



National Cancer Registry

In this issue:

- Our new Board
- IARC Director addresses conference
- Update on cancer registration
 - minimum dataset
 - EUROCOURSE
 - IARC
- Reports and publications
 - new cancer atlas
- Research

National Cancer Registry Board, 2009

The Minister for Health and Children has appointed seven members to a new National Cancer Registry Board, with a term of office to 2011. At the end of this term, or possibly sooner, it is intended that the Registry will become part of the HSE. Our new Board members are:

- Mr Tony O'Brien (Chair)
- Dr John Devlin
- Dr Patricia Fitzpatrick
- Dr Anna Gavin
- Professor Donal Hollywood
- Dr Deirdre Murray
- Mr John McCormack

The new Board will meet later this month.

IARC Director addresses conference on population-based cancer research

The National Cancer Registry and the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry jointly hosted a one-day conference on population-based cancer research on September 3rd at the Davenport Hotel, Dublin.

The keynote speaker was Professor Chris Wild, recently appointed Director of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) who, speaking on "Environmental exposure assessment: collateral damage in the genomic revolution?", highlighted the potential of biomarkers in cancer control.

Over 150 people from north and south, from across the health services and universities, attended. Among the topics covered were

- the impact of pre-cancerous lesions, diet, medications and chemical exposures on cancer incidence and survival,
- the economics of colorectal screening,
- the financial, psychological and other needs of cancer survivors,
- the potential of pharmacoepidemiology
- the role of cancer registries in improving cancer outcomes.

More details are carried on the websites of the two registries www.ncri.ie and www.qub.ac.uk/nicr.

Some of the attendance at the conference



Cancer registration in 2008-2009

Routine registration activity

In recent years, the Registry has placed a heavy emphasis on early ascertainment of cases, as this is crucial to cancer planning. As a result of the efforts of our staff, the mean average delay in case registration has fallen from 235 days in 2001 to 154 days in 2007. The time taken to register 90% of cases is now 386 days from the date of diagnosis, compared to 700 days in 2001.

Radiotherapy data is now being provided electronically by all but one of the public radiotherapy centres and electronic pathology data by an increasing number. We are still inhibited, however, by the lack of national standards for recording or transmitting medical data.

National Cancer Minimum Dataset

In collaboration with the National Cancer Control Programme, the Registry is developing a national dataset to be used for recording all data items relating to cancer episode of care. An Expert Working group has compiled a draft dataset which went for public consultation last year. A final version, incorporating the results of the public consultation, is in the final stages of preparation and should begin a pilot phase later this year.

(see <http://www.ncri.ie/news/20081007.shtml>)

EUROCOURSE

The National Cancer Registry is leading on a work package in the EUROCOURSE EU funded project. The object of this work package (WP4) is to harmonise cancer data collection, dissemination and analysis within Europe. A researcher from the Registry, Mark O'Callaghan, has gone to work on this project at the International Agency for Research on Cancer in Lyon (see www.eurocourse.org.)

Colorectal screening

The National Cancer Registry was awarded a contract by HIQA in 2008 to carry out a health technology assessment of colorectal cancer screening. With collaborators from the University of Sheffield, the National Pharmacoeconomics Centre and Dublin City University, we produced a detailed report earlier this year, which has now been published by HIQA (see http://www.hiqa.ie/functions_hta_ccs.asp).

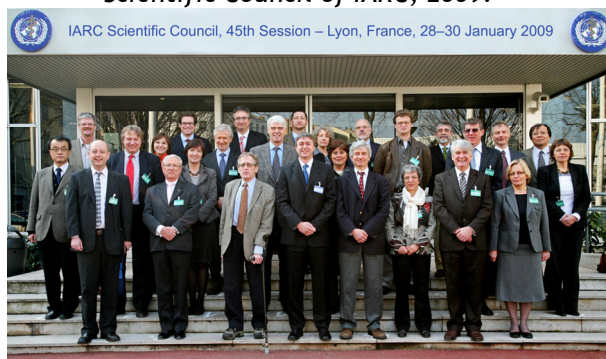
The Registry is represented by Dr Linda Sharp on the group subsequently set up by HIQA, at the request of the Minister, to examine the feasibility of delivering colorectal screening within existing resources.

