

NURSING

Professor Martin Bradley, Chair

The Consortium Board of Directors established the Nursing Working Group (NRS WG) in order to address a shortage of oncology-trained nurses on the island of Ireland. The NRS WG, comprised of oncology nurses, clinicians, educators, and managers from the three partnering jurisdictions, has developed into a collaborative forum geared towards enhancing communication among nurses engaged in cancer care across Ireland. The group has focused on developing educational opportunities, facilitating training, and adopting a strategic approach to the Consortium's research and development agenda. On 2 March 2007, the NRS WG developed the NCI/All Ireland Cancer Nurses Working Group Work Plan 2007-2010 to help guide the group strategically for the next three years.

In 2007, Professor Martin Bradley, Chief Nursing Officer for the DHSSPS of Northern Ireland, assumed chairmanship of the NRS WG.

■ CLINICAL TRIALS E-LEARNING MODULE

Launched in January 2007, the QUB Clinical Trials E-learning Module enrolled a total of twenty students, including sixteen students from Northern Ireland and four from Ireland. Thirteen students successfully completed the

program in May 2007. To fulfill the course requirements, students were required to attend two face-to-face lectures, review nine online lectures, and participate in weekly discussion and knowledge assessment activities.

Overall, student feedback was very positive and highly complementary of the course's relevancy. Students indicated that they would enthusiastically recommend the E-learning Module to other clinical trials nurses or professionals interested in working in clinical trials. Some participants expressed a preference for face-to-face learning, which they deemed more beneficial. In addition, students found that they were most engaged in discussion around the assignment.

Following completion of the 2007 course, QUB reviewed the trial design and statistical elements and shifted emphasis to critical appraisal. To make better use of travel time, the next module, to commence in January 2008, will be comprised of four face-to-face lecture sessions, instead of two. For more information visit the QUB School of Nursing and Midwifery's Web site at www.qub.ac.uk/schools/SchoolofNursingandMidwifery/.

■ NCI CLINICAL TRIALS TRAINING FOR NURSES

Two oncology nurses completed the five-week NCI Clinical Trials Training for

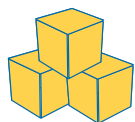
Nurses program in October 2007, bringing the total number of Consortium-facilitated island trainees since the inception of the program to eighteen. The two nurses selected this year were Aisling Corcoran from St. James's Hospital, Dublin and Deirdre McDonnell from St. Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin. Program coordinators served as mentors to the two island nurses during their stay in the U.S.

■ NURSING RESEARCH WORKSHOP

On 23 November 2007, the NRS WG conducted a workshop in Belfast to explore a range of issues related to palliative care nursing. The professor of nursing research at the University of Ulster facilitated the workshop, which was attended by approximately sixty key stakeholders and nursing leaders from both the academic and service sectors. During the workshop, participants discussed the potential for developing a collaborative cancer/palliative nursing research program, as well as ways that nurses can influence cancer research strategies, secure resources, and open opportunities for building research capacity within the field of cancer nursing.

■ PLANS FOR 2008

The NRS WG is currently working to develop a strategy for augmenting the promising research and development



collaboration established during the Nursing Research Workshop. The group has also determined that the two Chief Nursing Officers should undertake a visit to the NCI in Bethesda in 2008 to further explore areas for collaboration. Finally, the NRS WG will be making extensive contributions to the 4th All-Ireland Cancer Conference (AICC) to be held in Dublin in 2008.

PREVENTION

Dr. Fenton Howell, Chair

The Prevention Working Group (PRV WG) facilitates educational training and research programs, including cancer prevention-related workshops and seminars, on the island of Ireland and at the NCI in the U.S. The PRV WG is also actively involved in advocating all-Ireland participation in NCI cancer prevention programs and strategic planning for cancer prevention research. Since its implementation, the PRV WG has strived to develop and support prevention-related health initiatives from a research perspective throughout Ireland and Northern Ireland. With this endeavor in mind, the group has coordinated the participation of 172 scholars in Consortium-sponsored prevention programs. Below are examples of programs the PRV WG supported in 2007.

■ NCI SUMMER CURRICULUM IN CANCER PREVENTION

Each year the NCI sponsors two summer courses at the NCI in Bethesda, Maryland, U.S.: the Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control Course and the Molecular Prevention Course. In 2007, eighteen scholars from Ireland and seven from Northern Ireland, including fellows from the CFPF, participated in the NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention, which took place during July and August. Four scholars attended both courses, seven attended the four-week Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control Course, and fourteen attended the one-week Molecular Prevention Course.

As part of the Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control Course, the Irish and Northern Irish scholars participated in the summer program's "International Day" on 13 July 2007. The Irish were represented by Dr. Brendan Corkery, who provided an overview of cancer prevention strategies in Ireland. Mrs. Sara McConnell-Campalani, a registered general nurse from the Belfast Cancer Centre, presented a discussion on palliative care for cancer patients in Northern Ireland.

The Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control Course scholars also visited the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center at

Georgetown University. During their visit, they attended several presentations that highlighted the work of the Lombardi Arts & Humanities Program and provided scholars with a unique perspective on art and science. The scholars were also granted the opportunity to paint with Nevin Bossart, a cancer survivor and teacher at Lombardi. The Lombardi Arts & Humanities program was developed to counteract the time patients spend waiting between diagnosis, testing, appointments, and meetings with doctors.



Consortium scholars painting during their visit to Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center.

■ NCI CANCER PREVENTION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Drs. Gwen Murphy and Sharon Glynn from Ireland and Dr. Lesley Anderson from Northern Ireland, CFPF fellows from 2005-2008, completed their second year of research and training at the NCI.

Dr. Murphy is continuing her involvement in a diverse set of projects with gastrointestinal cancer as a focus.