



## CONTENT

Foreword by Prof. Eoin O'Brien, Executive Chairman of the Irish Skin Foundation	. 2
About the Irish Skin Foundation	. 4
About skin disease in Ireland	. 6
Events and awareness	8
Information, support and advocacy for people with skin conditions	. 12
Supporting medical providers	. 14
National Registry of skin disease in Ireland	. 16
Future collaborations and developments	18
Foundation Partners	19
Corporate supporters	. 20
Governance	. 23
Our Board	. 22
Finances	. 26



# FOREWORD BY PROF. EOIN O'BRIEN, EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF THE IRISH SKIN FOUNDATION



I am delighted to present our Annual Report and Review for 2011-14 to outline our work and our plans for the future.

### OUR WORK FOR PEOPLE WITH SKIN CONDITIONS

The Irish Skin Foundation was launched publicly in March 2013 after securing initial funding from the City of Dublin Skin & Cancer Hospital Charity (CDSCHC). We launched a new website to provide information to people with skin conditions, published our first disease-specific information booklet and organised a Skin Awareness Week. Our first Annual Family Fun Day for children with skin conditions at Barretstown was enjoyed by both parents and children.

In 2014 we moved to the Charles Institute for Dermatology in UCD, improved outreach by expanding our website and social media presence. We launched the ISF with public events and nurse clinics in Galway and Cork.

We attended the Allergy and Free-From Expos in Dublin and Cork, providing information, support and a one-to-one nurse clinic for people with eczema. Our second Annual Family Fun Day at Barretstown was a huge success and we met hundreds of people with skin conditions at the National Ploughing Championships. We also ran online awareness campaigns on psoriasis and urticaria.

We are working on our strategy for 2015-18 to develop a framework to provide more specialised information and support, build capacity for our nurse helpline, engage in advocacy issues and develop the ISF's National Registry of Skin Diseases.

#### **CHALLENGES**

Significant challenges exist for people with skin conditions in accessing dermatology services. The recruitment and retention of specialist physicians, the need for more dermatology clinical nurse specialists and lack of facilities and equipment are just three factors affecting services. Waiting lists have continued to grow with the result that many centres are inundated leading to unacceptably long waiting times for initial and urgent assessment.

The ISF is now working to develop a patient and services advocacy programme to influence policy, resource allocation and to address the geographical inequity which is a feature of dermatological services across the country.

#### RESEARCH and INNOVATION

In 2012 the ISF set about establishing the National Registry for Skin Diseases in Ireland, an exciting e-health initiative designed to integrate dermatological care provision, audit and research through the use of mobile information technology. This innovative project will be a patient-focused hub that will

ensure that technology will connect the different facets of the healthcare system to benefit patients with skin conditions throughout Ireland.

I would like to thank our Board for their continued commitment to the Foundation and also to thank our staff for their support and dedication.

Our thanks also go to our supporters, volunteers, Foundation Partners and other corporate supporters without whom we would not be able begin our work or plan to increase our future capacity. In particular, I would like to thank those who have taken their time to volunteer or share their personal experiences of living with skin disease.

Executive Chairman

## ABOUT THE IRISH SKIN FOUNDATION

The Irish Skin Foundation is a national charity with the purpose of supporting people with skin conditions. We provide information and support, engage in health promotion and disease awareness, engage in advocacy for people with skin conditions and fund community-based research projects. We are supported from several sources, which include individual donors, the CDSCHC¹, Foundation Partners and other corporate supporters.

To support in all ways possible, to advocate on behalf of, to educate all involved with and to bring comfort to those affected by skin disease in Ireland, their families and their carers.

#### **ORIGINS**

The ISF was established by the CDSCHC following the sale of the voluntary hospital on Hume Street, which had provided care and treatment to people with skin disease for almost a century from 1911-2006.

