

Mr. Pat O'Mahony

Chief Executive



Mr. Pat O'Mahony, M.V.B., M.V.M., A.M.D., M.B.A., M.R.C.V.S., is Chief Executive of the Irish Medicines Board, a position he took up in December 2002. Having spent a number of years in private veterinary practice and as technical manager in the pharmaceutical industry in Ireland and the UK, he worked in public health and was Director of Consumer Protection at the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.

Mr. O'Mahony is a member of the Management Board of the European Medicines Agency where he served as Chairman from 2007 to 2011. He is also a member of the Board of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland, the Irish National Accreditation Board and a member of the National Patient Safety Advisory Group.

Dr. Gabriel Beechinor

Director of Veterinary Medicines



Dr. Gabriel Beechinor is the Director of Veterinary Medicines at the Irish Medicines Board with responsibility for marketing authorisations of veterinary medicinal products in Ireland. Prior to becoming Director in 1999, he served as a Veterinary Assessor with the Irish Medicines Board since 1987, where he gained wide experience in the safety and efficacy evaluation of veterinary drugs. Dr. Beechinor is a member of the Poisons Council and is alternate member of the Committee for Medicinal Products for Veterinary Use (CVMP) of the European Medicines Agency having previously served as CVMP member for 13 years.

Dr. Beechinor received his Bachelor's Degree in Veterinary Medicine from University College, Dublin in 1982 and a Master's from the same university in 1984. He received a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Trinity College Dublin in 2001 and a Master's of Science degree in Executive Leadership from the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland in 2010.

Dr. Joan Gilvarry

Director of Human Products Monitoring



Dr. Joan Gilvarry, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.Ch., F.R.C.P.I., Director of Human Products Monitoring, qualified in medicine in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. Prior to her joining the IMB she worked as a Lecturer of Medicine in the Meath/Adelaide hospitals and Trinity College and is on the Specialist Register in Gastroenterology. Dr. Gilvarry is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland and Fellow of the Royal Academy of Medicine. She is a member of the National Immunisation Advisory Committee, the Pandemic Influenza Expert group and the Irish Sports Council's Anti-Doping Committee.

Ms. Frances Lynch

Director of Human Resources



Ms. Frances Lynch is the Human Resources Director of the IMB and has been a member of the management committee since 2009. Having joined the National Drugs Advisory Board in 1987 from a senior management role in DIT, she has held a number of positions in IMB. Before taking responsibility for the HR function, she was Assistant Secretary to the Board and its Committees. She holds the Strategic Human Resources Management Diploma from the IMI, is a member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management, the Irish Institute of Training and Development and the American Society of Training and Development.

Mr. John Lynch

Director of Compliance



Mr. John Lynch, B. Sc. (Pharm), M. Sc., M.P.S.I., is Director of Compliance (covering the inspection, licensing, market compliance and enforcement activities of the IMB). He qualified as a pharmacist from University College Dublin in 1977 and became a member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland the following year. In 1980, he graduated from Trinity College Dublin with an M. Sc. in Pharmacognosy.

From 1980 to 1987, he worked with Ricesteele & Co. in product development, quality control and quality assurance. In 1987, he joined the National Drugs Advisory Board (NDAB) as a GMP / GDP inspector and, in 1996, became Director of Inspection when the IMB succeeded the NDAB. With the addition of further activities and the reorganisation of the department in 2005, his job title was changed to Director of Compliance. He is a past member of the Inspectors Working Group at the EMA and of the Committee of Officials of the Pharmaceutical Inspection Co-Operation Scheme (PIC/S).

Ms. Suzanne McDonald

Director of Information Technology & Change Management



Ms. Suzanne McDonald is Director of Information Technology & Change Management with the Irish Medicines Board. Ms. McDonald holds a degree in IT from Trinity College Dublin and has almost 20 years experience in implementing systems and associated business improvement programmes, in both the public and private sectors. Prior to joining the National Drugs Advisory Board, Suzanne worked in the electronics industry and with the Rehab Group. Ms. McDonald represents the Irish Medicines Board on a range of EU projects focused on delivering technology solutions within healthcare regulation (European Medicines Agency). Ms. McDonald is a member of the Institute of Directors and was appointed to the Governing Body of Tallaght Institute of Technology in early 2010.

Dr. J.M. Morris

Director of Scientific Affairs



Dr. J.M. Morris, M.P.S.I., graduated from the University of Manchester, UK, with a degree in Pharmacy and a Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Chemistry. Following some early work in R&D in industry, he moved to QC/QA in hospital-based pharmaceutical manufacturing operations. In 1987, he joined the NDAB in Dublin, Ireland, as Senior Pharmacist and became Pharmaceutical Director of the newly formed Irish Medicines Board in 1996. As the IMB is the competent authority for animal and human medicines, Dr. Morris was in charge of pharmaceutical assessment activities, until a reorganisation took place in 2003. Currently he is the Director of Scientific Affairs and a member of the Management Committee to the IMB.

Dr. Morris was a member of the Quality Working Party, EMA (formerly known as EMEA) until 2003, and a former member of the Biotechnology Working Party. Since 1996, he has been a representative for Ireland of the European Pharmacopoeia Commission and was elected to the post of President in March 2004 until 2007. He has also been active in ICH during this period and is rapporteur and EU topic leader for its Q4B group (pharmacopoeial harmonisation).

Ms. Ann O'Connor

Director of Human Products Authorisation and Registration



Ms. Ann O'Connor, BSc. M.P.S.I., a Pharmacist with several years experiences in hospital pharmacy and pharmaceutical industry at senior level. Since joining the IMB in 1996 she has held the roles of Senior Pharmaceutical Assessor, Medical Device Project Manager and Medical Devices Director. She was responsible for the establishment of the medical devices department and regularly represented the IMB internationally. She was appointed Director of Human Products Authorisation and Registration with responsibility for pre-market activities relating to medicinal products and medical devices in 2009 and has the responsibility for licensing activities relation to medicinal products, management of clinical trials/investigations, classification and borderline issues and notified body oversight. She is also a member of the Advisory Council of TOPRA the global

organisation for professionals in regulatory affairs.

Ms. Rita Purcell

Director of Finance and Corporate Affairs



Ms. Rita Purcell joined the Irish Medicines Board in 1996 heading up the Finance and Corporate Affairs Department. Her responsibilities include finance, legal, corporate policy, property, secretariat and international events. Ms Purcell also sits on the Management Board of the European Medicines Agency and is on the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland, the regulator of pharmacies and pharmacists. Ms Purcell read law at University College Dublin and qualified as a chartered accountant with PricewaterhouseCoopers. She worked in a number of different industries before joining the IMB.
