

Consortium in the News

Consortium Participates in Launch of Centre for Cancer Research & Cell Biology, Northern Ireland

A Scientific Symposium on 14-15 October marked the official launch of the Centre for Cancer Research & Cell Biology in Belfast. Distinguished scientists and guests representing many areas of basic and clinical research and of science policy participated in the Symposium. Consortium Implementation Group Chair Dr Joe Harford presented an overview of the Consortium entitled “The All-Ireland Cancer Consortium: Past, Present and Future.” Chair of the Consortium Scholar Exchange Working Group Professor Patrick Johnston is director of the centre. Details about the centre are available online at www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/CentreforCancerResearchCellBiology/.

Consortium Acknowledged at World Conference for Cancer Organisations

In November, Consortium members participated as speakers at the 4th World Conference for Cancer Organisations held in Dublin and hosted by the Irish Cancer Society and the International Union Against Cancer (UICC). Irish Prime Minister Bernie Ahern and Minister of Health Mary Harney both acknowledged the Consortium’s significant contributions to the island of Ireland’s cancer community and met with NCI Director and BOD member Dr Andrew von Eschenbach and NCI Director of International Affairs/Implementation Group Chair Dr Joe Harford. The conference Web site URL is www.wcco.uicc.org/.

Micheál Martin TD, Minister for Health and Children, Announces Approval of Funding for National Telesynergy® Network for Oncology Services in Ireland

In June, a press release, issued by the Minister of the Department of Health and Children in Ireland, broadcast the news of the approval of up to €1million in funding to develop a National Telesynergy® Network for Oncology Services. Consortium Information Technology Working Group Chair Professor Donal Hollywood, who serves as Chairman of the National Radiation Oncology Co-ordinating Group, was quoted in the press release: “telesynergy® will enable the development of both national and international linkages between geographically separate hospitals and through this enhance all areas of oncology practice including professional training, clinical trial participation and translational research”.

The networking initiative figures prominently into the implementation of the “Report on the Development of Radiation Oncology Services in Ireland” (The Hollywood Report), which identifies development and funding of information and communication technologies as a critical and essential components of the proposed network of radiation oncology centres and the national service plan for radiation oncology.

The press release is available online at www.dohc.ie/press/releases/2004/20040604.html.

U.S. National Cancer Institute Acknowledges Consortium as “Health Diplomacy at its Best”

The All-Ireland Cancer Consortium was featured in an article entitled “All-Ireland Consortium: Health Diplomacy at its Best” in a special issue of the NCI Cancer Bulletin. The article highlighted the many successful Consortium-sponsored activities over the past five years. The article is available on the NCI Web site at www.cancer.gov/ncicancerbulletin.

British Journal of Cancer Publishes Collaborative Article Authored by Consortium Members

The British Journal of Cancer [Br J Cancer 91(11): 1902-4.] published “Recent trends in cervical cancer mortality in Britain and Ireland: the case for population-based cervical cancer screening,” an article by Consortium Cancer Registries Working Group members Drs Harry Comber (Ireland) and Anna Gavin (Northern Ireland). The article is online at www.nature.com/bjc/journal/v91/n11/abs/6602236a.html.

December Issue of Cancer World Cites Work of Consortium Member

The Consortium was mentioned in “Ireland’s Bumpy Road to a World-class Cancer Service,” an article in the December 2004 issue of Cancer World. The article also acknowledges the work of Ireland’s Expert Working Group on the Development of Radiotherapy Services — a working group chaired by Professor Donal Hollywood, Chair of the Consortium Information Technology Working Group. Cancer World is available online at www.cancerworld.org.