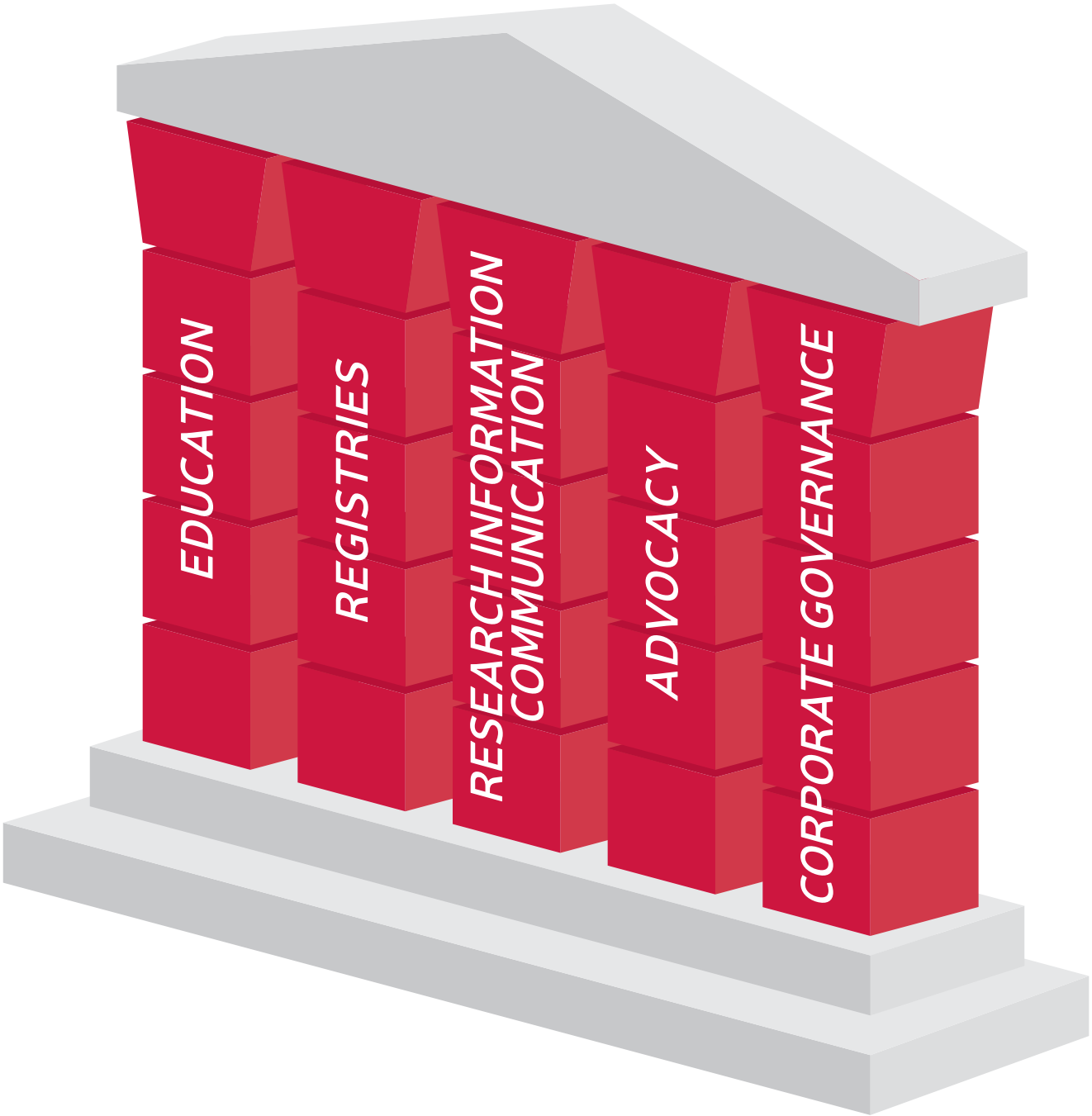
Irish Cardiac Society

STRATEGIC PLAN 2022–2027



Diversity • Equity • Inclusion • Belonging

Irish Cardiac Society

INTRODUCTION

It is my great pleasure to have participated as part of the team involved in developing this roadmap for our members. We have been fortunate to have a strong Cardiac Society by virtue of the huge commitment of many individuals over the years engaging with each other to share scientific knowledge and help train our future cardiologists. This, together with our corporate structure supporting members and trainees, has been our strength and will always be a key element going forwards.

