



# Clinical Research in Ireland 2023

**HRB National Clinical Trials Office (NCTO)**  
International Clinical Trials Day National Conference  
[ncto.ie](http://ncto.ie)



Health Research Board  
**NCTO**  
National Clinical Trials Office

# Celebrating International Clinical Trials Day 2023

## Celebrating International Clinical Trials Day 2023

Date: **May 10, 2023** Venue: RCSI College Hall

**Event Chair: Prof Ivan Perry,**

Director of the HRB Clinical Research Facility at UCC (HRB CRF-UCC) & Director of NCTO

### AGENDA

09:00 - 10:00	<b>Registration &amp; Refreshments</b>
10:00 - 10:10	<b>Welcome Address, Prof Fergal O'Brien,</b> Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation, RCSI.
10:10 - 10:20	<b>Opening Address &amp; Launch of ICTD Events Calendar, Prof Ivan Perry,</b> Director of HRB NCTO.
10:20 - 10:30	<b>Oonagh Ward,</b> Head of Research and Innovation Infrastructures Health Research Board, <i>Presentation Title: Ireland's Clinical Trial Ecosystem.</i>
10:30 - 10:40	<b>Garrett Murray,</b> Head of Life Sciences, Enterprise Ireland, <i>Presentation Title: Life Sciences Sector in 2023.</i>
10:40 - 10:50	<b>Michèle Cunnane,</b> Interim Manager, HRB NCTO, <i>Presentation Title: HRB NCTO and ECRIN Update.</i>
10:50 - 11:20	<b>Key-Note address: Dr Marianne Pilgaard,</b> CEO Trial Nation, Denmark <i>Presentation Title: Trial Nation - A Part Of the Danish Clinical Research Ecosystem.</i>
11:20 - 11:45	<b>Coffee Break</b> Meet the CTNs and Poster Review (and networking opportunity).
11:45 - 12:00	<b>Racheal Batten,</b> National Lead for Legal Support and Data Protection, HSE Research & Development. <i>Presentation Title: HSE Actions To Increase and Improve Clinical Trial Step up Time in Ireland.</i>
12:00 - 12:15	<b>Dr Sarah Craig,</b> Head of National Health Information Systems, HRB <i>Presentation Title: An Overview of National &amp; EU Health Data Developments.</i>
12:15 - 12:45	<b>Clare Foley,</b> Assessor, Clinical Assessment, HPRA & <b>Jane Bryant,</b> Project Officer, NREC <i>Presentation Title: Implementation of CTR (Joint Presentation).</i>
12:45 - 13:00	<b>Dr Michelle Flood,</b> RCSI PPI Ignite <i>Presentation Title: Embedding PPI in Research.</i>
13:00 - 14:00	<b>Lunch Break</b> Meet the CTNs and Poster Review (and networking opportunity).
14:00 - 15:45	<b>Parallel Sessions:</b> <b>Clinical Research Facilities / Centres Presentations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CHI CRC, HRB CRF-UCC, HRB CRF-G, HRI CRSU Limerick, RCSI CRC, UCD CRC &amp; Wellcome Trust HRB CRF-SJH</li></ul> <b>MedTech Working Group Meeting</b> [closed meeting; invite only]. Panel: Olive O'Driscoll, Clinical Industry Liaison Officer, Donal O'Connor, Clinical Manager, HPRA and Emma Meade, Director of Clinical Research, Neuromod Devices. Chaired by Prof Martina Hennessey, Director SJH CRF
15:45 - 16:00	<b>Poster prize giving &amp; closing comments, Prof Ivan Perry,</b> Director of NCTO

# Clinical Research in Ireland 2023

**HRB National Clinical Trials Office (NCTO)**  
**International Clinical Trials Day National Conference**

## Contents

Agenda	2
Contents	3
Forward	4
About International Clinical Trials Day	5
HRB NCTO	6
Biographies	7-10
Oonagh Ward	7
Garett Murray	7
Michèle Cunnane	8
Dr Michelle Flood	8
Clare Foley	8
Dr Marianne Pilgaard	9
Dr Sarah Craig	9
Jane Bryant	10
Racheal Batten	10
HRB Funded Clinical Trial Networks	11 – 13
Partner CRF/Cs	14 – 17
Calendar of Events 2023	18
Meeting Support	19

