

2000 - 2008

IRELAND • NORTHERN IRELAND •
NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE
CANCER CONSORTIUM



TIMELINE OF ACTIVITIES

Consortium Origins

In October 1999, representatives of Ireland, Northern Ireland, and the U.S. signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish the Ireland-Northern Ireland-National Cancer Institute (NCI) Cancer Consortium. In November 2006, the MOU was signed again, reaffirming the commitment between Ireland, Northern Ireland, and the U.S. to work together to reduce the burden of cancer. Both signing ceremonies took place at Belfast's Waterfront Hall in conjunction with the 1st and 3rd All-Ireland Cancer Conferences (AICC). The enhanced partnership between each jurisdiction will enable the further development of improved scientific programs in the following areas:

- Prevention and early detection;
- Diagnosis and treatment;
- Palliative care and survivorship;
- Interactions aimed at enhanced public-health and patient-care;
- Research (including biobanking);
- Education and training for physicians, nurses, and scientists;
- Epidemiology (including registration and surveillance);
- Quality assurance; and
- Cancer policy analysis and health economics.



1999-2008 Summary

The Ireland-Northern Ireland-NCI Cancer Consortium contributes to the control of cancer by focusing its collective resources on specific areas of scientific research – clinical trials, information technology, epidemiology and cancer registry, cancer prevention and early detection, nursing, health economics and cancer policy analysis, palliative care, biobanking, and training/scholar exchange. Below is a summary of some of the Consortium’s accomplishments throughout the years:

- Expanded support of joint clinical research studies through collaborations with the Northern Ireland Cancer Clinical Trials Unit, which recruits approximately 700 patients annually, and the All Ireland Cooperative Oncology Research Group (ICORG). Since 2000, over 2,600 patients from Ireland and Northern Ireland have enrolled in Consortium-sponsored studies through ICORG.
- Improved access to cancer care, clinical research, and educational opportunities for health care professionals through the installation of several state-of-the-art TELESYNERGY® multimedia medical imaging workstations across the island of Ireland, including six full TELESYNERGY® systems and four TELESYNERGY® Lite systems.
- Increased collaborations between cancer registries in the North and South, resulting in the development of two *All-Ireland Cancer Statistics Reports* and several jointly-authored publications in peer-reviewed journals on the island of Ireland and in the United States (U.S).
- Developed cadre of prevention professionals on the island of Ireland through workshops and training programs such as the NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention and the Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program (CPFP).
- Impacted the overall education of cancer professionals on the island of Ireland through workshops, conferences, NCI training/coursework opportunities, and other scholar exchange programs.

Additional Information

Number of scholars endorsed by the Consortium by jurisdiction and program, 2000-2008.

Type of Exchange Program	Duration of Program	Participants by Jurisdiction			Total Participants
		Ireland	Northern Ireland	United States	
Epidemiology Fellowship	3 years	2	1	1	4
NCI Clinical Trials Training for Nurses	3 weeks/3 months	11	7		18
Clinical Trials E-learning Module for Nurses	12 weeks	10	16		26
Health Research Board (HRB)/NCI Health Economics Fellowships in Cancer Program	4 years	2			2
NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention: Molecular Prevention Course	1 week	97	39		136*
NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention: Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control Course	4 weeks	66	27		93†
NCI Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program	3 years	4	4		8
Joint Research Projects in Cancer (JRPC)	2-3 years	6‡	3	7	16

* The total number of participants includes fellows who completed the course as a requirement for the NCI CPFP, JRPC, and HRB/NCI Health Economics Fellowships in Cancer.

† The total number of participants includes fellows who completed the course as a requirement for the NCI CPFP, JRPC, and HRB/NCI Health Economics Fellowships in Cancer.

‡ The number of Irish participants includes Irish fellows who completed Joint Research Fellowships in Cancer.

