Strengthening health information systems for refugee and migrant health policy and practice in Ireland	University of Limerick	Secondary Data Analysis Projects	Professor	Ailish Hannigan	€249,983
Big Data Driven, Patient-Centric, Outcomes Scoring Tool Linking Multimorbidity, Fracture, Hospitalisation and Death for Patients with Osteoporosis	University of Galway	Secondary Data Analysis Projects	Professor	John J Carey	€249,998
The first comprehensive analysis of the burden of kidney failure in Ireland: 2010 to 2020	University of Galway	Secondary Data Analysis Projects	Professor	David Keane	€249,590
No data about us without us: Co-designing the Integration of Health Inequalities into the National Inpatient Experience Survey to Enhance the Participation of and Data about Marginalised Communities	University of Galway	Applied Partnership Awards	Dr	Chris Noone	€196,252
Addressing Age-Related Complexity in Intellectual Disability (AARC-ID): an economic analysis of different support models	Trinity College Dublin	Applied Partnership Awards	Dr	Peter May	€174,911
Falls Management Exercise Programme: Improving Reach, Effectiveness, VaLue and SustAiNability in IrelanD. Case Studies for Learning (acronym: FaME Ireland)	University College Cork	Applied Partnership Awards	Dr	Ruth McCullagh	€199,997
COMmunity Participation to set direction on design and implementation of financial incentives in Stop Smoking services in Ireland: COMPASS	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences	Applied Partnership Awards	Professor	Frank Doyle	€197,546

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES					
Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead researcher title	Lead researcher name	Total awarded
Obesity Stigma Education for All (OSE4ALL): co-design of an inter-professional e-Learning resource to support destigmatisation of obesity among healthcare professionals	University College Dublin	Applied Partnership Awards	Dr	Grainne O'Donoghue	€149,896
The Irish Physical Activity Research Collaboration (I-PARC): Maximising tailored implementation of evidence-based physical activity programmes to address population levels of physical inactivity	University of Limerick	Applied Partnership Awards	Professor	Catherine Woods	€198,860
The development and evaluation of a referral guideline for referring patients with suspected cognitive impairment or dementia from general practice to secondary care	University College Cork	Applied Partnership Awards	Professor	Tony Foley	€187,839
Rapid Health Technology Assessments (rHTA) in Ireland: when do we need them?	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences	Applied Partnership Awards	Dr	Barbara Clyne	€195,864
What next? Priority setting and future-proofing for chronic condition prevention and management in Ireland: the Future-Proof study	University College Cork	Applied Partnership Awards	Dr	Linda O'Keeffe	€200,000
Strengthening communications during patient discharge processes: Improving patient experienced quality of care and patient safety	University of Galway	Applied Partnership Awards	Dr	Verna McKenna	€199,829
Optimising clinical trial methods for complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS): a methodological framework initiative (OptiMeth-CRPS)	University College Dublin	Network of European Funding for Neuroscience Research (NEURON)	Dr	Keith Smart	€47,898
Methodological approaches for best practice study of sex and gender differences in chronic pain: Consensus recommendations and a roadmap for research (PAINDIFF)	University of Galway	Network of European Funding for Neuroscience Research (NEURON)	Associate Professor	Michelle Roche	€50,000

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead researcher title	Lead researcher name	Total awarded
Reward-stress interactions as neural substrate for resilience and vulnerability in mental health: A translational large-scale project (RESIST-D)	University of Galway	Network of European Funding for Neuroscience Research (NEURON)	Professor	Dara Cannon	€369,839
Dysfunction of the Blood-Brain Barrier in schizophrenia: molecular underpinnings of vulnerability or resilience (B3phrenia)	Trinity College Dublin	Network of European Funding for Neuroscience Research (NEURON)	Professor	Matthew Campbell	€369,918
Tackling tumor heterogeneity and PLASTicity as resistance mechanisms in Glioblastoma (PLASTIG)	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences	ERA-NET TRANSCAN-3 JTC 2022	Professor	Jochen Prehn	€369,833
Metabolically optimised NK cell therapies for Glioblastoma (NK-4-GBM)	Trinity College Dublin	ERA-NET TRANSCAN-3 JTC 2022	Professor	David Finlay	€369,880
Genotype matched therapies in intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma: a multi-pronged strategy for improving efficacy and combating resistance (PRECEDENCE)	Trinity College Dublin	ERA-NET TRANSCAN-3 JTC 2022	Professor	Madeleine Lowery	€370,000
Innovations in diversity and Equity in Social health research in Dementia (INTEREST)	Dublin City University	Joint Programme – Neurodegenerative Disease Research	Dr	Louise Hopper	€50,000
Metabolomics-Driven Biomarker Discovery of Alzheimer's Disease	University of Galway	Joint Programme – Neurodegenerative Disease Research	Dr	Ines Thiele	€124,500
Spatiotemporal transcriptome and proteome analysis of α-Synuclein pathology in Parkinson's disease: Identification of cell type-specific vulnerability and tolerance mechanisms (4DPD-Omics)	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences	Joint Programme – Neurodegenerative Disease Research	Professor	Jochen Prehn	€499,962
(Micro)RNA and informatics approaches for diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and Dementia	University of Galway	Joint Programme – Neurodegenerative Disease Research	Dr	Katarzyna Goljanek-Whysall	€496,150
AUTOSOMAL DOMINANT TUBULINTERSTITIAL KIDNEY DISEASE-Net A European registry based clinical research platform (ADTKD-Net)	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences	European Joint Programme on Rare Diseases (EJP RD)	Professor	Peter Conlon	€369,929

