

Minutes  
**Research Subgroup of Expert Advisory Group**  
**28 April 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, Orla Feely, Sarah Gibney, Teresa Maguire, Siobhán O’Sullivan.

ITEM	Discussion	ACTIONS
1.	<p><b>Draft Minutes from 24 April 2020</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Reviewed and approved subject to one inclusion under Agenda item 4: “An appropriate research response would require significant public health investment”</li> <li>-Group discussed format of minutes.</li> </ul>	Minutes to be amended.
2.	<p><b>Conflict of Interest Declarations</b></p> <p>Two members are SFI grant co-applicants</p>	COI to remain an active agenda item on all meetings
3.	<p><b>Collation of NPHEG subgroup and Government Department priorities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Priorities have supported SFI funding approach</li> </ul>	Summary report to be prepared from next meeting
4.	<p><b>Collation of HRB and SFI awarded grants and applications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Members noted that awards will be published on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April and accompanied by a public launch at Government Buildings</li> </ul>	<p>SFI and HRB awarded grants to be circulated for next meeting</p> <p>Report from funders of applications by research theme to be submitted</p>
5.	<p><b>National health COVID19 research registry</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NREC summary information can be provided to the group (and decisions are published on NREC website).</li> </ul>	Link with NREC re same
6.	<p><b>National data registry/Bio-resource</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Members raised the development of a COVID-19 patient registry and the group discussed infrastructure and resources and work ongoing in relation to governance and compliance</li> <li>-Work ongoing on the Health Information Strategy was noted in terms of data linkage</li> <li>-Sampling and research design issues, and biobanking as a core part of public health was raised</li> <li>- Connecting with current work in the system was noted for planning a co-ordinated approach</li> <li>-National epidemiological seroprevalence study was raised and discussed in terms of data linkage and a defined sampling strategy, and international approaches</li> <li>-A strategic and coordinated approach, and appropriate governance was noted as required</li> </ul>	<p>A short note on the seroprevalence study will be provided to the group</p> <p>Group to collate report on present hospital and university capacity for biobanking and focus immediate request for funding to patient registry and data sharing</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Overview of capacity and capabilities in the system was raised and discussed</li> <li>-CAO group have written to the DoH and others looking for support for a national resource</li> </ul>	
7.	<p><b>Research document</b></p> <p>The draft paper was discussed :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The importance of research to determine the impact of covid was reiterated</li> <li>- The public health perspective (research, infrastructure, and modelling) introduced to the document was outlined by one member</li> <li>- The role of research in terms of “readiness” for future pandemics was raised – “readiness” to be added to the tag line</li> <li>-The group discussed the funding requirement and international approaches</li> <li>- The group discussed an approach to supporting Departments to consider areas for investment</li> <li>-One member highlighted the value of the “principles” of investment in the paper</li> <li>-The group noted that high-level level areas and rationale for investment in research is required</li> <li>-The capacity and role for research and policy evaluation across Government was noted by one member</li> <li>-The group agreed to highlight the role of research to inform public policy and adopt a pragmatic approach to the submission of a high level paper and invite further discussion</li> <li>-Engagement with leads in Government Departments was noted and their contribution is to be reflected in the paper.</li> <li>- Government research priorities were noted and considered in the context of the NPHE structure and other Government structures</li> <li>- Innovation 2020 was noted by a group member in terms of responding to the priorities identified by the group.</li> <li>- A high level approach was endorsed by all</li> <li>- Group discussed optimal feedback mechanism from NPHE and EAG</li> </ul>	<p>Finalise the paper for Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May and discuss dissemination.</p> <p>Item to carry forward to next meeting.</p>
8.	<p><b>Group review and self-assessment</b></p>	<p>Item to carry forward to next meeting.</p>
9.	<p><b>Group response to Medicine Criticality Subgroup correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The group received a brief update.</li> </ul>	<p>The Chair will circulate a written update to the group.</p>

		Item to carry forward to next meeting.
10.	<b>AOB</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Membership was discussed to reflect social care perspective and an approach is to be agreed next week</li><li>- The planned coordinated mechanism for trials was noted as a future process to be available shortly.</li></ul>	Item to carry forward to next meeting.