

Cancer Consortium

A PERIODIC UPDATE OF PROGRESS AND EVENTS

Inside this Issue:

- Ireland's Health Minister Visits NCI 2
- Island Summer Prevention Scholars 2
- Clinical Trials Nursing Training E-learning 2
- Cancer 2006 3
- Regional Cancer Centre in Belfast 3
- NCI Cancer Prevention Fellows 4
- Consortium Leadership ... 4
- Strategy for Cancer Control 2006 5
- Farewell to BOD Members 5
- NCI Clinical Trials Nursing Training 5
- What's Next 6
- Announcements 6
- About the Consortium ... 6

Centre for Cancer Research & Cell Biology Serves as Research Model

A recent milestone of the Consortium's joint efforts to enhance Island infrastructure for cancer research and care is the Centre for Cancer Research & Cell Biology (CCRCB) at Queen's University Belfast (QUB), a cross-Faculty and interdisciplinary center that employs 41 high quality investigators and over 300 clinical/basic researchers. CCRCB's mission is to develop new avenues for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer and to relieve the human suffering of cancer by developing the highest quality cancer research programs. The Centre facilitates the training of young scientists and clinicians to the highest standard and provides an environment where clinicians can interact with scientists at the forefront of their fields.



Artist's Conceptual Drawing of CCRCB (Centre to Open in March 2007)

See **CCRCB**, Page 4

New Board of Directors Members Welcomed

The Consortium welcomes two new members to the Board of Directors (BOD) — Dr. John Niederhuber and Dr. Michael McBride — to replace long-time members Drs. Henrietta Campbell and Andrew von Eschenbach.

Drs. Niederhuber and McBride join 2006 BOD Chair Dr. Jim Kiely, Chief Medical Officer (Republic of Ireland), as the collaborative leaders of the Consortium and its joint efforts in cancer research.



Dr. Niederhuber, NCI Director (as of September), is a distinguished surgeon and researcher with extensive academic and research experience in the cancer field.



Dr. McBride, newly appointed Chief Medical Officer of Northern Ireland, served most recently as Medical Director and Consultant Physician in HIV medicine at the Royal Hospitals and has lengthy experience in health service management and a longstanding interest in continuing medical education.



Republic of Ireland Tánaiste and Minister of Health and Children Visits NCI

As part of ongoing All-Ireland NCI Cancer Consortium exchanges and dialogues, and in conjunction with receiving the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids 2006 Champion Award, the Honorable Mary Harney T.D., Tánaiste and Minister of Health and Children of Ireland, led a five-day study tour to the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and east coast cancer centers in May. Her visit to NCI provided opportunities to meet with NCI leadership; review U.S. approaches to cancer prevention, screening, treatment, and survivorship; hear about the U.S. Cancer Centers model; and discuss the U.S. Community Clinical Oncology Program and current activities in tobacco control research. While at NCI, she also participated in a teleconference between Bethesda and Dublin, utilizing TELESYNERGY®, a state-of-the-art telemedicine videoconferencing system.

Ms. Harney toured cancer centers in Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C., where staff members provided overviews of community cancer prevention, education, detection, and treatment programs, and state/local cancer control plans.

At a meeting with U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Deputy Secretary Alex Azar, Ms. Harney expressed appreciation for ongoing Consortium efforts and the need for continued engagement. They also discussed health care modernization and legal reforms, patient safety, and the U.S. Ireland Research and Development Partnership - another All-Ireland U.S. partnership, modeled after the Cancer Consortium and focused on other chronic and infectious diseases.

Island Scholars Well Represented in NCI Summer Prevention Courses



Island of Ireland Participants in the Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control Course



Island of Ireland Participants in the Molecular Course

A total of thirty-two health and cancer care professionals from the island of Ireland participated in two NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention courses in July and August. The four-week Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control course was held 5-28 July, followed by the one-week Molecular Prevention Course from 31 July - 5 August. Since 2002, the Consortium has facilitated the participation of ninety-five island scholars. Course and application details are listed on the Consortium Web site at www.allirelandnci.org/new/sccp.asp.

QUB Tapped to Develop Clinical Trials E-Learning Course for Nurses

One primary objective of the Nursing Working Group in 2005 was to identify methods of formal education opportunities for clinical trial nurses. A sub-group was established to pursue the possibility of developing an e-learning package for clinical trials training within the island of Ireland. Following the completion of a formal consultation process in 2005, the Department of Health in Northern Ireland commissioned Queen's University Belfast (QUB) to deliver an e-learning module aimed to advance the skills, knowledge, and training of clinical research nurses. Dr. Fiona Alderdice developed a module comprised of twelve weekly sessions, two of which will be conducted face-to-face. On-line interactions aim to promote further learning and exchange of practice across the island. For information on upcoming courses, contact Lyn Crawford (c.a.crawford@qub.ac.uk) or Theresa McNally (theresa.mcnally@qub.ac.uk).

