Deirdre Hyland and Elaine Mac Hale from the RCSI Clinical Research Centre, with Mary McGrath, Nurse Manager of the UCD CRC in St Vincent’s Hospital, co-presented a symposium on *The Evolving Roles of Clinical Research Nurses in Ireland* at the 4th Annual Conference of the International Association of Clinical Research Nurses (IACRN) in Houston, Texas in October. The symposium attracted a capacity audience and was very well received, indicated by the number of questions that followed and the amount of compliments received afterwards, with a number of delegates requesting follow-up communication. Each of the Irish speakers also presented posters on aspects of their work. It would appear research nurses in Ireland face similar challenges to colleagues in the United States, but that our small size is an asset when it comes to implementing standardised systems and collaborations in Clinical Research.

The IACRN conference was a great opportunity to network with international colleagues and to share best practice. The theme of the conference, which was attended by research nurses from throughout the USA, as well as delegates from the UK, China, Japan, and Canada, was ‘Helping Tomorrow’s Patients Today’. Topics included sharing of best practice, providing research nursing at the point of care and scopes and standards of practice. The keynote speaker was Dr. Kathleen Stevens, Principal Investigator from the Improvement Science Research Network at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Her key note address focused on "Improvement Science-Impacting the Future Through Clinical Research". The Distinguished Research Lecture titled, "Clinical Research Nursing Into The Future" was delivered by Dr. Margaret McCabe, PhD, RN.