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## **Embassy of Ireland, Washington, D.C.: Press Release**

### **Ireland's Ambassador welcomes creation of Irish science network**

Ireland's ambassador to the United States, Michael Collins, has welcomed the creation of the North American-based Wild Geese Irish Scientific Network. The Network was set up this week after a meeting hosted earlier by the Embassy in Washington D.C.

The inaugural meeting of the network was attended by representatives from Irish Government agencies including Office of the Chief Scientific Adviser, Science Foundation Ireland, Health Research Board and the Marine Institute. The event coincided with the holding in DC of the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

President of the Network, Dr Nicholas Farrell, also stated that "the Wild Geese Network is devoted to harnessing the knowledge, experience and success of Irish scientists in North America and provides, for the first time, an up-to-date and comprehensive human network. Inspired by the recognition of Irish contributions to American business and the arts, our goal is to connect the human resource that is the Irish scientific Diaspora in North America and highlight the successes of Irish scientists abroad. "

This Network will:

- a) Provide an information and support network for Irish scientists working or studying in North America.
- b) Enhance outreach for Research Technology and Innovation (RTI) partnerships to Irish agencies, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), and spin-off companies.
- c) Facilitate the engagement of Irish scientists abroad, and their institutions, in the science-based development of the Irish economy, thereby maintaining the connectivity of scientists both within Ireland and abroad.
- d) Support the Dublin City of Science 2012 initiative by promoting North American involvement and representation in the EuroScience Open Forum (ESOF).
- e) Enhance bilateral partnerships as a mechanism to stimulate innovative research.
- f) Complement existing structures such as the European EURAXESS initiative.

Editors please note: Further Information on the network can be obtained *via* email:

[wildgeesenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:wildgeesenetwork@gmail.com)

President Dr. Nicholas Farrell, Professor of Chemistry at Virginia Commonwealth University. Ends.

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