Harry Comber has been Director of the National Cancer Registry since its establishment in 1992. Prior to this he worked as a GP in Cork for 12 years and has a PhD in biochemistry from the Institute of Cancer Research at the University of London. His main work interests are in promoting the use of cancer information to improve health service planning and evaluation, and through this, better patient outcomes. His research activity, which has derived from these interests, covers a wide spectrum of topics, from determinants of disease to quality of clinical care to survivorship and has contributed to over 60 peer-reviewed publications, as well as a large number of National Cancer Registry and collaborative reports. He has been a member of the first and second National Cancer Forums and is a former member and Chair of the Scientific Council of the International Agency for Research on Cancer.