

Introduction

2003 marked the completion of the Ireland-Northern Ireland-National Cancer Institute Cancer Consortium's fourth year. Since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 1999 (see Appendix), the Consortium has developed into a remarkably cohesive partnership that employs its collaborative spirit to enhance cancer research and care on the island of Ireland.

The 2003 Activities Report details the Consortium's continuing progress toward uniting the United States, Ireland, and Northern Ireland in clinical cancer research efforts and joint programmes that will lead to improved cancer care and treatment for all of the people on the island of Ireland—an instrumental part of the 1998 Good Friday Peace Accord.

The report is provided directly to the Minister of the Department of Health and Children of Ireland, the Minister of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety of Northern Ireland, and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services of the United States. The document is also distributed to the research communities of the three partners, policymakers, and anyone else interested in global collaborations against cancer.

Having pledged to continue deepening connections and expanding horizons to further Consortium goals, island of Ireland and US members offer this Activities Report as evidence that people working together to conquer a common enemy can transcend geopolitical boundaries.