

# Message From the Directors

Five years ago, the governments of Ireland, Northern Ireland, and the United States created the Ireland-Northern Ireland-National Cancer Institute Cancer Consortium with the aim to provide world-class cancer care to the people on the island of Ireland. Since its inception, the Consortium has facilitated activities in cancer epidemiology, scholar exchange, information technology, cancer prevention, nursing, and clinical trials. Building on the success of prior years, 2004 was no exception.

Some 2004 Highlights:

- The Irish Minister for Health and Children, Micheál Martin TD, announced up to €1 million in funding to support the development of the National Telesynergy® Network for Radiation Oncology Services in Ireland, being progressed under the auspices of the National Radiation Oncology Co-ordinating Group, chaired by Professor Donal Hollywood, Information Technology Working Group Chair. (Details on pages 12 and 36)
- Twenty-six scholars from the island participated in cancer prevention training at NCI for the fourth year in a row. (Details on pages 19-27)
- Members of the Cancer Registries Working Group, in collaboration with the Consortium-sponsored Epidemiology Fellow from the U.S., co-authored and published the All Ireland Cancer Statistics Second Report 1998-2000. (Details on page 8)
- The Queen's University Belfast launched the first Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology in Northern Ireland to be directed by Professor Patrick Johnston, Consortium member and Chair of the Scholar Exchange Working Group. (Details on page 36)
- The Prevention Working Group organized a Seminar on Obesity and Cancer. (Details on page 15)
- Irish and Northern Irish nurses continued to complete NCI clinical trials training at the U.S. National Cancer Institute (Details on pages 16-18)

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- Three scientists from Ireland and Northern Ireland were selected as the first international recipients of the NCI Cancer Prevention Fellowships.  
(Details on page 14)

At the end of 2004, the Health Ministers of Ireland and Northern Ireland and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services stated their commitment to renew the Memorandum of Understanding, which formalized the Consortium in 1999.

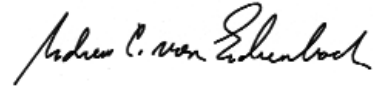
With the promise of another five years, we intend to build upon our five years of successful collaboration and continue working together in cancer research and education.



Dr James Kiely  
*Chief Medical Officer*  
Department of Health  
and Children  
Ireland



Dr Henrietta Campbell  
*Chief Medical Officer*  
Department of Health,  
Social Services and Public Safety  
Northern Ireland



Dr Andrew von Eschenbach  
*Director*  
National Cancer Institute  
United States