

HRB NCTO

December 2021



Season's Greetings

While it is hard to believe it is almost Christmas and that 2021 is drawing to a close, when we reflect on what was another very difficult year living with the Pandemic, we can clearly see the never-ending need for high quality clinical research. In this first edition of the National Clinical Trials Office (NCTO) Newsletter we would like to focus on the positives and appreciate the progress that was made through-out the year. We are therefore delighted to let you know that the NCTO is now fully functional and open for business!

With UCC as Host institution for the NCTO award, the appointment of staff and the building of the NCTO has progressed well since May 2021. While we still have some posts to fill, with the MedTech supporting Clinical Industry Liaison Office role currently advertised (<https://ncto.ie/events-news/network-vacancies/>) and the ECRIN European correspondent role to be advertised in early Jan, the NCTO support services are now fully available – a number of which are discussed in more detail in this newsletter.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all who supported us in 2021 during the development of the NCTO and I would like to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas as we look forward to opportunities to meet again in person in 2022!

Best wishes,
Fionnuala
Fionnuala Keane, NCTO Manager

ALERT HRB NCTO Website Launched



We were delighted to announce the launch of our new website (www.ncto.ie). The launch coincided with our end of year meeting to make it an extra special event. This new platform which is supported by the HRB and UCC provides valuable information and guidance on clinical trials to the general public and to both national and global clinical research networks. The website provides information on how the NCTO can support healthcare professionals, the life sciences sector and academia with clinical trial queries. Keep up to date with the latest training and network vacancy posts on our Events & News section. Visit us on www.ncto.ie for further information and sign up to our mailing list on ncto@ucc.ie.



Feasibility Programme

The HRB NCTO National Study Feasibility Programme connects academic and industry sponsors with potential investigators in Ireland. Our study feasibility service is free of charge and aims to streamline the clinical trial investigator site identification and study feasibility process nationally, delivering consistency and efficiency in the process.

All therapeutic areas are covered by this Programme. For Oncology Studies, we collaborate with Cancer Trials Ireland and Cancer Trials Research Units across Ireland on these feasibility assessments.

For further details, check out <https://ncto.ie/services/study-feasibility/>

To place a study feasibility service, email trials-feasibility@ucc.ie with supporting study supporting information and related documents.



Working Groups Update

A large part of the work of the NCTO Network is done through specialist Working Groups. Experts in specific areas from across the network come together to share best practice, horizon scan and develop and deliver on annual work plans.

The HRB NCTO leads the following Working Groups with members from CRF/Cs and other organisations as appropriate:

- ❖ Quality
- ❖ Study Feasibility & Start-up
- ❖ Budget
- ❖ Pharmacovigilance
- ❖ MedTech

2022 Work Plans are currently in development and we look forward to a productive 2022.