

Minutes
Research Subgroup of Expert Advisory Group
1st May 2020, 4pm (by telecall)

Present: Colm Bergin (Co-Chair), Cliona O’Farrelly (Co-Chair), Mark Ferguson, Mairéad O’Driscoll, Ana Terres, Ivan Perry, Stephen Kinsella, Ivan Perry, Orla Feely, Sarah Gibney, Teresa Maguire, Siobhán O’Sullivan.

ITEM	Discussion	ACTIONS
1.	Draft Minutes from 28th April 2020 -Reviewed and approved	
2.	Members wish to publish minutes on website	CB to discuss with EAG Chair
3.	Conflict of Interest Declarations - None declared	COI to remain an active agenda item on all meetings
4.	Membership - Suggestions for additional membership from social care/community care research were previously circulated. It was agreed that any decisions would be paused until the next meeting where the REAG would conduct a self-assessment	A discussion on the future working role of the group at next meeting and a discussion on additional membership will follow
5.	Collation of government & NPHEG Sub-Group research priorities - A collated document with research areas identified by NPHEG subgroups and Government departments was circulated in advance of the meeting - The group received an update on information provided: some NPHEG subgroups have not contributed information yet but the SOS will follow up - Medicine’s criticality group have noted the issue of medicine supply chains	
6.	Research areas of SFI & HRB funded projects - An update on the number of applicants to the SFI call was provided, and an overview of the SFI funded projects - The group received an overview of the HRB funded projects and themes - The research HIVE established by D/Taoiseach was discussed as a research repository (where REAG can input and can learn about work required or on-going elsewhere) - The role of a COVID-19 research registry was raised. Hosting options and intensity of effort were discussed. Keeping a registry	

	<p>of robust and up-to-date projects was noted as a challenge. Trial registries, publication of trial protocols (a condition of many funding agencies and the HRB Open website was noted as alternative sources of information. This, along with a summary from the NREC/LREC repository and lists from funding bodies was suggested as a pragmatic alternative to a national registry. It was noted that D/Taoiseach had also previously considered but ruled out a national repository for the same reasons discussed by REAG and are supporting information sharing through the HIVE instead.</p>	
7.	<p>Research Priorities Document</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The group received an overview and discussed the current version - Some changes were suggested by members - The group discussed the process - how to bring it forward - including bringing forward a business case, and possible steps internal and/or external to the Department of Health - The inclusion of a short ‘abstract’ was suggested and to include; key questions globally, and for Ireland, the requested funding and how it will be used to answer these questions - A focus on the purpose and the ask was reiterated - Providing feedback to other Departments was noted as important, prior to submitting to EAG and NPHE - The three-fold role of principal investigator-led research, research co-ordination, and research infrastructure was reiterated by the group - Public health infrastructure investment was noted - The group discussed the strategic pitch of the document as being a co-ordinated response to relevant research questions that are needed to address and support recovery in the medium term - The group agreed that the document contains research themes rather than priorities and the terminology should reflect this - The time horizon for the funding sought 	<p>A short abstract to be drafted</p> <p>Paper to be renamed</p> <p>Review table to ensure that it is reflective of examples of issues submitted from various sources and reads as indicative agenda/themes rather than a priorities list.</p> <p>The Chairs will co-ordinate input to finalise the document.</p> <p>SOS to circulate paper to Government departments (Monday) Submit paper to EAG (Wednesday) Include Departmental feedback as appropriate and submit to NPHE on Thursday (for Friday)</p>

	<p>was discussed and it was agreed that investment is over 3 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The HSE perspective (and communication with same) was noted as important to include in the document, and in any future steps - The group agreed that Departmental themes should be reviewed and reflected in the document 	
8.	<p>Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The group received an update on the research funding announcements made this week. 	Communications to be discussed at the next meeting
9.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A query was raised as to the status of the clinical trials paper, which was tabled at EAG, and if the paper had been revised following feedback from the Medicines Criticality Subgroup. - A member asked if the paper was tabled and discussed at NPHE. - The co-chairs noted that the process of operationalization commenced through the HRB has been informed by all comments and feedback. However, the original paper was not revised. - The HRB are at the advanced stages of drafting a process, taking into account the advice of the REAG, EAG and feedback from Medicines Criticality subgroup. This will be shared with the Research Services & Policy Unit in the D/Health for feedback prior to being issued. - The document setting out the operational process will be circulated to all for information 	The paper on clinical trials which was tabled at EAG will be circulated to the group for reference