

# Research Integrity

## The Irish Case



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**11<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

Improving people's health through research and information



# Areas covered

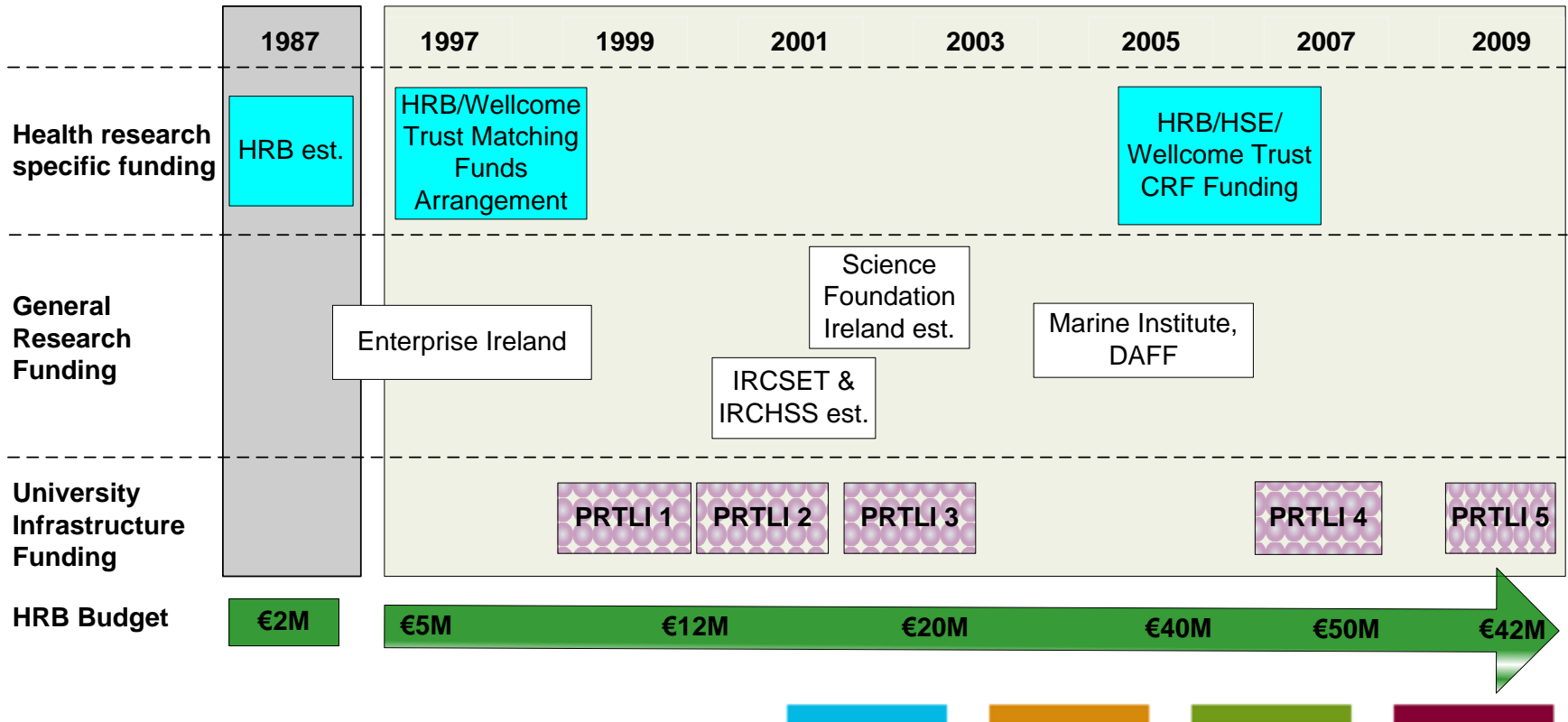
- The research context in Ireland
- Current situation
- Awareness-raising efforts
- Next steps