2000 - 2008

TIMELINE OF ACTIVITIES

2000

FEBRUARY

- Initial meeting of Consortium Board of Directors (BOD)
- Finalization of funding agreement

APRIL

- Selection of two island of Ireland researchers to the Consortium-sponsored Fellows in Cancer Epidemiology Program

JULY

- Draft of Implementation Plan
- Installation of TELESYNERGY® suites begins on the island of Ireland

AUGUST

- Installation of TELESYNERGY® suite completed at Belfast City Hospital, Belfast

SEPTEMBER

- Visit of all-Ireland study team to NCI, Bethesda
- Installation of TELESYNERGY® suite completed at St. Luke's Hospital, Dublin

OCTOBER

- Launch of Strategic Advisory Group (SAG)
- Initiation of plans for NCI Clinical Trials Training for Nurses program for island of Ireland oncology nurses

NOVEMBER

- Implementation of net-Trials

2001

JANUARY

- Initial meeting of SAG
- Arrival of first Consortium-sponsored epidemiology fellows at NCI, Bethesda

MARCH

- Publication of first *All-Ireland Cancer Statistics Report 1994-96* by the cancer registries of Ireland and Northern Ireland

MAY

- Launch of Consortium Web site and Help Desk

JUNE

- Development of Working Group (WG) structure and goals

JULY

- Visit of Minister of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety for Northern Ireland to NCI, Bethesda
- Participation of seven island of Ireland scholars in NCI Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control Course

AUGUST

- Participation of eleven island of Ireland scholars in NCI Molecular Prevention Course

SEPTEMBER

- Publication of first *Cancer Consortium* newsletter

OCTOBER

- Publication of *Consortium Activities Report 2000-2001: Cancer Research Across Borders*

NOVEMBER

- Funding awards given to hospitals by the HRB to build clinical trials capacity in Ireland

DECEMBER

- Establishment of Prevention WG (PRV WG)

2002

JANUARY

- Installation of Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach as BOD member to replace Dr. Richard Klausner

FEBRUARY

- Participation of three island of Ireland oncology nurses in first round of NCI Clinical Trials Training for Nurses
- Submission of joint ICORG/Clinical Research Support Centre application to form All-Ireland Cancer Clinical Trials Cooperative Group

APRIL

- Formation of TELESYNERGY® User Group

MAY

- Initial meeting of PRV WG
- Nursing WG (NRS WG) Information Day

JUNE

- Participation of Cancer Registries WG in International Association of Cancer Registries Meeting in Finland
- Arrival of first island of Ireland CPFP fellow at NCI, Bethesda

JULY

- Participation of all-Ireland delegation in National Institutes of Health (NIH) conference on palliative care
- Participation of eleven island of Ireland scholars in NCI Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control Course
- Publication of second *Cancer Consortium* newsletter

AUGUST

- Participation of thirteen island of Ireland scholars in NCI Molecular Prevention Course

OCTOBER

- Participation of four island of Ireland oncology nurses in second round of NCI Clinical Trials Training for Nurses
- Co-sponsorship of Cancer Care Ireland 2002 conference at Waterfront Hall in Belfast

NOVEMBER

- Demonstration of three-way TELESYNERGY® at St. Luke's Hospital, Dublin with NIH Director and NCI Director/BOD member Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach

2003

JANUARY

- First TELESYNERGY® User Group meeting at NIH

FEBRUARY

- Launch of All-Ireland Cancer Clinical Trials Cooperative Group in Dublin

MARCH

- Participation of Consortium in inaugural Cancer Conference of the St. James's Hospital Cancer Strategy Group in Dublin

MAY

- Inaugural PRV WG workshop on smoking cessation in Dundalk

JUNE

- Arrival of third Consortium Fellow in Cancer Epidemiology at NCI in Bethesda
- Launch of All-Ireland Cancer Clinical Trials Cooperative Group in Belfast