We are unique among similar organisations in Europe in that by merging the Psoriasis Association of Ireland, the Irish Eczema Society and the Melanoma and Skin Cancer Society, each of which is represented on our Board, the organisation now represents and supports people with every form of skin disease in Ireland.





Melanoma and Skin Cancer (MASC)

<sup>1.</sup> The CDSCHC has also funded (in partnership with UCD) the Charles Institute of Dermatology in University College Dublin and the refurbishment and equipping of the Charles Centre for Dermatology at St. Vincent's Hospital where the majority of patients once referred to the hospital on Hume Street now receive care. Both are named in honour of philanthropist Dr Andrew Charles (1880-1933), founder of the hospital on Hume Street in 1911.



Jeanette Brazel

Irish Eczema Society Board Member, ISF



**Caroline Irwin** 

Psoriasis Association of Ireland Board Member, ISF



**Dr Patrick Ormond** 

MASC Board Member, ISF

## ABOUT SKIN DISEASE IN IRELAND

Accurate statistics for skin disease in Ireland are virtually non-existent. This lack of local data impedes advocacy and hampers the development of evidence-based policy around dermatology services. Much of what we may say about skin conditions in Ireland is based on international population statistics and research.

The Irish Skin Foundation is committed to addressing this deficit of accurate information through the National Registry of Skin Diseases and through our contact with patients and their families at our public events and support group meetings and by providing a nurse helpline. We aim to improve patient outcomes by positively contributing to evidence-based public policy in dermatology.

Over one-third of the Irish population suffers from a skin complaint at any one time. The burden this places on individuals and society is frequently underestimated. Skin conditions are the fourth most common cause for GP visits in Ireland with over 2.2 million visits annually accounting for 15% of all visits

to a GP.

There are hundreds of skin diseases.
We may talk about them generally under two broad headings:

#### Inflammatory diseases (rashes) including:\*

- acne, eczema, hidradenitis suppurativa (HS), psoriasis, rosacea, and chronic spontaneous urticaria (CSU)
- infections caused by bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites
- autoimmune conditions including alopecia, lupus, pemphigoid and vitiligo
- hereditary diseases including epidermolysis bullosa (EB) and ichthyosis

#### Skin cancers (lesions):

- basal cell carcinoma (BCC)
- squamous cell carcinoma (SCC)
- melanoma

<sup>\*</sup>Some conditions may be considered under more than one sub-heading.

Ireland has one of the highest incidences of skin cancer in the world and the incidence of malignant melanoma has increased annually over the past twenty years with just over **8,000** new cases diagnosed in this country every year.

Psoriasis is one of the most common skin diseases in the world affecting around 2-3% of the total population, amounting to 140-210 million people worldwide.

Many skin disorders, such as eczema, are increasing in frequency; approximately one in five children and one in twelve adults have eczema.

Apart from these common skin conditions there are many other diseases, such as acne, rosacea, and fungal infections that effect large numbers of people. There are also rare and distressing diseases, such as ichthyosis, a genetic skin disorder.



## 1. EVENTS AND AWARENESS

We organised events to introduce the Irish Skin Foundation to people with skin conditions. We estimate that the ISF reached over 2,500 members of the public through these events and we now have over 800 people with an interest in skin conditions registered for our newsletter and this figure is growing rapidly through the use of social media, national activities and engagement with our website.

#### **Key Activities 2013-14**

#### 1.1 Dublin - National Launch 2013

The public launch of the ISF was marked by the opening of an exhibition entitled Skin: An Artistic Atlas in the Royal Hibernian Academy in March 2013. A series of skin-related talks, delivered by engaging researchers and physicians, accompanied the exhibition.

#### 1.2 Skin Awareness Week 2013

In November we received national coverage for a Skin Awareness Week which was accompanied by a day of public talks at St. Stephen's Green Centre on psoriasis, rosacea, acne, skin cancer and stress management. A free one-to-one nurse clinic was also provided; this clinic was in such demand that we include it as a feature of our public events.

