

ICC-CTN Newsletter

Welcome!

iccctn@ucd.ie



Irish Critical Care Clinical Trials Network

Welcome to the latest edition of our Irish Critical Care Clinical Trials Network newsletter.

We are thrilled to share exciting updates from across our network, where ongoing trials continue to make significant progress, and new trials are rapidly emerging across our key thematic areas. These efforts are a testament to our collective commitment to advancing clinical research and improving patient outcomes.

The ICC-CTN continues to prioritize the development of future trialists, recognizing that the next generation of researchers is vital to sustaining and expanding our impact. Our ongoing training programs and mentorship initiatives are designed to equip aspiring clinical researchers with the skills and knowledge necessary to lead the trials of tomorrow.

As we move forward, our Knowledge Exchange and Dissemination (KEDS) policy remains at the forefront of our mission. Through KEDS, we ensure that the valuable insights and findings from our trials are effectively shared with the broader scientific community, healthcare providers, and the public, facilitating informed decision-making and driving innovation in clinical practice.

We look forward to supporting the new PRIME Ireland programme launched this year and integrating this programme into our ongoing work. We are excited to continue the Federated Platform Trials initiative into 2025 with international collaborators (InFact and ISARIC) and continue to pioneer this with a global collaboration of trialists.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration this year

Take Care,
Alistair

on behalf of the ICC-CTN Executive

13th December 2024

Inside this issue...



2024 News
and
Activities



Spotlight
on...
Trialists of
the Future



Upcoming
Events and
Trainings



Current
Trials



Upcoming
Trials



THE FUTURE OF INTENSIVE CARE RESEARCH SHAPED BY LEADING IRISH CRITICAL CARE NETWORK

‘A critical care research network is shaping the future of intensive care medicine across Ireland, with increased patient engagement and global collaboration, preparing for future pandemics.’

Written by
Bethany Cooper

The ICC-CTN was featured in Media planets ‘Clinical Trials’ edition, distributed with the Irish Independent newspaper in March 2024 and launched on Health News. This piece featured the Pandemic Programme and highlighted the work the ICC-CTN are doing to advance intensive care patient outcomes. Additionally, this piece featured our PPI work, through which we engage with past critical care patients and their relatives to help improve research practices. We also featured in the Respiratory Health Campaign published today in the Irish Independent.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION AWARDS (KTAS)

This year our 2022 KTAs were completed, Our TAME- Translation KTA enabled wide dissemination of TAME results, enhanced TAME translation of results into clinical practice/public health policy through publication of Public Facing documents (PFDs) detailing the background and results of the TAME trial.

Our Pandemic Resilience KTA resulted in involvement in Pandemic preparedness stakeholder sessions at CTN, Prato and Toronto meetings. PFDs completed for completed REMAP- CAP domains and a global REMAP- CAP PPIE program was established. This KTA will lay the foundation for future preparedness and widely translate knowledge gained.

PRIME IRELAND

The PRIME Ireland APRO award was launched and established. PRIME Ireland will involve global collaboration and federation of trials, to design a more coordinated, rapid response for future pandemics.

PRIME Ireland
2024 NCTO International Clinical Trials Day 2024
O'Shaughnessy Hall, UCD
9 May 2024

Does Vitamin C Treatment Improve Hospitalised COVID-19 Patient Outcomes?

REMAP-CAP and LOVIT-COVID Trial Results | 25 October 2023

COVID-19 infection can lead to an overactive immune response ('inflammation') and blood clots in the small blood vessels which may lead to organ damage and death.

Vitamin C is an essential vitamin widely available in hospitals that has antioxidant properties (reducing inflammation) and can reduce small vessel clots.

Two clinical trials combined their results to assess if Vitamin C is beneficial in both critically ill and non-critically ill COVID-19 patients

REMAP-CAP
Randomised, Embedded, Multifactorial Adaptive Platform Trial for Community-Acquired Pneumonia

Vitamin C treatment:

- Did not improve Patient outcomes (survival or reduced organ failure)
- Probably worsened outcomes in both critically and non-critically ill COVID-19 patients

These two combined trials provide evidence that vitamin C should not be part of the current clinical care of hospitalised patients with COVID-19.

