



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 4th 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

the impact of estrogen receptor (ER) status in breast cancer, the role of inflammation, and subsequent prognosis. Dr. Glynn was invited to present her research on the role of nitric oxide synthase 2 (NOS2) in predicting the prognosis of ER negative breast cancer patients at the Redox Biology Faculty at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and at the 4th AICC in Dublin. In collaboration with Dr. David Wink of NCI's Radiation Biology Branch and Dr. Stefan Ambs of NCI's Laboratory of Human Carcinogenesis, she is currently increasing her research portfolio to include the role of oxidative stress and inflammation in the remodeling of the tumor microenvironment, with hopes of identifying therapeutic targets for the prevention and treatment of ER negative breast cancer. Dr. Glynn will continue her CFPF research at the NCI through 2009.

In the summer of 2008, Dr. Anderson completed her CFPF fellowship at the Infections and Immunoepidemiology Branch, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics at the NCI, returning to Northern Ireland to recommence her Research Councils U.K. Fellowship. Dr. Anderson published a wide variety of manuscripts in 2008, with six first author papers in the fields of infection and cancer,

esophageal adenocarcinoma, and Barrett's esophagus, for which she drew heavily upon all-Ireland data. Dr. Anderson is now based as an Academic Fellow in Cancer Prevention in the Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention Research Group at the Centre for Clinical and Population Sciences at QUB. In this capacity, Dr. Anderson will continue to play an important role in cancer research across the island of Ireland.

Two CFPF fellows from 2006-2009, Dr. Brid Ryan from Ireland and Dr. Amanda Black from Northern Ireland, completed their second year of CFPF research and training in 2008.

Dr. Ryan continued her research on the identification of lung cancer stem cells through the study of asymmetric cell division. In addition, she has coordinated several projects focusing on microRNAs and the role that they play in cancer risk. She is specifically addressing how single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in microRNA binding sites can affect the binding of microRNAs, thus affecting lung cancer risk. Dr. Ryan is also investigating how one of these SNPs can lead to disparities in colon cancer risk among African-Americans and Caucasians.

Dr. Black is involved in the Prostate, Lung, Colorectal, and Ovarian (PLCO) Cancer Screening Trial and continues to develop her research interests in cancer prevention and early detection, using the PLCO resource to investigate ovarian and prostate cancer. Dr. Black has published manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals in these areas and has further disseminated her research through poster and oral presentations at targeted conferences.

In autumn 2008, Dr. Paula Hyland, from the CCRCB at QUB, was awarded a CFPF fellowship to conduct cancer prevention research in the U.S. and on the island of Ireland. Dr. Hyland will spend her first year in the program obtaining an MPH degree in the U.K. Clinical Research Centre, Northern Ireland Centre of Excellence in Public Health at QUB, followed by two to three years of research and professional development at NCI. Her research interests include investigating the molecular epidemiology of Barrett's esophagus and esophageal adenocarcinoma.

ADDITIONAL INITIATIVES

In support of the priorities added to the renewed MOU in 2006, the Consortium continued to expand its purview to include palliative care and health economics initiatives. Because these areas of scientific interest are integral to improving the quality and efficacy of cancer care across the island of Ireland, the Consortium sponsored a number of joint programs and events in 2008.

PALLIATIVE CARE

Palliative care is specialized treatment focused on addressing and alleviating the pain associated with physical, emotional, and psychosocial symptoms caused by the



NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention "International Day" participants.