However, as medical practices evolve, more holistic approaches to patient management have become centre stage. This has led to an expansion in services needed to accommodate these developments. As a result, sub-specialisation has unfolded in many disciplines, in particular cardiology. In addition, the focus is gradually shifting from acute interventions to strategies aimed at avoiding disease progression.

In an effort to keep pace with these advances, it was felt that our society needed to reposition itself so that our patients capitalise on all medical advances. Consequently, additional areas of endeavour were proposed. These include registries, research communication and advocacy. Having objective information on disease prevalence, risk factors and treatments and their respective trends necessitates registries. These will allow us benchmark compared to other countries. Being aware of research opportunities and research outcomes are essential for our growth as a Society. The overlap between registries and research will enhance our ability to provide a better service for our population. No organisation would be complete without paying due attention to those we serve, advocating for our patients, members and society in general to ensure optimal cardiovascular health and well-being. Our core values will always be diversity, equity, inclusivity and belonging.

Prof Vincent MG Maher

MD, FRCPI, FESC, FACC
President, Irish Cardiac Society

STRATEGIC REVIEW GROUP MEMBERS

Prof. Vincent Maher, President (Chair)

Prof. Brendan McAdam, Secretary

Prof. Carl Vaughan, Treasurer

Prof. Pascal McKeown, Incoming President

Dr. Patricia Campbell, Asst. Secretary

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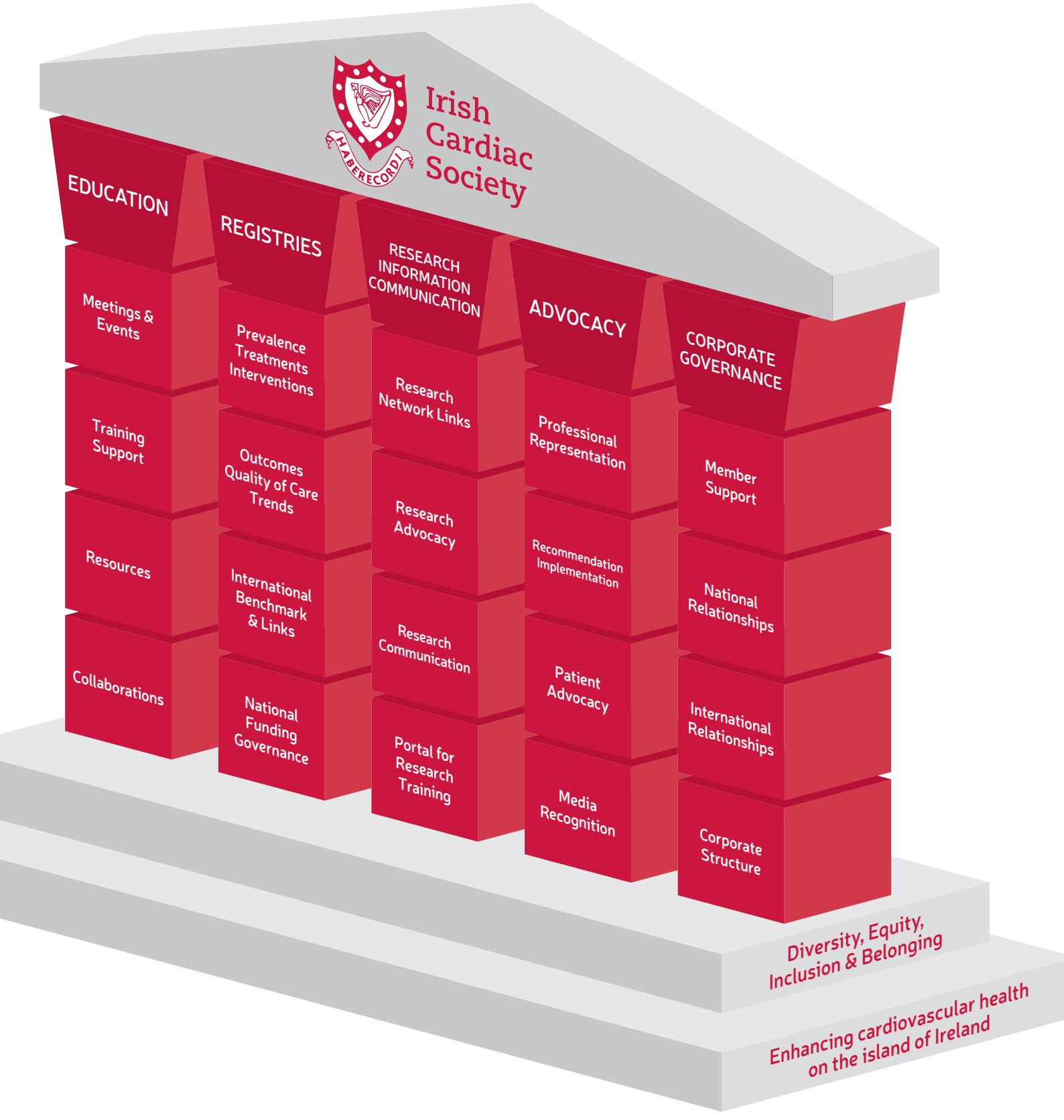
STRATEGIC FACILITATOR

