



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Dept of Respiratory Medicine
Cork University Hospital
Wilton
Cork

Fax: 021 4920167

Professor Barry Plant: 021 4922327

Our Ref: BP/CRT
Date: 14.03.2018

Date Dictated: 14.03.2018

Ms. Christine Dubos,
Executive Director
ECFS.

RE: Professor Barry Plant, Motivational Statement.

Dear Christine,

I wish to formally apply for a Board position with the ECFS.

I believe that I have the skill set and qualifications that would make me a valuable member of the ECFS Board. My clinical exposure in cystic fibrosis began as a Junior Doctor over 20 years ago, where I worked in both adult and paediatric cystic fibrosis secondments during my early post graduate training. I think that this clinical background gives me not only a grounded perspective in how devastating cystic fibrosis is as a clinical illness, but also a personal understanding of the journey and transformation that has happened over the last 20 years in CF care, where this disease has transformed itself from a condition primarily in the paediatric arena to now a disease where with improved survival over 50% of all patients attend adult services and based on recent excellent work of the European CF Registry, these figures are going to continue to improve with enhanced resources required for both adult and paediatric services.

In the year 2000 I secured a position as a Senior Fellow at St. Vincent's University Hospital in Dublin, Ireland and since then have worked on an ongoing basis with Adult CF patients both in a clinical and a research capacity. Over the subsequent 18 years working, I have had an opportunity to work in St. Vincent's University Hospital in Dublin, Ireland, which is the largest CF Centre in the country, subsequently the opportunity to be a Fellow at the University of Washington under the supervision of Professor Moira Aiken (a world leader in the area of adult CF medicine and a world leading centre for adult cystic fibrosis care) and finally culminating in me returning to Ireland in 2007 where I took up my post as Director of the Adult Cystic Fibrosis Service in Cork University Hospital. In the last 10 years I have had the opportunity to work with a highly motivated multidisciplinary team and build locally a new state of the art adult cystic fibrosis day centre (opened 2013), a new state of the art inpatient adult cystic fibrosis ward (opened 2016) and a new state of the art adult CF research laboratory (opened 2015) on our campus at Cork University Hospital/University College Cork. I believe that this practical clinical background affords me a perspective that would be useful to the Board on a day to day basis.

At a research level, I have also been committed to cystic fibrosis for my entire adult professional career. My post graduate medical doctorate was in the area of inflammation and CF and focused primarily on a molecule MIF. I was awarded a *First Authorship* in the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine for that work in the area of CF care. Subsequently, at the University of Washington, much of my research work was again in the area of cystic fibrosis/toll receptors and this background gave me a firm foundation to become an independent investigator in the area of CF care on my return to Ireland in 2007. Since that time, I have worked tirelessly and collaborated extensively with colleagues in Europe, the US and Australia on a series of research projects. I think our unit would be known for its expertise in the area of collaborative "real-world" studies in inhaled antibiotics (including Tobramycin and Aztreonam) and CFTR modulation (Ivacaftor –CORK study and Orkambi- ROCK study), as well actively being part of multiple clinical trials primarily in the area of CFTR modulation over the last 5 - 7 years.

At a pure academic level, our greatest achievement to date has been to establish a CF consortium (CFMATTERS – www.cfmatters.eu) which put together a Pan-European CF consortium addressing the role of the microbiome in determining best antibiotics strategies in treating acute pulmonary exacerbation. This consortium was awarded

almost €6m in research funding as part of a Framework7 (FP7) EU Grant and has allowed me the opportunity to work with amazing colleagues in the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Germany and the United States. Our commitment to this programme has been constant and I believe validated by the European CF Society who have afforded us the opportunity of presenting our final close out data at the upcoming ECFS scientific meeting in June 2018.

Finally, I think the combination of being a 'jobbing' CF Clinician heading up a busy adult CF service with that of a dedicated Clinician Scientist has given me a background that has afforded me the opportunity to be an invited speaker at many educational programmes in the area of cystic fibrosis. To date, I have been an invited speaker in Europe, North America, Australia, Latin America, the Middle East and the United Kingdom at an array of different meetings. This has allowed me the opportunity to meet the extended CF family worldwide and get a true appreciation of the challenges that face all of us who work in this area on a day to day basis.

In short, I would like to think that I am an enthusiastic, competent and highly motivated CF Clinician and CF Researcher who if successful will work tirelessly on behalf of the ECFS Board and cystic fibrosis patients worldwide to enhance our organisation, our network and ultimately our goal which is to improve CF care continuously and practice CF medicine at the highest standards throughout Europe and beyond.

I await the Board's decision.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'B. Plant', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Prof. Barry Plant, MD, MRSEM, FRCPI.
Consultant Respiratory Physician
MCN: 20116