

Minutes
Research Subgroup of Expert Advisory Group
7 April 2020, 4pm (by telecall)

Present: Colm Bergin (Co-Chair), Cliona O'Farrelly (Co-Chair), Mark Ferguson, Mairéad O'Driscoll, Ana Terres, Teresa Maguire, Siobhán O'Sullivan, Orla Feely

ITEM	Discussion	ACTIONS
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft Minutes from 31 March 2020 agreed. - Draft minutes from 3 April 2020 not circulated yet so will be reviewed at next meeting 	Draft minutes from 3 April to be circulated for review
2	<p>Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Chair welcomed Orla Feely to the subgroup - OF noted that while she was representing the VP Research in Universities on this subgroup, she could provide inputs and linkages from her involvement in other bodies, as appropriate - The subgroup noted that that representation from public health research representation and/or social science/community healthcare research would be appropriate. 	All to circulate possible names for discussion
3	<p>Conflict of Interest Declarations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SOS noted that the NPHEAT Secretariat had requested summary information on all groups and subgroups including ToR, membership list and signed COI forms - TM to circulate COI declaration forms 	TM to circulate ToR and governance structures for covid-19/NPHEAT to all members; All to complete COI declarations and return to TM
4	<p>Clinical Trials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As discussed at previous meeting, MOD had circulated a document setting out a process with a single point of entry to support the subgroup in our assessment and subsequent recommendations to NPHEAT for national priority trials; - It was agreed that while Clinical Trials has been identified as a priority, there is merit in delineating what we mean by important or priority trials under this heading (but on the understanding that this would not go down to the level of individual trials or studies); MoD agreed to send a further short paper around for review 	<p>TM to forward this paper to OF and all to review and provide comments</p> <p>MOD to circulate draft process for assessment/recommendations on national priority trials</p> <p>MoD to develop a second related paper on what the group means by important trials</p>
5	<p>Serology/Immunology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CB thanked all for submitting their comments/feedback - The paper had been reviewed and accepted by EAG - The issue was discussed (but the paper was not tabled) at NPHEAT - CB and SOS provided feedback on the NPHEAT discussion- in the coming days the Chair of the EAG in discussions with HPSC and Chair of the Evidence Subgroup will consider how best to take infection and serology testing forward. - The paper submitted to the EAG will form part of these deliberations - It was noted that the interim group that produced the paper would now be stood down 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was acknowledged that this remains a priority area for research investment - MF noted that SFI had received a number of applications for serology/immunology studies and review is on-going. - MoD noted that the HRB call was due to close the following Thursday; that interest and engagement was high with 250 active accounts on the online application system (not all will apply); MoD will provide an overview at a further meeting setting out numbers and high level areas of focus. 	MF and MoD to update on research calls at meetings as appropriate
6	<p>NREC Covid-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TM and SOS provided update; NREC is ready to go live for applications and it is hoped that Dept Taoiseach announcement might issue in the coming days to enable further and more detailed communication to the research community 	TM to keep all updated
7	<p>Infrastructure (Biobanks/registries/data sharing)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MoD highlighted that this is an area where funding applications are being submitted and there is a need to try to ensure a national and coordinated approach to investment/impact in preference to a fragmented institution by institution approach 	To be discussed at next meeting of this group
8	<p>Capturing NPHET priorities for research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - While EAG/NPHET has endorsed 5 priority areas for research proposed by this subgroup (Clinical Trials; Serology & Immunology studies; Biobanks; Registries and data; virus sequencing), it is important to collate priority research areas at a high level from NPHET and its subgroups. SOS will draft a brief communication from our subgroup and send to all of the NPHET subgroups before the end of the week. - This is important for our own deliberations but will also be important to submit into the HIVE portal being developed by Dept of the Taoiseach. 	SOS to send request to all NPHET subgroups
9	<p>Communications</p> <p>CB noted that the CMO had asked him to attend some of the press briefings to discuss research</p>	All to think about the key messages around research that this group thinks are important- also need to think about process for communicating up and out

Date of Next Meeting: Friday 10 April at 4pm (Telecall)