Other activities

International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC)

Ireland became a member of IARC in 2006 and Dr Harry Comber, Director of the National Cancer Registry was invited to become the first Irish member of the IARC Scientific Council, of which he is currently the Chair. Ireland's membership has greatly strengthened our research links with IARC and the newly appointed Director, Dr Christopher Wild, will visit Ireland in September to speak at a conference organized by the Registry, and to meet officials of the Department of Health and Children.

Scientific Council of IARC, 2009.



All-Ireland Cancer Conference

The Registry hosted the very successful 4th All-Ireland Cancer Conference in Dublin in December 2008. The conference attracted over 400 delegates from both north and south, Britain, the US, Canada and Australia and covered topics as diverse as whole genome analysis and pain relief.

The Minister for Health and Children with Drs Joe Harford, Tony Holohan and Harry Comber at the opening of the 4th All-Ireland Cancer Conference



Registry publications

These are available on request from the Registry at info@ncri.ie or on our website www.ncri.ie.

1. Cancer in Ireland 1994-2004: A report of cancer incidence, mortality, treatment and survival in the North and South of Ireland: 1994-2004

This report describes and compares cancer incidence, mortality, treatment and survival in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. A printed summary (60 pages) of this report is available; the full report (344 pages) is in electronic format only.

Drs David Donnelly, Joe Harford, Anna Gavin and Harry Comber at the launch of the All-Ireland Cancer Report



2. Patterns of care and survival of cancer patients in Ireland 1994 to 2004

This describes patterns of treatment, stage at diagnosis and survival for patients diagnosed between 1994 and 2004, with analysis of trends in hospital caseload and a comparison of Irish cancer survival with other European countries.

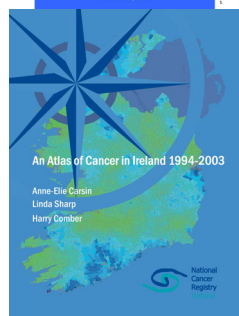
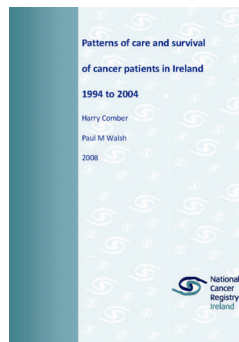
3. Cancer in Ireland 1994-2007

The annual statistical report of the Registry, it describes cancer incidence, mortality and stage in Ireland, including time trends and geographical variation in incidence. This information can also be downloaded, in more detail, from the Registry website.

4. An Atlas of Cancer in Ireland 1994-2003

The atlas, the first of its kind in Ireland, describes and analyses cancer incidence for all common cancers at the ED level, and suggests some reasons for the geographical variation found.

The atlas will be published in October 2009; please email us if you would like a printed copy.