Cancer 2006 Continues Conference Series Success

In May, St. James's Hospital and The Royal Hospital Kilmainham, in collaboration with the Health Service Executive and the Regional Oncology Program Office and with All-Ireland NCI Cancer Consortium co-sponsorship, hosted Cancer 2006, one of a series of annual two-day cancer conferences in the Republic of Ireland. This year's theme was "Combating Cancer through Research and Partnership." A pre-conference workshop on "Apoptosis as a Therapeutic Target" was held at St. James's Institute of Molecular Medicine.

Conference attendees were fortunate to be addressed by both Mary McAleese, President of Ireland, and Mary Harney, Tánaiste and Minister for Health and Children. Cancer experts from around the world spoke on topics such as the importance of cancer control in public health initiatives; the Prostate Cancer Research Network's advances and challenges, and the relevance of colorectal cancer as a model for personalized medicine, among others. Highlighting the critical role of partnerships in cancer research and care, Dr. Joe Harford, Director of the NCI's Office of International Affairs, discussed the positive impact of the All-Ireland-NCI Cancer Consortium on the Island's cancer research and care.

Summing up the conference theme, Professor Mark Lawler noted that, "Research and Partnership is the key; placing the patient at the center of an evolving matrix that involves the clinician, the scientist, and the health care professional in partnership with the funding bodies, the state and the pharmaceutical industry."



Dr. Mark Clanton, National Cancer Institute; Ms. Mary Harney, Tánaiste and Minister for Health and Children, Ireland; and Dr. Joe Harford, National Cancer Institute at the Conference

Regional Cancer Centre Opens in Belfast

In March 2006, a new state-of-the-art regional Cancer Centre opened at Belfast City Hospital (BCH), marking a significant milestone in the advancement of cancer services in Northern Ireland. The Centre's staff provides multi-professional expertise in the treatment, care and support of people with common and rare cancers. Services provided in the 84 in-patient bed cancer center include specialist diagnostic facilities; therapeutic services; high quality clinical trials and academic research; facilities for multidisciplinary meetings; and a regional focus for research, audit, teaching and training. The Radiotherapy Department has two simulators (including a Sim-CT), a dedicated CT scanner to support treatment planning, and ten Linear Accelerator bunkers.

Overnight accommodations are available at Glenview, a nearby Bed and Breakfast facility that offers a non-clinical environment suitable for patients who are self-caring. Support services, including counseling, information provision, complementary therapies, and hair dressing/wig fitting, will be provided at the Macmillan Support and Information Centre due to open by the end of 2006.

Integration of services between the Cancer Centre and BCH is the focus of much current work. A key component of the Northern Ireland Cancer Network, the Cancer Centre also plays a major role in the development of integrated cancer care services within Northern Ireland, a role being significantly enhanced by the All-Ireland-NCI Cancer Consortium.

Detailed information about the new center is on-line at www.bch.n-i.nhs.uk/index2.html.

Island Prevention Fellows Benefit from NCI Program

Drs. Lesley Anderson (Northern Ireland), and Drs. Sharon Glynn and Gwen Murphy (Republic of Ireland) received NCI cancer prevention fellowships that began in the fall of 2005. During the first year of the fellowship, Drs. Murphy and Glynn completed their MPH at the School of Public Health and Population Science, University College Dublin. Dr. Anderson is now completing a Masters in Population Health Evidence with the University of Manchester.

Currently based with Dr. Elaine Lanza (NCI's Center for Cancer Research), Dr. Murphy will investigate inflammation and its role in colorectal cancer, specifically examining single nucleotide polymorphisms, serum biomarkers, and diet.



2005-08 NCI Cancer Prevention Fellows
Dr. Lesley Anderson, Dr. Sharon Glynn,
and Dr. Gwen Murphy

Dr. Anderson is undertaking mentored research in the Viral Epidemiology branch of the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics at the NCI. Her research will primarily focus on the investigation of risk factors for non-Hodgkins lymphoma, thymoma, and classic Kaposi sarcoma.

Drs. Amanda Black (Northern Ireland) and Brid Ryan (Republic of Ireland) were selected as the third round of island cancer prevention fellows and will begin their MPH studies in the fall of 2006.