Mr. Pat O'Donnell

STRATEGIC CO-ORDINATOR

Ms. Barbra Dalton


Irish Cardiac Society
HABERECORD
EDUCATION
Meetings & Events
Training Support
Resources
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REGISTRIES
Prevalence Treatments Interventions
Outcomes Quality of Care Trends
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Research Network Links
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CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
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Corporate Structure
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging
Enhancing cardiovascular health on the island of Ireland

Irish Cardiac Society

EDUCATION

MEETINGS & EVENTS	• Organisation of annual Scientific Meeting & AGM and other events as appropriate. • Continue to support networking opportunities for ICS members, trainees and members of other societies.
TRAINING SUPPORT	• Engagement with and support of Irish Board for Training in Cardiovascular Medicine (IBTCM) and NI training agencies as required. • Delivery of educational and training events in conjunction with trainer faculty.
RESOURCES	• Development of educational resources to support members – website, webinars, resource library. • Integration with ESC re educational resources • Engagement with Irish Cardiology diaspora re. educational and ICS developmental opportunities
COLLABORATIONS	• Collaborations with agencies and associations – » ESC: ESC Exam; representation on advisory boards/guidelines committees/ESC affiliates. » BCS / ACC – re: Emerging Leaders programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Consider best ways to optimise meetings from an educational, networking and access perspective.
- Explore options and opportunities to ensure funding streams to support educational activities.
- Promotion of appropriate training opportunities to all trainees throughout the island of Ireland.
- Engage with IBTCM and NI training bodies to ensure seamless flow of information and opportunities.
- Explore national and international options to access educational resources for members.
- Consider all potential collaborations to enhance training for members.

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REGISTRIES

PREVALENCE, TREATMENTS, INTERVENTIONS	• Determine prevalence of cardiovascular diseases and their risk factors. • Record type, number and availability of medical and interventional treatments.
OUTCOMES, QUALITY OF CARE, TRENDS	• Measure outcomes of treatments and interventions. • Assess impact of therapies on Quality of Life. • Assess trends in disease incidence/prevalence, therapy and QoL over time.
INTERNATIONAL BENCHMARK AND LINKS	• Collaboration Internationally using IT/database resources. • Standardise data variables and end-point measures. • Research to compare effectiveness of strategies. • Contribution to clinical practice guideline development nationally that are internationally benchmarked.
NATIONAL FUNDING GOVERNANCE	• Align with all relevant agencies* on the island to ensure adequate financial and human resource infrastructure to deliver effective national registry programmes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Identify key areas of cardiovascular disease where registries will have maximal impact and importance.
- Align with national and international registries.
- Input on health technology and pharmaceutical cost effectiveness evaluations.
- Develop metrics for patient quality of care and safety auditing.
- Establish national IT infrastructure equivalent to EU level IT / database resources.
- Establish standardisation of data variables and end-point measures accepted internationally.
- Participate and lead in guideline development nationally that are internationally benchmarked.