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead researcher title	Lead researcher name	Total awarded
Performing a Rare Disease-Oriented Master Observational Trial to decipher complexity and optimize trial readiness; PROMOTE network (PROMOT)	University College Cork	European Joint Programme on Rare Diseases (EJP RD)	Dr	Heidi Howard	€369,240
Bridging the gap between environment and patient; investigating the risk and transmission of antifungal resistance in <i>Aspergillus fumigatus</i> (GAP-AFR)	Trinity College Dublin	Joint Programming in Antimicrobial Resistance	Dr	Alida Fe Talento	€379,000
New, easy to use, low-cost technologies based on DNA origami biosensing to achieve distributed screening for AMR and improved antibiotic prescribing (Origami Sense)	University College Dublin	Joint Programming in Antimicrobial Resistance	Dr	Robert Johnson	€259,893
FOOD system for policy and PATHway to population health, for equal population nutrition in Europe (FOODPATH)	University College Cork	ERA4Health Partnership	Dr	Janas Harrington	€499,802
Improving Physical Activity policies and their impact on health eQuiTy (IMPAQT)	University of Limerick	ERA4Health Partnership	Professor	Catherine Woods	€499,973
Intelligence and integration of care for smarter chronic wounds management	University College Dublin	European Partnership on Transforming Health and Care Systems	Professor	Áine Carroll	€369,980
Diabetic Foot Disease from prevention to treatment to improved patient outcomes	University of Galway	UCrisis	Professor	Timothy O'Brien	€117,556
Total:					€43,840,145

ENABLERS

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead researcher title	Lead researcher name	Total awarded
Creating Connections: A Dravet Syndrome Ireland - FutureNeuro Alliance	Beaumont Hospital	Conference and Event Sponsorship Scheme	Professor	Norman Delanty	€5,000
Partnerships in Practice: Family Carers Ireland's Annual Research Conference 2023	Family Carers Ireland	Conference and Event Sponsorship Scheme	Dr	Nikki Dunne	€4,856
Digital Mental Health: A shared vision for research, policy and practice	Health Service Executive	Conference and Event Sponsorship Scheme	Dr	Ruth Melia	€3,800
Conference Event: Evidence-based approaches for innovation in patient-centred care models in Ireland	Institute of Technology Sligo	Conference and Event Sponsorship Scheme	Dr	Richeal Burns	€5,000
Staphylococcus Great Britain and Ireland 2023	University of Galway	Conference and Event Sponsorship Scheme	Dr	Merve Suzan Zeden	€5,000
Building Connections workshop series	University of Galway	Conference and Event Sponsorship Scheme	Ms	Edel Murphy	€5,000
iPASTAR Conference - Achieving better outcomes from integrated pathways of care for acute stroke and rehabilitation	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences	Conference and Event Sponsorship Scheme	Professor	David Williams	€5,000
Priorities for future research on tapering psychiatric medicines: A collaborative workshop involving people with lived experience, family members, and healthcare professionals	Trinity College Dublin	Conference and Event Sponsorship Scheme	Dr	Cathal Cadogan	€5,000
Inaugural conference in Adult Safeguarding	Trinity College Dublin	Conference and Event Sponsorship Scheme	Professor	Amanda Phelan	€9,989
The Science of Dementia for the Non-Scientist - An exploration of dementia and the brain	Trinity College Dublin	Conference and Event Sponsorship Scheme	Dr	Vanessa Moore	€4,950
Measuring Outcomes of Social Prescribing	Trinity College Dublin	Conference and Event Sponsorship Scheme	Dr	Deirdre Connolly	€5,000
Equity For People Living With A Rare Disease: An International Rare Disease Research Symposium	University College Dublin	Conference and Event Sponsorship Scheme	Dr	Suja Somanadhan	€4,915
Digital Surgery - Building a National Ecosystem	University College Dublin	Conference and Event Sponsorship Scheme	Professor	Ronan Cahill	€5,000

ENABLERS

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead researcher title	Lead researcher name	Total awarded
UCD's 2nd Annual One Health Conference: Tackling Major Public Health Threats in a Post-Covid-19 World	University College Dublin	Conference and Event Sponsorship Scheme	Dr	Gerald Barry	€2,790
Connecting Molecular Networks of Cancer to Other Diseases	University College Dublin	Conference and Event Sponsorship Scheme	Professor	Walter Kolch	€4,959
European Radiation Protection Week (ERPW) 2023	University College Dublin	Conference and Event Sponsorship Scheme	Dr	Jonathan McNulty	€10,000
8th Annual Public & Patient Involvement Summer School	University of Limerick	Conference and Event Sponsorship Scheme	Dr	Jonathan Salsberg	€5,000
Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine-From Research to Practice	UPMC Whitfield	Conference and Event Sponsorship Scheme	Dr	Karen Mullins	€5,000
Total:					€96,259

