

Press Release

13 May 2003

Hepatitis C Past, Present & Future Conference Trinity College Dublin 25 – 27 June 2003

The Irish Haemophilia Society welcomes the major international conference on Hepatitis C to be held in Dublin in June. The Conference, which will highlight the scientific and medical advances in understanding and treating Hepatitis C and the challenge of living with Hepatitis C, takes place in Trinity College on 25-27 June 2003. The conference is being organised by the Consultative Council on Hepatitis C with the assistance of the Department of Health and Children.

Some of the world's leading experts on Hepatitis C will be presenting their research at the conference. Key international speakers include Dr Jay Hoofnagle of the US National Institutes of Health, Dr Mark Kaplan of the New York School of Medicine, Dr Peter Simmonds, University of Edinburgh and Dr Margaret Koziel of Harvard University. Well-known Irish researchers who will speak include Professor Dermot Kelleher, Trinity College, Dr Cliona O'Farrelly, St Vincent's University Hospital and Professor Kingston Mills, Trinity College. Brian O'Mahony of the Irish Haemophilia Society has agreed to chair a session during the conference. A number of speakers will share their experience of living with Hepatitis C. These include Bernard Smullen of the Irish Haemophilia Society, Paula Kealy of Positive Action, Vincent Banks of the Irish Kidney Association and a representative from Transfusion Positive.

Commenting on the conference Dr Ruth Barrington, Chair, Consultative Council on Hepatitis C said:

"This is a conference with a broad appeal. Whether you are a scientist exploring the coal face of knowledge, a clinician staying abreast of the research, a person living with Hepatitis C or someone responsible for health policy and services you will find the conference a source of exciting new ideas and insights into this disease, its treatments and its prevention."

New developments in the research, treatment and management of Hepatitis C will be discussed in a context that is accessible to all. The purpose of the conference is:

- To provide an opportunity to share the latest research findings relevant to the disease

- To emphasise the positive benefits of research to people with Hepatitis C
- To highlight best practice in the care of people with Hepatitis C
- To highlight alternative strategies in the treatment and care of those infected with Hepatitis C.

The conference will have two parallel programmes. The first is a programme with a clinical and research perspective and will be of particular interest to scientists and clinicians. The theme of the second programme is the challenge of living with Hepatitis C. This programme will explore the patient's perspective, the problems of co-infection with other diseases, new treatments for the disease, the stress of chronic infection and complementary health treatments. Some speakers will participate in both programmes.

The unique combination of state of the art plenary lectures, diverse workshops and the friendly Dublin atmosphere will stimulate discussion, exciting ideas and new insights into this disease.

For further information on this event please log on to :

www.hepc2003.com

or contact the conference organisers :
Project Planning International
Tel +44 (0) 28 9756 1993
Fax + 44 (0) 28 9756 5073

Email : hepc@project-planning.com

Irish Haemophilia Society
Tel: 01 8724466

Ends

Note to editors :

About the Consultative Council on Hepatitis C

The Consultative Council on Hepatitis C is a statutory body that advises the Minister for Health and Children on all aspects relating to Hepatitis C. The membership of the Council is representative of the persons who contracted Hepatitis C by the administration of blood or blood products, the health agencies responsible for providing services to those with the disease and the medical and research communities.

Conference Programme

The details of the conference programmes are available on the website
www.hepc2003.com