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* e.g. NICOR quality improvement audits, BCIS PCI registry, MINAP for AMI, NHFA for CHF, NACRM for arrhythmia, NACSA for cardiac surgery, NCHDA for congenital heart disease. *(Not an exhaustive list)*

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RESEARCH INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION

RESEARCH NETWORK LINKS	• All-island centalised research network that serves as a "go-to body" for the co-ordination of research and cardiovascular clinical trials in Ireland. • Establish strong international links to enhance research opportunities.
RESEARCH ADVOCACY	• Enhance awareness and need for advancing cardiovascular health research. • Promote research importance to health care and educational bodies in Ireland and internationally.
RESEARCH COMMUNICATION	• Communicate research and clinical trial opportunities with equivalent UK, EU and US national research networks, promoting multinational, multi-centre studies and International academic collaboration.
PORTAL FOR RESEARCH TRAINING	• Support excellence and consistency in academic research training in our Cardiology trainees by providing an accredited, funded, training for their 'research year'.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop an all-island centalised research network.
- Establish strong international research links.
- Engage other bodies and institutions to increase awareness of cardiovascular research in Ireland.
- Form lines of research communication with equivalent UK, European and US National research networks.
- Create a funded opportunity, 'research year' for interested trainees in Ireland.

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ADVOCACY

PROFESSIONAL REPRESENTATION	• Represent ICS members regarding issues pertaining to cardiovascular care and related matters. • Engage with existing advocacy structures in other organisations.* • Champion agreed issues that will enhance patients' lives.
RECOMMENDATION IMPLEMENTATION	• Support implementation of internationally accepted recommendations on cardiovascular health management. • Work with other agencies in ROI to advocate for a new government plan in relation to cardiology. • Implement cardiovascular health strategies agreed in NI.
PATIENT ADVOCACY	• Support patient and caregiver voice for service development and provision.
MEDIA RECOGNITION	• Identify suitable local experts to react publicly on behalf of the society as issues arise. • Become a "Go to place" for professional input on CVD.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Engage with existing advocacy structures in other organisations to form a unit that will advocate for cardiovascular health related issues.
- Identify key strategies related to CV health that need representation.
- Work with other agencies in ROI to advocate for a new government CV plan.
- Work with UK/NI agencies to advocate for cardiovascular health strategies in NI.

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* e.g. IHF, Croi, HeartBeat Trust, NIPC, NICHS, BHFNI. *(Not an exhaustive list)*

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CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

MEMBER SUPPORT	• Provision of educational information and access to international agencies.* • Access to networking opportunities for consultant and trainee members.
NATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS	• Continuation of mutually beneficial relationships with organisations and agencies in the cardiovascular space in Ireland.**
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS	• Continuation of mutually beneficial relationships with international agencies. • Participation at international meetings, contributions to international efforts – eg ESC Atlas and Registries. • Nurture positive relationships and promote international training and collaboration opportunities.
CORPORATE STRUCTURE	• Confirmation of charitable status. • Implementation of best practice policies for all activity areas.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Development of member support plan identifying key goals and objectives.
- ICS to be portal of information and support for members. One stop shop for all things relating to the profession of cardiology in Ireland.
- Annual or bi-annual meetings with officers from key national organisations and agencies to maintain relationships and identify areas for collaboration.
- Development of goals in relation to engagement with similar international agencies.
- Seek out opportunities for ICS involvement and engagement with international groups.
- Development of policies and procedures to guide the work of the society.
- Explore future manpower needs / succession planning.