Read the paper in the Journal of the American Medical Association

Locations: >90 hospitals in 20 countries (Australia, Canada, Columbia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nepal, Pakistan, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Spain, USA and UK)

Patients: 2590 adult patients hospitalised with COVID-19 (1568 critically ill, 1022 non-critically ill). 63% male, 37% female, average age 61.

Treatments: Standard care (NO Vitamin C or Placebo) vs Standard care plus Vitamin C (high dose through an IV line/catheter)



We also participated in several conferences and meetings this year including **Critical Care Reviews 2024** and co-badged **TMRN TSC workshops**.

Our **Thematic meetings** are held monthly, with open invites sent to sites within our network. After a pause for the summer season, the Thematics resumed with a reformatted structure focusing on providing an educational and interactive resource.

Core team attended investigator meetings for **STEP CARE, ESsCAPE Biotest, PANTHER** and **PRACTICAL**.



ICC-CTN Summer Meeting

The annual ICC-CTN Summer meeting, Research Coordinators Group Meeting, and REMAP-CAP PPIE in person meeting was held at the Titanic Belfast in June.

The annual Research Coordinator Group meeting kicked off the day and RCs from national sites were in attendance to hear updates from the HRCDC, studies T4P and ARISE FLUIDS and Health Economics Analysis data from the TEAM study by international speakers. An in-person REMAP PPI meeting was also held and attended by national and international PPI members and coordinators involved in PPIE activities. Discussion included public perceptions of research, dissemination, ethics/regulatory and consent.

The annual ICC-CTN Summer meeting comprised three thematic sessions showcasing the diverse array of research areas, trial designs, and the talented researchers within our network. The meeting was a resounding success thanks to our fantastic local and international speakers, panelists and engaging audience.

The event featured some anticipated trials' results presentations and lively, thought-provoking discussions on key topics such as collaborative trials and methodology, strategies for boosting patient recovery, and the growing importance of platform trials. Additionally, sessions focused on Patient and Public involvement, SWATs, and the contributions of Early Career Researchers, highlighting the breadth and depth of innovation driving our collaborative efforts. The meeting underscored the dynamic and interconnected nature of our research community.

Save the date! Next year's summer meeting will be held in Belfast on the **10th of June 2025**. We hope to see you there.



ICC-CTN Work Package 4 – Clinical Trials / Trialists of the Future

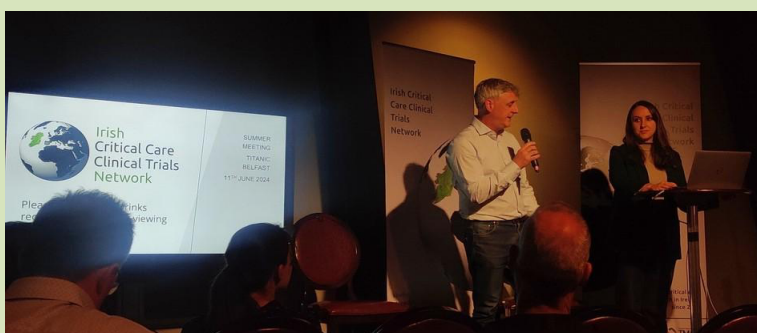
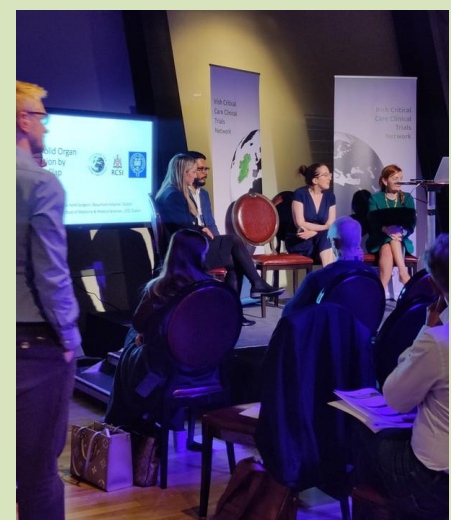
Our Clinical Trials, Trialists of the future work package focuses on cultivating the next generation of clinical trialists through a range of initiatives designed to support early career researchers (ECRs) and to create a pipeline of future trials in critical care.

