

Ms Judith Hill, Chief Nursing Officer (Northern Ireland) and NRS WG member, presented a paper “Update on North South Nursing Initiatives” at Cancer 2004, sponsored by St James’s Hospital in Dublin.

Key goals to move the work of the NRS WG forward into 2005 are:

- Raise nurses’ awareness of educational opportunities available through the Consortium.
- Identify formal education opportunities for clinical trials nurses (e.g. e-learning).
- Assist in selection of appropriate candidates for clinical trials training in 2005.
- Develop tripartite palliative care lecture series.
- Develop an All-Ireland database of cancer nursing research.

Mary McCarthy, Chief Nursing Officer Dublin, assumed chair of the NRS WG in January.

## **PREVENTION**

*Dr Doug Weed, Chair*

The Prevention Working Group (PRV WG) focuses on developing primary prevention; screening and early detection; chemoprevention; biomarker research; molecular prevention research; and research on lifestyle factors such as diet and exercise on the island of Ireland. The PRV WG accomplishes this through various workshops and training/fellowship programmes. In 2004, PRV WG efforts resulted in the following activities:

## **NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention**

Twenty-six scientists, nurses, and physicians from the island of Ireland attended the 2004 NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention programme in the U.S. Eighteen of the participants were from Republic of Ireland and eight from Northern Ireland. Participants had the opportunity to complete a four-week course in the principles and practice of cancer prevention and control and a one-week course in molecular prevention. Both courses took place at the National Cancer Institute (U.S.) and are sponsored by the Office of Preventive Oncology, Division of Cancer Prevention.

## **Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program**

In 2004, the NCI Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program, for the first time since its inception, opened its cancer prevention fellowships to applicants outside of the U.S.

After a comprehensive recruitment effort in Ireland and Northern Ireland, the NCI received eight applications from island of Ireland cancer researchers. The Scientific Education Committee at NCI reviewed the applications. Four island of Ireland and twenty-six U.S. applicants were invited for the interview phase at NCI. Fellowships were awarded to three island of Ireland post doctoral scholars: Lesley Ann Anderson (PhD exp), Queen’s University, Belfast; Gwen Murphy (PhD exp), Trinity College, Adelaide & Meath Hospital, Dublin; and Sharon Glynn (PhD), Dublin City

University, Dublin. These successful Irish applicants will join twelve American colleagues to begin their training in the fall of 2005.

### **Prevention Workshop**

The Prevention Working Group sponsored its second workshop “Understanding the Link Between Obesity and Cancer” in Dublin on 23-24 September. The workshop’s goal was to share information regarding obesity and cancer research occurring in Ireland, Northern Ireland, and the U.S. with the aim of developing an agenda for collaborative research between Northern Ireland and the Republic. Senior scientists and clinical researchers provided state-of-the-art lectures to an audience of approximately 50 health professionals. A report and research recommendations from the workshop were forwarded to the two island of Ireland task forces for use in development of their respective research agendas on the topic of obesity.