

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.

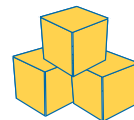


Consortium scholars painting during their visit to Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center.

■ 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.



She has published some of her work relating to dietary factors and colon cancer risk and is currently investigating the contribution of familial history of cancer and/or adolescent risk exposure (diet and lifestyle) to risk of colon cancer as an adult. In addition, Dr. Murphy is coordinating an international consortium designed to investigate the role of Epstein Barr virus in gastric cancer.



CPFP Fellows Drs. Lesley Anderson, Sharon Glynn, and Gwen Murphy upon their arrival at NCI, Bethesda.

Dr. Glynn continued her research into the molecular epidemiology of breast cancer. Her research focuses on the impact of estrogen receptor status in breast cancer, the role of inflammation, and subsequent prognosis. In November 2007, Dr. Glynn was invited to present her research on the role of NOS2 in predicting prognosis of estrogen receptor negative breast cancer patients in France.

Dr. Anderson conducted research on risk factors associated with hematopoietic malignancies and classic Kaposi sarcoma. She is now working within the

Infections and Immunoepidemiology Branch, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics at the NCI in Bethesda.

Dr. Bríd Ryan from Ireland and Dr. Amanda Black from Northern Ireland, CPFP fellows from 2006-2009, arrived at NCI in 2007 for the second year of their cancer prevention fellowships. Dr. Ryan completed her MPH degree at the School of Public Health and Population Science, University College Dublin (UCD) and Dr. Black completed her MPH degree at Manchester University. During her second year, Dr. Ryan studied asymmetric division in lung cancer stem cells and the mechanisms that control it. In addition, she studied the association between single nucleotide polymorphisms and lung cancer risk in Caucasian and African-American populations. Dr. Black joined the Early Detection Research Group in the Division of Cancer Prevention at the NCI. She has a strong focus in the early detection of cancer, with specific research interest in prostate and ovarian cancer screening.

The NCI CPFP for 2007 awarded a fellowship to Dr. Kirsty O'Brien from UCD to conduct cancer prevention research in the U.S. and the island of Ireland. Dr. O'Brien began her fellowship in the fall of 2007. She will spend the first year obtaining an MPH degree, followed by three years of research and professional development at NCI. She plans to return to

the island of Ireland to work in cancer prevention research and practice.

Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program Committee

A CPFP Committee was appointed by the NCI Director to consider the strengths and weaknesses of the program in 2007. The recent departure of the former director provided the opportunity to assess the overall structure of the program prior to the appointment of a new director. Following a review of the program, the Committee published sixteen recommendations. Among these recommendations, the Committee commended the strengths of the CPFP, recognizing that its unique aspects, such as the trans-NCI component, occupy a special and important niche within the scientific community. In addition, they suggested that the program be extended to allow up to three years of research following completion of a Master's degree. The Committee also recommended a nationwide search for a program director.