CCRCB, From Page 1

Formed with £20.3 million in investments, the CCRCB provides a foundation model for future research in life sciences at QUB with an emphasis on basic science and its translation into clinical application. This world class center ensures that Northern Ireland contributes to future UK and international research initiatives in cancer as well as infection & immunity and medicinal chemistry.

Construction of a new building with state-of-the-art laboratories and enhanced key enabling technologies began in August 2005, with completion expected in March 2007. Its proximity to the Northern Ireland Clinical Cancer Centre on the Belfast City Hospital campus offers a unique opportunity for a comprehensive center linking basic research with clinical trials and clinical application. The Northern Ireland Clinical Cancer Centre houses all of the surgery, radiotherapy, and chemotherapy treatment for cancer patients and, with clinical trials support, facilitates clinical innovation both in diagnosis and treatment. Completion of the CCRCB building will create the first comprehensive cancer center on the island of Ireland. Overall management of the Centre is the responsibility of the Scientific Director, Consortium Strategic Advisory Group Member Professor Paddy Johnston, and his support team.

Board of Directors

Dr. James Kiely (Chair 2006)
Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health and Children, Dublin, Ireland

Dr. Michael McBride
Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Belfast, Northern Ireland

Dr. John Niederhuber
Director, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Maryland USA

Strategic Advisory Group

REPRESENTATIVES OF PARTICIPATING JURISDICTIONS

Dr. Joe Harford (Chair)
Director, Office of International Affairs, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Maryland USA

Dr. Ruth Barrington
Chief Executive, Health Research Board, Dublin

Professor Robert Stout
Director, Research & Development for the Northern Ireland Health & Personal Social Services, Belfast

WORKING GROUP CHAIRS

Cancer Registries
Dr. Anna Gavin
Director, Northern Ireland Cancer Registry, Belfast

Clinical Trials
Dr. Ruth Barrington
Chief Executive, Health Research Board, Dublin

Information Technology
Professor Donal Hollywood
Professor of Clinical Oncology, Head of the Academic Unit of Clinical and Molecular Oncology, Trinity College Dublin

Nursing
Ms. Mary McCarthy
Chief Nursing Officer, Department of Health and Children, Dublin

Prevention
Dr. Douglas Weed
Chief, Office of Preventive Oncology, NCI

Scholar Exchange
Professor Patrick Johnston
Director, Centre for Cancer Research & Cell Biology, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast City Hospital, Belfast

OTHER STRATEGIC ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS

Dr. Oscar Breathnach
Consultant Medical Oncologist, Cancer Centre, Beaumont Hospital, Dublin

Professor Charles Campbell
Professor of Surgery, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast

Professor Peter A. Hall
Musgrave Professor of Pathology, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast

Dr. Lee J. Helman
Acting Scientific Director for Clinical Sciences, Center for Cancer Research, NCI

Dr. Mary Hynes
Assistant Director, National Hospitals Office, Health Service Executive, Merlin Park Regional Hospital, Galway

Professor Richard Kaplan
Associate Director, National Cancer Research Network (UK), Leeds and London

Professor Elaine Kay
Consultant Histopathologist, Beaumont Hospital, The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Dublin

Professor Mark Lawler
Associate Professor of Experimental Hematology, Department of Hematology and Institute for Molecular Medicine, St. James's Hospital and Trinity College Dublin; Chief Molecular Geneticist and Director, Cancer Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory, St. James's Hospital, Dublin

Republic of Ireland's Strategy for Cancer Control 2006 Released

In June, Tánaiste and Minister for Health and Children (Republic of Ireland) Mary Harney announced the recommendations of the Strategy for Cancer Control 2006, prepared by the National Cancer Forum. The report highlights the significant impact of the Consortium on cancer control on the island, in particular its efforts in building clinical trials infrastructure and furthering educational opportunities. The Tánaiste noted that the government is committed to a continued expansion of cancer care based on this strategy with an aim to create "a single, focused, integrated cancer control programme" in the Republic. Specific government thrusts include the promotion of health; a renewed emphasis on cancer prevention and treatment; improvements to diet and exercise regimes; reduction of tobacco and alcohol misuse; and regulation of sunbed use by those under 16. The National Cancer Screening Board plans full implementation of BreastCheck in 2007 and an Irish Cervical Screening Programme (ICSP) by 2008. Recommendations on the implementation of a national

colorectal cancer screening program are also expected.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) will develop four Managed Cancer Control Networks (primary, hospital, supportive, and palliative care) to unify hospitals and health professionals to ensure the best quality care for cancer patients. The HSE will also prepare a five-year needs assessment to address the government's continued invested commitment to cancer control.