#### 1.3 Galway and Cork Launches 2014

We launched in Galway in July 2014 and in Cork in November 2014 with skin awareness events, talks, question-and-answer sessions and workshops. Our talks included the patient perspectives on psoriasis, eczema management, sun safety and healthcare rights. One-to-one nurse clinics and consumer exhibits of dermacosmetics were available to attendees

## 1.4 Allergy and Free-From Expo 2014

Jeanette Brazel provided eczema advice at the Allergy and Free-From Expos at the RDS Dublin in October and Cork City Hall in November 2014.

#### 1.5 National Ploughing Championships 2013 & 2014

The Ploughing Championships have a unique ability to draw over 270,000 attendees from all walks of life across Ireland. The ISF took at stand at this event, providing dermatology clinical nurse specialists each day to answer any questions the public may have had. The stand was listed as a top pick to visit by the Irish Farmers Journal.

## 1.6 Family Fun Day for Children with Skin Conditions 2013 & 2014

Such was the success of the ISF's first Family Fun Day for Children with Skin Conditions

at Barretstown, this day has now become an annual event on our calendar. Each year it provides a valuable opportunity for up to 30 children with chronic skin conditions and their families to meet, have fun and enjoy the wonderful amenities at Barretstown.

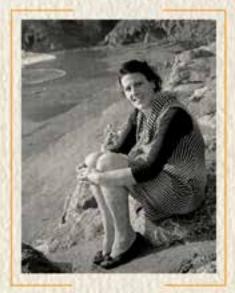
## 1.7 World Urticaria Day 2014 - On-Line Awareness Campaign

This international campaign raised awareness of Chronic Spontaneous Urticaria (CSU), a condition characterised by an itchy rash, which may persist for many weeks or more and may cause swelling of the lips, tongue or other areas of the body. The ISF teamed up with Novartis to create an online resource for people with CSU as a support and information resource, promoted through social media activity.

## 1.8 World Psoriasis Day 2014 - On-Line Awareness Campaign

The #SaySomething campaign launched, in conjunction with Abbvie, to mark World Psoriasis Day. It featured a short video highlighting the psychosocial impact of psoriasis and encouraging people with the condition to become involved in managing their psoriasis by speaking openly to their doctor about all of their symptoms.

A stunning black and white picture of ISF supporter Lisa O'Connor from Cork, by renowned photographer John Minahan, was entered into AbbVie's global competition Perspectives – Art, Inflammation and Me.



#### 1.9 IrishSkinFoundation.ie – Our Website

The Irish Skin Foundation website has continued to evolve and expand. It hosts all of our information and booklets on skin conditions while providing news and updates on campaigns. There are detailed sections on psoriasis, eczema, skin cancer, and rosacea.

Through association with the British Association of Dermatologists, information is provided on an A to Z basis for all skin diseases. The website encourages the promotion of general skin health and the prevention of premature aging of skin.

The website has been visited by over 43,000 unique users (March 2015) and is referenced for common inquiries coming to us via our increasing social media traffic. Our social media reach (March 2014) on Facebook was 1,600 and over 800 contacts on Twitter.



#### 1.10 Booklets & Publications

The ISF has published the following resources for people with skin conditions during 2013-14:

- What you need to know about Psoriasis - to help patients to understand psoriasis, the treatments available and daily tips for living with psoriasis
- Daily Care Information Leaflet for Eczema - This leaflet contains information on dayto-day management of eczema.
- Health Entitlements Fact
   Sheet information and useful tips on Applying for a Medical Card.
- Pan European Networks:
  Science & Technology Professor O'Brien was invited
  to write an article for the
  influential European magazine
  Pan European Networks:
  Science & Technology on
  the foundation of the ISF
  and its uniqueness in being
  representative of patients with
  all forms of skin disease and
  for its ambition to establish a
  Registry for Skin Diseases in
  Ireland

### 1.11 Eczema Project App 'Health Hack' Award:

In November 2014 at the **Connected Health & Me: The Patient Perspective** conference, held in Dublin Castle and attended by the Minister for Health Dr Leo Varadkar, the ISF was awarded the "Health Hack" award to design an app to assist patients with eczema. The project proposed is a collaborative venture between patients and the healthcare technology industry to find connected health solutions to patient dilemmas, challenges, issues and frustrations.