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* e.g. ACC, ESC,WHF, BCS, National Cardiac Societies ** e.g. IHF, Croi, NIPC, HeartBeat Trust, NICHS, BHFNI, RCPI, HSE *(These lists are not exhaustive)*

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Irish Cardiac Society, 17–19 Rathmines Road Lower, D06C780 • *www.irishcardiacsociety.ie*

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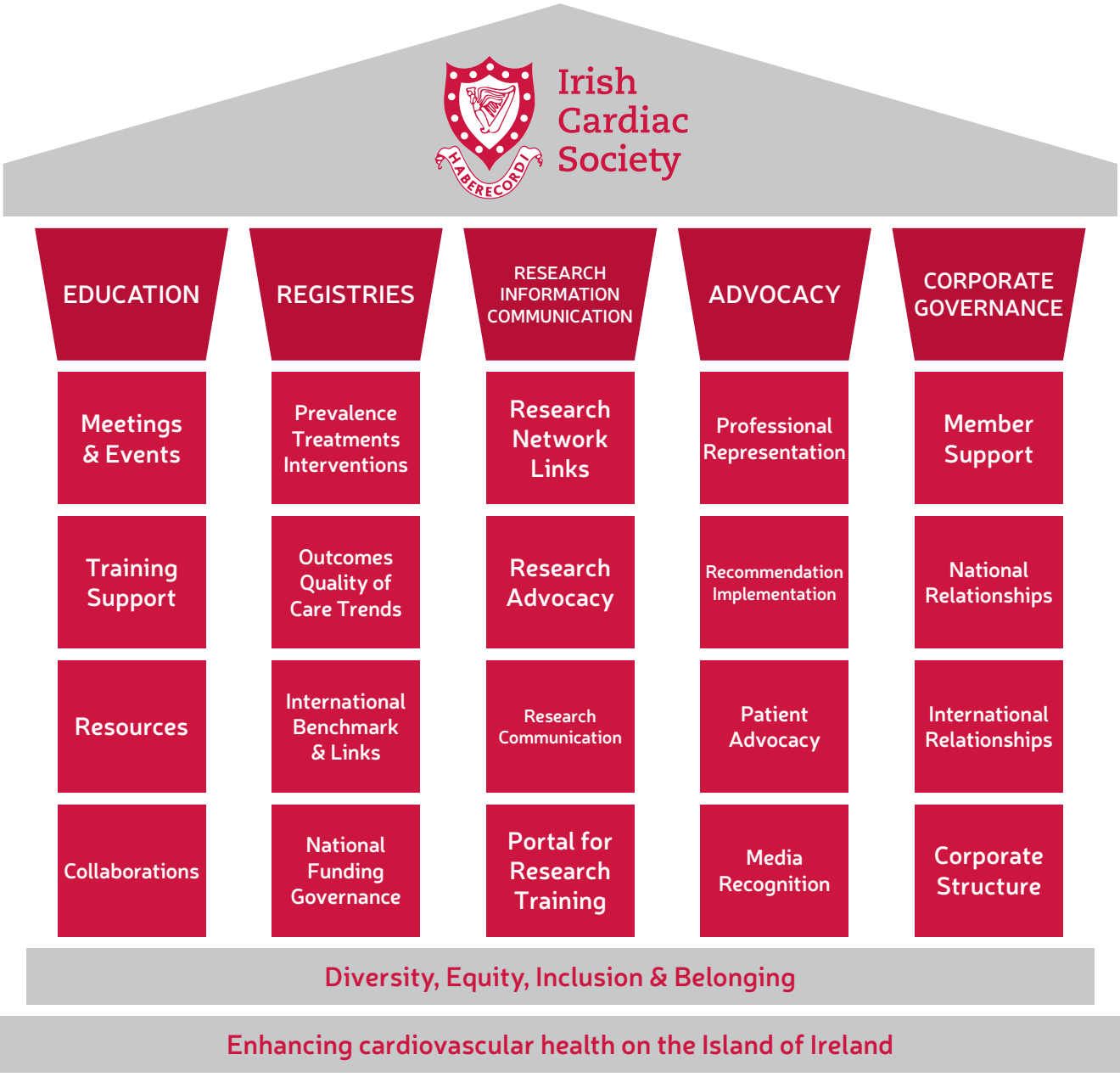

PRIORITY ACTIONS

DECISIONS: Decide priority areas from each activity pillar.

MECHANISM: Explore most appropriate ways to achieve goals that respect the ethos of the Society.

TIMELINES: Perform analysis of realistic time-lines to achieve goals.

RE-EVALUATION: Reassess importance of agreed goals as the profession and surrounding environment evolves.