Future Directions in Dementia Research (Funding)

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Background

- Global public health issue
- Social model of dementia (physical, mental, social and economic functioning)
- Many countries developing national dementia plans
- National Dementia Strategy in Ireland
- Collaborative Research Programme (€4.57m), funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies, DoH and HRB
Common themes - research

- **EPIDEMIOLOGY**
  - prevalence & incidence estimates/projections

- **AETIOLOGY & PATHOPHYSIOLOGY**
  - advances at molecular/cellular level/animal models
  - translating evidence into human population studies

- **RISK & PROTECTIVE FACTORS**
  - modifiable risk factors/lifestyle factors
  - translation into population-wide preventative programmes

- **DIAGNOSIS & ASSESSMENT**
  - clinical investigations, cognitive assessments, biomarkers and neuroimaging

- **TREATMENT**
  - drugs, non-pharmacological interventions, interaction of pharmacological and psychosocial interventions, QoL as an outcome measure
Common themes - research

CARE & SUPPORTS
FOR PWD AND CARERS
- better care in hospitals, ED and general wards
- palliative care needs
- daily activities (driving, nutrition, falls)
- person-centred care
- new technologies (needs, preferences)
- needs of carers (formal and informal)
- design needs (domestic, residential & nursing homes)

INFORMED &
EFFECTIVE WORKFORCE
- education, training, KT

POLICY & SERVICE
DEVELOPMENTS
- informed by evidence
- evaluate to know what works
1. What are the most effective components of care that keep a person with dementia as independent as they can be at all stages of the disease in all care settings?
2. How can the best ways to care for people with dementia, including results from research findings, be effectively disseminated and implemented into care practice?
3. What is the impact of an early diagnosis of dementia and how can primary care support a more effective route to diagnosis?
4. What non-pharmacological and/or pharmacological (drug) interventions are most effective for managing challenging behaviour in people with dementia?
5. What is the best way to care for people with dementia in a hospital setting when they have acute health care needs?
6. What are the most effective ways to encourage people with dementia to eat, drink and maintain nutritional intake?
7. What are the most effective ways of supporting carers of people with dementia living at home?
8. What is the best way to care for people with advanced dementia (with or without other illnesses) at the end of life?
9. When is the optimal time to move a person with dementia into a care home setting and how can the standard of care be improved?
10. What are the most effective design features for producing dementia friendly environments at both the housing and neighbourhood levels?
1. Patient-oriented research
2. Population Health
3. Health Services Research

- Interdisciplinary health research
- Partnerships, collaborations and networks
- Translation and application of knowledge
Applied Research Projects in Dementia (€1.75m)

Applicants can request two levels of support:

- Up to €330,000 for projects of up to 36 months (including pilot/feasibility/acceptability studies for future interventions/trials)
- Up to €800,000 for definitive intervention studies/trials (up to 60 months) where the applicant can provide detailed evidence from previous pilot, feasibility and acceptability studies and all aspects of the study protocol have been finalised.

- Application must be submitted on behalf of a Host Institution in the Republic of Ireland
- Call closes 9 February 2015
Applications must address one or more of the indicative themes/topics listed:

- Organisation & Delivery of Dementia Services
- Management & Decision Making in Dementia Care
- Social, Economic & Policy issues in Dementia Care

As this is an Applied research scheme, pay particular attention to:

✓ justifying why this study should be done in Ireland and why now
✓ showing that you have appropriate collaborations between research producers and research users in order to maximise transferability of findings into practice &/or policy
✓ thinking carefully about your impact statement and Knowledge Exchange & Dissemination plan/costs.
The programme encompasses the expansion of a well-established and successful structured PhD Programme in Health Services Research in tandem with key objectives such as the establishment of a national network in PHHSR; expansion to include all higher education institutions (HEIs) in Ireland beyond the three founding institutions (the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), University College Cork (UCC) and Trinity College Dublin (TCD)); and the development of a programme of online modular education accessible to all.

