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Embedding Patient and Public Involvement in Lung Cancer Screening: A patient-advocacy led approach

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Disclosure

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Introduction

Screening Saves Lives

- Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death in Ireland, with many people diagnosed at an advanced stage¹
- However, there is no national Irish lung cancer screening programme currently available²
- The Beaumont RCSI Irish Cancer Society Lung Health Check (LHC) was designed to bring targeted lung cancer screening to the community setting³
- LHC embedded a patient-advocacy led approach from the outset to help inform and design a programme to:
 - Reduce fear, stigma and practical barriers to participation
 - Reach the ‘hard-to-reach’ population
 - Increase engagement and participation



Methods

Embedding A Patient Advocacy led approach

- Two patient partners were embedded within the multidisciplinary steering committee from the outset, contributing to the design and delivery of LHC
- A dedicated participant engagement subgroup, led by patient partners, was established to develop participant-facing materials and community engagement strategies
- Patient partners contributed to programme design, operational planning, communication materials, recruitment approaches and community engagement activities
- PPI contributors were co-investigators on the study and part of the interpretation and dissemination of findings

Study team



Programme Management
C Noonan; S Roche



Respiratory Medicine
D Ryan; I Counihan; R Morgan; E O'Brien



Clinical Trials
J Naidoo; K Egan; D O'Reilly



GP
P Redmond

Radiology
J Ryan; J O'Shea



Surgery
G Fitzmaurice

Biomarkers
I Sulaiman; C Dowling



Patient Advocacy
S Cotter; AM Baird

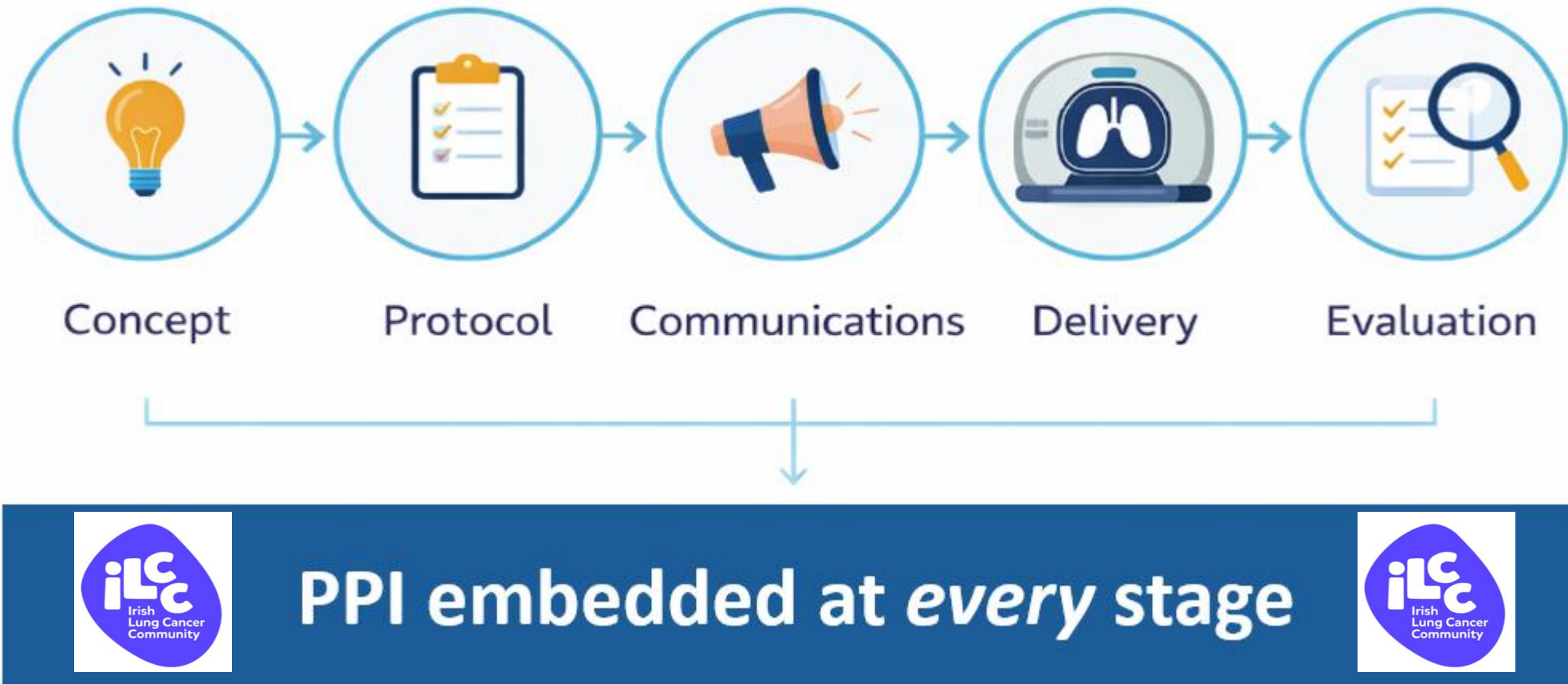


National Screening Service
A Smith; L Heavey



Methods

Embedding A Patient Advocacy led approach



Results - Outcomes



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Results - Outcomes

Participation Needs Community Engagement

Community education pathways and information evenings were designed by PPI leads.



Results - Outcomes

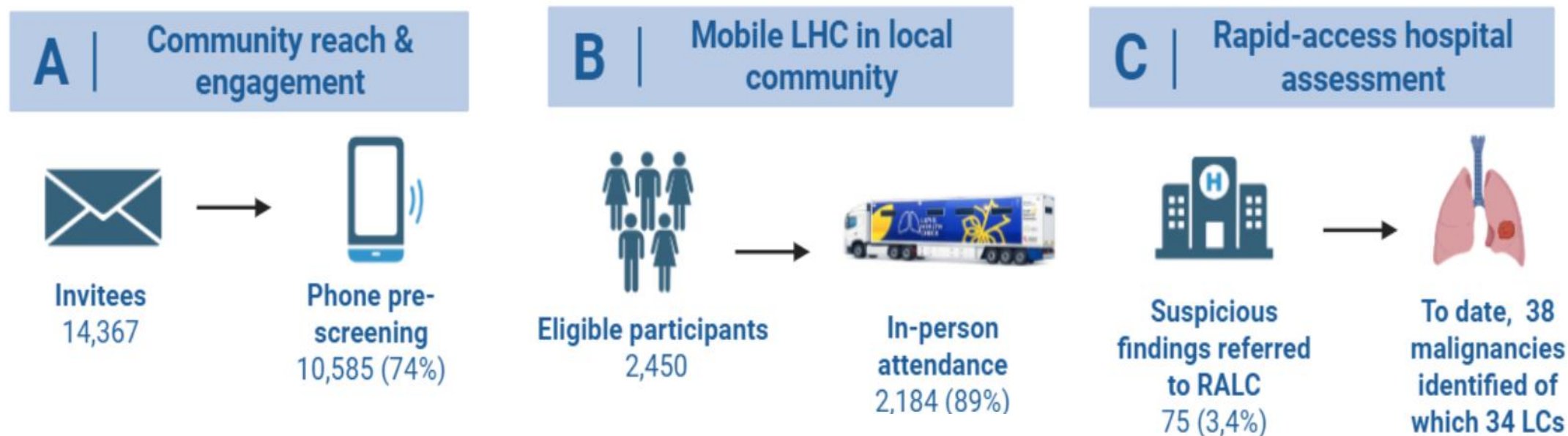
Participation Needs Community Engagement

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Results - Outcomes

Summary Of The LHC pilot pathway



(A) Of 14,367 invitees, 10,583 (74%) completed phone pre-screening, with **(B)** 2,450 found to be eligible participants. The cohort included 919 women (42%) and 814 (37%) people who currently smoke with a median smoking exposure of 38 pack-years (IQR 25-50). Of those eligible participants, 2,184 (89%) attended in-person. **(C)** 75 participants (3.4%) were referred to RALC for suspicious finding. 49 diagnostic assessments were completed, identifying 38 malignancies, including 34 individuals with lung cancer.