CAPACITY BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP ENHANCEMENT

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead researcher title	Lead researcher name	Total awarded
Revisiting suicide prevention in later life: human-centred approaches in an ageing Ireland	University College Cork	Applied Research into Policy and Practice Postdoc Fellowships	Dr	Isabela Troya	€266,461
Identifying social determinants and mapping organisational and personal networks to enhance community support for people living with multimorbidity	University College Cork	Applied Research into Policy and Practice Postdoc Fellowships	Dr	Fiona Riordan	€268,243
The HipCog Study: evaluating the impact of cognitive impairment on outcomes for older adults with hip fracture	University College Dublin	Applied Research into Policy and Practice Postdoc Fellowships	Dr	Niamh Merriman	€264,191
Improving public health through better implementation of alcohol policy: A multi-method study examining and addressing the factors influencing successful implementation	University College Cork	Applied Research into Policy and Practice Postdoc Fellowships	Dr	Susan Calnan	€264,191
RESTRICT – REDucing intentional overdose: a mixed methods STudy of means RestrICTion interventions	University College Cork	Applied Research into Policy and Practice Postdoc Fellowships	Dr	Caroline Daly	€284,976
Optimising the dissemination of health research in Ireland	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences	Applied Research into Policy and Practice Postdoc Fellowships	Dr	Melissa Sharp	€240,288
Artificial intelligence approach to improving blood pressure treatment	University of Galway	Clinician Scientist Fellowships	Dr	Conor Judge	€711,222
An investigation of the long-term impact of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy on maternal health, and exploration of optimal models of follow-up care for affected women in Ireland	University College Cork	Clinician Scientist Fellowships	Dr	Peter Barrett	€830,000
Personal formularies in general practice to support safe, effective and cost-effective prescribing	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences	Clinician Scientist Fellowships	Dr	Caroline McCarthy	€381,210
DEFINED: DEtermining Falls burden to INform carE Delivery	Trinity College Dublin	Clinician Scientist Fellowships	Dr	Robert Briggs	€596,848

CAPACITY BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP ENHANCEMENT

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead researcher title	Lead researcher name	Total awarded
Targeting immunometabolism to protect children from tuberculosis infection	Trinity College Dublin	Clinician Scientist Fellowships	Dr	Cilian Ó Maoldomhnaigh	€728,352
Expecting the unexpected: can viral metagenomics enhance optimised standard diagnostic pathways for detection of imported pathogens?	University College Dublin	Clinician Scientist Fellowships	Dr	Christine Kelly	€1,257,126
Cerebral Palsy – The Adolescent Growth Evaluation Study (CP-AGE)	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences	Clinician Scientist Fellowships	Dr	Colm Daly	€283,308
All-Island – US National Cancer Institute Joint Doctoral Training Programme in Precision Cancer Medicine	Queen's University Belfast	Precision Medicine in Cancer	Professor	Mark Lawlor	€600,000
HRB Impact Award 2023	Trinity College Dublin	HRB Impact Award	Professor	Orla Hardiman	€50,000
Long-Term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on self-harm, suicide, and health care utilisation among people with high-risk Self-Harm and comorbidities: an interdisciplinary research programme [TREAT-SH]	University College Cork	Develop Interdisciplinary approaches to health Crisis Collaboratively (DOROTHY)	Dr	Anvar Sadathvakkayil	€50,000
A Mixed-method study on the relationship between pornography and attitudes towards aggression and violence among adolescents [MARIGOLD]	University of Galway	Develop Interdisciplinary approaches to health Crisis Collaboratively (DOROTHY)	Dr	Sandra Sanmartín Feijóo	€50,000
Youth Mental Health: A Public Health Crisis in need of Investigation	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences	Develop Interdisciplinary approaches to health Crisis Collaboratively (DOROTHY)	Dr	Niamh Dooley	€50,000
Targeting MAITs as an opportunity beyond weight loss for solving the public health crisis of obesity-associated cancer – thinking outside the box by looking inside the adipose tissue	Maynooth University	Develop Interdisciplinary approaches to health Crisis Collaboratively (DOROTHY)	Dr	Fearon Cassidy,	€50,000

CAPACITY BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP ENHANCEMENT

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead researcher title	Lead researcher name	Total awarded
Violence as Contagious: Historicising Anglophone Narratives of Violence, Health, and Disease, 1800s to the Present	University College Dublin	DevelOp InterdisciplinaRy apprOaches to heaLTH Crisis CollaborativelY (DOROTHY)	Dr	Sophie Franklin	€50,000
Imaging/imaging reproductive crisis: time-lapse microscopy, animation and fertility discourse	University College Cork	DevelOp InterdisciplinaRy apprOaches to heaLTH Crisis CollaborativelY (DOROTHY)	Dr	Rebecca Close	€50,000
Novel antiseptic wipes to fight nosocomial pathogens that contaminate on human skin and mucosa	University College Dublin	DevelOp InterdisciplinaRy apprOaches to heaLTH Crisis CollaborativelY (DOROTHY)	Dr	Aysin Dural Erem	€50,000
Harnessing groups for health in response to public health crises: Insights from the COVID-19 pandemic	University of Limerick	DevelOp InterdisciplinaRy apprOaches to heaLTH Crisis CollaborativelY (DOROTHY)	Dr	Aoife Foran	€50,000
Novel ionically conductive biomaterial scaffolds for cardiovascular tissue engineering	University of Limerick	DevelOp InterdisciplinaRy apprOaches to heaLTH Crisis CollaborativelY (DOROTHY)	Dr	Aleksandra Serafin	€50,000
A cross-border comparison of care strategies that women refugees and asylum seekers employ for survival during converging public health crises in Ireland and Northern Ireland	Dublin City University	DevelOp InterdisciplinaRy apprOaches to heaLTH Crisis CollaborativelY (DOROTHY)	Dr	Amanda Lubit	€50,000
Antimicrobial photocatalytic coatings on sustainable construction materials carriers	Trinity College Dublin	DevelOp InterdisciplinaRy apprOaches to heaLTH Crisis CollaborativelY (DOROTHY)	Dr	Gubir Kaur	€50,000
Protection of the human digestive system from micro(nano)plastic contamination	University College Dublin	DevelOp InterdisciplinaRy apprOaches to heaLTH Crisis CollaborativelY (DOROTHY)	Dr	Xiaohui Lin	€50,000