# Foreword

## Dear Delegate

**On behalf of the HRB National Clinical Trials Office, University College Cork and all our partner institutions, researchers and collaborators, we would like to welcome you all to this year's annual event for International Clinical Trials Day 2023. It is great to be meeting in person again.**

**This brochure sets out our programme for today, showcases the clinical research facilities/centres and clinical trial networks participating in today's event, and features a summary of some of the upcoming events planned for the coming weeks in partner institutions and elsewhere to celebrate International Clinical Trials Day 2023.**

Our common endeavour is to advance health at the level of the individual and for the overall population and it is well recognised that clinical research does just that. Early-stage clinical research and the participation of patients in clinical trials contribute to advancing health outcomes, and the more organised and sophisticated our clinical research infrastructure and delivery systems are, the better the outcomes will be for the public we serve.

The theme of this year's conference "Advancing Clinical Research in Ireland 2023" is aimed at taking a look at what we are currently delivering in Clinical Research today, focusing on recent developments and collaborations and looking to how we can further develop Ireland as a "Clinical Research Leader", serving academic, commercial, pharma and MedTech industries and, most importantly, Irish patients.

We are especially pleased to welcome to today's conference from Denmark, Dr Marianne Pilgaard, CEO Trial Nation, who will speak to us about on the Clinical Research landscape there and what we in Ireland can learn from their successes.

Ireland is in a unique position in Europe with

respect to clinical research and all stakeholders are committed to expanding the number and types of clinical trials and investigations conducted in Ireland and expanding the number of patients who may benefit from participating in these trials. It is important that we continue to stress two important messages: firstly, that adequate funding be provided for research, remembering that medical research is an intrinsic component of a successful healthcare system that provides major benefit to patients and to society; and secondly, that patients, their families, and advocate groups actively promote patient participation in clinical research.

We are delighted to see the range of speakers who are participating in today's event, and we welcome especially our patient representatives who have helped us prepare for today.

**We welcome you all to today's conference and we hope you have an enjoyable and informative day.**

**Professor Ivan Perry**

Interim Director of HRB NCTO

**Michèle Cunnane**

Interim Manager NCTO

# About International Clinical Trials Day



**International Clinical Trials Day (ICTD) was launched in 2005 to celebrate the day when Scottish naval surgeon James Lind started his famous clinical trial on scurvy in 1747 and laid the foundation for modern clinical research.**

While serving as a surgeon on the HMS Salisbury (a ship of the British Royal Navy), Lind carried out experiments on 12 sailors suffering from scurvy.

The men, grouped into pairs, were given a variety of dietary supplements (e.g., cider, vinegar, seawater, garlic, mustard, oranges and lemons) over six days.

Those who consumed citrus fruits noticeably improved, providing evidence of the superiority of this treatment over others (two centuries before the discovery of vitamin C, the active substance). Clinical trials have come a long way since Lind's discovery.

Each year, ICTD, celebrated on or around 20th of May, provides the opportunity for organisations, clinical research professionals, and the public to acknowledge the achievements that result from clinical research and to discuss various trial topics.

You can learn more about James Lind's trial at [www.eclin.org](http://www.eclin.org)

Keep the conversation going online – on Twitter, using the hashtag

 @HRB\_NCTO  
#ICTD2023





# Health Research Board

# NCTO

## National Clinical Trials Office

**With the support of the Health Research Board, host institution University College Cork, Enterprise Ireland and the seven University-based Clinical Research Facilities/Centres (CRFs/Cs) in the Republic of Ireland the Health Research Board National Clinical Trials Office (HRB NCTO), will deliver on the aims of the National Clinical Trials Coordination Programme 2021 over the 3-year term of its funding award.**

This programme was developed to build on the positive achievements of previous investments in clinical trials coordination and future investments in national clinical trials infrastructures.

The overall aim of this investment is to ensure that Ireland has the capacity to conduct innovative high quality clinical research for the benefit of people's health and the economy. HRB NCTO, as an integrated Clinical Trial network, will be aligned to the local supports of the existing clinical trials infrastructures to ensure a harmonised strategic national approach to the conduct of high-quality clinical trials in Ireland.