As the winning entry, the ISF Eczema App Project was awarded a €15,000 feasibility grant from Enterprise Ireland. This is a notable milestone for the ISF as the Eczema App will bring the ISF Registry project to a wide audience and also initiate involvement with industry through Enterprise Ireland. The team - Ms Jeannette Brazel, Ms Caroline Kelly and Dr Dmitri Wall - are to be commended on this achievement.





## 2. INFORMATION, SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY FOR PEOPLE WITH SKIN CONDITIONS

The experience and feedback from our events and over two years of contact with the public continues to inform the Foundation and assists in determining what people with skin conditions need.

## 2.1. Information and specialist support for people with skin conditions

Clear and accessible information about skin conditions are invaluable resources. Neither doctors nor patients are well served by the lack of a coordinated and connected national dermatology service that links primary care with specialist services for people with skin conditions. Waiting times to see dermatologists in public clinics are lengthy and vary greatly from one hospital to another. Against this backdrop the ISF has developed the following resources to assist people with skin disease.

### 2.1.1 Irish Skin Foundation Website

We are continuously improving and developing our website, which is our primary tool for reaching members of the public affected by skin diseases. We will continue to develop more content on health promotion, awareness and advocacy in the coming years.

#### 2.1.2 Awareness & Age-Appropriate Support Materials

There are hundreds of different skin diseases, some of which like psoriasis, eczema and melanoma are relatively well known while others like hidradenitis suppurativa (HS), chronic spontaneous urticaria (CSU) or bullous pemphigoid, are less so. Even though information may be available online or digitally, people with skin conditions, their families and carers will always require high-quality hardcopy information to help them to learn about and manage their illness. Children

and young adults also need more age-appropriate support materials around particular conditions.

#### 2.1.3 Irish Skin Foundation Nurse Helpline

The ISF has been managing an increasing number of telephone calls seeking assistance and advice on an ad hoc basis. It is clear that there is a need for a direct helpline staffed by specialist dermatology nurses. This will be a complex and costly undertaking but promises to be an invaluable resource for people with skin diseases.

Carmel Blake, Dermatology CNS, has been appointed Manager of Nursing Initiatives and will develop the new helpline, which will offer nurse-led advice for adult and paediatric queries. Initially the helpline will be a call-back service, but we hope to expand the capacity and extend the service in time. The purpose of the helpline is assist people with skin conditions by providing specialist advice of

a non-diagnostic nature. The ISF expects to inform its advocacy programme and contribute to the Registry of Skin Diseases in Ireland by providing basic demographic data on the prevalence of skin diseases in Ireland.

#### 2.1.4 Peer Support Groups

Peer support groups provide invaluable opportunities for individuals to receive and give support to others who face similar challenges. We have developed Support Group Guidelines emphasising empathy and encouragement around day-to-day management of skin conditions. Peer support aims to provide a nurturing place for individuals to share information, ask for help and engage in social activities.

## 2.1.5 Psychodermatology & Psycho Social Challenges to Chronic Disease Management

People with ongoing conditions will struggle with their mood and there is a high prevalence of psychological distress among people with moderate forms of skin disease. Psychosocial support for dermatology patients, which reduces anxiety and improves quality of life, has been shown to support

adherence to treatment, and to enhance self-management of skin disease.<sup>2</sup> The Irish Skin Foundation supports policies to deliver evaluated psychodermatology support to people with chronic skin conditions.<sup>3</sup>

#### 2.2. Advocacy

The ISF is building in-house skills and expertise to deal with the growing demand for advocacy on the many issues that confront patients with skin disease. These include timely diagnoses, access to specialist care, regulation, healthcare professional training, health entitlements and engagement with stakeholders.

