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Deputy Patricia Ryan
Dáil Eireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

Dear Deputy Ryan,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the following Parliamentary Question, which was submitted to this Department for response.

PQ 18538_22

To ask the Minister for Health if he will report on the investment by his Department in dementia research; and if he will make a statement on the matter

64,142 people in Ireland are living with dementia. That number is expected to rise to 150,131 within twenty years. The health and social care system will need to respond with more flexible and person-centred services and supports that address the needs of the growing number of people with dementia.

The National Dementia Strategy, published in 2014, sets out a framework for the development of dementia supports and services in Ireland. The aim of the Strategy is to improve dementia care so that people with dementia can live well for as long as possible, can ultimately die with comfort and dignity, and can have services and supports delivered in the best possible way.

Part of the implementation programme for the National Dementia Strategy was a HRB-Atlantic Philanthropies dementia/Alzheimer's research initiative (2015-2019). This funded research programme included:

1. *Applied Dementia Projects*

The Applied Research Projects in Dementia 2015 had the aim of supporting applied research projects in dementia in the following three areas - Organisation and delivery of dementia services; Management and decision making in dementia care; Social, economic and policy issues in dementia care. Proposals submitted to this scheme were asked to focus on question/s of clear strategic relevance and importance for Ireland and provide a compelling case as to why the work needed to be conducted now and in Ireland. Projects were encouraged to involve collaborations between researchers, health and social care providers, carers, voluntary organisations and other institutions, as is appropriate to the research topic. Applications that incorporated interdisciplinary and inter-professional approaches were particularly welcomed and applicants were asked to describe the likely transferability of research findings into recommendations for policy and/or practice.

In June 2015, five projects were approved for funding by the HRB Board (see highlighted in yellow in Excel spreadsheet) The projected cost of funding the 5 projects recommended by the international panel was approximately **€1.5 million**, which was within the budget amount projected in the Funding Agreement (€1.75m). One million was paid by the HRB.

2. *Research Leader in Applied Dementia*

The HRB also supported a Research Leader in dementia research (Prof Eamon O'Shea, National Centre for Social Research on Dementia (NCSR) NUI Galway) through funding of **€1.6 million**. Part of the purpose of

research leaders is to build capacity in a specific area within their university. AP paid €845K and the HRB paid €749K.

3. *SPHeRE Scholars*

Four SPHeRE dementia scholars were recruited to the SPHeRE Programme. The cost of the scholars was paid by AP; the HRB was paid for in-kind support through its SPHeRE programme. These scholars were based in the University of Limerick; University College Cork; Dublin City University and Trinity College Dublin.

4. *ICE Award*

Professor Anne Hickey, RCSI, was awarded an Interdisciplinary Capacity Enhancement Award under the HRB-AP partnership 2015, worth €572K for a study modelling and modifying the consequences of stroke-related cognitive impairment through intervention (The StrokeCog study).

The Health Research Board's (HRB) programme of applied dementia research, funded with Atlantic Philanthropies (AP) and supported by the Department of Health, had strategic relevance to the implementation of the National Dementia Strategy. It culminated in an event held in the Department of Health in 2019 and the proceedings can be accessed [here](#).

Regards,



Ms. Janette Dwyer
Assistant National Director,
Services for Older People, Change & Innovation