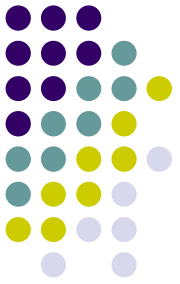




Ambasáid na hÉireann  
Embassy of Ireland  
Washington, DC

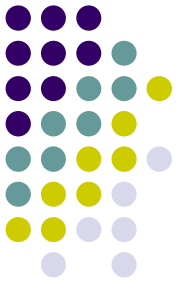


# Embassy Science Seminar

## ***Funding Sources for Irish Scientists: Where to next?***

Eamonn Confrey  
Embassy Of Ireland  
31 March 2010

# Irish Context



Difficult domestic budgetary situation where cuts have been implemented across a range of public expenditure programmes including STI.

Capital expenditure will be €6.4 billion in 2010, or 5% of GNP – among the highest in the European Union

Science Foundation Ireland has had to prioritise its Award Programmes:~

- Starting Investigator Research Grants (SIRG) – closed but to re-open in 2011

- President of Ireland Young Research Awards (PIYRA) – temp closed for redesign

Single Funding Stream for SSTI:~

- The Govt recently announced that it will establish a single funding stream for SSTI.

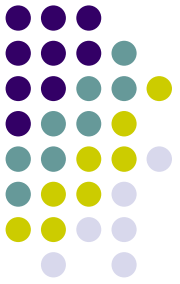
- This will involve combining SFI, HEA funds through PRTL, IRCSET & IRCHSS, HRB and research calls of sectoral Depts.

Realignment of Govt Depts last week:~

- D/ETE -> D/Enterprise, Trade & Innovation. Now responsible for PRTL funding

- D/Ed. & Science -> D/Education & Skills. Now incl. responsibility for training & skills

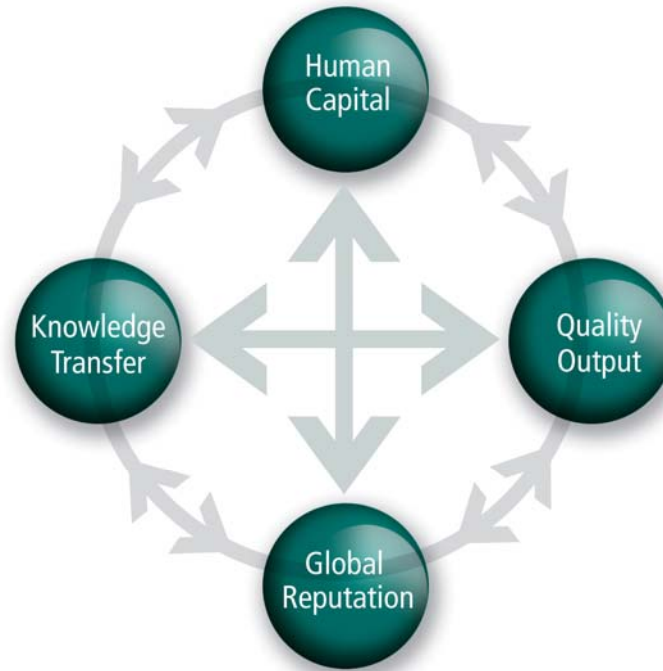
# SFI Awards & Options



- While many Award Progs are on hold, key programs still remain open:
  - Research Frontiers; Principal Investigator, P.I. Career Advancement & Translational Research Call (in conjunction with HRB)
  - PIRYA is probably the best option currently for those who wish to move back to an Irish Institution
- The moratorium on recruitment in the Irish Universities and Institutes of Technology has been lifted. If individuals can secure positions then they can apply for SFI mainstream progs e.g. Research Frontiers & PI.
- The **UK Wellcome Trust** is another option ([www.wellcome.ac.uk](http://www.wellcome.ac.uk)). This UK prog is open to Irish applicants and is particularly targeted towards biomedical areas (including e-health).
- **Europe:**
  - European Research Council (ERC) Schemes – have had a significant budget increase. Irish Universities keen to talk to individuals who can secure ERC grants
  - Marie Curie awards also