JULY

- Participation of seventeen island of Ireland scholars in NCI Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control Course
- Award of first epidemiology fellowship to U.S. researcher to develop the *All-Ireland Cancer Statistics Second Report 1998-2000*
- Publication of *Consortium Activities Report 2001-2002: Cancer Research Across Borders*
- Publication of third *Cancer Consortium* newsletter

AUGUST

- Participation of seventeen island of Ireland scholars in NCI Molecular Prevention Course

SEPTEMBER

- Visit of Minister of the Department of Health and Children (DoHC) of Ireland to NIH

OCTOBER

- Participation of two island of Ireland oncology nurses in third round of NCI Clinical Trials Training for Nurses
- Co-sponsorship of 2nd AICC in Cork

2004

FEBRUARY

- Installation of TELESYNERGY® suite at Trinity College School of Radiation Therapy in Dublin

MARCH

- Co-sponsorship of Cancer 2004 Conference of the St. James's Hospital Cancer Strategy Group in Dublin
- Launch of new smoke-free enclosed workplaces law in Ireland

APRIL

- Announcement of development of a National TELESYNERGY® Network for Oncology Services in Ireland by Minister of the DoHC of Ireland

JULY

- Participation of twelve island of Ireland scholars in NCI Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control Course

AUGUST

- Participation of nineteen island of Ireland scholars in NCI Molecular Prevention Course

SEPTEMBER

- Inaugural PRV WG seminar on obesity and cancer in Dublin
- Publication of *All-Ireland Cancer Statistics Second Report 1998-2000* by Consortium-sponsored U.S. epidemiology fellow and cancer registries of Ireland and Northern Ireland
- Publication of *Consortium Activities Report 2003: Deepening Connections/ Expanding Horizons*

OCTOBER

- Launch of Centre for Cancer Research & Cell Biology (CCRCB) in Belfast
- Participation of three island of Ireland oncology nurses in fourth round of NCI Clinical Trials Training for Nurses

NOVEMBER

- Consortium highlighted at International Union Against Cancer World Conference for Cancer Organizations in Dublin
- Selection of three island of Ireland scholars for CFPF fellowships

2005

FEBRUARY

- Publication of five-year timeline brochure

MARCH

- Co-sponsorship of Cancer 2005 Conference of the St. James's Hospital Cancer Strategy Group in Dublin
- Launch of the All-Ireland Joint Research Projects in Cancer (JRPC)

JULY

- Participation of twelve island of Ireland scholars in NCI Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control Course

AUGUST

- Participation of eighteen island of Ireland scholars in NCI Molecular Prevention Course
- Publication of *Consortium Activities Report 2004: Together in Cancer Research and Education/Building on Five Years of Collaboration*

SEPTEMBER

- Selection of two island of Ireland scholars for CFPF fellowships

OCTOBER

- Announcement of intention by Northern Ireland to implement smoking ban in all public places and workplaces by April 2007
- Installation of TELESYNERGY® equipment in University College Hospital Galway and Cork University Hospital

DECEMBER

- Publication of fourth *Cancer Consortium* newsletter

2006

MARCH

- Award of JRPC to two island of Ireland cancer researchers

MAY

- Co-sponsorship of Cancer 2006 Conference of the St. James's Hospital Cancer Strategy Group in Dublin
- Visit of Minister of the DoHC of Ireland to NCI in Bethesda

JUNE

- Issue of second call for applications for JRPC
- Installation of Dr. John Niederhuber as BOD member to replace Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach
- Release of *A Strategy for Cancer Control in Ireland*, Ireland-Northern Ireland-National Cancer Institute Cancer Consortium commended for its role in cancer prevention and control

JULY

- Participation of fourteen island of Ireland scholars in NCI Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control Course

AUGUST

- Participation of twenty-five island of Ireland scholars in NCI Molecular Prevention Course
- Publication of fifth *Cancer Consortium* newsletter
- Publication of seven-year timeline brochure