CAPACITY BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP ENHANCEMENT

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead researcher title	Lead researcher name	Total awarded
Adolescent-onset and adult-onset schizophrenia: investigations in patient-derived olfactory cells	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Amyrathul Munyra binti Mohamed Hassan	€2,400
The impact of individualised dosing and scheduling on the efficacy of PARP inhibitors in ovarian cancer	University College Cork	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Ciarán Murphy	€2,400
Unravelling the impact of sedentary behaviour on chronic knee pain using the UK Biobank	University College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Tze Ching Shania Lee	€2,400
Insulin resistance and inflammation in pre-eclampsia: Is maternal BMI involved?	University College Cork	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Sean O'Regan	€1,800
The management of subarachnoid haemorrhage in the intensive care unit: current practices and future recommendations to inform evidence-based, protocolised care.	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Mohammadi Maahtaab	€2,400
Evaluating the Impact of Introducing Robotics in Spinal Surgery	University College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Aubrie Sowa	€2,400
PR Plus+: Maintenance programmes following Pulmonary Rehabilitation	University of Limerick	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Niamh Coffey	€2,400
Exploring the contribution of voluntary breastfeeding support groups to the support of infant and young child feeding in emergencies	Technological University Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Ros Mooney	€2,400
Development of an advanced platform to detect and isolate CTCs for therapeutic strategy	Trinity College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Michaela Moriarty	€2,400
Harnessing natural killer cell immunity in the lung	Trinity College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Robbie Woods	€2,400
Is CINtec PLUS a useful tool for the triage of HPV-positive self-collected cervico-vaginal samples?	Trinity College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Saba Mohammad	€1,800
Neuropathological analysis of innate immune receptor expression profiles in human brain tissue from individuals with multiple sclerosis	Trinity College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Ronan King	€2,400

CAPACITY BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP ENHANCEMENT

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead researcher title	Lead researcher name	Total awarded
Language Output and Alzheimer's Risk in Midlife: the PREVENT Dementia Study	Trinity College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Peter Gorman	€2,400
Efficacy of combination therapy against <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> infections	Trinity College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Iremide Sanyaolu	€2,400
Examining speech and language therapists' views on core outcomes in dysphagia in Parkinson's Disease	Trinity College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Lauren Mooney	€2,400
Investigating multi-sensory perception across developmental period	Trinity College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Doaa Karam	€2,400
Investigating why anti-viral immune responses are compromised in older adults: a focus on nursing home residents	Trinity College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Sudiksha Desikan	€2,400
Using Pharmacogenomic Testing to Optimise Pharmaceutical Care of Patients with First Episode Psychosis or Treatment Resistant Depression – An Observational Study	University College Cork	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Minh Trang Dam	€2,400
Efficacy of an antimicrobial stewardship programme in an ICU versus ward-based location at Galway University Hospital: A point prevalence study	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Preeti Bhat	€2,400
Women's experiences of participating in interventions delivered to prevent or reduce stress among parents in the period from conception to two years postpartum: A Qualitative Evidence Synthesis	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Caitriona Duffy	€2,400
Can routine DXA assist in identifying arthritis patients at high risk of cardiovascular events?	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Eoin Dunne	€2,400
Investigations on the role of age gap, defined as the difference between metabolic age and chronological age, on retinal ocular health, in a cohort of young healthy adults (aged 18–35 years)	Technological University Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Rian Love	€2,400

CAPACITY BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP ENHANCEMENT

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead researcher title	Lead researcher name	Total awarded
Management of hyperglycaemia in women with diabetes post antenatal corticosteroid administration	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Julie Gaine	€2,400
Comparing the transfection efficiency of lipofection and electroporation using a novel safe harbour plasmid of eNOS in endothelial colony forming cell	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Amishi Gupta	€2,400
A Qualitative Evaluation of a Stroke Integration Group on Stroke Patients in the West of Ireland	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Josh Healy	€2,400
Comparison of the long-term immunological consequences of Cyclophosphamide and Rituximab for treatment of ANCA-associated vasculitis with renal involvement	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Imy Lundon	€2,400
Assessing Epigenetic Biomarkers of Accelerated Ageing	Trinity College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Jordan Davies	€2,400
An investigation into the effects of background muscle activity on transcranial magnetic stimulation-induced muscle responses, in people with and without ALS	Trinity College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Séamus O'Sullivan	€2,400
Using the ClinVar database to investigate the reasons behind the uncertain and conflicting interpretations of genetic variants, with the aim of aiding and improving patient diagnosis and care	Trinity College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Róisín Culligan	€2,400
Analysis of the antifungal activity of manogepix on the viability of different Candida species	Trinity College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Shaun Cheng Hao Low	€1,800
Late presentation and missed opportunities for HIV diagnosis in the Irish healthcare system	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Ronan Mahon	€2,400
Communication interventions that support parents in communicating their BRCA genetic alteration to their underage children: A scoping review	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Meghan Murphy	€2,400