The HRB NCTO central office provides overarching support and expertise, through a range of services and activities to academia and industry. The partner CRF/Cs provide the infrastructure, physical space and facilities, experienced research and specialist support staff and the necessary quality and oversight programs that are critical for the successful conduct of world-class patient-focused research.

HRB NCTO and the CRF/Cs facilitate research but are not in a position to independently fund research.

Our now seven partner CRF/Cs have over seventy years of combined research experience and include:

- *HRB CRF-University College Cork at Cork University Hospital, Mercy University Hospital & University Hospital Waterford*
- *HRB CRF Galway at University Hospital Galway*
- *Royal College of Surgeons Ireland CRC at Beaumont Hospital*
- *University College Dublin CRCs at Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and St. Vincent's University Hospital*
- *Wellcome Trust – HRB CRF at St. James's Hospital*
- *HRI-CRSU:Health Research Institute Clinical Research Support Unit at University Hospital Limerick, Co Limerick*
- *Children's Health Ireland (CHI)-CRC at Children's Health Ireland*

# Biographies

---



**Oonagh Ward,**  
Head of Research and  
Innovation Infrastructures,  
Health Research Board (HRB)

Oonagh Ward is Head of Research and Innovation Infrastructures at the Health Research Board (HRB).

This unit, established in January 2021, has responsibility for the management and evaluation of HRB's investments in clinical trials and associated infrastructures. It also supports exploring opportunities and interfaces for current and future investments in data infrastructures, genomic research, and personalised medicine.

Since joining the HRB in 2007 she has developed and managed a variety of policies, funding initiatives and joint-funding ventures. Oonagh was lead author for the HRB Report on the Review of Clinical Research Infrastructures in Ireland which helped inform HRB's recent investment in this space (cira €55 million).

She participates on numerous national and international committees and groups to help shape, influence and support health research infrastructures and the wider research and innovation policy. Currently Vice Chair of the European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network Assembly of Members and member of the ICPeMed Executive Committee.

With over 20 years' experience across a range of industries Oonagh holds a MSc from Queens University Belfast and a BSc from University College Dublin.

---



**Garrett Murray,**  
Head of Life Sciences,  
Enterprise Ireland

Garrett Murray was appointed as Head of Life Sciences at Enterprise Ireland in 2022. Prior to that he held the management posts of National Director for Horizon Europe at Enterprise Ireland, Head of Exporter Development and Head of Policy and Government Relations.

Prior to this he worked in the Policy Department and the Investment Services Division where he was heavily involved in the development of venture capital schemes and many other policy areas important to the Enterprise Ireland client base.

He holds a Master of Business Studies, a Master of Economic and Policy Analysis and a Graduate Diploma in Corporate Governance.

---

# Biographies



**Michèle Cunnane**

**Interim Manager,  
HRB NCTO**

Michèle Cunnane assumed the role of Interim Manager for HRB NCTO in January 2023.

She has over 25+ years' experience in Clinical Research, having previously worked in HRB CRCL, Cancer Trials Ireland (formerly ICORG), INEOS Healthcare, SRG Interresource Satellite Operations and IQVIA (formerly Quintiles) in various Data Management and Leadership positions.

Michèle holds a BSc. Analytical Science (Hons) and MSc. Biological Science (Hons) from Dublin City University.



**Dr Michelle Flood**

**RCSI PPI Ignite**

Michelle Flood is a senior lecturer and MPharm Deputy Director (Y4/5) at the School of Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences. She is an institutional academic lead for Patient and Public Involvement in Research (PPI) and site lead for the PPI Ignite Network, a funded national programme that promotes excellence and innovation in PPI.

She is particularly interested in the role of PPI in preclinical research. Her research combines human-centred design and health services research approaches, focusing on patient experience and outcomes in primary care.

Some of her current projects include MECC Digital, a collaboration with the HSE that focuses on brief interventions, and the CONNECTS project, which addresses medication safety challenges during COVID-19.



**Clare Foley**

**Assessor,  
Clinical Assessment,  
HPRA**

Clare Foley is a Pharmacist by training with Masters in Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacovigilance.

She is currently a Clinical Assessor with HPAR Department of the HPRA.

