

network enabled the Faculty of Radiologists in Ireland to make the Fellowships in Radiation Oncology program available at University College Hospital, Galway, after the hospital received accreditation to participate in the national training program in 2008. TELESYNERGY® also facilitates the availability of specific fellowship training program modules in diagnostic imaging, which are also coordinated by the Faculty of Radiologists in Ireland.

In late 2008, NIH's CIT and TCD's Division of Radiation Therapy commenced discussions on enabling a Material Transfer Agreement contract that would enable the exchange of custom TELESYNERGY® software between the two institutions. This exciting development is expected to foster new opportunities for the development of collaborative research projects, as well as continued optimization and advancement of the TELESYNERGY® system.

In light of the advanced stage of the TELESYNERGY® network's development in Ireland, the IT WG plans to undertake a review of potential new projects, including the opportunity to interface with international elements of NCI's cancer Biomedical Informatics Grid (caBIG®) project and facilitate information and communications technology components within forthcoming cancer biobanking efforts in Ireland.

## **NURSING** Professor Martin Bradley, Chair

The Nursing Working Group (NRS WG) was initially established with the aim of addressing a shortage of oncology-trained nurses across the island of Ireland. NRS WG membership is comprised of oncology nurses, clinicians, educators, and public health managers from the three partnering jurisdictions. To date, the NRS WG has

focused its collective efforts on expanding educational and training opportunities to augment the Consortium's research and development agenda.

### **CLINICAL TRIALS E-LEARNING MODULE**

Following a successful launch in 2007, QUB continued to offer the Clinical Trials E-learning Module. Thirteen students completed the program in May 2008. Feedback on the course remains highly positive. Students generally reported that they found the module to be informative, indicating that the resources provided were helpful and relevant to their respective roles as clinical trials nurses and coordinators.

### **NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE CLINICAL TRIALS TRAINING FOR NURSES EVALUATION**

In 2008, the NRS WG agreed to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the 2007 NCI Clinical Trials Training for Nurses, to inform and enhance future clinical trials training programs. An experienced group of nursing experts spearheaded the evaluation. The evaluation process included a detailed survey completed by participants, interviews with their managing supervisors, and a focus group session at the 4<sup>th</sup> AICC in Dublin. The outcome of the evaluation has been very encouraging, resulting in a series of recommendations, which will be provided in 2009 to the Consortium's BOD for further consideration.

### **NURSING RESEARCH COLLABORATION**

Over the course of the year, the NRS WG continued to discuss ways for sparking productive research collaboration across the island of Ireland. The group is currently considering a number of proposals as a result of these discussions. In particular, the group introduced a TELESYNERGY® educational series for cancer nurses. A pilot

event took place on 27 May 2008 at Belfast City Hospital, attracting approximately thirty participants from across the island of Ireland. At this event, Consortium Summer Curriculum in Cancer scholar, Dr. Joanne Reid, offered a presentation entitled "Patient Experience of Cancer Cachexia," which featured findings from her PhD research. (Reid J, McKenna H, Fitzsimons D, McCance T. The experience of cancer cachexia: A qualitative study of advanced cancer patients and their family members. 2008 December. *International Journal of Nursing Studies*. PMID: 19081090.) Following the initial success of the pilot event, a second installment in the TELESYNERGY® educational series was launched on 24 November 2008 and included a teleconference link to NCI. Thirty participants heard Ms. Freda Clinton, president of the Irish Association for Nurses in Oncology, present a talk on the "Implementation and Communication of Policy on Febrile Neutropenia from Tertiary Centre Shared Care." Four additional TELESYNERGY® events are being planned for 2009.