CAPACITY BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP ENHANCEMENT

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead researcher title	Lead researcher name	Total awarded
Is total copy number alteration burden in adrenocortical carcinoma a prognostic indicator for individual patient survival outcome?	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Eva Langan	€2,400
A qualitative study of online health information-seeking experiences after pregnancy loss	University College Cork	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Ava Hickey	€2,400
An <i>in vitro</i> assessment of the impact of a stressed maternal biological signature on neurodevelopment	University College Cork	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Saoirse Kelly	€2,400
An investigation of the structure of the thalamus in adolescents who report psychotic experiences	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Linda Kelly	€2,400
Quantifying short-term variations in plasma ketone concentrations in different diet and exercise scenarios	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Salman Alsalem	€2,400
Evaluation of the rates and clinical profile of youth with eating disorders (ED) referred to ED service pre- and post COVID-19 pandemic	University College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Cathal Rafferty	€2,400
Psychosocial Impact of Tremor Severity in Parkinson's Disease	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Samar Alyousif	€2,400
Creation of NRXN1a Deletion iPSCs as a human stem cell model for autism spectrum disorder	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Dan Shan	€2,400
Analysis of thrombi from ischemic stroke extracted by thrombectomy with a focus on p-selectin as a biomarker to inform better treatment of ischemic stroke	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Diarmuid O'Donoghue	€2,400
Bereavement care training and support services for maternity staff following pregnancy loss and perinatal death: A scoping review	University College Cork	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Sinead Harkin	€2,400
Development and piloting of a lung cancer screening recruitment strategy	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Maeve Reilly	€2,400

CAPACITY BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP ENHANCEMENT

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead researcher title	Lead researcher name	Total awarded
Investigation of barriers to the use of cardiac rehabilitation in heart failure: A transatlantic study	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Adithi Gowda	€2,400
The impact of hypoxia on the intestinal barrier in patients with inflammatory bowel disease	University College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Eóin David Roche	€2,400
A systematic review of the rehabilitation needs and strategies towards haematological cancer rehabilitation	Trinity College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Clíodhna Heuston	€2,400
Markers of blood pressure instability on ambulatory blood pressure monitoring as a predictor of further falls amongst older patients	Trinity College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Rachel Madden	€2,100
Analysing physiotherapy-led behaviour change interventions to promote physical activity for those with rheumatoid arthritis	University of Limerick	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Ailish Folan	€2,400
Wearable technology to reduce risk of ACL injury in female soccer players	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Abiral Shrestha	€2,400
Sarcopenia – How significant a problem is it in patients with newly diagnosed rheumatoid arthritis established inflammatory arthritis?	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Mohammed Al-Habsi	€2,400
Understanding the role of glycosylation in colorectal cancer stromal cells	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Avinesh Ramesh	€2,400
Exploring non-coding drivers in non-small cell lung cancer using prime editing	University College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Cathal Bracken	€2,400
Raising awareness and reducing the lethal impact of button battery ingestion in children	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Anmol Mahesh	€2,400
Bone regeneration associated with spinal fusion implants	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Eunice Young	€2,400
Investigating the role of cognitive status on a brief psychological intervention post-stroke	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Anna Smyth	€2,400

CAPACITY BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP ENHANCEMENT

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead researcher title	Lead researcher name	Total awarded
Investigating the relationship between socioeconomic determinants and hospital admission for mental illness: A retrospective review of psychiatric referrals over a 20-year period	University College Cork	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mrs	Aoife Dempsey	€2,400
Characterising Multidrug-Resistant Acinetobacter Pittii Strains on the International Space Station to Mitigate the Risk of Antimicrobial Resistance in Space and on Earth	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Kate Ryan	€2,400
Characteristics, patterns, trends and outcomes of aortic diseases in the West of Ireland 2003–2023	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Ryanne Shabu	€2,400
Impact of physical activity or sedentary time on appetite, energy and dietary intake in inactive older adults with poor appetite	University College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Wiktoria Sala	€2,400
Comparison of post genome-wide association study results for autism and sleep-related phenotypes	Maynooth University	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Shakira Browne	€2,400
Evaluating the acceptability of the ACTivate Your Life After Stroke (AYLAS) for People Post-Stroke in the West of Ireland	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Razan Alkhabbaz	€2,400
Why do nurses retire early? An analysis of ageing nurses' intentions for early retirement	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Matas Sadauskas	€2,400
Prognostic value and function of miR-616 in breast cancer	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Paddy Murphy	€2,400
Procedural factors affecting the success of endovascular thrombectomy of cerebral thrombi	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Matthew Lambe	€2,400
How many medicines make up 90% of a doctor's prescribing; the evaluation of prescriber and practice DU90% in a sample of Irish general practices	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Tanisha Prasad	€2,400

