# IBTS publishes first Research and Development Strategy

The Irish Blood Transfusion Service today (Thursday) published its first dedicated Research and Development Strategy. Professor Stephen Field, Medical and Scientific Director said that over the next three years the IBTS aims to position itself as a research leader in blood transfusion medicine, providing insights into the factors impacting donor health, welfare and donation. “We recognise the critical contribution of transfusion in our healthcare system and our research programme will provide the evidence for developing our services to all the communities that we serve – donors, recipients and clinicians.”

Outlining the importance of developing the Research and Development Strategy, Dr Allison Waters, Research and Development Lead Facilitator said that one of the IBTS core functions is to encourage research and the training and teaching of persons in matters relating to blood transfusion. “We will support our staff in their research endeavours, celebrate our achievements and promote a culture of continuous improvement and collaboration.

“Our research findings may directly progress the field of testing and use of blood components, contribute to the development of new transfusion therapies, transplant supports, and inform technical and policy service enhancements and developments. Specifically research will focus on 4 key areas, Donor Infectious Disease & Genetic Epidemiology, Donation & Deferral Policy, Applied Diagnostics & Technical Advancement and the Clinical Evaluation of Blood & Tissue Transfusion,” said Dr Waters.

IBTS CEO Orla O’Brien added that while the IBTS has always had a research agenda, this strategy was an exciting and crucial step for our organisation and will ensure research, and a culture of innovation, remains a priority.

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