

Origins of the Consortium

DEEPENING CONNECTIONS

With three strokes of a pen, the vision becomes reality.



Signing of Memorandum of Understanding, October 1999
—Taken at 1999 Cancer Consortium Conference in Belfast

In October 1999, the National Cancer Institute and the health departments of Ireland and Northern Ireland established the Ireland-Northern Ireland-National Cancer Institute Cancer Consortium as a strategic alliance between the United States and the island of Ireland to enhance cancer research and care across the island of Ireland. As cited in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), this tripartite Consortium shares knowledge, training, and resources to promote joint collaborations between Ireland and Northern Ireland—

an important part of the Good Friday Peace Accord. The Health Ministers of Ireland and Northern Ireland and the Director of the United States National Cancer Institute signed the MOU, committing their governments to working together to improve clinical services, patient care, and cancer research in Ireland and Northern Ireland. With the connections made, the work could begin.

EXPANDING HORIZONS

The vision of a few becomes the mission of many.

Vital to the Consortium's success is the commitment of the initial visionaries, their colleagues, and the health departments of the three partners. As the Consortium matures, programme expansion will bring more demands on strapped health care budgets and the stretched workloads of cancer professionals. Through the continued commitment and involvement of the cancer communities in the US, Ireland, and Northern Ireland, resources may be leveraged and the horizons can be reached.