IRELAND-NORTHERN IRELAND-NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE CANCER CONSORTIUM

Timeline of Activities 2000-2006

In October 1999, representatives of Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, and the United States signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish the Ireland-Northern Ireland-National Cancer Institute Cancer Consortium. At that time, four key programs were identified:

- **clinical trials infrastructure enhancement**
- **information technology sharing**
- **cancer registry collaboration**
- **scholar exchange programs**

The signing was the opening event for a three-day National Cancer Institute (NCI) All Ireland Cancer Conference held at Waterfront Hall in Belfast. Over 600 cancer specialists from across Europe and the United States witnessed the signing and participated in the conference, which addressed key challenges in cancer research.

1999-2006 SUMMARY

By centering on five key program areas—clinical trials infrastructure enhancement, information technology sharing, cancer registry collaboration, cancer prevention, nursing, and scholar exchange programs—the Consortium's programs and activities have been able to accomplish the following over the past seven years:

- Expanded support of joint clinical research studies intended to benefit cancer patients from all three jurisdictions
- Improved access to cancer statistics, clinical research, and educational opportunities through state-of-the-art technology
- Increased collaboration between island of Ireland cancer registries through the efforts of the Cancer Registries Working Group
- Significantly impacted the education of cancer professionals on the island of Ireland through workshops, conferences, training/coursework opportunities at NCI, and fellowships, including the summer courses in cancer prevention and prevention-related workshops on smoking cessation and obesity

The participating jurisdictions agreed to a renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding which will ensure that this important partnership will go forward and continue to enhance cancer research and quality of care in an effort to reduce cancer incidence and mortality on the island of Ireland.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Number of Scholars endorsed by the Consortium by Jurisdiction and Program, 2000-2006.

Type of Exchange Program	Duration of Program	Participants by Jurisdiction			Total Participants
		Northern Ireland	Republic of Ireland	United States	
Epidemiology Fellowship	3 years	1	2	1	4
Clinical Trials (CT) Nurses Training	3 weeks/ 3 months	7	9		16
NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention: Molecular course	1 week	28	71		99
NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention: Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control course	4 weeks	17	51		68
Cancer Prevention Fellowship	3 years	1	3		4
Joint Research Fellowships in Cancer	2 years		2		2

Seven Year

Timeline of Activities

2000

FEBRUARY

- Initial meeting of Consortium Board of Directors (BOD)
- Finalization of funding agreement

APRIL

- Funding of epidemiology fellowships for two island of Ireland researchers

JULY

- Draft of Implementation Plan
- Installation of TELESYNERGY® suites begins on the island of Ireland

AUGUST

- Installation of TELESYNERGY® suite completed at Belfast City Hospital

SEPTEMBER

- Visit to NCI by island of Ireland delegate study team
- Installation of TELESYNERGY® suite completed at St. Luke's Hospital (Dublin)

OCTOBER

- Launch of Implementation Group (IG)
- Initiation of plans for NCI clinical trials training exchange program for island of Ireland oncology nurses

NOVEMBER

- Implementation of net-Trials

2001

JANUARY
- Initial meeting of IG
- Arrival of two island of Ireland epidemiology fellows at NCI

MARCH
- Publication of first All-Ireland Cancer Statistics Report by the Registries of Ireland and Northern Ireland

APRIL
- Selection of sixteen island of Ireland scholars for NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention courses

MAY
- Launch of Consortium Web site and Help Desk

JUNE
- Development of Working Group (WG) structure and goals

JULY
- Visit of Northern Ireland Health Minister Bairbre de Brún to NCI
- Participation of eleven island of Ireland scholars in NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention Principles and Practice of Cancer Prevention and Control course (NCI Summer Principles course)

AUGUST
- Participation of seven island of Ireland scholars in NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention Molecular course (NCI Summer Molecular course)

SEPTEMBER
- Publication of first newsletter

OCTOBER
- Publication of first activities report

NOVEMBER
- Awards to hospitals for building clinical trials capacity by Republic's Health Research Board (HRB)

DECEMBER
- Establishment of Prevention WG

2002

JANUARY
- Installation of Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach as BOD member to replace Dr. Richard Klausner

FEBRUARY
- First round of NCI clinical trials training for three island of Ireland oncology nurses
- Submission of joint ICORG/CRSC application to form All-Ireland Cancer Clinical Trials Cooperative Group

APRIL
- Formation of TELESYNERGY® User Group

MAY
- Initial meeting of Prevention WG
- Nursing WG Information Day

JUNE
- Participation of Cancer Registries WG in International Association of Cancer Registries Meeting (Finland)
- Arrival of first island of Ireland cancer prevention fellow at NCI

JULY
- Participation of delegation from the island of Ireland in NIH conference on Palliative Care
- Participation of twelve island of Ireland scholars in NCI Summer Principles course
- Publication of second newsletter

