

FACTSHEET

Research Changes Lives

Who are we?

The MRCG is an umbrella group of medical research charities that seeks to generate dynamic health research in Ireland, driving a greater understanding of how illness can be prevented, how it can be diagnosed earlier and treated more effectively with the ultimate goal of improving the nation's health.

The MRCG believe that patient organisations should lead and stimulate medical research driven by patient need.

We work to identify and remove the barriers to medical research and work collaboratively with the patient community, the research community and policy makers to improve the research infrastructure.

Capacity Building

The MRCG's key priority is to build research capacity amongst its members.

We work with our members to help them identify suitable research opportunities.

We support our members to develop a research strategy and to partake in high quality research which has maximum impact on policy and patient care.

We encourage charities to collaborate both nationally and internationally to leverage skills and resources.

Irish Health Research Forum

The Irish Health Research Forum (IHRF) was established by the MRCG in 2014 on foot of their major report *"The Health Research Landscape in Ireland: What Researchers Say"*

The Forum is a partnership of stakeholders whose aim is to influence an environment which enables high quality research, supports researcher careers and promotes the involvement of service users.

The Forum holds two events every year, past events include:

"Public and Patient Involvement in Research"

"A Process to Prioritise Research Questions for Policy, Practice and Services"

"If research is such a GOOD THING, why do we make it so HARD for researchers?"

TimeLine

The MRCG is founded with 6 founding members

The MRCG and the HRB launch the Joint Funding Scheme – a partnership to fund patient led research in Ireland

The MRCG (in conjunction with IPPOSI) launch Considerations for National Strategy for Patient Registries report

The Rare Disease Taskforce founded (in conjunction with IPPOSI and GRDO) – to support delivery and implementation of Rare Disease National Plan

The MRCG launch **"The Health Research Landscape in Ireland: What Researchers Say"**

Establishment of Irish Health Research Forum

96 projects funded to date through Joint Funding Scheme since inception

1996

2006

2011

2013

2014

2015

1995

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

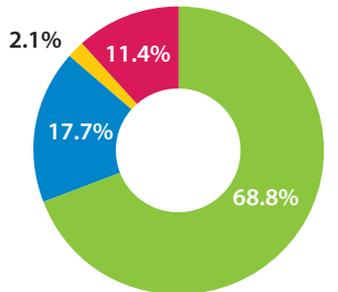
MRCG/HRB Joint Funding Scheme

The Joint Funding Scheme runs annually and provides awards of up to **€300,000 over 3 years** to charity led research projects whereby 50% of the project is funded by the Health Research Board (HRB) and 50% is funded by the charity.

The scheme provides funding for all research types e.g. basic research, health services research, etc.

The Joint Funding Scheme has contributed to approximately **€18 million of research** since its inception in 2006.

€18 Million MRCG/HRB Joint Funding Scheme Projects



- Biomedical Research 68.8%
- Patient Orientated Research 17.7%
- Health Services Research 2.1%
- Population Health Studies 11.4%

MRCG's Members

Alpha One Foundation
Alzheimer Society of Ireland

Arthritis Ireland

Asthma Society of Ireland

Breakthrough Cancer Research

CLAPAI – Cleft Lip and Palate Association of Ireland

COPD Support Ireland

Croí West of Ireland Cardiac Foundation

Cystic Fibrosis Ireland

Cystinosis Ireland

DEBRA Ireland

Diabetes Ireland Research Alliance

Duchenne Ireland

Epilepsy Ireland

Fighting Blindness

Friends of the Rotunda

Heart Children Ireland

Irish Cancer Society

Irish Heart Foundation

Irish Nephrology Society

Irish Thoracic Society

MS Ireland

Muscular Dystrophy Ireland

Research & Education Foundation: Sligo General Hospital

Royal Victoria Eye and Ear Research Foundation

St John of God Research Foundation

St Patrick's Hospital Foundation

St Vincent's Anaesthesia Foundation

Temple Street Foundation

The Heartbeat Trust

The Mater Foundation

The National Children's Research Centre

The Rutland Centre

The Saoirse Foundation

Rare Diseases Taskforce

The MRCG (in partnership with GRDO and IPPOSI) established the Rare Disease Taskforce and has worked towards the creation and implementation of a Rare Disease National Plan.

The **Rare Disease National Plan** was published in 2014.

The **Rare Disease National Clinical Programme** was established in Feb 2014.

The **National Rare Disease Office** was opened in June 2015 at the Mater Hospital.

The MRCG will continue to work towards **improving the infrastructure and clearing the pathway for opportunities** for Rare Disease Research in Ireland.

Patient Registries

Well maintained patient registries are key to the future of medical research and clinical trials.

We commissioned a study on patient registries in Ireland and published a report on **Developing a National Strategy for Patient Registries**.

We continue to support members in the establishment of patient registries.