She is also the Irish member at European commission's Expert Group on Clinical Trials (CTEG) and The Clinical Trial Coordination and Advisor Group (CTAG) and HPRA delegate to the Heads of Medicines Agency's Clinical Trials Coordination Group (CTCG).



# Biographies

---



**Dr Marianne Pilgaard**

**CEO Trial Nation,  
Denmark**

Marianne Pilgaard is the chief executive officer for Trial Nation, a public-private non-profit association.

Trial Nation support stakeholder engagement in clinical trial processes, strengthen clinical trials infrastructure and framework conditions, all with the purpose of increasing the number of clinical trials in pharmaceuticals and medtech solutions in Denmark.

Prior to joining Trial Nation, she spent over twenty years in leadership roles with Novo Nordisk, a pharmaceutical multinational, in roles across the value chain and predominantly within different aspects of clinical research.

During that time, she also contributed to the Swedish national public-private strategic innovation programme Swelife which has the goal to strengthen Life Science in Sweden and to improve public health. She is an active contributor to life science platforms in Denmark and internationally.

---



**Dr Sarah Craig**

**Head of National Health  
Information Systems**

Dr. Sarah Craig is currently Head of National Health Information Systems at the Health Research Board.

This role includes the overall management of four national service planning and surveillance databases in the areas of disability, mental health and alcohol and drugs.

She also plays a cross-organisational strategic role in the HRB in relation to health data. She previously worked in the National Council for Special Education and the National Economic and Social Council where she held research and policy roles.

Her doctoral research centred on the state of health information policy and practice in Ireland.

# Biographies

---



**Jane Bryant**

**Project Officer,  
NREC**

Jane Bryant is a Project Officer at the National Office for Research Ethics Committees, with primary responsibility for the NREC-CT. Jane is involved in the processes and procedures that underpin research ethics review and has a lead role in the National Office's Education and Outreach Programme.

Prior to taking up her role at the National Office, Jane held two postdoctoral research positions in Chicago and Dublin, followed by completing lectureship and research grant management roles.

Jane is committed to supporting the activities of the National Research Ethics Committees, and communicating the importance of research ethics to students of all ages and the general public more broadly.

Jane holds a BA (Mod) in Biochemistry with Immunology from Trinity College Dublin, and a PhD from the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology, Imperial College London.



**Cllr Racheal Batten**

**National R&D Lead for Legal  
and Data Protection Research  
Support Services**

Cllr Racheal Batten (MA, LLB, HDip, BL, APA) is the National R&D Lead for Legal and Data Protection Research Support Services.

Racheal is leading the Legal and Data Protection reform in health care Research for the HSE and ensuring there is improved support for researchers.

Racheal qualified as Barrister in 2010 and has been working as a solicitor, both in the private and public sectors, for the last 15 years and has extensive expertise and experience in Clinical Research Trials and Agreements, commercial contracts, negligence, litigation, regulatory matters, and data protection.

# HRB Funded Clinical Trial Networks

## HRB Primary Care Clinical Trials Network Ireland

*Led by Professor Andrew Murphy,  
National University of Ireland, Galway*

Primary care plays a crucial role in healthcare delivery. Building on the success of a previous HRB funding award, this CTN will advance its role by supporting national, international, and industry trials, developing early career



researchers in the area, addressing chronic disease and involving patients in the development of research programmes.

**Email:** [info@primarycaretrials.ie](mailto:info@primarycaretrials.ie)  
**www:** [www.primarycaretrials.ie](http://www.primarycaretrials.ie)

## HRB Dementia Trials Ireland

*Led by Professor Iracema Leroi,  
Trinity College Dublin*

Clinical trials for dementia are low compared to other health conditions, which is one of the main reasons why our ability to manage/slow the condition is lacking. This CTN aims to tackle this problem and triple the number of clinical



trials available for people living with dementia in Ireland by 2026.

**Email:** [info@dementiatrials.ie](mailto:info@dementiatrials.ie)  
**www:** [www.dementiatrials.ie](http://www.dementiatrials.ie)

## HRB Diabetes Collaborative Clinical Trial-Network- Ireland

*Led by Professor Andrew Murphy,  
National University of Ireland, Galway*

Diabetes is one of the most common chronic diseases in Ireland, and numbers affected are increasing alongside the increase in obesity rates.

