

Message from the Directors

The Ireland-Northern Ireland-NCI Cancer Consortium has remained committed over the past eight years to reducing the burden of cancer by engaging the medical and public health communities of Ireland, Northern Ireland, and the United States (U.S.) in joint cancer partnership, education, and research. The Consortium has focused its activities in six key areas: cancer registries and epidemiology, scholar exchange, information technology, cancer prevention, clinical trials, and nursing.

During 2007, the Consortium expanded its collective efforts to include biobanking and health economics/cancer policy analysis — two scientific areas of interest identified in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) renewed in 2006 as critical priorities to improving cancer care through cancer research. With this in mind, the Consortium sponsored several events in 2007, including the first All-Ireland Health Economics Workshop at the NCI in Bethesda, Maryland, U.S. and a National Cancer Biobanking Workshop and Mini-Symposium in Dublin, Ireland.

2007 Highlights:

- The Consortium co-sponsored the Cancer 2007 Conference of St. James's Hospital in Dublin.
- The first Consortium All-Ireland Health Economics Workshop was held at the NCI.
- Twenty-five island of Ireland scholars participated in the NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention and Control program.
- Two all-Ireland nurses participated in the NCI Clinical Trials Training for Nurses.
- The Consortium Web site was awarded the Interactive Media Award in Outstanding Achievement and a Spring/Summer 2007 Bronze award from World Wide Web Health Awards.
- A National Cancer Biobanking Workshop and Mini-Symposium was held in Dublin, with the help of the NCI.

We are pleased to welcome a new addition to the Consortium Strategic Advisory Group. Dr. Fenton Howell was appointed chair of the Prevention Working Group in 2007. Dr. Howell, Director of Public Health at the Health Service Executive (HSE) Population Health Directorate in Ireland, has been extensively involved in developing a National Tobacco Framework for the HSE.

The Consortium continues to move forward to intensify our efforts in cancer partnership, education, and research across the island of Ireland and the U.S. These core elements have served, and will continue to serve, as the building blocks for our success in cancer control globally.

Sincerely,



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



Dr. Michael McBride
Chief Medical Officer
Department of Health, Social Services
and Public Safety
Northern Ireland



Dr. John E. Niederhuber
Director
National Cancer Institute
United States