# The research funding context in Ireland - agencies

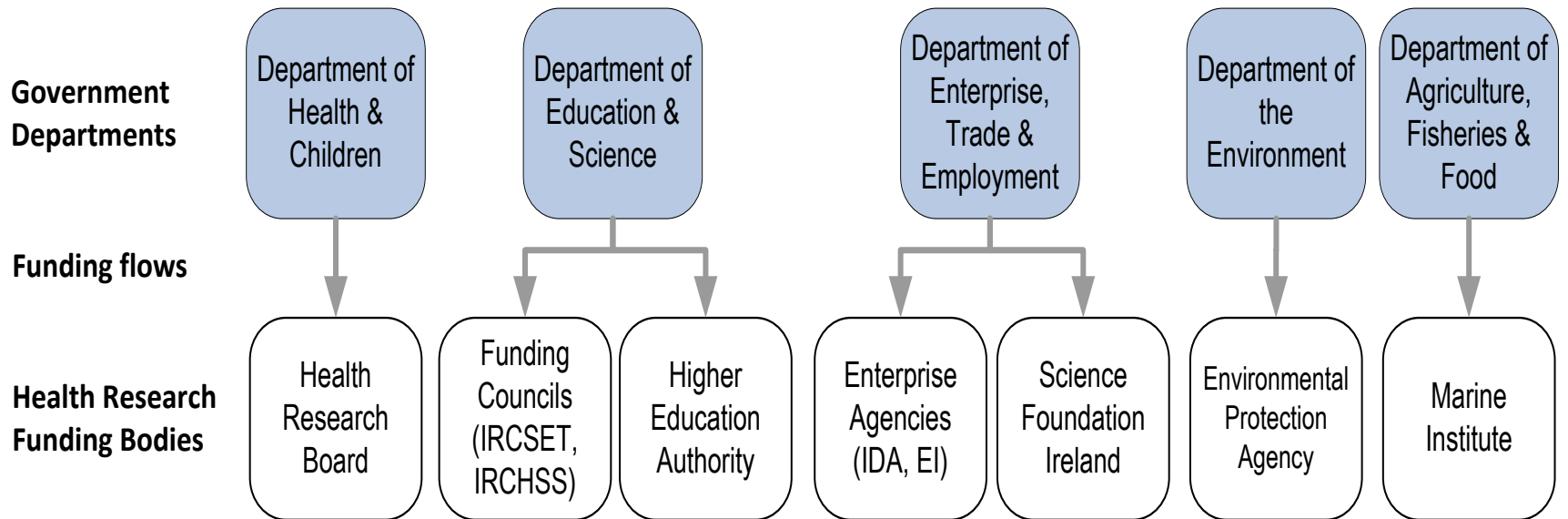
Emergence of a multi-agency environment in Ireland





# The research funding context in Ireland - relationships

Relationship between government dept and research funders

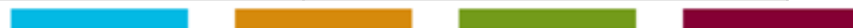




# The research funding context in Ireland - funding

2008 expenditure on health-related research by Irish agencies

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



# 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

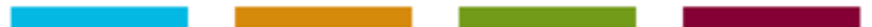




# Efforts to raise awareness

## Public seminars

- **2009:** Seminar on Research Integrity hosted jointly by the RIA, HRB, SFI, Higher Education Authority and Irish University Association
- Included speakers from ESF Research Integrity Forum
- **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>)
- Irish Council for Bioethics published the outcomes of a national survey and state-of-the-art review of research integrity policy and practice in Ireland and elsewhere – referenced ESF extensively (*Recommendations for Promoting Research Integrity*: <http://www.bioethics.ie/index.php/reports-and-opinions>)





# Efforts to raise awareness

## Media Coverage (2010)

- Irish Times, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept: Dick Alstrom, Science Correspondent  
*Protection against research fraud urged by Academy*
- Irish Times, 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept: Conor O'Carroll IUA  
*Research is nothing without integrity - it needs protection*  
<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/sciencetoday/2010/0923/1224279493287.html>
- Irish Times, 27<sup>th</sup> Oct: Dick Alstrom, Science Correspondent  
*Controls to prevent research fraud urged*  
<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2010/1027/1224282072069.html>





# 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)





# The research funding context in Ireland - relationships

Relationship between government dept and research funders