- The **SPHeRE programme** will provide education and training for five cohorts of **PhD scholars** annually (2013-2017). In each cohort, six scholars will be full-time and fully HRB-funded and an anticipated further six scholars will be funded from an alternate source (e.g., a medical charity) or self-funded.

- **Four dementia scholars** will be supported on the SPHeRE programme, two in the 2014 intake and two in the 2015 intake.
**Inter-disciplinary Capacity Enhancement (ICE) Awards**

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<th><strong>Awards</strong></th>
<th><strong>Aim</strong></th>
<th><strong>Funding</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Up to 3 awards in 2015 (up to 9 Postdoctoral Fellows)</td>
<td>Develop mid-career capacity in PH/HSR. Support postdoctoral researchers with potential to be future leaders Promote interdisciplinary teams and research at the interface of clinical research and PH/HSR</td>
<td>• Funding for a team of postdoctoral researchers (up to 3 per team) • Award covers salary, research costs, dissemination, training, research experience abroad costs and overheads</td>
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ICE Awards

- One award in the area of dementia, quality permitting (co-funded by HRB and AP through the AP/HRB Programme of Applied Dementia Research)
- Emphasis on
  - Organisation and delivery of dementia services
  - Management and decision making in dementia care
  - Social, economic or policy issues in dementia care
Research Leader Awards

- Senior Academic Research Leaders (Associate Professor or above)
- From clinical or non-clinical backgrounds - must have strong track record in population health or health services research
- Must be aligned with the strategic plans of the HEI(s) and the partner organisation(s), as well as reflecting national strategic priorities for research and capacity building in PH/HSR.
- Must be nominated by a HEI in Republic of Ireland and have support from at least one partners in health and social care
- Provides salary support for five years and a €600,000 support package - HEI commits continued support beyond 5 years

APPLICATIONS IN DEMENTIA PARTICULARLY WELCOMED

Closing Date for applications is 31 March 2015
Contact Donna Tedstone (dtedstone@hrb.ie)
Research and Practice Knowledge Exchange Network

- should not seek to duplicate existing roles or activities in dementia but should seek to add value to existing activities
- should harness additional membership/skills/expertise (particularly in the area of health services and systems and population health)
- should focus on research and on dementia policy and/or practice and integration and engagement and dialogue between them to:
  - define research priorities in dementia
  - advance public and patient involvement in dementia research and
  - develop and implement innovative knowledge exchange activities.
# Health Research Awards (1)

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<th>Awards</th>
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<tr>
<td>Investigator led awards</td>
<td>To fund internationally competitive and innovative research of benefit to health in:</td>
<td>• Projects up to 3 years duration and up to €330,000</td>
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<td>Up to 24 awards in 2015</td>
<td>• Patient oriented research (POH)</td>
<td>• Includes funding for research personnel, research costs, dissemination costs, overheads</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Population health research (PHR)</td>
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<td>• Health services research (HSR)</td>
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HRA Definitive Interventions

• To conduct RCTs/interventions studies (in line with the MRC Guidance on the Evaluation of Complex Interventions)
• **Funding of up to €800,000** for larger-scale projects, typically 2-4 years (up to 5 years)
• This panel accepts patient-oriented, population health and health services research.
• Must have conducted rigorous pilot and feasibility work; if not, apply for support to do so through PoR, PHS or HSR panels.
• If in doubt check with HRB as applications submitted to the wrong panel cannot be transferred after submission

Contact Annalisa Montesanti (amontesanti@hrb.ie)
## Summer Scholarships

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<th>Awards</th>
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| 40 awards | To offer undergraduates (except those in their final year) opportunity to conduct a small research study in any health-related discipline over the summer months.  
Must be associated with a HEI in Ireland, although can do the research in another setting  
Good opportunity for mid-career researchers to supervise a student and/or conduct pilot work | • Scholarship of €250 per week  
• Up to 8 weeks  
• Supervisor can only support one application and applicant may only apply once |
Since 2006, the Medical Research Charities Group (MRCG) and the HRB have operated an innovative joint funding scheme that allows members of the MRCG to support research of particular interest to specific patient populations.