As a national organisation with advocacy as an objective, the ISF has to be prepared to address advocacy issues. An Advocacy Sub-Committee with regional representation has been established under the chairmanship of Dr Marina O'Kane. David McMahon, Head of Advocacy & Communications and Chief Operating Officer, will develop an advocacy agenda and strategy in 2015 to tackle these issues on behalf of people with skin conditions

Dermatology services remain under-developed in Ireland and greater resources need to be allocated to the patient population. There are considerable financial implications of treating and managing a skin disease like psoriasis or eczema.. The Foundation therefore has a broad advocacy agenda which aims to:

- ensure a timely diagnosis
- promote public awareness and patient education
- improve access to treatment, medical specialists and medications
- improve quality of life for people with skin disease
- assist patients, caregivers and medical professionals in managing the burden of these diseases
- improve integration of people with skin conditions by dispelling prejudices, and all other forms of discrimination against people affected by skin disease
- support research for more effective treatments
- cooperate between other organisations pursuing equivalent aims

<sup>2.</sup> Lavda AC, Webb TL & Thompson AR (2012) A meta-analysis of the effectiveness of psychological interventions for adults with skin conditions, British Journal of Dermatology, 167(5), 970-979. 3. An example of such support is offered in Stanford University's Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (Better Choices, Better Health\* Workshop).

# 3: SUPPORTING MEDICAL PROVIDERS

### 3.1. Dermatology clinical nurse specialists

Consultant dermatologists need more nurses with higher qualifications in dermatology to expand and diversify services to patients with skin diseases. Unfortunately no diploma or degree courses are available for nurses in Ireland and nurses wishing to specialise in dermatology have to travel to the UK. This issue is a significant obstacle to the development of a career path for dermatology for nurses in Ireland. The ISF is working on proposals for basic courses in dermatology skills as well as examining the feasibility of establishing post-graduate diploma and degree courses in Ireland.

### 3.2 Foundations skills in dermatology

General practice and public health nurses would benefit from foundation dermatology skills in wound care, emollients. steroids and general knowledge about common skin conditions. This would ensure that nurses are better prepared to deal with common dermatology problems in community and primary care settings.

#### 3.2. Pharmacist education

Tesco, which is a Foundation Partner of the ISF, has identified a need for its pharmacists to be trained in the management of skin disease and the promotion of skin health. The ISF organised a successful evening of lectures for 12 pharmacists during August 2014 at the Charles Institute: this programme will be repeated and nurse advisory sessions in Tesco pharmacies are planned for the future. Pharmacists need to be familiar with the management of skin diseases and the promotion of skin health. The ISF will explore the feasibility of establishing a certificate course for pharmacists in dermatology.

#### 3.3. Dermato-cosmetology

There is a need to provide education for a variety of dermato-cosmetology services, such as laser treatment, tattoo removal and mole clinics, which are often practiced by personnel without adequate qualifications and with little or no regulation.<sup>4</sup>

## 3.4. Organisation of services based on patient data

The present lack of connected data between the various health care delivery bodies in dermatology (the patient, general practitioner, dermatologist, hospital clinics and the HSE) impairs evidence-based service planning. The lack of quality data negatively influences policy advances and thereby impedes service planning and improved health outcomes.

The HSE and Department of Health rely on international data or statistics extrapolated for Ireland to plan services. The ISF believes this is unacceptable, particularly at a time when health informatics routinely informs public policies internationally. By establishing a National Registry of Skin Disease, which has been recognized internationally as one of the most innovative and important projects in healthcare delivery ever undertaken in Ireland, we aim to address the data and information deficits. 4. These issues were recently discussed, amonst others, before the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Health & Children, 18th December 2014.