A critical part of WP4 was the launching of the **ECR Seed funding awards (ECR-SFA)** in 2023. The ECR-SFA will run until 2026. Following the scheme's successful launch last year, the scheme was expanded to include ECRs in Allied Health and Trials Methodology, in addition to clinicians. This year we had 3 awardees who presented their projects at our annual ICC-CTN Summer meeting in Belfast: Dr Leona Bannon, Dr Yvelynne Kelly and Ms. Jenny Caffrey. We look forward to seeing these projects develop.

This initiative aligns with a major ICC-CTN WP4 strategic objective to be a centre supporting researchers and supports the development of future trialists in this field.

We are also progressing our mentorship program, providing methodological teaching, pathways to research degree opportunities, and developing a pipeline of early-phase studies led by new investigators.

Additionally, the CTN supports the newly proposed **Principal Investigator Training Programme PITP** scheme, which provides a structured mentorship program for NCHDs interested in research. The PITP scheme will be launched very soon.





Dublin
September
2024



Global Federated Platform Trials Meeting

The ICC-CTN hosted a 2-day workshop surrounding the Federation of Platform Trials in collaboration with InFact and ISARIC. Our vision is to create a world where patient outcomes are continuously improved through global research collaboration within a learning health system.

The hybrid meeting took place in the Museum of Literature Ireland, St Stephens Green Dublin city centre and saw researchers from the critical care field, mental health, infectious diseases, emergency response and beyond gather from across 5 continents of the world to discuss the future of platform clinical trials. Our mission is to build a collaborative, equitable and efficient global research ecosystem based on maximizing innovation amongst federated, platform and other clinical trials in acute care and health emergencies.

This mission originated from the COVID-19 pandemic and recognition from a number of networks and research bodies that there is a need for more effective research processes and methods.

The 3-day event also included a WHO Global Optimization of respiratory support collaboration meeting, an InFact meeting and a Platform trials meeting which saw a diverse range of platform trials present, namely PANTHER, PRACTICAL and REMAP-CAP.

Upcoming Events and Training

FEB
2025

BASIC courses will be held next February and March 2025 in Dublin. Research coordinator and Clinical research course registration will open shortly via our mailing list.

TBC

Trial Steering Committee workshop run by the HRB-TMRN and ICC-CTN will run again next year. Members are encouraged to attend and expand their experience as a TSC member. Observational memberships of TSCs are available after completing the course - please get in touch to learn more.

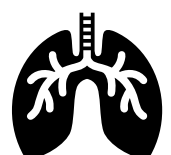
All
Year

Research Integrity – a reminder that RI training is required by all HRB funded staff and is provided through academic institutions. We encourage all our colleagues to have completed this.

“Refining, Performing, Predicting and Applying a globally integrated clinical research response for future pandemics in Ireland”.

PRIME Ireland is our new HRB funded Irish Clinical Research Programme designed to prepare Ireland for the next global pandemic. Within its framework, lies four clinical research studies; REMAP-CAP, SPRINT-SARI, GenOMICC and PANTHER coordinated across national and international ICUs aimed to describe epidemiology of severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) within Ireland, understand novel infections and host immune responses and ensure the Irish research environment is prepared to tackle future pandemics.

The programme will be applied through six work packages and includes engaging with maternity, paediatric and international hospitals as well as a body of work on improving acceptability and efficiency of trials through methodology and PPIE engagement, biosampling and translational research, the development of precision medicine approaches, increased support and engagement with ECRs, and the application of results into clinical practice.



Current Studies:

