

2003 All-Ireland Cancer Conference

The second All-Ireland Cancer Conference took place in Cork over four days, October 19-22, 2003. The conference was sponsored by the Ireland-Northern Ireland-National Cancer Institute Consortium and funded primarily by the Irish Department of Health and Children, with additional support from NCI and the Northern Ireland Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

A Scientific Committee, led by Dr Rick Kaplan (NCI), devised, arranged and partly resourced a very full and wide-ranging programme, with over fifty presentations from the fields of epidemiology, prevention, health services research, treatment, genomics, proteomics, survivorship, and palliative care. Copies of the full presentations have been generously made available by the speakers and can be accessed at the National Cancer Registry Web site at www.ncri.ie/news/20031110-1.shtml.

Over 400 delegates from Ireland, the US and the United Kingdom attended the conference. An informal reception, with welcoming remarks by Drs Joe Harford and Harry Comber, was held on Sunday, October 19. The Irish Minister for Health and Children Mr Micheál Martin formally opened the proceedings on Monday, October 20.



Monday morning's programme was devoted to cancer epidemiology and the afternoon plenary to cancer prevention. Later in the day, the All-Ireland Cooperative Group hosted a session on the work completed thus far on developing a clinical trials infrastructure in the island of Ireland. Monday ended with a formal banquet with speeches by Mr Martin, Dr Etta Campbell on behalf of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Northern Ireland, and Dr Joe Harford on behalf of NCI.