This CTN will focus initially on clinical trials for diabetes in pregnancy, technologies in diabetes, diabetes and foot disease, diabetes



and advanced therapies, and diabetes and behavioural change, with the aims of improving the control and treatment of diabetes and delivering a better quality of life to people living with it.

**Email:** [info@diabetestrialsctn.ie](mailto:info@diabetestrialsctn.ie)  
**www:** [www.diabetestrialsctn.ie](http://www.diabetestrialsctn.ie)

# HRB Funded Clinical Trial Networks

## HRB Irish Network for Children's Clinical Trials (in4kids)

*Led by Professor Geraldine Boylan,  
University College Cork*

Clinical trials of new therapies in children have been extremely limited in Ireland. In4kids will allow more children in Ireland to access leading therapies and medicines through well governed trials, to improve their health and wellbeing.

This CTN will also develop educational and



training resources for healthcare staff involved in paediatric trials and harness a young persons' advisory group to ensure they have a voice in determining research priorities.

**Email:** [info@in4kids.ie](mailto:info@in4kids.ie)  
**www.in4kids.ie**

## HRB Irish Critical Care Clinical Trials Network

*Led by Professor Alistair Nichol,  
University College Dublin*

Following a successful five years of a previous HRB funding award, this CTN will continue improving the outcomes (survival and recovery) for patients requiring Intensive Care Unit (ICU) treatment in Ireland and building capacity for the conduct of clinical trials in ICU.



Having already established itself as an Irish hub for clinical trials in ICU, this Network is now setting its sights on becoming a world-leading coordination centre for the same.

**Email:** [iccctn@ucd.ie](mailto:iccctn@ucd.ie)  
**www.iccctn.org**

## HRB Infectious Diseases Clinical Trials Network Ireland

*Led by Professor Patrick Mallon,  
University College Dublin*

This CTN unites leading clinicians and researchers with extensive, collective expertise in specific areas of infectious diseases, and aims to enhance the quality of clinical trial design in the area nationally, solve common health problems for people in Ireland, and lead any



future national pandemic response.

**Email:** [iccctn@ucd.ie](mailto:iccctn@ucd.ie) or [polina.smolovyk@ucd.ie](mailto:polina.smolovyk@ucd.ie)  
**www.ucd.ie/medicine/research/researchcentres/ucdcentreforexperimentalpathogenhosresearch/idctni/**

# HRB Funded Clinical Trial Networks

## HRB Rare Disease Clinical Trial Network

*Led by Dr Rachel Crowley and Dr Cormac McCarthy at University College Dublin*

This CTN aims to enhance rare disease care and outcomes, with the following objectives:

- Act as a collaborative hub for trials in rare diseases
- Facilitate and support the conduct of trials in rare diseases
- Increase the opportunities for rare disease patients to access high-quality clinical trials.



This will result in increased in patient engagement; more trial opportunities for rare disease patients; increased opportunity for investigator-initiated trials; significant industry investment into Irish healthcare; enhanced knowledge of rare disease through patient focused research and parallel translation scientific studies.

**Email:** [brendan.molloy1@ucd.ie](mailto:brendan.molloy1@ucd.ie)

## HRB Rare Disease Clinical Trial Network

The new Network grows and consolidates the work of its predecessor, PPI Ignite.

The PPI Ignite Network promotes excellence and inspires innovation in public and patient involvement (PPI) in health and social care research in Ireland.

Public and patient involvement in research means that the public and patients are involved in planning and doing research from start to



finish and help tell the public about the results of research.

The Network is based at seven Universities in Ireland, with a National Programme Office at NUI Galway. There are ten national partners and fifty three local partners.

**Email:** [hello@ppinetwork.ie](mailto:hello@ppinetwork.ie)  
**www:** [www.ppinetwork.ie](http://www.ppinetwork.ie)

# Partner CRF/Cs

## HRB CRF – University College Cork at Cork University Hospital, Mercy University Hospital & University Hospital Waterford



The HRB Clinical Research Facility University College Cork (HRB CRF-UCC) was established in 2011 to promote excellence in the design, safe-conduct, analysis and reporting of patient-focused research. The facility provides the dedicated infrastructure, experienced research and support staff and the necessary quality and oversight programs that are critical from the successful conduct of world class patient-focused research.