# Powering the Knowledge Economy



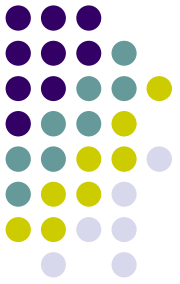
The strategy for the next five years increases the emphasis on linkages between scientific excellence and economic impact. SFI's programmes will be focused more directly on developing and sustaining the underpinning components of the Smart Economy in the areas of greatest strategic value to Ireland's long-term competitiveness and development i.e. ICT, Biotech & Energy

# All Island and International R&D



- The North/South Innovation Fund was established in 2008. The potential contribution from the RoI has been set at €60 million over the lifetime of the NDP. There is a global provision of £90 million on the Northern Ireland side. Initiatives under the scheme include:
  - o The All-Island Innovation Voucher scheme jointly operated by EI and Invest NI which provides vouchers to companies to allow them to access expertise in research institutions on both sides of the border.
  - o The US-Ireland R&D partnership, which involves the Governments of the US, Ireland and Northern Ireland working together to advance scientific progress by awarding grants for research on a competitive basis in the thematic areas of Diabetes, Cystic Fibrosis, Nanotechnology and Sensors.
- Under the EU Framework RTD Programme (FP7), Irish researchers are engaging in pan-European research projects to tackle some of the biggest challenges facing the EU, using funding from the largest European R&D funding programme ever. In the first two years of the programme, researchers from Irish companies and higher education institutions won funding totalling €107 million for collaborative research projects

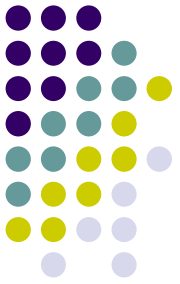
# US-Ireland R&D Partnership



- The US-Ireland R&D Partnership is a tri-jurisdictional alliance (US, Ireland, Northern Ireland) launched in 2006. The aim of the Partnership is to promote collaborative innovative projects amongst researchers and involves collaboration between the NIH, NSF and Irish/US academics.
- Each jurisdiction is offered a unique opportunity to advance research interests, healthcare and economic development in areas prioritised as:
  - Diabetes
  - Cystic Fibrosis
  - Nanotechnology
  - Sensor Technology
- **Guiding Principles:**
  - Significant participation by researchers from each jurisdiction in each project
  - Competitive peer review
  - Joint funding, with each jurisdiction supporting its own research costs.
- **March 2010 Update**
  - 5 significant projects approved covering areas in kidney disease (NIH), biosafety (NSF) cystic fibrosis (NIH), GHG ocean sensors (NSF) involving funding of €12m / \$15.6m



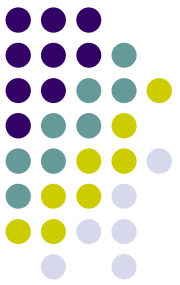
# Dublin: City of Science



## Dublin will host the Euroscience Open Forum in 2012

- Euroscience, headquartered in Strasbourg, chose Dublin as the winner of the open competition to host the Euroscience Open Forum in 2012.
- The Euroscience Open Forum is a major international event held in a leading European city every 2 years. It is a showcase for the best and most relevant of European science and aims to bring this to the widest possible audience.
- The event comprises five days (12-16 July, 2012) of science talks, demonstrations, exhibitions and outreach activities that will bring cutting-edge science to delegates, the general public and school-children alike.
- This event will provide a platform for Ireland to exhibit its substantial investment in research as part of the SSTI and further enhance the international standing of Ireland as a centre for scientific and research excellence.





# Thank You!

## Eamonn Confrey, Embassy Of Ireland

For more information on the funding opportunities referred to in this presentation, please visit the organizations listed below or contact our help desk at [consortium@cancer.gov](mailto:consortium@cancer.gov).

- [Science Foundation Ireland](#)
- [US-Ireland Research and Development Partnership](#)
- [Wellcome Trust](#)
- [European Research Council](#)
- [Office of the Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government of](#)
- [Ireland Euroscience Open Forum 2012](#)