This scheme provides funding for clearly defined research projects in disease areas of strategic relevance to each individual charity.

MRCG/HRB awards are up to a maximum total award value of €300,000 for projects from 12 up to 36 months.

82 projects have been jointly funded by member charities and the HRB.

As calls are announced, applicants should contact the designated contact point at the respective charity.

Further details: [www.mrcg.ie](http://www.mrcg.ie)
Health Professional Fellowships

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<th>Awards</th>
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<th>Funding</th>
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<tr>
<td>Up to 7 awards in 2015</td>
<td>To enable health and social care professionals to undertake research training leading to a PhD</td>
<td>• Three years full time or up to 6 years part-time</td>
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<td>Successful applicants should be independent researchers within 6-10 years of completion of the fellowship</td>
<td>• Award covers salary, fees, research costs, dissemination and research experience abroad</td>
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# Cochrane Fellowships

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<td>4-5 awards in 2015</td>
<td>Aim to build capacity on the island of Ireland to conduct systematic reviews for inclusion in the Cochrane Library. Aimed at individuals resident in island of Ireland working in the health and social care area.</td>
<td>• Provides protected time of up to two days per week for up to two years to conduct their review. • Award covers systematic review training costs, salary-related costs and research expenses.</td>
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Funded by HRB and Health and Social Care R&D Office (Northern Ireland)

Contact: Annalisa Montesanti ([amontesanti@hrb.ie](mailto:amontesanti@hrb.ie))
Health, demographic change and wellbeing

Draft Work Programme 2014-2015

1. Understanding health, ageing and disease
2. Effective health promotion, disease prevention, preparedness and screening
3. Improving diagnostics
4. Innovative treatments and technologies
5. Advancing active and healthy ageing
6. Integrated, sustainable, citizen-centred care
7. Improving health information, data exploitation and providing an evidence-base for health policies and regulation

Contact: Patricia Clarke (pclarke@hrb.ie)
Wellcome Trust-HRB-SFI Biomedical Partnership

- The Wellcome Trust, in partnership with HRB and SFI, funds biomedical and clinical research in the Republic of Ireland
- Wellcome Trust definition of ‘Biomedical science’: “from molecules and cells vital to life, through the spread of diseases or the vectors of disease across the globe, to clinical and public health research to improve the quality of healthcare”
- Applications and awards under this Partnership are administered by the Trust
- Most other Wellcome Trust Schemes are also open to applicants based in Ireland
- Contact: www.wellcome.ac.uk ; Oonagh Ward (ward@hrb.ie)
US-Ireland R&D Awards

• The “US-Ireland R&D Partnership” links clinicians, scientists and engineers in partnerships across academia and industry

• A ‘single-proposal, single-review’ mechanism by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) accepting joint submissions from teams in Ireland, NI, and the US to their existing funding programmes

• The work proposed for each jurisdiction must add significant value.

Contact: Annalisa Montesanti (amontesanti@hrb.ie)
## Clinical Research Facilities

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<th>Location</th>
<th>Research Facility</th>
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<td>Dublin</td>
<td>RCSi Clinical Research Centre, Beaumont Hospital</td>
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| Dublin   | UCD Clinical Research Centre at  
|          | • Mater Misericordiae Hospital  
|          | • St. Vincent’s University Hospital |
| Galway   | HRB Clinical Research Facility Galway |
| Cork     | HRB Clinical Research Facility Cork |
| Dublin   | Wellcome Trust-HRB Clinical Research Facility at St. James's Hospital |
Automatic notice of new grant calls

• E-mail alert direct to your inbox when you subscribe to our new grant alert at

• http://www.hrb.ie/about/rss-e-mail-alerts/

• Thanks for listening