HRB CRF-UCC is funded by the Health Research Board and University College Cork and is operated jointly with the University and its affiliated medical centres, which cover the south and south-western regions of the Republic of Ireland with a population of over 1 million.

It supports a wide range of Academic and commercially funded research, including both interventional trials and observation studies, across pharmaceutical, nutraceuticals, medical device and care pathway themes.

It can provide access to local clinical researchers and networks, clinical research facilities and staff as well as other supports such as biostatistical and methodological support, data management, quality management, study monitoring. CRF-G

**Email: [crfc@ucc.ie](mailto:crfc@ucc.ie)  
[crfc.ucc.ie](http://crfc.ucc.ie)**

## Health Research Institute Clinical Research Support Unit Limerick



The Health Research Institute Clinical Research Support Unit (HRI CRSU) was established in 2014 as an integral part of the HRI to support HRI members in the conduct of clinical research projects.

The HRI CRSU took up residence in its new home in the Clinical Education Research Centre (CERC) Building in January 2017. This multi-storey structure provides dedicated space for clinical research and offers first-class facilities in the form of an auditorium, medical library, research staff offices and much more.

There are clinical rooms devoted entirely to ensuring that patient visits and experiences during clinical studies are as comfortable as possible. Access to hot desks and boardrooms for HRI members has enabled many clinician-academic engagements.

The CRSU maximises the impact of the research activities of the HRI by establishing partnerships with other institutions locally, nationally and internationally. Such partnerships include industry, philanthropic trusts, other academic institutions and healthcare providers, whether hospital or primary community care based.

The CRSU serves as the coordinating unit for University of Limerick (UL) led studies, single site or multi-site. In cases where UL is part of a multi-site project but is not the lead site, the CRSU acts as the link for the lead site, to engage with UL researchers and clinicians.

## Partner CRF/Cs

The CRSU facilitates researchers in the conduct and successful delivery of high quality impactful clinical research through the support of a highly experienced nursing team. All our nurses have the relevant training and experience to support PI's in the conduct of their research, ensuring compliance with ICH GCP E6 R2 and relevant legislation.

HRI CRSU activities involving University of Limerick Hospitals staff is conducted through a sub-unit, the University of Limerick/UL Hospitals Clinical Research Unit (CRU). The UL/UL Hospitals CRU is a jointly governed and resourced unit established to promote clinical research among UL academic staff and UL Hospitals staff based in the CERC building.

**Email:** [Siobhan.M.Egan@ul.ie](mailto:Siobhan.M.Egan@ul.ie)  
**www.ul.ie/hri/clinical-research-support-unit**

### University College Dublin Clinical Research Centre



UCD School of Medicine  
Scoil an Leighis UCD

The University College Dublin Clinical Research Centre (UCD CRC) is an academic led, multi-site, patient-focused resource supporting clinical and translational research. It operates under a single integrated governance structure within the UCD School of Medicine and has been created to deliver one of the University's strategic objectives of advancing high quality, impactful clinical and translational research. The centre is also responsible for delivering high quality education programmes to serve future academic and industry staffing needs.

The UCD CRC has two modern purpose-built facilities, at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and at St Vincent's University Hospital. Together, these two hospitals serve the healthcare needs of approximately 1 million people in the Dublin area and act as local,

regional and national referral centres for a host of clinical specialties.

The UCD CRC is at the core of the UCD Academic Health Sciences research and innovation strategy and will provide a focal point for collaborative, multidisciplinary patient-focused research.

The centre links the clinical community to core university research institutes including the UCD Conway Institute, Systems Biology Ireland, the UCD Charles Institute of Dermatology and Applied Research for Connected Health (ARCH).

Our reputation for implementing complex clinical research programmes across multiple sites to the highest ethical, regulatory and scientific standards positions the UCD CRC ideally to enable and drive a wider academic health sciences collaboration.

**Email:** [crc@ucd.ie](mailto:crc@ucd.ie)  
**www.ucd.ie/medicine/research/ucdclinicalresearchcentre**

### HRB Clinical Research Facility Galway



The HRB Clinical Research Facility, Galway (HRB CRFG) is a joint venture between Galway University Hospitals (GUH) and National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG) and has been in operation since March 2008.

