

National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre (NPEC) Audit and Research Centre

The NPEC is based in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, UCC in Cork University Maternity Hospital.

Brief history and who we are

We are a team of consultants, midwives, epidemiologists, administrators and audit coordinators and is directed by Professor Richard Greene .

Establishment of the Centre announced in Dáil Éireann on 8th March 2006 by then Minister for Health and Children, Mary Harney T.D.

Every time a mother gives birth in Ireland, the important interventions, the good outcomes and the complications are recorded and analysed at a national specialist centre. Unusual trends are easily and quickly observed and most importantly acted on. NPEC continues to build on its existing portfolio of audit and quality review.¹

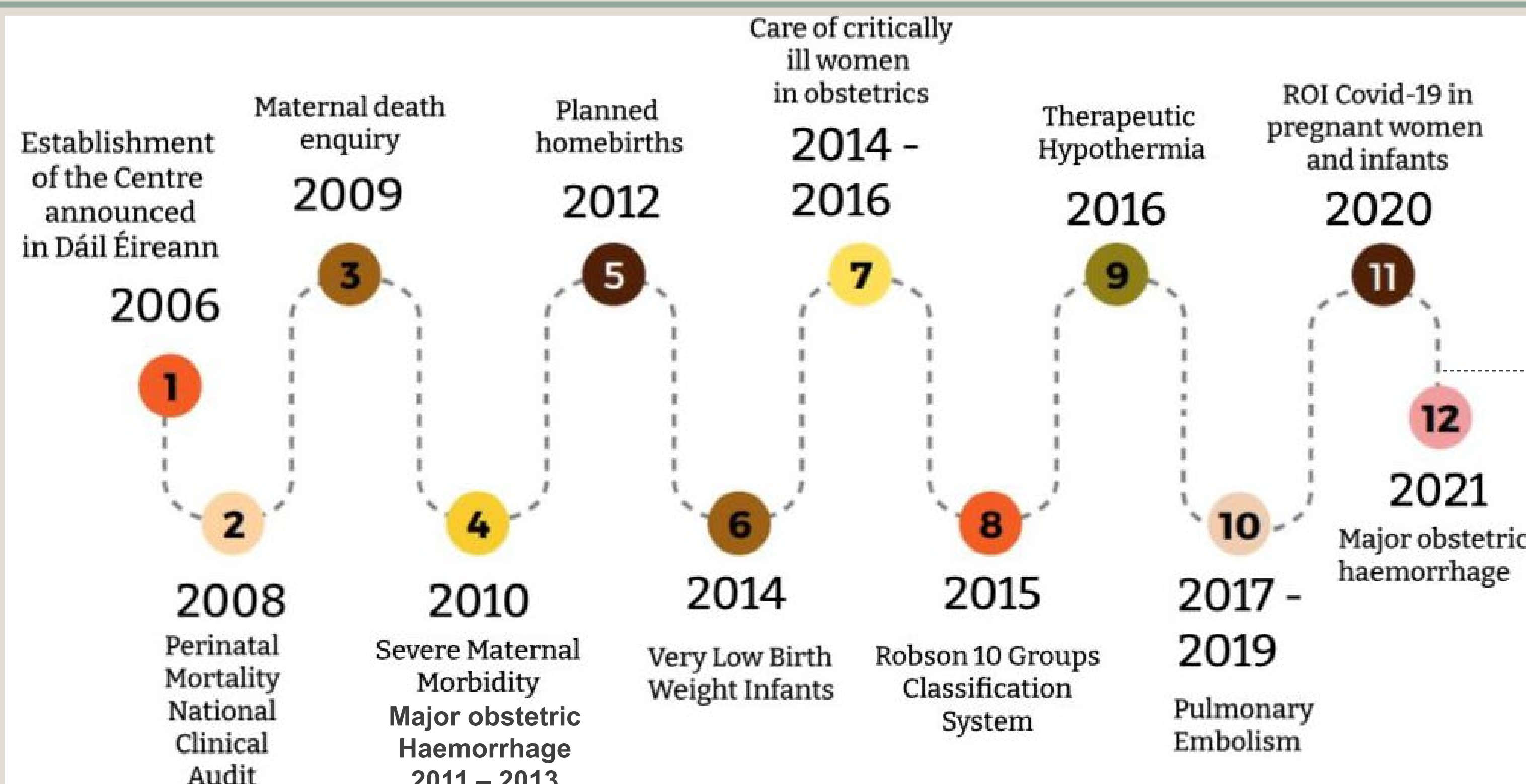
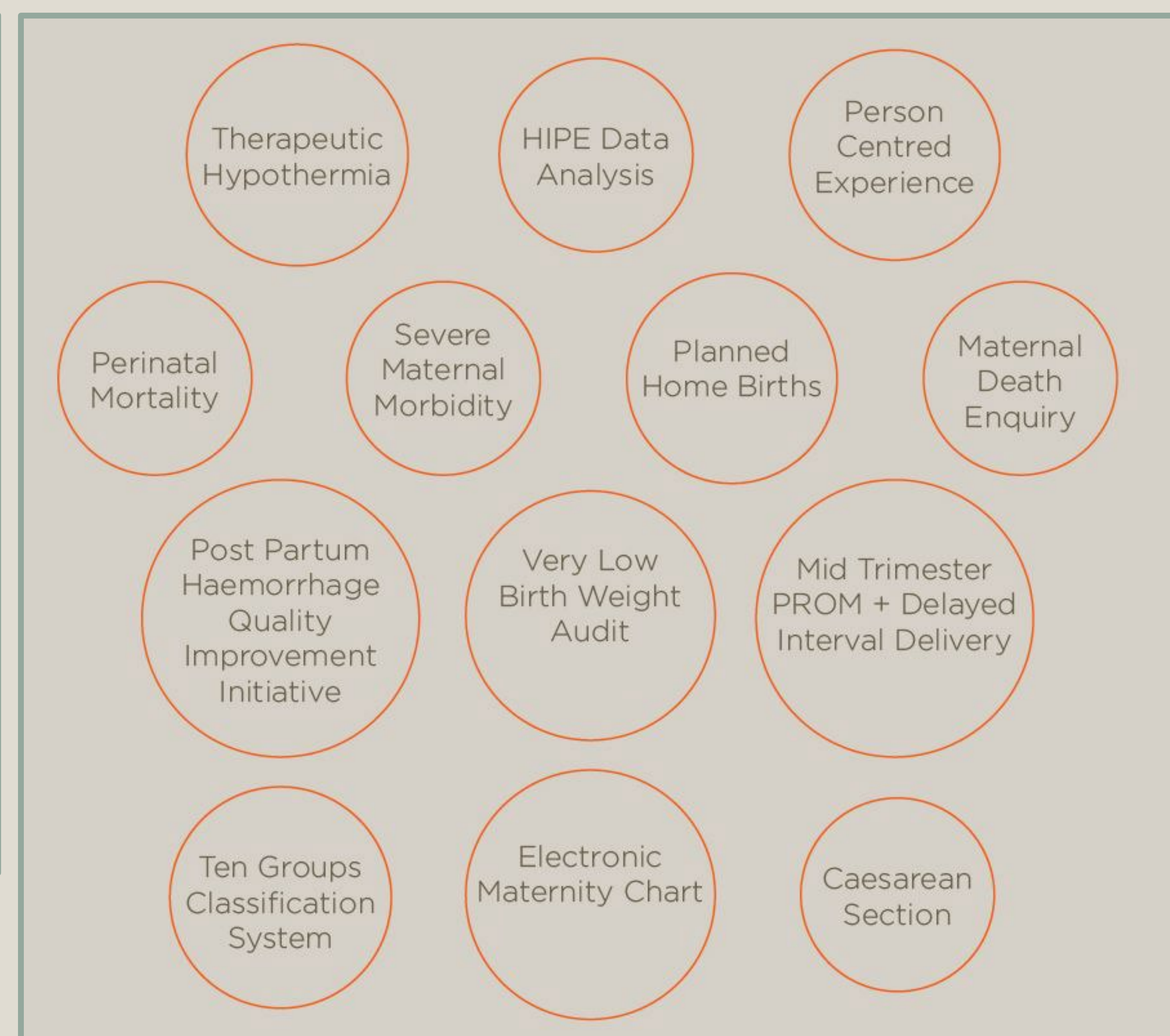
Strategic Goals