CAPACITY BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP ENHANCEMENT

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead researcher title	Lead researcher name	Total awarded
Investigation of a range of biomaterial hydrogels as potential vitreous substitutes	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mrs	Maryam Alamir	€2,400
Correlation of granulosa cell ultrastructure and phenotype with post-fertilisation outcome in ART patients	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Sarah James	€2,400
To determine the feasibility and inter observer reliability for the use of smart glasses in assessment of gaze fixation in 8- to 16-week-old infants	University College Cork	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Emma Hrvacic	€2,400
Development of an effectual screening assay for microRNAs as liquid biopsy biomarkers for the detection of basal-like breast tumour subtype	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Muhammad Tariq	€2,400
A mixed methods evaluation of GPs' experience of implementing a primary care intervention to reduce hospital readmissions for older adults	University College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Ethan Murtagh	€2,400
AI-PREMIE	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Eilidh Craig	€2,400
The effect of caffeine on GABA and glutamate levels in an <i>in vitro</i> model of Alzheimer's disease	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Shahad Almutairi	€2,400
Effects of preterm birth and small gestational age at birth on depression and anxiety in the offspring	University College Cork	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Auny Dayana Abdul Aziz	€1,800
Serum microRNAs as predictors of frailty after ICU admission with sepsis	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Daniel Fuller	€2,400
A stereological study of mitochondria in the gravid myometrium	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Aoibhe D'Arcy	€2,400
Clinical experience of biologic therapy for severe asthma in MUH	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Abrar Alsaeed	€2,400

CAPACITY BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP ENHANCEMENT

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead researcher title	Lead researcher name	Total awarded
Is inappropriate prescribing among older patients admitted to the emergency department (ED) a predictor of patient adverse outcomes? An analysis of the SOAED trial	University of Limerick	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Daniel McCarthy	€2,400
Role of the superior colliculus in the computation of evidence for perceptual decisions	Trinity College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Aoibheann Gill	€2,400
Exploration of age-associated inflammation on the inner blood retinal barrier	Trinity College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Yasmin Ryan	€2,400
Investigation of relationships between maternal fat-free mass and maternal health, and pregnancy and neonatal outcomes including neonatal body composition	Dublin City University	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Carl McCarry	€2,400
A histological analysis of endoscopically harvested conduits for coronary artery bypass graft surgery	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Machaela Miskell	€2,400
A prospective study investigating the profile, current management and short time outcome of people with LBP attending the Emergency Department for assessment in Ireland	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Moza Alburaiqi	€2,400
Testing of a bioengineered drug-eluting synthetic dural patch for spinal cord injury applications	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Louis Mulville	€2,400
Optimisation of delivery of small RNA molecules to <i>in vitro</i> models of human type II alveolar epithelial cells	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Enya O'Sullivan	€2,400
Chronovaccination	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Laranya Kumar	€2,400
The burden of asthma and COPD in Ireland: a secondary analysis of The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing and Healthy Ireland data	University College Cork	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Klaudia Drzymala	€2,400

CAPACITY BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP ENHANCEMENT

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead researcher title	Lead researcher name	Total awarded
The role played by the microbiota-gut-brain axis on circadian rhythm regulation	University College Cork	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Rachel Durr	€2,400
A comparison of outcomes for patients who have undergone an aortic valve replacement via mini sternotomy versus aortic valve replacement via full sternotomy	University College Cork	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Joseph Harrington	€2,400
An investigation into the knowledge and risk perception of electronic cigarette use among third level students in the Republic of Ireland	University College Cork	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Eloise Nugent	€2,400
The impact of suicide bereavement on healthcare and community professionals: a population-based study	University College Cork	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Haniya Roshan	€2,400
Exploring the gender-specific impacts of suicide bereavement in Ireland	University College Cork	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Sophie Veronneau	€2,400
The factors associated with non-attendance in the Irish National Diabetic Retinal Screening Programme by older Irish adults	University College Cork	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Ailish Ryan	€2,400
Driving positive ageing at home: older adults' engagement with ALONE Support Services	Maynooth University	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Niamh Petrie	€2,400
In silico analysis of the EpiCapture biomarker panel in bladder cancer	University College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Fergal Walsh	€2,400
Quantifying change in muscle mass and muscle strength during hospitalisation	University College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Mouayad Masalkhi	€2,400
Physical functioning, self-rated health and retention to exercise rehabilitation in a diverse chronic disease population	Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Katie Moran	€2,400
Investigating reasons for high rates of birth interventions in Ireland – A participatory health research study	University of Limerick	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Tara Murphy	€1,800
Identification of quantitative EEG parameters for severity rating in neurodevelopmental disorders	Trinity College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Ka Yue Choi	€2,400

CAPACITY BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP ENHANCEMENT

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead researcher title	Lead researcher name	Total awarded
Inflatable compressive sleeve to combat orthostatic hypotension	Trinity College Dublin	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Daniel Lough	€1,800
Correlative light and electron microscopy (CLEM) analysis of the tumour microenvironment in skin cancer	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Jessica Prendergast	€2,400
Multimodal imaging of the human myometrium	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Anh Nguyen	€2,400
School of Medicine Undergraduate Research Programme	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Heejune So	€2,400
Normative data for cepstral peak prominence: the effect of gender and speech task	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Anna McNamara	€2,400
Investigating the impact of amino acid restriction on the anti-cancer activity of MAIT cells	Maynooth University	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Kirti Achanta	€2,400
How does the ARDS patient microenvironment influence MSC capacity to calm the immune response?	Maynooth University	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Louis McCabe	€2,400
The number of needles needed to treat. An observational study	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Áine Ní Dhálaigh	€2,400
Effect of bile acids on cardiac function	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Ms	Nataly Quqa	€1,800
Testing positive: An investigation into the attitudes towards blood screening procedures in Ireland following the hepatitis C scandal	Dublin City University	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Emma Gilligan	€2,400
Development of a resource for female cancer survivors on nutrition and lifestyle to aid menopausal symptom management	University College Cork	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Katie Ní Fheinneadha	€2,400
A scoping review of current methods to assess wound odour	University of Galway	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mrs	Roisin Jaffrezic	€2,400