As of April 2026. RALC: Rapid Access Lung Clinic, LC: Lung cancer, IQR: Interquartile range

Discussion & Conclusion

Actionable Take Away Message

- A community-based approach, supported by primary care and participant-informed communication strategies, appeared to be acceptable to participants and was associated with strong engagement
- The study demonstrated higher engagement with lung cancer screening among the Irish population compared with rates reported in international studies, with strong attendance at screening appointments

**Designed together.
Delivered together.
Early diagnosis made possible.**

- ✓ Worked in the real world
- ✓ Trusted by communities
- ✓ 70–80% engagement
- ✓ People now have the chance of cure

Because this programme had PPI
embedded at every stage.

This image was designed in collaboration with Microsoft Copilot.

Pilot lung health programme leads to several curative surgeries

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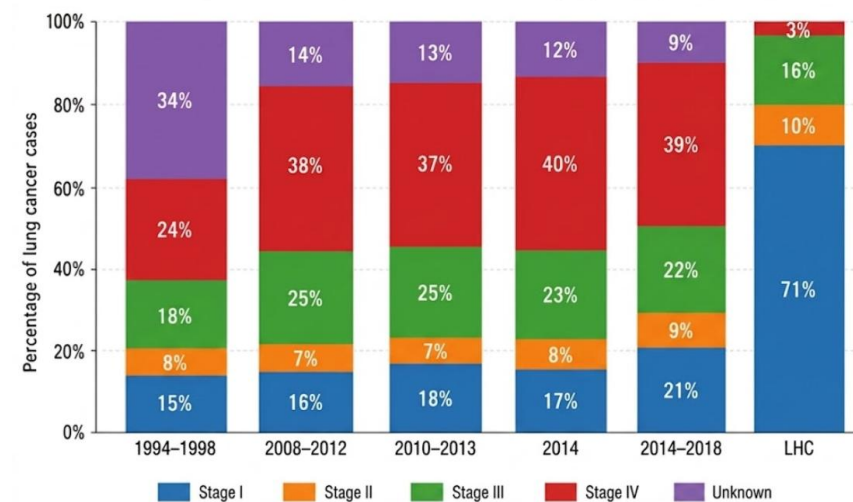


Paul Guinee said his cancer was found at a stage where something could be done about it

<https://www.rte.ie/news/health/2026/0119/1553788-lung-health-check/>

Ireland: Lung Cancer Stage at Diagnosis Over Time

National stage distribution across key reporting periods



Sources: NCRI Cancer Trends No. 27; Irish Cancer Society/NCRI emergency presentation report; NCRI lung cancer factsheet. 1994–1998 and 2008–2012 values approximate from published figure.

LHC stage shift data as of April 2026

Discussion & Conclusion

Future Direction for Research

- Work towards the implementation of a national mobile lung cancer screening programme based on the design, principles and successes of the LHC model, possibly delivered through Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) (Cumann Lúthchleas Gael) community hubs.



This image was partly designed in collaboration with Microsoft Copilot.

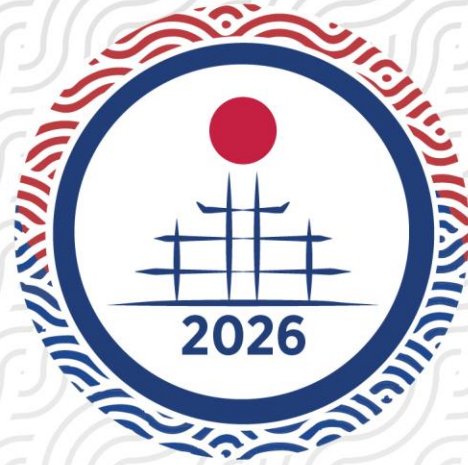
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2. Keogh RJ, Barr MP, Keogh A, McMahon D, Baird AM, Cotter S, Breen D, Fitzmaurice GJ, Fitzpatrick D, O'Brien C, Finn SP, Naidoo J. Lung Cancer in the Republic of Ireland. J Thorac Oncol. 2023 Jul;18(7):851-857.
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Thank You.