It provides the infrastructure, physical space, facilities, expertise and culture needed to optimally support patient focused research studies and clinical studies aimed at understanding a range of diseases and translating the knowledge obtained through this research work into reimbursed, regulatory approved advances in patient care as speedily as possible.

## Partner CRF/Cs

The objective of HRB CRFG is to improve human health through the generation of new medical knowledge from patient-based research and speedily translate the knowledge obtained through this research into reimbursed, regulatory approved advances in patient care.

The guiding philosophy of this CRF is to stimulate, engage and support health care professionals from diverse areas of expertise to undertake high quality clinical research.

Email: [crfg@nuigalway.ie](mailto:crfg@nuigalway.ie)  
[www.nuigalway.ie/hrbcfrg](http://www.nuigalway.ie/hrbcfrg)

### Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland Clinical Research Centre at Beaumont Hospital



The RCSI CRC provides state of the art facilities and expertise to enable investigators to conduct clinical research to the highest standards. The first academic research centre in Ireland, the Centre opened in September 2000.

The Centre is located on the Beaumont Hospital campus, one of RCSI's principal teaching hospitals in Dublin. This location supports the Centre's translational focus and provides ready opportunities for clinician-based research studies. Since opening in September 2000, the Centre has had more than 19,700 patient visits.

During this time, the activities of the Centre have developed a cohort of highly skilled and trained research nurses with the attendant expertise to enable clinical research.

The aim of the RCSI Clinical Research Centre is to advance medical knowledge of illness and improve patients' care.

By working in partnership with academia, funding agencies and the commercial sector,

we are contributing to the development of life-enhancing therapies through basic research and clinical trials. The Centre achieves this by providing a physical infrastructure and support, primarily through study management, and research nurse expertise.

Email: [crapplications@rcsi.ie](mailto:crapplications@rcsi.ie)  
[www.rcsi.com/dublin/research-and-innovation/research/resources-and-facilities/clinical-research-centre](http://www.rcsi.com/dublin/research-and-innovation/research/resources-and-facilities/clinical-research-centre)

### Children's Health Ireland Clinical Research Centre (CHI-CRC)



Children's Health Ireland (CHI) was established in 2019 and governs and operates local paediatric services for the Greater Dublin Area as well as all national paediatric specialist services, some of which are on an all-island basis.

This encompasses the existing Dublin children's hospitals, Crumlin, Temple Street and Tallaght Hospital, as well as the new paediatric outpatients and urgent care centres at Connolly and Tallaght. Excellence in research and innovation are key strategic objectives of CHI. The new children's hospital is planned to open in 2024 on a campus shared with St James's Hospital and will include a purpose built clinical research facility (CRF).

The CHI-CRC, a HRB funded clinical research centre, was established in 2021 on foot of the move of the Children's Clinical Research Unit (CCRU) from the National Children's Research Centre (NCRC) to CHI, and now incorporates clinical research and trials activity across all CHI sites. The CHI-CRC provides dedicated staff, infrastructure and resources to clinical teams and study sponsors to enable them conduct paediatric clinical trials, clinical investigations of medical devices and other complex research



## Partner CRF/Cs

studies. The CHI-CRC is led by Paul McNally, Director of Research and Innovation at CHI. The CRC has been heavily supported over many years by the Children's Health Foundation (CHF) – the fundraising partner of CHI.

**Email:** [rio@ncrc.ie](mailto:rio@ncrc.ie)  
**www.olchc.ie/research/**

### Wellcome Trust HRB Clinical Research Facility at St. James's Hospital



The Wellcome HRB CRF (CRF) is a clinical research partnership between St. James's Hospital and Trinity College Dublin.

Located in the heart of Ireland's largest teaching hospital it supports a wide range of

studies from observational studies to complex clinical trials.

Currently the CRF employs approximately 20 staff with the mix of skills and experience needed to conduct high quality clinical research. This specialised team work under a rigorous quality system that meets international standards (ICH-GCP) and has successfully completed Health Product Regulatory Authority Inspections.

The CRF includes a research pharmacy and aseptic compounding suite capable of supporting trials of advanced therapies. It also contains neurophysiology and exercise physiology suites and is adjacent to the Centre for Advanced Medical Imaging (3T MRI).

