



Survivorship Conference Report, November 2011

The first Irish Conference on Survivorship after Cancer during Childhood and Adolescence took place in the Croke Park Conference Centre on 26 November 2011. The conference was organised by the Boyne Research Institute in association with the PanCareSurFup consortium and the Irish Cancer Society. The purpose of the conference was to raise awareness around survivorship after childhood cancer, and to address issues of importance to survivors. Speakers were drawn from the UK, Holland, Sweden, Italy and Germany, and included experts in epidemiology, cancer registries, paediatric oncology, and patient and Irish parent advocate organisations, such as Barretstown, CanTeen and Hand-in-Hand.

111 people attended on the day; of these 101 were survivors, parents and relatives; the rest were health professionals. Two surveys were carried out, one for all attendees about the conference and another for survivors and relatives only.

Summary result: The vast majority of responses to the general survey were enthusiastic. No less than 95% of the 85 participants who completed the survey rated the conference facility, arrangements, speakers and content as either OK or excellent. The question regarding content generated the most written comments, including some on the nature of the content, both because it was very technical, but also because it could have been presented in a less upsetting manner. Ideas for future conferences included fewer presentations and more time for discussion. Topics suggested included psychosocial effects, school issues and the effect of cancer on siblings in families, depression, employment, life insurance, reports from support groups and fertility issues.

Please visit www.ccs2011.ie to view presentations and photographs.



Nessa Childers MEP with Andrea & Ciara McKeivitt & Dr Julianne Byrne



Cycling Event in Italy for Survivors of Cancer in Childhood and Adolescence

This event is sponsored by PanCareSurFup (www.pancaresurfup.eu), which is a pan-European consortium involving professionals, survivors and their families and aims to increase awareness and research about survivorship after cancer during childhood and adolescence. The Boyne Research Institute is one of the 16 partners across 11 European countries in the consortium. Momcilo Jankovic, one of the members of PanCareSurFup involved in the dissemination of information, has organised an all-expenses-paid trip to Italy for two keen cyclists from each of the 11 countries, who have survived cancer during childhood and adolescence.

Funding for this event is provided by an Italian charity and Italian bicycle manufacturers.

For further information and an application form email Rosaire Kelly at rkelly@boyneresearch.ie or contact us directly (information below).

Staff

Cíara Hall (right) came to the Boyne Research Institute in July 2011 as marketing manager and events coordinator, with primary responsibility for organising the very successful Survivorship Conference. Unfortunately Cíara left us in January and we wish her every success in her new job. She continues to keep in contact and has volunteered to run in the Boyne Valley 10km for us alongside Rebecca, our administrator, and some of her friends.



*Childhood Cancer Survivors
Should Not Smoke at Any
Time in Their Lives*

Mission The Boyne Research Institute is a community-based research facility that conducts research directed towards a better understanding of the origins and prevention of birth defects and the long term consequences of cancer during childhood. www.boyneresearch.ie

2012 Staff of the Boyne Research Institute

Rebecca Lawler, administrator/researcher.

Julianne Byrne, director of the Boyne Research Institute is an epidemiologist.

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Recommendation

One 400 microgram tablet of folic acid taken every day by all women who are capable of becoming pregnant will prevent many cases of neural tube defects. Folic acid may also help prevent miscarriages.

The Flora Women's Mini Marathon



Caoimhe McQuillan one of last year's summer students is running the Flora Women's Mini Marathon in June for the Summer Student's Programme of BRI. If you would like to run for us contact

Rebecca Lawler for more information (admin@boyneresearch.ie).

2012 Summer Student Programme

The Boyne Research Institute will once again host a summer training programme for two Leaving Cert students in Drogheda-area schools. Following an application and interview, two students will be selected (usually one male and one female). The summer student programme provides the students with work experience within a research environment. They will gain experience in database management, presentations, critical thinking and writing. The students will complete a research project of their own which will hone their skills in research. At the end of the programme the students use their presentation skills to present their project to an invited audience. This year we wish to encourage applications, not only from students considering careers in academic subjects such as medicine, science or engineering, but also from students in applied or vocational tracks.

The Boyne Valley 10K Run

We are looking for friends of the Boyne Research Institute to run in this event to support our research. The event is being held on Sunday 6th May 2012 at 3 pm. See www.boyne10k.ie for more information. The Boyne Research Institute is working on projects in Ireland and across Europe intended to give us a better understanding of the health status of survivors of childhood and adolescent cancer, and to help survivors maintain optimal health and quality of life. A core group of enthusiastic runners has already signed up. Please join us for a great day out and to help with a good cause. Contact Rebecca Lawler for more information (admin@boyneresearch.ie).

Annual reports of the Boyne
Research Institute
are available at

www.boyneresearch.ie/annualreports.html

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