



Don't Forget Prevention

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.

Annual Reports

Annual reports of the Boyne Research Institute are available at: <http://www.boyneresearch.ie/annual-reports.html>



Thirteenth PanCare Meeting, Wroclaw, Poland, 2014

The meeting was held in the modern Radisson Blu hotel in Wroclaw, a city of approximately 600,000 that was 75% destroyed by 1945. Now it is almost completely rebuilt and many old churches and squares perfectly restored. The meeting heard that PanCare is now an official legal body in the Netherlands, charitable status is being sought and the board is in place. Next steps will be to set up a payment mechanism on the website (www.pancare.eu) for membership fees. Highlights included sessions with a number of excellent presentations on late effects from Polish colleagues and UK colleagues. The Polish presentations included a film about bone marrow transplant survivors climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro; UK presentations were from PhD students in Birmingham who carried out preliminary analyses of data from PanCareSurFup.

PanCareLife

PanCareLife consortium (*see above photo*) completed a successful consortium meeting in Mainz, Germany on the 16th - 18th June 2014.

Pan Care Meeting, Dublin, May 2015

It has been confirmed that an upcoming PanCare meeting will take place in Dublin from the 27th - 29th May 2015. It will be the first time that a PanCare meeting will be held in Ireland. Representatives of PanCare from all over Europe - epidemiologists, paediatric oncologists, psychologists, survivors and parents and representatives of survivor organisations will be in attendance.



Thirteenth PanCare Meeting, Wroclaw, Poland

Thank You

We thank the Boyne Research Foundation, the Gary Kelly Foundation and the Drogheda Credit Union for their generous donations towards the Summer Student Programme. This support enables gifted students entering their first year in college in September to gain unique experience in a research environment.



2014 Summer Student Programme

Each year the Boyne Research Institute offers a summer training programme to two Leaving Certificate students in Drogheda-area schools. Each student identifies a different topic, carries out a research project and prepares a formal Powerpoint presentation. They present their work at a reception for an invited audience, including representatives of Drogheda Borough Council and Board members. This year the reception will be on the 7th of August.

Emily Crilly

"I have just completed my Leaving Certificate and I'm hoping that next year I might be studying either Medicine or Biomedical Engineering, however only time will tell! I have learned so much here so far and I am excited to continue with this learning over the coming weeks. My project title is 'Ototoxicity in Childhood Cancer Survivors' and a topic I find thoroughly interesting. I get to spend time looking into things I wouldn't have had any knowledge of were it not for this programme. It's a total change of scenery from my life with horses, sport and music, and overall I'm finding the whole experience rather enlightening!"



Aisling Molloy



"I am a past pupil of Our Lady's College, Greenhills and have just completed my Leaving Certificate. It was during my 6 years in Greenhills that my keen interest in science developed. During Transition Year I participated in numerous science competitions including the BT Young Scientist, Sentinus and the Intel Sci-fest competition. Next year, fingers crossed, I will be studying either science with teaching in NUI Maynooth or primary school teaching. Working here in the Boyne Research Institute has been an incredible experience. Each day I am developing new skills and discovering new knowledge, especially in relation to my project entitled "Fertility Preservation in Male Childhood Cancer Survivors". Quite a change from outside of work when I enjoy jogging, cycling, tennis and basketball."

Welcome to our new Staff Member



Helen Campbell joined the Boyne Research Institute as research assistant in March 2014. She has worked in research and manufacturing in the pharmaceutical sector in the UK and Ireland. A native of Bettystown, Co. Meath, she has an MSc in protein chemistry from UCC and a BSc in Biotechnology from DCU.

Helen assists the director by providing support and management expertise to the PanCareLIFE project. In her role as part of the management team, Helen is in regular contact with our many partners across Europe; she attended the PanCareLIFE Consortium meeting in June. When not in the office, Helen is kept busy with her family, including three young children but always finds time for long walks on Bettystown beach.

RECENT PAPERS FROM BRI

Terenziani M, Spinelli M, Jankovic M, Bardi E, Hjorth L, Haupt R, Michel G, Byrne J on behalf of the PanCare Network. *Fertility preservation practices among European paediatric onco-haematologists*. In Press, [Pediatric Blood & Cancer](#), 2014.

Colleagues from PanCare, representing various European medical institutions, headed by Dr. Terenziani from the Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori in Milan conducted a survey across Europe to determine what was done to inform children who were newly diagnosed with cancer about the risks of impaired fertility arising from some cancer treatments. We have very little information on the practices within hospitals, between hospitals and between European countries about fertility preservation practices. We found that all doctors responding to the survey recommend that sperm be stored frozen from boys who were old enough to produce sperm. Some also advised girls to freeze ovarian tissue.

What newly diagnosed patients actually did regarding fertility preservation was not covered by this survey. We plan to carry out more surveys to find out more about fertility preservation and barriers to preserving gonadal tissue at the time of diagnosis.

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

2014 Staff of the Boyne Research Institute

Dr. Julianne Byrne, CEO.

Helen Campbell, research assistant.

Rebecca Lawler, administrator/researcher.

Rosaire Kelly, volunteer.

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