

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

HSC R&D File Reference	STL/5562/19
HSC R&D Funding Scheme	PPI in Research Support: Small Grant Scheme
Project Title	All-island Cancer Research PPI meeting and networking
Award Holder Name (Employer)	Ms Ruth Boyd (Belfast Health & Social Care Trust)
Host Research Organisation	Belfast Health & Social Care Trust
Award Duration	1 month
Award Start Date	01.09.24
Award End Date	30.09.24
Name of Lead Supervisor: (only applicable to training awards)	

Signature

Award Holder Signature:



Date: 31.03.2025

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)

Following in past years two very fruitful visits to Belfast by members of Cancer Trials Ireland (CTI) Patient Consultants Committee (PCC) to meet representatives of NI Cancer Research Consumer Forum (NICRCF) this initiative was an opportunity for NICRCF members to join counterparts from CTI PCC in Dublin, at a meeting they were hosting. The objective was to continue to build on this relationship and share learning. The agenda was co-developed with topics of mutual interest to each group.

What did we do?

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

25-26 September 2024 four members of NICRCF, including Chair, Aidan McCormick, attended the event at Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin. Ruth Boyd, NICRCF PPI facilitator also attended. The Day 1 agenda showcased all-island patient-led research, with a summary of the results of survey in metastatic breast cancer co-presented by Ann McBrien, NICRCF, and Siobhan Gaynor, patient advocate followed by a presentation on the proposed survey for both patients and carers looking at sexual wellbeing after treatment for prostate cancer. NICRCF member Debbie Keatley co-presented with Jacqueline Daly, East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support a discussion/feedback session on a proposal to set up the VOICE (Vision On Information, Confidence and Engagement) 'Science for Patient Advocates' course in Ireland. Day 2 involved presentations by CTI and Irish Cancer Society and discussions were held on project dissemination and wider proposals to support more all-island PPI. Refreshment breaks facilitated opportunities for informal networking also.

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)

This collaborative event was useful on several levels – in building and sustaining working / peer patient advocate relationships, sharing knowledge and experience, securing informal commitments for on-going collaboration and strategies to enhance dissemination of all-island research.
Specific outcomes: Due to project awareness Emer Mulvaney (CTI) and Martin Sweeney (patient advocate) were invited, and spoke in Belfast about the all-island patient-led prostate cancer research at the ProEx conference, 18 October 2024, in Patrick G Johnston Centre for Cancer Research. Aidan McCormick is a member of a VOICE (in Ireland) Advisory Group and consultation with NICRCF members also took place in November 2024. Relationships strengthened at this meeting allowed for productive PPI support, involvement and engagement at the 2025 Irish Association for Cancer Research in Belfast in March. A report of the event was produced by CTI.

What should be done now?

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

Plans include continuing, ideally, annual meetings and maintaining collaboration and support on an all-island basis for PPI and patient led research.
The outcomes of the meeting illustrate the positive impact of all-island PPI meeting to enhance all-island collaboration in research and PPI development.