The CRF supports the conduct of Phase I (including inpatient) to Phase III clinical trials, medical device studies and non-regulated clinical studies.

**Email:** [crfsjh@tcd.ie](mailto:crfsjh@tcd.ie)  
**www.sjhcrf.ie**



# Calendar of Events 2023

<b>Wednesday, May 10</b>		<b>Advancing Clinical Research in Ireland 2023</b>	
<b>When</b>	10:00 - 15:45	<b>Location</b>	RCSI, St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 [In-Person event]
<b>Host</b>	HRB NCTO	<b>Website</b>	ncto.ie
<b>Wednesday, May 17</b>		<b>CHI Information Day</b>	
<b>When</b>	14:00	<b>Location</b>	CHI at Crumlin & CHI at Temple Street hospitals
<b>Host</b>	CHI		
<p>Information &amp; outreach stands for all staff, patients and their families. At these stands we are going to engage with everyone on the importance of clinical trials, how to get involved with them, how to start them and generally educate the CHI populace (staff and patient) on what trials are ongoing in CHI and the supports the CRC can provide to those looking to start one. We're also planning to do an interactive piece at these stands where we ask staff and patients "What do clinical trials mean to you?". We're planning on compiling the responses to produce an output (internal media item) for the day.</p>			
<b>Wednesday, May 17</b>		<b>A Taste of Trials Public Webinar</b>	
<b>When</b>	11:30 - 12:30	<b>Location</b>	CHI at Crumlin & CHI at Temple Street hospitals
<b>Host</b>	UCD CRC	<b>Website</b>	ucd-ie.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cSndcnT6TMC7nPdGIUnTcg#/registration
<p>The webinar will include talks from leading experts in clinical trials and a trial participant.</p>			
<b>Friday, May 19</b>		<b>START Competition Awards Ceremony</b>	
<b>Host</b>	HRB TRMN	<b>Website</b>	startcompetition.com
<b>Friday, May 19</b>		<b>Cancer Retreat</b>	
<b>When</b>	09:00 - 13:00	<b>Location</b>	RCSI, St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 [Hybrid event]
<b>Host</b>	Cancer Trials Ireland	<b>Registration</b>	cancertrials.ie/2023/04/cancer-retreat-2023-register-now
<b>Friday, May 19</b>		<b>UCD Information Day</b>	
<b>When</b>	All Day	<b>Location</b>	RCSI, St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 [Hybrid event]
<b>Host</b>	UCD CRC		
<p>Various locations including St Vincents Univeristy Hospital (Dublin), Mater Misericordiae University Hospital (Dublin), National Maternity Hospital, Holles Street (Dublin), National Rehabilitation Hospital (Dublin), St Lukes General Hospital (Kilkenny) and Wexford General Hospital (Wexford)</p>			
<b>Week of May 22 -26</b>		<b>Clinical Trials Promotion</b>	
<b>Host</b>	CRSU Team	Site Visits across the University of Limerick Hospital Group including University Hospital Limerick, St John's Hospital, The Limerick Maternity Hospital, Ennis Hospital and Nenagh Hospital to promotion of Clinical Trials	
<b>Tuesday, May 23</b>		<b>ICTD 2023: Decentralised Clinical Trials: Challenges and Opportunities</b>	
<b>When</b>	09:00 - 16:30 CEST	<b>Location</b>	Hybrid Event: Online or In-Person Belleto Hotel, Warsaw
<b>Host</b>	ECRIN	<b>Registration</b>	ecrin.org/ictd-2023
<b>Friday, May 26</b>		<b>CHI's Annual Research &amp; Audit Day</b>	
<b>When</b>	All Day	<b>Location</b>	Conference includes a strong clinical trials focus.
<b>Host</b>	CLD in Tallaght University Hospital		

# Meeting Support

HRB NCTO would like to thank the following organisations for their support for this conference





Health Research Board  
**NCTO**  
National Clinical Trials Office

email: [ncto@ucc.ie](mailto:ncto@ucc.ie)

 [@HRB\\_NCTO](https://twitter.com/HRB_NCTO)

website: [ncto.ie](http://ncto.ie)