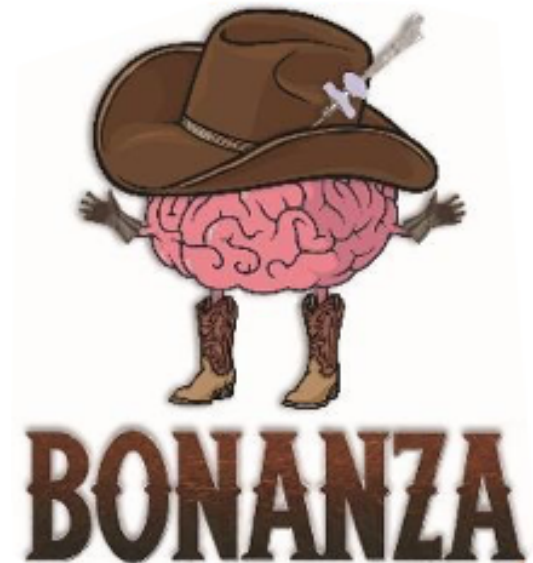


EPO-TRAUMA

EPO-Trauma has successfully transitioned to CTIS! Additional member states across Europe will be added early next year and two new Irish sites are currently in set-up. Recruitment is currently >30% globally, with the CTN coordinating European efforts. Beaumont Hospital and Cork University Hospital have together recruited 10 patients this year, and 27 in total. A big thank you and well done to both teams!

BONANZA

The **BONANZA** global trial is underway with sites recruiting and in set up globally. The ICC-CTN coordinates BONANZA in Ireland and various regions of Europe following a HRB DIFA award. Beaumont recruited the first ten Irish patients this year! Big thank you to the team for all their hard work!

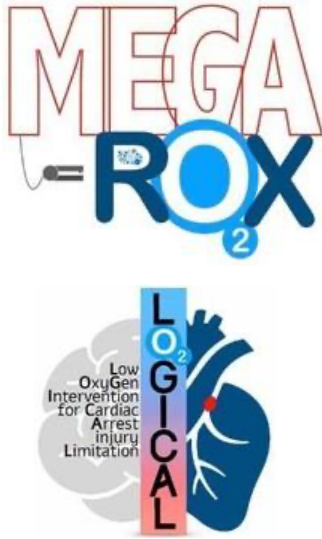


REMAP-CAP

New domains have been established within **REMAP-CAP** and will start in Ireland later next year. New results were analysed and presented at CCR for the Ivermectin, Simvastatin and Corticosteroid domains.

HRB funding continues to enable us to coordinate the trial in Ireland (Immune modulation in Influenza and Endothelial modulation in all CAP).

REMAP-CAP has transitioned to CTIS. SVUH recruited 3 patients this year to date, well done to all the team!



MEGA-ROX

Mega-ROX has been recruiting steadily in Ireland this year, with SVUH at 135 patients. The cardiac arrest sub-study LOGICAL has been completed in Ireland.

GENOMICC

GenOMICC will explore a number of infectious and life-threatening illnesses with the ICC-CTN at UCD becoming the coordination centre for this study in Ireland.



SPRINT-SARI

SPRINT-SARI has transitioned to a non-pandemic mode and data are now being collected on an annual basis by Irish sites. If your site would like to be involved, please let us know!



ARISE FLUIDS

ARISE FLUIDS has begun in SVUH, the first patient was recruited earlier this month. This trial runs in collaboration with the ED staff. Thank you to the team for all of their hard work! EOIs for this study will be circulated to sites nationally.



Please reach out if you want to express interest in these studies or learn more about our PPI activities

If you are interested in taking part in an industry study, please get in touch

Upcoming Studies:



Sedation, Temperature and Pressure after Cardiac Arrest and Resuscitation



Platform of Randomised Adaptive Clinical Trials in Critical Illness



Threshold for Platelets; A prospective randomised trial to define the platelet count below which critically ill patients should receive a platelet transfusion prior to an invasive procedure

REACT Shock RCT - Relative hypotension and Adverse Clinical outcomes among patients with Shock Randomised Controlled Trial



Precision medicine Adaptive Network platform Trial in Hypoxemic acute respiratory failure



ESsCAPE - Biotest- A randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blind, multi-center, phase III trial to assess the efficacy and safety of trimodulin (BT588) in adult hospitalized subjects with severe community-acquired pneumonia (sCAP)



SODium BICarbonate for Metabolic Acidosis in the Intensive Care Unit: A multicentre, randomised, double-blind clinical trial



Sedation Practice in Intensive Care Evaluation IV; Early Sedation with Dexmedetomidine in Older Ventilated Critically Ill Patients



Randomised trial of a supraglottic airway device versus tracheal intubation during in-hospital cardiac arrest



Wishing you a very Merry Christmas



And a Happy New Year!

