

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS

As we reflect on another year of service to the people of the island of Ireland, we are proud to acknowledge the Ireland-Northern Ireland-NCI Cancer Consortium's role as a leader in efforts to reduce cancer incidence and mortality, as well as its efforts to enhance cancer care on the island of Ireland. More than ever, we believe in the importance of harnessing the power and potential of science to benefit the lives of individuals impacted by cancer. The Consortium strives to accomplish this by increasing the island of Ireland's capacity for cancer research and education in six key areas: scholar exchange, cancer registries and epidemiology, clinical trials, information technology, nursing, and cancer prevention.

In 2008, the Consortium pursued ongoing initiatives in palliative care and health economics/cancer policy analysis – two scientific areas identified as priorities in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), renewed in 2006. The Consortium remained engaged throughout the year in efforts to establish the All-Ireland Institute for Hospice and Palliative Care, working with the HRB of Ireland and the All-Ireland Institute to disseminate information about its consultations. In addition, the HRB and the NCI, in partnership with the Consortium, successfully launched the HRB/NCI Health Economics Fellowships in Cancer Program.

2008 Highlights:

- The CNOs of Ireland and Northern Ireland, Ms. Sheila O'Malley and Professor Martin Bradley, led an all-Ireland nursing delegation on a visit to the NIH.
- The first two scholars were selected for the HRB/NCI Health Economics Fellowships in Cancer Program.
- The NCI co-sponsored Cancer 2008, the 6th International Cancer Conference of St. James's Hospital.
- Twenty-four all-Ireland scholars participated in the NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention.
- The Consortium sponsored the 4th AICC in Dublin.

We would like to welcome several new additions to the Consortium's Strategic Advisory Group (SAG). Professor Mark Lawler, director of Postgraduate Teaching and Learning at the Trinity Centre for Health Sciences at St. James's Hospital, assumed chairmanship of the Scholar Exchange Working Group (SE WG) in 2008. Mr. Enda Connolly, chief executive of the HRB, and Professor Bernadette Hannigan, director of the Health and Social Care Research and Development (HSC R&D) Office, also joined the SAG as representatives of Ireland and Northern Ireland, respectively.

We recognize that our continued success in advancing the quality of cancer care across the island of Ireland depends upon our collective ability to work together, coordinating scientific research and joint educational opportunities to train the next generation of cancer researchers, public health professionals, and policymakers. Through the synergistic partnership embodied by the Consortium's research and education efforts, we will continue to serve the people of Ireland, Northern Ireland, and the U.S.

Sincerely,



Dr. Tony Holohan
Chief Medical Officer
Department of Health and Children
Ireland



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



Dr. John E. Niederhuber
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