

# ***Final Report Executive Summary***



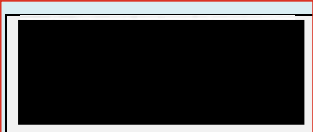
## ***HSC R&D Division Progress Report***

*Reports should be submitted via electronic copy to HSC R&D Division within 6 weeks of the request. The report should be completed on the attached form in clear typescript. Please extend boxes as required. Please adhere to any word limits. These reports may be subject to external peer review. Details from the Report may be placed on the HSC R&D Division website and shared with appropriate key stakeholders or members of the public.*

## HSC R&D Division Award Details

<b>HSC R&amp;D File Reference</b>	STL/5562/19
<b>HSC R&amp;D Funding Scheme</b>	PPI in Research Support: Small Grant Scheme
<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Christine Campbell and Frances McGreevy</b> NI Cancer Research Consumer Forum (NICRCF) members, <b>attendance at VOICE 2025 - Vision on Information, Confidence and Engagement Course.</b> This course in bench to bedside science
<b>Award Holder Name (Employer)</b>	Ms Ruth Boyd (Belfast Health & Social Care Trust)
<b>Host Research Organisation</b>	Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
<b>Award Duration</b>	2025/2026
<b>Award Start Date</b>	31.08.25
<b>Award End Date</b>	05.09.25
<b>Name of Lead Supervisor:</b> <i>(only applicable to training awards)</i>	

## Signature

<b>Award Holder Signature:</b>	
	<b>Date: 30.03.26</b>

# Evidence Brief

(1 page: which may be used for dissemination by HSC R&D Division)

Why did we start?

(The need for the PPI initiative and/or Why the work was commissioned/or Purpose of attending event/conference if a PPI representative)

**VOICE 2025 - Vision on Information, Confidence and Engagement Course** is an intensive course that provides unparalleled opportunity for PPI representatives such as Christine Campbell and Frances McGreevy (members of NI Cancer Research Consumer Forum) to learn from leading researchers and clinicians in seminar and, **uniquely**, in a hands-on laboratory settings. An array of topics in cancer research are covered, increasing confidence in patient advocacy with the objective of enhancing effective partnership working in cancer research. The course also offers an excellent opportunity to meet with cancer patient advocate peers.

What did we do?

(Methods-Please comment on how your initiative/or attendance at event/conference met any of the UK Public Involvement Standards)

Course content included:

- Cancer biology- what cancer is, how it is caused, how it develops and how it is detected and treated
- Time in the research laboratories to help build understanding
- Understanding of different types of cancers- current understanding, new research technologies and the biology of different cancers
- Research terminology and study design
- How to read and interpret scientific papers
- Opportunities to pose questions to leading cancer biology researchers and senior academics.
- Networking sessions with fellow course attendees to discuss own experiences and share patient advocate knowledge

What answer did we get?

(Please state the outcome of this initiative/and/or what was/you gained from this event or conference as a PPI representative)

Outcomes were: Specialist knowledge and experience gained through the course / Informal learning gained through networking with course peers who are experienced cancer research patient advocates / Wider impact including onward shared learning to other members of the NICRCF / Learning regarding future training and VOICE opportunities / Encouraged attendance of VOICE by other NICRCF members and broader PPI research community on the Island of Ireland. A presentation about the course and what was learnt, was delivered to NICRCF members 18 September 2026, and also circulated across the mailing list of over 60 members. *"Being able to actively participate in VOICE has given me a renewed sense of purpose. Knowing my lived experience can guide discoveries that bring hope to others means so much to me personally as a cancer patient and advocate. I have gained a profound respect for Research and Researchers and the vital role it plays across the cancer pathway which me and many others are on"* Christine Campbell.

What should be done now?

(Practice/Policy Implications and/or Recommendations for PPI)

On-going support and benefits from the VOICE course have supported the all-island initiative 'VOICE Ireland' course, being developed in conjunction with Independent Cancer Patient Voice (ICPV) who collaborate with Barts, and VOICE Ireland receives administrative support from AICRI and financial support from various organisations. The first course on the island is due to take place in August 2026 [About — AICRI](#)