### **CHIEF NURSING OFFICERS VISIT NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH**

In March 2008, an all-Ireland nursing delegation led by the CNOs of Ireland and Northern Ireland, Ms. Sheila O'Malley and Professor Martin Bradley respectively, visited the NIH in Bethesda, Maryland under the auspices of the Consortium. Ms. O'Malley and Professor Bradley were accompanied by Sarah Condell, nursing research advisor; Mary Day, nurse advisor to the CNO of Ireland; and Margaret O'Hagan, nursing officer to the DHSSPS in Northern Ireland. This visit provided delegates with an opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge of the important work being conducted at NCI, as well as the types of programs offered to clinical trials nurses from the island of Ireland.



Front row, left to right: Martin Bradley, CNO of Northern Ireland; Rear Admiral Carol Romano, CNO of the U.S.; and Sheila O'Malley, CNO of Ireland. Back row, left to right: Isabel Otero, Consortium program director; Mary Day, nurse advisor to CNO of Ireland; Sarah Condell, nursing research advisor; and Margaret O'Hagan, nursing officer for Northern Ireland.

The trip included extensive meetings with Rear Admiral Carol Romano, CNO and assistant surgeon general; Dr. Patricia Grady, director of the National Institute of Nursing Research at NIH; and Dr. Robert Clarke, co-director of the Breast Cancer Program at the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, Georgetown University. Professor Bradley and Ms. O'Malley also met with leadership at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda.

## PREVENTION

Dr. Fenton Howell, Chair

The Prevention Working Group (PRV WG) supports the Consortium by promoting cancer prevention-related educational, training, and research programs on the island of Ireland and at the NCI in the U.S. Since its inception, the PRV WG has been instrumental in promoting awareness of cancer prevention issues from a research perspective on the island of Ireland and has facilitated the participation of 196 scholars in NCI-sponsored programs. In addition, the PRV WG organizes prevention-related workshops and seminars, advocates Irish and Northern Irish participation in NCI cancer prevention programs, and engages

in strategic planning for cancer prevention research across the island of Ireland.

Throughout 2008, the PRV WG worked with the organizing committee for the 4<sup>th</sup> AICC in Dublin to ensure that prevention played a prominent role during the event. Below are examples of programs the PRV WG supported in 2008.

### NCI SUMMER CURRICULUM IN CANCER PREVENTION

The NCI sponsors two summer courses at the NIH in Bethesda each year: the Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control Course and the Molecular Prevention Course. In 2008, nineteen scholars from Ireland and five from Northern Ireland, including two fellows from the HRB/NCI Health Economics Fellowships in Cancer Program, participated in the NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention. Nine scholars attended the four-week Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control Course and fifteen attended the one-week Molecular Prevention Course.

As part of the Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control Course,

participating all-Ireland scholars attended the summer program's "International Day" during their first week at the NCI. Each of the twenty-nine countries represented at the course provided presentations highlighting cancer prevention and control from the perspective of their respective countries, including Ireland and Northern Ireland.

### NCI CANCER PREVENTION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

David Nelson, MD, MPH was appointed as director of NCI's CFPF in 2008. Dr. Nelson brings to NCI an extensive career in international public health collaboration and applied research in a number of areas, including alcohol, tobacco, and other risk factors; health services; communication; survey methodology; and injury prevention. Dr. Nelson is joined by two associate directors, Jessica Faupel-Badger, PhD, MPH and Dana van Bommel, PhD, MPH.

Three CFPF fellows from 2005-2008, Drs. Gwen Murphy and Sharon Glynn from Ireland and Dr. Lesley Anderson from Northern Ireland, completed their third year of research and training at the NCI. Dr. Murphy is expanding her study in a number of areas, maintaining a focus on gastrointestinal cancer. In addition to presenting and publishing a variety of her projects on the molecular epidemiology of colorectal adenoma recurrence and the role of Epstein-Barr virus in stomach cancer, Dr. Murphy received the Fellows Award for Research Excellence from the NIH and a Cancer Prevention Research Training Merit Award in recognition of outstanding performance as a CFPF fellow. Dr. Murphy will continue her research at the NCI through the CFPF until 2009.

During 2008, Dr. Glynn continued her research into the molecular epidemiology of breast cancer. Her research focuses on