

Avril Kennan



Avril Kennan is CEO of the Medical Research Charities Group (MRCG). Avril has a PhD in genetics and many years subsequent lab experience working on rare human genetic conditions. She moved from the lab in 2007 to become a patient advocate with the rare disease patient organisation DEBRA Ireland. In her role there, as Head of Research and Advocacy, she led a number of international initiatives including the development of evidence-based clinical guidelines and an international patient registry.

Avril has sat on a number of Boards and Committees, including the DEBRA International Executive Committee and the Board of Rare Diseases Ireland. In her role as CEO of the MRCG she is passionate about supporting medical research charities and promoting their role in society. She was one of the founders of the Irish Health Research Forum which is currently managed by the MRCG.