

How the Consortium Operates

THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Consortium operates under guidelines outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in 1999. (Refer to the Appendix for a copy of the MOU.)

The major objective of the Ireland-Northern Ireland-National Cancer Institute Cancer Consortium is to intensify cooperation in cancer treatment and research that will lead to improved scientific programmes in each partnering jurisdiction in the areas of education and training, cancer treatment and research, information dissemination, epidemiology, cancer prevention, surveillance, early detection, quality control, and interactions aimed at enhanced public health and patient care.

To meet those objectives, the participating jurisdictions have continued to focus on five initial programmes:

1. Establishment of a clinical trials network among cancer centres and hospitals in Ireland and Northern Ireland
2. Scholar exchange and training between institutions in Ireland, Northern Ireland, and the US National Cancer Institute
3. Information technology enhancement to enable collaboration on clinical trials
4. Data sharing and collaboration between the island of Ireland's two cancer registries
5. Cancer prevention

CONSORTIUM GOVERNING STRUCTURE

Board of Directors

A Board of Directors, comprised of the Director of the National Cancer Institute and the Chief Medical Officers of both Ireland and Northern Ireland, governs the Consortium. For 2003, they are Dr Henrietta Campbell (Northern Ireland), Dr James Kiely (Republic of Ireland), and Dr Andrew von Eschenbach (National Cancer Institute).

The Consortium Board of Directors:

- Determines the Consortium's scope of activities
- Evaluates and oversees contributions by each jurisdiction
- Establishes working groups to carry out programmes where necessary
- Monitors progress of activities in accordance with the Consortium's mission
- Submits an annual report to the participating health departments

The Board meets at least two times each year. Chairmanship rotates each year between the Chief Medical Officers of Ireland and Northern Ireland. In 2003, the Chair was Dr Henrietta Campbell of Northern Ireland.

Implementation Group

The Implementation Group is appointed by the Board to establish and manage specific programmes, and advise Board members. Its responsibilities include:

- Develop the detailed plans to assure that the overall goals of the Consortium are met
- Call together the necessary expertise to assess issues and develop workable plans for the Board to consider
- Identify areas that require the attention of the Board members and their respective governments
- Serve as liaison between the working groups and the Board of Directors

The Implementation Group meets at least four times per year, in person or by teleconference/ conference call. In 2003, Dr Joe Harford, Director of NCI's Office of International Affairs, served as chair of the Implementation Group. Its members include the Chief Nursing Officers of Ireland and Northern Ireland; scientific and administrative representatives of the HRB of Ireland, the R&D Office of Northern Ireland, NCI, and the major

hospitals and health boards of Ireland and Northern Ireland; and other appointed members.

Working Groups

The Consortium's Board of Directors has established ad hoc working groups to advise on specific issues. The role of the working group is to stay abreast of the needs and activities within its designated issue and to make recommendations on activities that will enhance the Consortium's goals and objectives for each issue. In 2003, ad hoc working groups covered the areas of:

- Cancer Registries
- Clinical Trials Network
- Information Technology
- Nursing
- Prevention
- Scholar Exchange and Training

2003 Governance Meeting Schedule

January	Implementation Group, conference call
April	Implementation Group, London Board of Directors, London
July	Implementation Group, conference call
October	Implementation Group, Cork