The Strategy offers a streamlined identifiable program of cancer control research. In her remarks, the Tánaiste stated her belief that "Ireland can develop as a centre of excellence in cancer control research" and the "need for a more identifiable national focus on cancer research to harness the disparate financial and intellectual capital and thereby achieve a better return nationally."

Visit the Consortium Web site at www.allirelandnci.org/publications/pr_12Jun06.asp for additional information.

Farewell Acknowledgements to Former BOD Members

Dr. Henrietta Campbell retired from her position as Northern Ireland's Chief Medical Officer in January 2006. She was an inaugural member of the Consortium Board of Directors (BOD) and served as Chair in 2001, 2003, and 2005.

Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach relinquished his seat on the BOD in June when he was appointed as Acting Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Dr. von Eschenbach served on the BOD since 2002 when he replaced Dr. Richard Klausner as NCI Director.

The Consortium extends thanks to Drs. Campbell and von Eschenbach for their years of leadership and guidance and for their commitment to building a strong all-Ireland partnership for the improvement of cancer care and research on the island of Ireland.

Oncology Nurses Selected for NCI Clinical Trials Training

Four oncology nurses from the North and South were selected to participate in a five-week clinical trials training program at the NCI. Aishleen Brunton (Belfast City Hospital), Lorraine McKenna (Belfast City Hospital), Clodagh McHugh (Beaumont Hospital Dublin), and Aine Byrne (Beaumont Hospital Dublin) begin the program in October. The nurses will rotate through a series of educational courses and networking sessions and will have opportunities to spend time with experts in areas of particular interest to their individual clinical setting. An August orientation session via a TELESYNERGY® link to NCI prepared the nurses for their upcoming experience plus enabled them to identify their learning objectives.



2006 trainees Lorraine McKenna, Clodagh McHugh, Aine Byrne, and Aishleen Brunton (front row) on Orientation Day, August 2006

What's Next

New Timeline Brochure



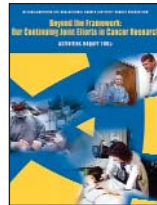
The Consortium, with the assistance of NCI's Office of International Affairs, developed a seven-year timeline brochure that captures the historical progression of the Consortium from its formation in 1999 through 2006. Copies are available by contacting the Help Desk at consortium@cancer.gov. Please provide your name, organization, and a valid postal address.

3rd All Ireland-NCI Cancer Conference

In celebration of seven years of collaboration between the island of Ireland and the United States on cancer care and prevention, the 3rd All Ireland-NCI Cancer Consortium Conference will take place 12-15 November 2006 at the Waterfront Hall in Belfast. A highlight of the conference will be the ceremony for the re-signing of the Memorandum of Understanding.

2005 Activities Report

All members of the Consortium database will receive a copy of the Consortium's fifth activities report. For others interested in receiving a copy, please contact the Help Desk at consortium@cancer.gov. Please provide your name, organization, and a valid postal address. Requests are limited to a single copy.



IRELAND-NORTHERN
IRELAND-NATIONAL CANCER
INSTITUTE

Cancer Consortium

Published periodically by the Ireland-Northern Ireland-National Cancer Institute Cancer Consortium.

Distributed in Ireland, Northern Ireland, and the United States.

The Consortium welcomes your comments and suggestions.

Please direct all communications to the Consortium at:

E-MAIL

consortium@cancer.gov

TELEPHONE

(from Ireland/Northern Ireland)
001-301-496-5534

ADDRESS

Ireland-Northern Ireland-NCI
Cancer Consortium
6130 Executive Blvd.
Suite 100
Bethesda, MD 20892

WEB SITE

www.allirelandnci.org

Announcements

New Northern Ireland CNO Joins Nursing Working Group

In October 2005, Martin Bradley was named the Northern Ireland Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety's Chief Nursing Officer. Replacing former CNO Judith Hill, Mr. Bradley will serve as a member of the Consortium's Nursing Working Group and will alternate with the Republic's CNO (currently Ms. Mary McCarthy) as Chair.

Joint Research Fellowships in Cancer Awarded

Drs. Edward Fox and Zubair Kabir (Republic of Ireland) were awarded the first Joint Research Fellowships in Cancer launched by the Health Research Board in collaboration with the NCI. Both are slated to begin their fellowships by the end of 2006.

Consortium Web Site to Debut New Look

After five years in its original format, the Consortium Web site (www.allirelandnci.org) is undergoing a complete transformation, set for release in early November. We hope you will visit our site at www.allirelandnci.org and view the results.