CAPACITY BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP ENHANCEMENT

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead researcher title	Lead researcher name	Total awarded
Translation aspects of the Shamrock study: a single arm phase 2 trial of neoadjuvant trastuzumab deruxtecan in early-stage HER2-positive breast cancer	RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Maen Alrawashdeh	€2,400
Peri-Operative Exercise and Nutrition Optimisation (PANO) Trial	Dublin City University	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Mark Brady	€2,400
What are the barriers faced by clinicians when prescribing exercise and how can this influence patients, practice, and education?	University of Limerick	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Mr	Omar Qatamesh	€2,400
Precursors of Youth violent crime	Dublin City University	Summer Student Scholarships 2023	Miss	Chloe Leech	€2,400
Detecting and preventing radiation heart disease	Queen's University Belfast	Fulbright-HRB Health Impact Awards	Dr	Gerard Walls	€8,045
Exploration of leadership and team effectiveness strategies in nursing evidence-based practice (EBP)	University College Cork	Fulbright-HRB Health Impact Awards	Professor	Corina Naughton	€8,498
Opioid stewardship strategies in Kentucky and Ireland: A mixed methods cross-regional analysis	Trinity College Dublin	Fulbright-HRB Health Impact Awards	Dr	Juliette McDonnell	€10,620

Total: €7,922,681

INFRASTRUCTURE AND NETWORK AWARDS

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead researcher title	Lead researcher name	Total awarded
Rare Disease Catalyst Consortium Award	University College Dublin	Rare Diseases Research and Innovation Catalyst Awards	Dr	Rachel Crowley	€2,996,886
Limerick Cancer Trials	University of Limerick	Cancer Trials Enhancement Award	Professor	Ruth Clifford	€709,979
University of Galway Saoilta Cancer Trials Cluster	University of Galway	Cancer Trials Enhancement Award	Professor	Janusz Krawczyk	€709,898
Evidence-based Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (EQUIPS) research network	Trinity College Dublin	Patient Safety Research Network	Professor	Samuel Cromie	€625,000
Total:					€5,041,763

INTERVENTIONS

Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead researcher title	Lead researcher name	Total awarded
Semaglutide for people with obesity and resistant hypertension trial (SUPPORT): a pilot randomised, double blind, parallel group, integrated, multicentre clinical trial	Trinity College Dublin	Definitive Intervention and Feasibility Awards	Professor	Martina Hennessy	€399,359
A randomised controlled pilot trial of psilocybin with psychological support for cocaine use disorder	Trinity College Dublin	Definitive Intervention and Feasibility Awards	Dr	John Kelly	€379,933
Medicines and social prescribing to address patient priorities in multimorbidity (MIDAS): A multi-arm definitive cluster randomised trial in Irish general practice	Trinity College Dublin	Definitive Intervention and Feasibility Awards	Professor	Susan Smith	€1,192,174
Examining the effectiveness, and cost-effectiveness, of a work and cancer self-management programme to support women with breast cancer to return to work	Trinity College Dublin	Definitive Intervention and Feasibility Awards	Dr	Deirdre Connolly	€1,033,135

INTERVENTIONS					
Title	Host institution	Scheme	Lead researcher title	Lead researcher name	Total awarded
Implementing a targeted selective speech, language, and communication intervention at scale – the case of Happy Talk	University College Cork	Definitive Intervention and Feasibility Awards	Dr	Pauline Frizelle	€1,216,573
Exoskeleton training for spinal cord injury neuropathic pain: A Phase 2 Feasibility Randomised Trial	University College Dublin	Definitive Intervention and Feasibility Awards	Dr	Olive Lennon	€357,425
REMAP-CAP (Randomised, Embedded, Multi-factorial, Adaptive Platform Trial for Community Acquired Pneumonia) Ireland 2023: Beyond COVID-19	University College Dublin	Definitive Intervention and Feasibility Awards	Professor	Alistair Nichol	€1,217,023
BRAIN OXYGEN NEUROMONITORING ASSESSMENT (BONANZA) EUROPE TRIAL; a multicentre, randomised phase III trial of brain tissue oxygen (PbtO2) monitoring versus standard care after severe TBI	University College Dublin	Definitive Intervention and Feasibility Awards	Professor	Patrick Murray	€1,219,873
SalT supplementation in Older adults with Orthostatic intolerance Disorders (STOOD): a phase IIa randomised controlled trial of sodium supplementation in those consuming	University of Galway	Definitive Intervention and Feasibility Awards	Professor	Andrew Smyth	€398,588
A Cognitive Occupation-Based programme for people with Multiple Sclerosis: definitive trial (COB-MS)	University of Galway	Definitive Intervention and Feasibility Awards	Dr	Sinead Hynes	€1,219,578
The D1 Now intervention to improve outcomes in young adults living with type 1 diabetes: A definitive cluster randomised controlled trial	University of Galway	Definitive Intervention and Feasibility Awards	Professor	Sean Dinneen	€1,219,266
Community-based exercise for older adults with chronic musculoskeletal pain: a randomised controlled feasibility trial	University of Limerick	Definitive Intervention and Feasibility Awards	Professor	Karen McCreesh	€385,299
Total:					€10,238,227