AUGUST
- Participation of ten island of Ireland scholars in NCI Summer Molecular course

OCTOBER
- Second round of NCI clinical trials training for four island of Ireland oncology nurses
- Co-sponsorship of Cancer Care 2002 Ireland conference at Waterfront Hall (Belfast)

NOVEMBER
- Three-way TELESYNERGY® demonstration at St. Luke's Hospital attended by NIH Director Dr. Elias Zerhouni and BOD member NCI Director Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach Eschenbach

2003

JANUARY
- First TELESYNERGY® User Group meeting at NIH

FEBRUARY
- Launch of All-Ireland Cancer Clinical Trials Cooperative Group (Dublin)

MARCH
- Participation of Consortium in inaugural Cancer Conference of the St. James's Hospital Cancer Strategy Group (Dublin)

MAY
- Inaugural Prevention workshop on smoking cessation (Dundalk, Ireland)

JUNE
- Arrival of third island of Ireland epidemiology fellow at NCI
- Launch of All-Ireland Cancer Clinical Trials Cooperative Group (Belfast)

JULY
- Participation of seventeen island of Ireland scholars in NCI Summer Principles course
- Award of first fellowship for U.S. researcher on island of Ireland
- Publication of second activities report
- Publication of third newsletter

AUGUST
- Participation of seventeen island of Ireland scholars in NCI Summer Molecular course

SEPTEMBER
- Visit of Irish Health Minister Micheál Martin to NIH

OCTOBER
- Third round of NCI clinical trials training for two island of Ireland oncology nurses
- Co-sponsorship of All-Ireland Cancer Conference (Cork, Ireland)

2004

FEBRUARY
- Installation of TELESYNERGY® suite at Trinity College School of Radiation Therapy (Dublin)

MARCH
- Co-sponsorship of Cancer Conference of the St. James's Hospital Cancer Strategy Group (Dublin)

APRIL
- Announcement of Development of a National Telesynergy Network for Radiation Oncology Services in Ireland by Health Minister Micheál Martin

JULY
- Participation of twelve island of Ireland scholars in NCI Summer Principles course

AUGUST
- Participation of nineteen island of Ireland scholars in NCI Summer Molecular course

SEPTEMBER
- Inaugural Prevention seminar on obesity and cancer (Dublin)
- Publication of All-Ireland Cancer Statistics Second Report 1998-2000 by U.S. researcher and Cancer Registries of Ireland and Northern Ireland
- Publication of third activities report

OCTOBER
- Launch of Centre for Cancer Research & Cell Biology (Belfast)
- Fourth round of clinical trials training at NCI for three island of Ireland oncology nurses

NOVEMBER
- Consortium highlighted at UICC World Conference for Cancer Organisations (Dublin)
- Selection of three island of Ireland scholars for NCI Cancer Prevention Fellowship Program

2005

FEBRUARY
- Publication of five-year timeline brochure

MARCH
- Co-sponsorship of Cancer 2005 conference of the St. James's Hospital Cancer Strategy Group (Dublin)
- Launch of the All-Ireland Joint Research Fellowships in Cancer (JRFC)

JULY
- Participation of twelve island of Ireland scholars in NCI Summer Principles course

AUGUST
- Participation of eighteen island of Ireland scholars in NCI Summer Molecular course
- Publication of fourth activities report

SEPTEMBER
- Selection of two island of Ireland scholars as international NCI Cancer Prevention Fellows

OCTOBER
- Announcement of intention by Northern Ireland to implement Smoking Ban in all Public Places and Workplaces by April 2007
- Installation of TELESYNERGY® equipment in Galway and Cork

DECEMBER
- Publication of fourth newsletter

2006

MARCH
- Award of JRFC to two island of Ireland cancer researchers

MAY
- Co-sponsorship of Cancer 2006 conference of the St. James's Hospital Cancer Strategy Group (Dublin)
- Visit of Tánaiste and Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney T.D., to NCI

JUNE
- Issue of second call for applications for JRFC
- Installation of Dr. John Niederhuber as BOD member to replace Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach
- Release of A Strategy for Cancer Control in Ireland; All-Ireland Consortium commended for its role in cancer prevention and control

JULY
- Participation of fourteen island of Ireland scholars in NCI Summer Principles course

AUGUST
- Participation of twenty-five island of Ireland scholars in NCI Summer Molecular course
- Publication of fifth newsletter
- Publication of seven-year timeline brochure

SEPTEMBER
- Installation of Dr. Michael McBride as BOD member to replace Dr. Henrietta Campbell

OCTOBER
- Fifth round of clinical trials training at NCI for four island of Ireland oncology nurses

NOVEMBER
- Co-sponsorship of 3rd All-Ireland Cancer Conference (Belfast)
- Re-signing of Consortium Memorandum of Understanding at 3rd All-Ireland NCI Cancer Conference (Belfast)

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