

oncology nurses, especially in the area of training. In 2003, the Nursing Working Group welcomed Tony Lenfesty and Anne-Marie Lynch as new members. They bring a palliative care perspective to the work of the Group.

The main focus of the group over the year has been in developing an action plan to implement a strategy for nursing within the Consortium over the next three years.

Overall aims of the strategy are:

1. Workforce development of nurses to participate in the clinical trials programmes
2. Developing and building capacity for cancer and palliative care nursing research and development
3. Identifying educational opportunities across the island of Ireland and in the United States
4. Building networks and databases to enhance communication and information sharing

In June 2003, the Chief Nursing Officers presented a paper on "Developing Strategic Alliances to Improve Cancer Services" at the International Congress of Nursing in Geneva. The paper highlighted alliance building between governments, North/South of the island, East/West across the Atlantic, between clinical practice/education and research, using a multidisciplinary approach and shared leadership. The alliances' benefits to nursing were identified as leadership development, shared understanding, international standards of practice, team building, networking, and partnership development.

Participation in the clinical trials programme continued this year. Mary Doody and Elizabeth Morrin, two nurses from the Republic, completed the programme in the fall of 2003.

Nurses actively supported the All-Ireland Consortium conference in Cork in October 2003—both as participants and presenters.

## PREVENTION

The Prevention Working Group's main focus is on primary prevention, screening and early detection, chemoprevention, biomarker research, molecular prevention research, and research on lifestyle factors such as diet and exercise.

### Prevention Workshop

The first prevention workshop sponsored by the Prevention Working Group—Smoking Cessation: Current Practice and Future Directions: Developing a Research Agenda—was held May 21-22, 2003 in Dundalk, Ireland.



Dr Shu-Hong Zhu (US), Mr Pat Purvis (NI) and Dr Michael Boland (IR) serve as panelists during the Smoking Cessation Workshop in Dundalk (May 2003)

The goal of the workshop was to share information regarding tobacco control activities in Ireland, Northern Ireland, and the United States with the aim of developing an agenda for collaborative research on the island of Ireland. Approximately 40 cancer professionals attended a one-day workshop with a smaller subset remaining for a second day of strategic planning.

### **Summer Prevention Courses at NCI**

Twenty-six island of Ireland scientists, nurses, and physicians attended the summer prevention programme at NCI—seventeen from Ireland and nine from Northern Ireland. Five of the twenty-six participated in both five-week courses. Evaluations from the HRB and R&D Office revealed that the summer scholar exchange was successful, so the Prevention Working Group plans to proceed with the programme in the summer of 2004.

## **SCHOLAR EXCHANGE**

The Scholar Exchange Workgroup focuses on increasing the number of skilled cancer professionals on the island of Ireland by providing opportunities for scholars to immerse themselves in the cancer programmes of partnering institutions. Scholar exchange continues to be a key programme area of the Consortium; however, it does not operate independent of the other Working Groups but rather as an integral part of them. Throughout this year, numerous scholar exchanges, ranging from clinical trials training for nurses to epidemiology fellowships, were facilitated by Consortium efforts.