

Minutes  
**Research Subgroup of Expert Advisory Group**  
**15<sup>th</sup> May 2020, 4pm (by telecall)**

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

Apologies: Teresa Maguire.

ITEM	Discussion	ACTIONS
1.	<b>Draft Minutes from 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b> -Reviewed and approved	
2.	<b>Conflict of Interest Declarations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- COF (Co-Chair) noted that she was a speaker at the Geary Institute of Public Policy Crisis Response Series on the subject of testing.</li> </ul>	COI to remain an active agenda item on all meetings
3.	<b>Update on Research paper</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NPHEH sub-groups have provided feedback and further returns are expected next week</li> <li>- Government Departments received the paper via D/Taoiseach and several Departments sought clarification on the purpose and origin of the paper.</li> <li>- Some returns have been received as of 15<sup>th</sup> May and more are expected next week</li> <li>- Feedback from DBEI was noted, with an emphasis on economic recovery</li> <li>- The link between health and the economy was discussed by the group.</li> </ul>	Groups to receive a reminder for returns next week
4.	<b>Update on Clinical Trials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An update on the WHO solidarity trial was provided to the group in terms of contracts, operational delivery model and related issues</li> <li>- the EAP programme for remdesivir was discussed</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	
5.	<b>Update Testing/Serology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An update on testing was provided to the group in terms of a national approach that will be considered, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) strategic direction for testing and including prior input from REAG,</li> <li>b) public health utility of testing, and</li> <li>c) operations</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
6.	<b>National COVID-19 biorepository</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A phased approach to developing, co-</li> </ul>	

	<p>ordinating and planning a national approach was outlined by a member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Engagement with Community Health Organisations (CHOs) was noted by one member</li> <li>- A member noted that the need for a national co-ordinated approach and accompanying fund for biobanking is raised in the research paper and how the broader paper and the specific biobanking papers sit together is important</li> <li>- Members stressed the importance of this being a strategic high-level paper</li> <li>- Funding sources were discussed</li> <li>- A paper was circulated by a member on value in research with reference to this item (<a href="https://www.bmj.com/content/369/bmj.m1847">https://www.bmj.com/content/369/bmj.m1847</a>)</li> <li>- Minimising waste by co-ordinating existing efforts was noted</li> <li>- The current approach to minimising waste (including avoiding duplication and raising quality) that is being taken by the HRB, and the HRB membership of Ensuring Value in Research (EVIR)) was noted.</li> </ul>	<p>The group will review the paper and discuss it at the next meeting</p>
7.	<p><b>Communication</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The approaches taken by other NPHEP sub-groups were discussed.</li> </ul>	
8.	<p><b>Self-evaluation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A member noted that process of self-reflection is underway for all NPHEP sub-groups in May.</li> </ul>	<p>Self-evaluation will continue at the next meeting.</p>
9.	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CB noted a letter received via Colm Henry</li> <li>- The group noted that the commenting on individual studies or proposals is outside the ToR of the group</li> </ul>	<p>Chair will reply on behalf of the group</p>
10.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A member provided a translated note on a study in Spain equivalent to the SCOPI study in Ireland.</li> </ul>	