Areas covered

• The research context in Ireland
• Current situation
• Awareness-raising efforts
• Next steps
The research funding context in Ireland - agencies

Emergence of a multi-agency environment in Ireland

Health research specific funding
- HRB est.
- HRB/Wellcome Trust Matching Funds Arrangement
- HRB/HSE/Wellcome Trust CRF Funding

General Research Funding
- Enterprise Ireland
- Science Foundation Ireland est.
- Marine Institute, DAFF

University Infrastructure Funding
- PRTLI 1
- PRTLI 2
- PRTLI 3
- PRTLI 4
- PRTLI 5

HRB Budget
- €2M
- €5M
- €12M
- €20M
- €40M
- €50M
- €42M
The research funding context in Ireland - relationships

Relationship between government dept and research funders

**Government Departments**
- Department of Health & Children
- Department of Education & Science
- Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment
- Department of the Environment
- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food

**Funding flows**
- Health Research Board
- Funding Councils (IRCSET, IRCHSS)
- Higher Education Authority
- Enterprise Agencies (IDA, EI)
- Science Foundation Ireland
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Marine Institute
### 2008 expenditure on health-related research by Irish agencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Funding Provider</th>
<th>Total R&amp;D expenditure</th>
<th>Health-related research expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>€000</td>
<td>€000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Research Board</td>
<td>42,723</td>
<td>42,723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science Foundation Ireland</td>
<td>160,138</td>
<td>53,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Services Executive</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Education Authority</td>
<td>132,677</td>
<td>57,749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Protection Agency</td>
<td>11,700</td>
<td>2,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Institute</td>
<td>11,020</td>
<td>947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRCSET</td>
<td>25,632</td>
<td>1,572</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRCHSS</td>
<td>12,500</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture, Food &amp; Fisheries</td>
<td>16,060</td>
<td>2,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept. Health &amp; Children</td>
<td>5,124</td>
<td>5,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enterprise Ireland</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>10,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Development Authority</td>
<td>47,258</td>
<td>26,441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>584,832</strong></td>
<td><strong>165,760</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Research integrity governance
The current situation

- No national investment in research governance:
  - ethics committee structures
  - research integrity governance
  - No relevant legislation
- No uniform set of policies and/or procedures in research performing organisations
- Some funding agencies require standards, others don’t
ICB survey of Irish HEIs 2010

Results

- All **Universities** have codes of practice in place
- Few **Institutes of Technology** currently have codes, but some looking at developing these
- Teaching hospitals tend to rely on the policies of their affiliated academic institutions
- Policy development very patchy in other voluntary and private hospitals
- Overall, policies differed in scope and content
- Investigation of misconduct *ad hoc* and not reported outside institutions
RI education in the Irish system

• Most universities with GRP policies incorporate training modules in GRP/RI into their structured PhD programmes
• No formal continuing development programmes for more senior researchers
• Policies on PhD Supervision/mentoring and some training in a number of Irish universities
• Overall, however policies not actively and widely disseminated among research personnel (on website, but not always public part)
Efforts to raise awareness
Funding-linked requirements

- **2008**: Health Research Board (HRB) developed a set of guidelines on GRP and Misconduct Investigation for all of their host institution – adopting these a requirement of funding.

- **Current**: Other agencies indicate that they would like host institutions to have such Guidelines but don’t make this a condition of funding.
Efforts to raise awareness
International participation

- **2008**: HRB participated in ESF Madrid meeting that proposed Research Integrity Forum
- Subsequently accepted Chairmanship of Working Group 3 (Governance structures)
- **2009**: HRB begin to participate in ENRIO meetings
- Irish Council for Bioethics participated in one ENRIO meeting (but was subsequently disbanded)
- **2010**: Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) have accepted invitation to participate in ENRIO
Efforts to raise awareness

Public seminars

- **2009**: Seminar on Research Integrity hosted jointly by the RIA, HRB, SFI, Higher Education Authority and Irish University Association
- **2010**: SFI have organised a 2 hour session on Research Integrity at their annual Science Summit in November
- **2011**: SFI, HRB and HEA will jointly organise a Research Integrity awareness-raising event
Efforts to raise awareness
Publications (2010)

- ESF RI Forum Executive Summary distributed widely among relevant stakeholders
- RIA published outcomes of Research Integrity Seminar in September (Ensuring Integrity in Irish Research: http://www.ria.ie/Our-Work/Policy.aspx)
Efforts to raise awareness
Media Coverage (2010)

- Irish Times, 3rd Sept: Dick Alstrom, Science Correspondent
  Protection against research fraud urged by Academy

- Irish Times, 23rd Sept: Conor O’Carroll IUA
  Research is nothing without integrity - it needs protection

- Irish Times, 27th Oct: Dick Alstrom, Science Correspondent
  Controls to prevent research fraud urged
Moving towards an RI governance structure

• **RIA recommendations:**
  • RIA would identify a panel of independent experts, with universities footing costs of investigations.
  • IUA will work to develop harmonised policies/guidelines

• **ICB recommendations:**
  • Establish an overarching national coordination body with localised, institutional implementation
  • Body would develop national definitions and standardised procedures for misconduct investigation
  • Hosted by Higher Education Authority so that education/awareness becomes an important part of process
Principles on which next steps should be based

- Build on structures and codes already development elsewhere – learn from others and don’t reinvest the wheel
- Ensure value for money – the country can’t afford an elaborate structure at the moment
- Work to achieve full stakeholder buy-in – further awareness-raising events, publications
- Start small (RIA) and work towards something more substantial and permanent (HEA)
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