



The Annual **UK Clinical Research Facility** (UKCRF) Network Conference was hosted by the Dublin Clinical Research Centre at Trinity College Dublin on July 5-6 this year. The Minister for Health, Dr. James Reilly, opened the meeting, which had its largest attendance in its eight-year history.

RCSI was very well represented at the meeting. At the plenary session **Prof Gerry McElvaney** presented work from his group on aspects of basic science of cystic fibrosis together with clinical data from the RCSI clinical research centre. **Elaine McHale** and **Professor Richard Costello** presented their work on nurse led education for asthma patients with the INCA device. The INCA device is a novel tool developed by researchers at TCD and RCSI, which tells when and how a person has used their inhaler.

John McCourt from the RCSI Clinical Research Centre presented his experience of a CRF Manager software package and how it has been implemented in a multi-site environment. This package has been developed at the Wellcome Trust CRF at Edinburgh. John has led the implementation of this software in the management, planning and scheduling of research studies in the CRCs at Beaumont, St. James, St Vincent's and the Mater hospitals.

Deirdre Hyland and **Professor Seamus Cowman** gave a presentation on the Professionalisation of Clinical Research Nursing in Ireland. They looked at developments within research nursing during the past decade from the perspectives of Education, Networking and Collaboration, and highlighted the unique opportunities research nurses have to engage as researchers in both independent and multidisciplinary research. **Professor Dermot Kenny** chaired the organizing committee and said "It was wonderful to see the strengths of RCSI in clinical research represented at an international level and to see the integration between basic science, clinicians and technology recognized by our peers in the UK"