Appendix C

HRB co-funded awards				
Scheme	Co-funding partner	Co-funding allocation	HRB share	Total award
Fulbright-HRB Health Impact Awards	Fulbright Foundation	€2,011	€8,045	€10,056
Fulbright-HRB Health Impact Awards	Fulbright Foundation	€2,124	€8,498	€10,622
Fulbright-HRB Health Impact Awards	Fulbright Foundation	€2,655	€10,620	€13,275
European Research Area – TRANSCAN-3	INCa/ARC (France)	€818,063	€370,000	€1,188,063
European Research Area – TRANSCAN-3	INCa/ARC (France)	€846,320	€369,833	€1,216,153
European Research Area – TRANSCAN-3	FRS-FNRS (Belgium)	€800,358	€369,880	€1,170,238
Applied Partnership Awards	National Care Experience Programme (NCEP) – Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA)	€39,252	€196,252	€235,504
Applied Partnership Awards	National Federation of Voluntary Service Providers Supporting People	€34,996	€174,911	€209,907
Applied Partnership Awards	HSE Services for Older People, Change and Innovation	€40,000	€199,997	€239,997
Applied Partnership Awards	HSE Tobacco Free Ireland Programme	€59,976	€197,546	€257,522
Applied Partnership Awards	HSE National Clinical Programme for Obesity	€29,906	€149,896	€179,802
Applied Partnership Awards	Department of Health	€40,000	€198,860	€238,860
Applied Partnership Awards	HSE National Dementia Office	€40,000	€187,839	€227,839
Applied Partnership Awards	Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA)	€39,173	€195,864	€235,037
Applied Partnership Awards	HSE Office of the Chief Clinical Officer	€40,000	€200,000	€240,000
Applied Partnership Awards	Galway University Hospital	€39,996	€199,829	€239,825
Network of European Funding for Neuroscience Research (NEURON)	BMBF-DFG (Germany); SNSF (Switzerland); ANR (France); SAS (Slovakia); UEFISCDI (Romania)	€1,214,022	€369,839	€1,583,861

HRB co-funded awards

Scheme	Co-funding partner	Co-funding allocation	HRB share	Total award
Network of European Funding for Neuroscience Research (NEURON)	ISCIII (Spain); NKFIH (Hungary); CSO-MOH (Israel)	€525,082	€369,918	€895,000
Rare Diseases Research and Innovation Catalyst Awards	University College Dublin	€122,175	€2,996,886	€3,119,062
European Joint Programme on Rare Diseases (EJP RD)	ANR (France); BMBF (Germany); ISCIII (Spain); SNSF (Switzerland)	€1,412,960	€369,929	€1,782,889
European Joint Programme on Rare Diseases (EJP RD)	CIHR-IG (Canada); ANR (France); ISCIII (Spain); SRC (Sweden); SNSF (Switzerland)	€1,642,139	€369,240	€2,011,379
Joint Programming Initiative in Neurodegenerative Diseases	ANR (France); DLR-OT (Germany); NKFIH (Hungary); ZonMw (Netherlands); VR (Sweden)	€1,362,651	€499,962	€1,862,613
Joint Programming Initiative in Neurodegenerative Diseases	IT-MOH (Italy); NCN (Poland); TUBITAK (Turkey)	€608,283	€496,150	€1,104,433
Joint Programming in Antimicrobial Resistance	ANR (France); ISCIII (Spain); SIDA (Sweden); UKRI (UK); ZonMw (Netherlands)	€1,630,000	€379,000	€2,009,000
Joint Programming in Antimicrobial Resistance	ETAG (Estonia); UKRI (UK)	€547,608	€259,893	€807,501
European Research Area	FWO (Belgium); MUR (Italy); ZonMw (Netherlands); NCBR (Poland); TUBITAK (Turkey)	€1,059,783	€499,802	€1,559,585
European Research Area	BMBF/DLR (Germany); RCL (Lithuania); ZonMw (Netherlands); NCBR (Poland); UEFISCDI (Romania)	€1,184,375	€499,973	€1,684,348
Precision Medicine in Cancer	All-Ireland Cancer Network	€400,00	€600,000	€1,000,000
European Partnership on Transforming Health and Care Systems	AKA (Finland); MUR (Italy); NCBR (Poland); ISCIII (Spain)	€1,072,291	€369,980	€1,442,271
Joint Programme – Neurodegenerative Disease Research	NKFIH (Hungary); SRC (Sweden); TUBITAK (Turkey)	€710,881	€124,500	€835,381
DevelOp InterdisciplinaRy apprOaches to healTH Crisis Collaboratively (DOROTHY)	IEC/EPA/EC	€182,000	€50,000	€232,000
DevelOp InterdisciplinaRy apprOaches to healTH Crisis Collaboratively (DOROTHY)	IEC/EPA/EC	€182,000	€50,000	€232,000

HRB co-funded awards

Scheme	Co-funding partner	Co-funding allocation	HRB share	Total award
DevelOp InterdisciplinaRy apprOaches to healTH Crisis Collaboratively (DOROTHY)	IEC/EPA/EC	€182,000	€50,000	€232,000
DevelOp InterdisciplinaRy apprOaches to healTH Crisis Collaboratively (DOROTHY)	IEC/EPA/EC	€182,000	€50,000	€232,000
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Patient Safety Research Network	HSE National Quality and Patient Safety Directorate	€625,000	€625,000	€1,250,000

Total: €18,776,081 €12,269,083


Corporate Governance and Financial Statements

The Corporate Governance and Financial Statements information will be published in a Part 2 to this document upon receipt of the audited financial statements from the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

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