## NATIONAL REGISTRY OF SKIN DISEASES IN IRELAND

The National Registry of Skin Disease project was initiated in 2012 by Irish Skin Foundation to establish whether such a Registry might be of benefit in Ireland and, if so, how it might best be established.

Disease registries, also referred to as patient registries, are increasingly viewed as a means of providing accurate health information to enable the delivery of effective health care.

This project aims to deliver a national registry that can meet these demands in a genuinely patient-centred manner. This will be challenging because dermatology covers a vast number of conditions and is under resourced in Ireland, where medical records remain predominantly paper based.

To explore how a registry will meet these challenges a Registry Advisory Board was established and a research fellow, Dr Dmitri Wall, who is a trainee dermatologist, has been appointed by the ISF to work on this project over a two-year period, during which he is studying for his Masters in Health Informatics at TCD.

The expert Advisory Board comprises Professor Alan Irvine. Professor of Dermatology at Trinity College and Our Lady's Children's Hospital Crumlin, as Chairman, Professor Eoin O'Brien (Irish Skin Foundation); Mr Peter Lennon (Department of Health): Dr Howard Johnson and Dr Barry White (Health Service Executive): Professor Desmond Fitzgerald. (University College Dublin): Ms Eibhlín Mulroe, (IPPOSI); Dr Harry Comber, (National Cancer Registry): Professor Jane Grimson, (Health Information and Quality Authority): Professor Neil O'Hare, (National Integrated Medical Imaging System - NIMIS); Professor Brian Caulfield

and Ms Nicola Mountford (Applied Research for Connected Health – ARCH); Professor Barry Smyth and Professor Tahar Kechadi (Insight Centre for Data Analytics); Mr Godfrey Fletcher, (Cystic Fibrosis Registry of Ireland).

This group has considerable experience relating to the establishment of a registry, skin health, health informatics, data analytics, connected health and the Irish healthcare and regulation area.

The Registry will concentrate initially on three areas:

- (I) the provision of accurate data on rare skin diseases, such as Epidermolysis Bullosa eczema and rare manifestations of common skin diseases, such as treatment resistant eczema:
- (II) the provision of accurate data on the use of

phototherapy for conditions such as psoriasis, and

(III) the potential for influencing the practice of dermatology by the transfer of photographic images as part of an integrated connected health strategy in Ireland.

Ensuring that the patient is a central figure in the registry has meant that issues around informed consent, data protection and the secondary use of information are prominent considerations. By creating a registry that is embedded in clinical practice and developed to personalise a patient's experience, it will be possible to deliver immediate and tangible benefits to people with skin conditions. The registry will enable patients to make better use of their data and become more involved in the delivery of their own health care.



## 5. FUTURE COLLABORATIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

#### 5.1. The Charles Institute

The ISF is partnering with the Charles Institute on a number of projects including ways of bringing news of the scientific advances pioneered in dermatology research to society. Professor Martin Steinhoff, in his capacity as Consultant/Advisor on Translational Science to the ISF, assists the charity in all matters of scientific relevance and Professor O'Brien has been a joint applicant on research grants with Professor Steinhoff.

## **5.2** Strategy Development & Sustainability

As a new organisation, we must continue to develop a mandate to represent the dermatology community and remain focused on how our work can improve patient outcomes and quality of life. During 2015 the ISF will develop a strategy defining our objectives and organising our operations for the period 2015-18.

The sustainability of the charity into the future will be among these objectives and will require a range of funding initiatives to resource the charity over the next decade.

#### 5.3 IPPOSI

Our close association with IPPOSI will continue so that each organisation can explore the most appropriate ways of informing and meeting patient needs. The two bodies will continue to meet regularly and participate in joint ventures.

## 5.4 Appointment as Head of Advocacy& Communications

David McMahon has joined the Irish Skin Foundation as Head of Advocacy and Communications. This is a new management position aimed primarily at developing and coordinating several strategic activities for the charity, and secondly, leading the ISF's communications strategy to engage people who have problems with their skin. In particular, the ISF wishes to address dermatology service and facilities issues affecting patient care with government, the HSE and other bodies.