- To translate outcome data for mothers and children into improved clinical practice
- To act as an independent source of advice for the HSE
- To publish annually an analysis of national perinatal data
- To develop research thematic areas in the perinatal space
- To encourage the development of the MN-CMS
- To establish appropriate expert sub-committees to assess and review material and sign off on reports, e.g. maternal morbidity, perinatal mortality, births defects
- To enhance public and patient involvement in NPEC activities and to foster awareness of NPEC outputs amongst patients and the public

1. health.gov.ie/blog/press-release/tanaiste-announces-new-national-perinatalepidemiology-centre-in-cork-university-hospital

Different areas the NPEC works in

- The NPEC produces **annual reports** on perinatal mortality, maternal morbidity, home births, very low birth weight babies and therapeutic hypothermia in Ireland.
- In 2022 the **National Clinical Effectiveness Committee (NCEC)** endorsed the National Clinical Audit of Perinatal Mortality as the second audit to be quality assured by the NCEC. NCEC endorsement mandates that the **appropriate services engage** with the National Clinical Audit of Perinatal Mortality, thereby **superseding** all other national clinical audits on the topic.
- The NPEC works in collaboration with all **19 maternity units**.
- At **local hospital level**, the NPEC provides **customised feedback to individual hospitals** on how they compare against the national average.
- **Online databases** ensure the highest quality data collection, producing cleaner anonymized data from source, via electronic submission.
- The NPEC have always **strategically aimed** to close the audit loop and in the annual reports make **recommendations** that are shared with **stakeholders**.
- For greater **transparency** in the maternity **services all units are named** in the relevant NPEC reports.



- NPEC aligns its **audit governance structures** to the **National Office of Clinical Audit** governance standards for **audit governance committees**, the **monitoring and escalation of outliers** and for **national reporting**.
- All audits have a **governance committee** to oversee and guide the audits. Currently we have **65 representatives** on governance Committees and **101 audit coordinators** across maternity services.
- The NPEC host a **multidisciplinary study day on the third Friday of January**.
- **Patient & Public involvement** is at the **heart** of what we do at the NPEC. One of our **main strategic goals** is to have **public representation** on all our governance groups.

Collaboration

The NPEC encourages the use of **its data for research purposes**. It is the NPEC's policy that all requests for data for research purposes be considered by a committee, termed the "Data Access Committee". It is the NPEC's policy to have **transparency** in the decision-making process; in this regard, details of projects for which access has been granted will be published on the NPEC website

Please contact us at npec@ucc.ie should you be interested in collaborating with us.

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