SEPTEMBER

- Installation of Dr. Michael McBride as BOD member to replace Dr. Henrietta Campbell
- Publication of *Consortium Activities Report 2005: Beyond the Framework: Our Continuing Joint Efforts in Cancer Research*
- Selection of island of Ireland scholar as CFPF fellow

OCTOBER

- Participation of four island of Ireland oncology nurses in fifth round of NCI Clinical Trials Training for Nurses

NOVEMBER

- Co-sponsorship of 3rd AICC in Belfast
- Re-signing of Consortium MOU at 3rd AICC in Belfast
- Installation of TELESYNERGY® Lite equipment at Letterkenny Regional Hospital

2007

JANUARY

- Launch of first round of Queen's University Belfast (QUB) Clinical Trials E-learning Module for Nurses

MARCH

- NRS WG Strategic Plan 2007-2010 developed at Nursing Workshop in Belfast

APRIL

- Publication of sixth *Cancer Consortium* newsletter
- Northern Ireland's Space to Breathe law takes effect

MAY

- Co-sponsorship of Cancer 2007 Conference of the St. James's Hospital Cancer Strategy Group in Dublin
- First Consortium All-Ireland Health Economics Workshop held at NCI in Bethesda
- Ireland joined the International Agency for Research on Cancer
- Expert Group on a National Cancer Biobank for Ireland established by Minister of the DoHC of Ireland
- Completion of QUB Clinical Trials E-learning Module for Nurses by thirteen students

JULY

- Participation of eleven island of Ireland scholars in NCI Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control Course
- Consortium Web site awarded Interactive Media Award for Outstanding Achievement

AUGUST

- Participation of eighteen island of Ireland scholars in NCI Molecular Prevention Course
- Consortium Web site awarded Bronze award from World Wide Web Health Awards

OCTOBER

- Participation of two island of Ireland oncology nurses in sixth round of NCI Clinical Trials Training for Nurses

NOVEMBER

- Nursing Research Workshop held by NRS WG
- Official opening of CCRCB facilities at QUB, Belfast
- Installation of TELESYNERGY® Lite equipment at Waterford Regional Hospital

DECEMBER

- Publication of *Consortium Activities Report 2006: Adding Value Through Cancer Research & Education*
- NCI delegates visit Dublin to meet with Expert Group and present lecture at Biobanking Mini-Symposium
- Selection of island of Ireland scholar as CFPF fellow

2008

JANUARY

- Second round of QUB Clinical Trials E-learning Module for Nurses begins
- Launch of HRB/NCI Health Economics Fellowships in Cancer Program
- Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Hospice joins the Consortium as palliative care liaison to the SAG and BOD

FEBRUARY

- Visit of Minister of the DoHC of Ireland to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

MARCH

- Visit of Irish and Northern Irish nursing delegation to NCI to meet with U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Assistant Surgeon General and Chief Nursing Officer and other nurse leaders at NCI and NCI-designated cancer centers in Bethesda
- Five principle investigators, three from Northern Ireland and two from Ireland, selected for JRPC

APRIL

- Publication of seventh *Cancer Consortium* newsletter

MAY

- Co-sponsorship of Cancer 2008 Conference of St. James's Hospital in Dublin
- Selection of two fellows for HRB/NCI Health Economics Fellowships in Cancer Program
- Completion of QUB Clinical Trials E-learning Module for Nurses by thirteen students

JULY

- Participation of nine island of Ireland scholars in NCI Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control Course

AUGUST

- Participation of fifteen island of Ireland scholars in NCI Molecular Prevention Course
- Installation of TELESYNERGY® system at Beaumont Hospital in Dublin

NOVEMBER

- Publication of *Consortium Activities Report 2007: Building Blocks of Success in Cancer Control: Partnership, Education, & Research*
- Publication of nine-year timeline brochure
- Co-sponsorship of 4th AICC in Dublin



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Cancer Consortium**

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