## 6: FOUNDATION PARTNERS

We would like to acknowledge with thanks the generosity of our donors and supporters. We are particularly grateful to our Foundation Partners, whose support has been essential for the charity in delivering the programme of public awareness and engagement activities since our public launch in 2013.



## 7: CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

We would also like to thank **GlaxoSmithKline/Steifel** for sponsorship of our Family Fun Day for Children with skin diseases in 2013 and 2014. The Irish Skin Foundation would also like to acknowledge the support of companies we have worked with since our establishment in 2011:

Celgene
La Roche Posay
Proderma
Johnson & Johnson
Dermal Laboratories
Galderma
Lilly
Avene (Pierre Fabre)
Pharmed
Omega Pharma
Pro Bono Bio
WaterSense Ireland



# 8: GOVERNANCE

The Irish Skin Foundation is committed to maintaining the highest standards of corporate governance. To provide transparency and ensure we reach the standards expected we have signed up to the organisation 'Type B' strand of The Governance Code for Community and Voluntary Organisations in Ireland and are on the 'Adoption Journey' to compliance with the code.<sup>5</sup> We are also in the process of complying with the ICTR Fundraising Code.<sup>6</sup>

Company Status:	Company Limited by Guarantee without Share Capital; Incorporated 2011
Company Number:	493784
Charity Regulatory Number:	20078706
Company Audit:	Auditors PricewaterhouseCoopers
Governance Code:	On the 'Adoption Journey' to full compliance as a Type B organisation
Data Protection Policy:	Policies in place
ICTR Fundraising Code:	Actively working towards full compliance
SORP 2014:	Adopting the SORP 2014 for 2015 and subsequent financial reporting

## **OUR BOARD**



**Patron: Fergus Slattery** 

Fergus Slattery is a former rugby union player who in representing Ireland earned 61 caps, 18 as Captain. He was a member of the Lions squad in 1971, again in 1974, and was Captain of the most successful Irish touring side ever in 1979. He was a member of the Irish Triple Crown-winning team in 1982. He was inducted into the International Rugby Hall of Fame in 2007. Fergus is now Managing Director of Fergus Slattery Property Investments.



**Executive Chairman: Eoin O'Brien** 

Professor O'Brien is a cardiologist and currently Professor of Molecular Pharmacology at the UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research. He is a leading authority in the field of cardiology and especially the pharmacology of blood pressure lowering. He has written a number of books on the history of medicine and recently authored "A Century of Service", which details the history of the City of Dublin Skin and Cancer Hospital. Professor O'Brien, who was Chairman of the Board since the foundation of the ISF resigned as a member of the Board in 2013 to take up the position of Executive Chairman. He continues to act as Chairman of the Board.



#### **Carmel Blake**

Carmel Blake is a registered general and paediatric nurse who has worked in dermatology for 19 years. She is currently practicing as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Tallaght Hospital, Dublin and is a registered nurse prescriber with an MSc in Dermatology. She is a member of the British Association of Dermatology Nurses and was involved in setting up the Irish Dermatology Nursing Association. Carmel Blake resigned from the Board in 2014 to take up the position of Manager of Nursing Initiative.



#### **Jeannette Brazel**

Jeannette Brazel is a parent of a child with severe eczema, and was Chairperson and Co-founder of the Irish Eczema Society, which for many years provided information, education and support to people suffering from or caring for patients with eczema.



#### **Paul Collins**

Dr. Paul Collins is a consultant dermatologist at St. Vincent's University Hospital and St. Michael's Hospital Dun Laoghaire. His special clinical and research interests include psoriasis, acne vulgaris and skin cancer. He is also a board member of the Charles Institute in UCD. Dr. Collins resigned from the Board in 2014 as the representative of St. Vincent's University Hospital and he has been replaced by Professor Brian Kirby.



