

# New Implementation Group Members

In 2003, the Consortium Implementation Group welcomed five new members. With the appointment of new members, the areas of Surgery, Pathology, and Pediatric Oncology are now represented in the Implementation Group membership.

## IRELAND



*"The close collaboration between the various disciplines involved in cancer care made possible and enhanced by the combined efforts of those involved at the many faces of cancer research, therapeutics, and care is the envisaged objective and hopeful realization of the Consortium."*

### Dr Oscar Breathnach, MB, FRCPI

Dr Oscar Breathnach joined the Implementation Group in June as a replacement for Dr David Fennelly. Currently, Dr Breathnach is a Consultant Medical Oncologist and works from the largest centre outside of Dublin, which functions as a virtual cancer centre over three facilities within Cork City, and a satellite unit in Kerry. He also heads the Oncology Clinical Trials unit, developed in 2002—a mark of the potential results of the efforts of the Consortium.

Dr Breathnach received his general education at St. Benildus College, Kilmacud, Dublin and his undergraduate medical education from University College, Dublin, School of Medicine and St. Vincent's Hospital, Elm Park, Dublin. Dr Breathnach served an internship at St. Vincent's

Hospital and received additional internal medicine training at Boston City Hospital, St. Vincent's Hospital, Wexford General Hospital, and St. Michael's Hospital. Dr Breathnach also received postgraduate training as a Medical Oncology Registrar and a Pulmonary Registrar at St. Vincent's Hospital. From 1996-1999, Dr Breathnach was a Clinical and Research Medical Oncology Fellow at the National Cancer Institute. Dr Breathnach was the recipient of two Berlex Oncology Foundation Awards (1998 and 1999) and an HRB Clinical Cancer Trial Unit Grant in 2001. He is the Irish representative to the European Society of Medical Oncologists. His research interests have focused on Thoracic Malignancy initially started at the National Cancer Institute, and continued later at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute/Harvard Medical School and through the trials' unit in Cork.



*"The Consortium has added a new dimension to the cooperation between the cancer registries in Ireland, and the training of our cancer epidemiology fellows provided at NCI has laid the foundations for a range of international collaborative projects in cancer aetiology and patterns of care. I hope to work through the Consortium to strengthen the links between NCI, and SEER in particular, and the Irish registries, and to help develop further training opportunities in epidemiology and registration."*

### Dr Harry Comber, MB, PhD

Dr Harry Comber is Director of the Irish National Cancer Registry at Cork. He received his

undergraduate degree in Chemistry at University College, Cork and, after being awarded a PhD at the Institute of Cancer Research in London, studied medicine in Cork and worked there as a family doctor for twelve years. His research interests are in the epidemiology of early detection of cancer, its treatment and survival.



*"The All Ireland NCI Consortium provides an exciting and very important opportunity to develop the role of pathology and pathologists in significant translational research in the field of cancer."*

**Professor Elaine Kay  
MB, BCh, BAO, MA, FRCSI, FRCPath, MD**

Professor Elaine Kay is a consultant histopathologist in Beaumont Hospital, Dublin and Professor of Pathology at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. She has served on the Board of the Faculty of Pathology since 1996 and is the National Specialty Director for Histopathology training in the Republic of Ireland. She has an active research interest in solid organ malignancies with particular focus on markers with diagnostic utility and on markers of disease progression and response to treatment. Professor Kay joined the Consortium in September 2003 with the aim of enhancing the role of pathology in the Consortium's activities with particular focus on cancer diagnosis, tissue-based research, and the transfer of research findings to the diagnostic setting.

## NORTHERN IRELAND



*"I intend to support the initiatives of the Consortium, to enhance knowledge of the causes of cancer and to improve cancer care, within the island of Ireland and elsewhere. Central to these aims are high quality basic science and clinical research within a robust scientific infrastructure. During recent years, we have amassed sufficient understanding of key mechanisms of toxic action, through molecular, cellular and genetic effects, to elucidate the role of certain lifestyle chemicals in cancer initiation and progression. My goals are to advance this knowledge within the infrastructure provided by the Consortium, to pre-empt cancer progression and reduce its burden on society."*

**Professor F. Charles Campbell  
FRCS, MBChB, MD**

Professor F. Charles Campbell has been Professor of Surgery at Queen's University of Belfast since January 2000. Previously, he was Professor of Gastroenterological Surgery at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne (1996-1999). He was a Wellcome Fellow in the Department of Biochemical Medicine at the University of Dundee (1993-1995); a Reader, Lecturer and Senior Lecturer in Surgery in Dundee (1984-1996); and a Tenovus Research Fellow and Post Fellowship Registrar at Nottingham (1980-1984).

Professor Campbell is currently Principal Investigator on a number of grants, including Divergent Nuclear Vitamin D Receptor Signalling and Early Oncogenesis (Wellcome Trust; 2003-6); Inflammation Dependent Mutagenesis (CR UK;

2002-4); Stem Cell Mutational Indices as BioMarkers of Dietary Chemical Effect (UK Government FSA; 2000-3); Pathways of Inflammation Associated Oncogenesis of the Colon (NI R&D Office; 2000-5); and Polymorphisms of Inflammation Susceptibility Genes and Cancer Risk (NI R&D Office; 2001-3). He also is Co-investigator on a BBSRC grant for the study of dietary regulation of intestinal zinc transporters.



*"Pathology is a central component not only of the diagnostic process in cancer care but also a key element in therapeutic decision making in modern oncology. Furthermore pathology is key to effective*

*translational cancer research. Consequently the introduction of pathologists into NCI All-Ireland Cancer Consortium is an important step. Building even closer links with colleagues in the Republic and in the US is an exciting opportunity."*

**Professor Peter A. Hall  
BSc, MD, PhD, FRCPath**

Professor Peter Hall received a medical degree at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College (University of London) and an Intercalated BSc from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School (University of London). He is currently the Professor of Pathology and Consultant Pathologist in the Queen's University Department of Pathology and The Royal Hospitals Trust in Belfast. Professor Hall's earlier appointments include: Chairman and Consultant, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, King Fahad

National Guard Hospital, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; Locum Consultant Pathologist, Gloucester Royal Hospital Trust and East Gloucestershire Hospital Trust; and Professor of Cellular Pathology and Honorary Consultant at the University of Dundee. Professor Hall was awarded Fellowship of the Royal College in 1998. His areas of diagnostic interest are tumour pathology, gastrointestinal pathology, and applications of molecular biology, biochemistry and immunohistochemistry.

**UNITED STATES**



*"I was fortunate to be present at the inaugural NCI-All Ireland Consortium and witness the signing of the agreement. It is a privilege to serve on the Implementation Group to help ensure the success of the*

*Consortium in reducing the burden of cancer throughout Ireland."*

**Dr Lee J. Helman, MD**

Dr Lee J. Helman is Chief of the Pediatric Oncology Branch and Deputy Director of the Center for Cancer Research at the National Cancer Institute. Dr Helman received his medical degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland. He also is a part-time Professor of Pediatrics and Oncology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, on the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Children's Oncology Group, and on the Pediatric Oncology Task Force of the American Association for Cancer

Research, and was a founding member and past president of the Connective Tissue Oncology Society. He has been a grant reviewer for several organizations, including the American Cancer Society. Dr Helman holds a US patent for Novel Immunotherapeutic Methods and Vaccines. His laboratory currently has two major areas of investigation related to the biology of pediatric sarcomas—the role of insulin-like growth factors on the biology of these tumors and identification of the molecular mechanisms of metastases using animal models of spontaneously metastatic tumors.