Peer-reviewed papers 2008-9

1. *Trends in prostate specific antigen testing in Ireland: lessons from a country without guidelines.* Drummond FJ, Carsin AE, Sharp L, Comber H. *Ir J Med Sci.* 2009 Jun 27
2. *Uncertainty and quality of life among men undergoing active surveillance for prostate cancer in the United States and Ireland.* Hegarty JM, Wallace M, Comber H. *Am J Mens Health.* 2008 Jun;2(2):133-42.
3. *Is there under-treatment of pancreatic cancer? Evidence from a population-based study in Ireland.* Sharp L, Carsin AE, Cronin-Fenton DP, O'Driscoll D, Comber H. *Eur J Cancer.* 2009 May;45(8):1450-9.
4. *Malignant melanoma and breast carcinoma: a bidirectional correlation.* Ho WL, Comber H, Hill AD, Murphy GM. *Ir J Med Sci.* 2009 Mar 5;
5. *The association between alcohol and reflux esophagitis, Barrett's esophagus, and esophageal adenocarcinoma.* Anderson LA, Cantwell MM, Watson RG, Johnston BT, Murphy SJ, Ferguson HR, McGuigan J, Comber H, Reynolds JV, Murray LJ. *Gastroenterology.* 2009 Mar;136(3):799-805.
6. *Factors prompting PSA-testing of asymptomatic men in a country with no guidelines: a national survey of general practitioners.* Drummond FJ, Carsin AE, Sharp L, Comber H. *BMC Fam Pract.* 2009 Jan 12;10:3.
7. *Major inter-laboratory variations in PSA testing practices: results from national surveys in Ireland in 2006 and 2007.* Drummond FJ, Sharp L, Comber H. *Ir J Med Sci.* 2008 Dec;177(4):317-23.
8. *Glycemic index, carbohydrate and fiber intakes and risk of reflux esophagitis, Barrett's esophagus, and esophageal adenocarcinoma.* Mulholland HG, Cantwell MM, Anderson LA, Johnston BT, Watson RG, Murphy SJ, Ferguson HR, McGuigan J, Reynolds JV, Comber H, Murray LJ. *Cancer Causes Control.* 2009 Apr;20(3):279-88.
9. *Inequity in colorectal cancer treatment and outcomes: a population-based study.* Carsin AE, Sharp L, Cronin-Fenton DP, C elleachair AO, Comber H. *Br J Cancer.* 2008 Jul 22;99(2):266-74.
10. *Rising incidence of renal cell carcinoma in Ireland.* Falebita OA, Mancini S, Kiely E, Comber H. *Int Urol Nephrol.* 2009; 41(1):7-12.
11. *Oesophageal cancer: caregiver mental health and strain.* Donnelly M, Anderson LA, Johnston BT, Watson RG, Murphy SJ, Comber H, McGuigan J, Reynolds JV, Murray LJ. *Psychooncology.* 2008 Dec;17(12):1196-201.
12. *Questionnaire order significantly increased response to a postal survey sent to primary care physicians.* Drummond FJ, Sharp L, Carsin AE, Kelleher T, Comber H. *J Clin Epidemiol.* 2008 Feb;61(2):177-85.
13. *Relationship between Helicobacter pylori infection and gastric atrophy and the stages of the oesophageal inflammation, metaplasia, adenocarcinoma sequence: results from the FINBAR case-control study.* Anderson LA, Murphy SJ, Johnston BT, Watson RG, Ferguson HR, Bamford KB, Ghazy A, McCarron P, McGuigan J, Reynolds JV, Comber H, Murray LJ. *Gut.* 2008 Jun;57(6):734-9.

Current research

We welcome proposals for collaborative projects, using Registry or other data.

1. Prostate Cancer and PSA

This project, which began in 2004, is a continuing investigation of the links between PSA testing, prostatic biopsy, prostate cancer incidence and prostate cancer survival. It includes collaborations with the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry, QUB and IARC; discussions have opened with the NCI CISNET modelers about collaboration.

2. Health economics of cancer in Ireland

This comprises four inter-related parts:

- A comprehensive analysis of the costs (for the health services and for patients) associated with the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of colorectal cancer;
- A health technology assessment (now complete) of colorectal screening options in Ireland;
- A study (now complete) of the financial implications of a cancer diagnosis for patients;
- A study of the employment consequences of a cancer diagnosis for patients in Ireland and the US.

3. Cervical cancer screening/HPV

- An exploration of women's attitudes to HPV testing for cervical cancer prevention.
- A randomized control trial of educational interventions to increase levels of knowledge about HPV among GPs.

4. Pancreatic cancer case-control study (PanCAM)

- A multi-centre international collaborative study of the aetiology of pancreatic adenocarcinoma.
- Analysis of international time trends in pancreatic cancer incidence.

5. Exploring reasons for low treatment rates in older women with cancer

- Qualitative and quantitative studies of patients and clinicians to explore the reasons for treatment choices and apparent under-treatment in older female patients.

6. Patterns of care and cancer services

- Survival of elderly colorectal cancer patients
- Survival from twenty common adult cancers in the United Kingdom and Ireland (with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical medicine)
- The influence of deprivation on childhood cancer survival.
- Ten-year survival estimates for Irish cancer patients.
- Regional variation in breast-conserving surgery
- Trends in colorectal cancer survival.
- An audit of all rectal cancer diagnosed in 2007

We have moved

Having been 15 years at our original offices in Elm Court, we had outgrown the space and, in April last year, we moved to new offices at Cork Airport Business Park. Our telephone, fax and email details are unchanged.

National Cancer Registry offices at Building 6800, Cork Airport Business Park



All of our publications appear on our website at

www.ncri.ie

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