

Introduction

In only five years, the Consortium has made great strides toward fulfilling its mandate to enhance the island of Ireland's ability to conduct world-class cancer research and therefore improve cancer care and treatment for the people in all of Ireland. 2004 was another successful year for the Consortium, where activities in cancer epidemiology, scholar exchange, information technology, cancer prevention, nursing, and clinical trials continued to grow and improve, using the success of the past as a building block toward a stronger tomorrow.

The 2004 Activities Report chronicles the progress made by the Consortium in clinical cancer research efforts and joint programmes on the island of Ireland. Progress this year, as in the past, focused on uniting data and research, building opportunities for learning, and developing new ways to prevent cancer.

The report is provided directly to the Minister of the Department of Health and Children of Ireland, the Minister of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety of Northern Ireland, and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services of the United States. The document is also distributed to the research communities of the three partners, policymakers, and others with an interest in global cancer research collaborations.

The intention of the Health Ministers of Ireland and Northern Ireland and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to renew the Memorandum of Understanding assures that the Consortium will go forward and, building on the successes of the past five years, will continue to work together in cancer research to defeat this deadly disease that knows no boundaries.