#### **Professor Brian Kirby**

Professor Brian Kirby is a consultant dermatologist at St. Vincent's University Hospital. He has a special interest in psoriasis and joined the board in 2015.



#### **Alan Irvine**

Professor Alan Irvine is Professor of Dermatology at Trinity College Dublin and a consultant dermatologist at Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children in Crumlin and St. James's Hospital, Dublin. He has a special interest in children's skin disease, especially difficult eczema, birthmarks and genetic skin disease, and is a principal investigator in The National Children's Research Centre.



#### **Caroline Irwin**

Caroline Irwin, who suffers from psoriasis, founded the Psoriasis Association of Ireland when she returned to Ireland from living abroad and detected a need for support and information for patients with psoriasis.



#### **Fergus McKenna**

Fergus McKenna is a retired Director of Batchelors Foods and former President of the Irish Grocers Benevolent Fund. He lives in Blackrock, Co Dublin with his wife, Kathy. His interests include sport, travel and community welfare.



#### **Matthew O'Brien**

Matthew O'Brien is a civil engineer whose working life was largely spent in both the UK and Ireland on the design and supervision of capital schemes in the public health area, and on the management of associated services. He joined the City of Dublin Skin and Cancer Hospital Board in 1999 and was Chairman during the closure and sale of the hospital.







Dr. Marina O'Kane is a consultant dermatologist at Beaumont Hospital and Connolly Hospital, Dublin. Her areas of interest are severe psoriasis and dermatological surgery. She held positions as president and secretary of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland Dermatology Section and is a member of the HSE Dermatology Clinical Care Programme Advisory Group and HSE National Psoriasis Care Pathway Group.



#### **Patrick Ormond**

Dr. Patrick Ormond is a consultant dermatological and Mohs micrographic surgeon at St James's Hospital, Dublin. He set up the only Centre for Mohs Micrographic Surgery in the public health service in Ireland, and is also Chairman of the skin cancer expert group for the National Cancer Control Programme.



#### **Conor Sparks**

Conor Sparks is the Board's legal representative and Managing Partner of Gerrard L McGowan Solicitors in North Dublin. He is experienced in all areas of litigation, also practising in the area of Wills and Estate Planing, taxation and dispute resolution. He is a member of the Dublin Solicitors Bar Association, a Commissioner for Oaths and a Notary Public.



#### **Mark Wheeler**

Dr. Mark Wheeler is the Board's GP representative and a GP in North Dublin. Dr Wheeler has a special interest in dermatology in primary care and specialises in diseases of the skin. He is a member of the Primary Care Dermatology Society of Ireland.

## **FINANCES**

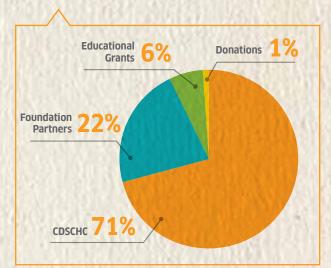
At present the Irish Skin Foundation is dependent on the CDSCHC for the majority of our funding; we are also very grateful for the support provided by our Foundation Partners and other corporate partners. We are not currently in receipt of state funding or significant donations from the public. In the coming years we must become self-sustaining by diversifying our income sources and engaging in fundraising.

In 2014 the Irish Skin Foundation had an income of €346,000 and expenditure of €391,000.

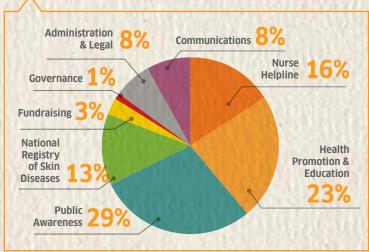
#### **Salaries Costs**

During 2014 staff costs and salaries were €203,000 or 52% of overall operating costs.

#### **Income 2014:**



#### **Expenditure 2014:**











April 2015