



## 1<sup>st</sup> AICRIstart Symposium Agenda

Venue: University of Galway, Human Biology Building  
30<sup>th</sup> November/1<sup>st</sup> December 2023

### Day 1

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 11:00 - 11:30 | Tea/Coffee/Greetings   |
| 11:30 - 11:35 | <b>Welcome</b><br>Prof. Michael Kerin, University of Galway  |
| 11:35 - 11:45 | <b>All-Island Cancer Research Institute (AICRI) Update</b><br>Prof. William Gallagher, University College Dublin |
| 11:45 - 13:00 | <b>AICRIstart PhD Projects</b><br>Co-Chairs: Dr. Kellie Dean (UCC) and Dr. Róisín Dwyer (UoG)                    |

**Presentation of 10 x AICRIstart PhD projects by PhD student/PI**  
followed by Q & A and discussion at the end

- 1) **UoG:** NEO-TIL – Developing durable novel TIL therapies for solid tumours with high tumour mutational burden (TMB-H)
- 2) **UL:** Identifying metabolic vulnerabilities to designing new treatment options for aggressive KRAS driven non-small cell lung cancer
- 3) **UCC:** Microproteins and long, non-coding RNAs as novel biomarkers in ovarian cancer.
- 4) **TUD:** Chemical imaging and transcriptomic data fusion for rapid precision subtyping and recurrence prediction in colorectal cancer (CHEM-SENTIENCE)
- 5) **UCD:** Exploring Microenvironmental Changes in Early-Stage Breast Cancer Influencing Immune Infiltration and Reaction
- 6) **RCSI:** Molecular dissection of gene co-expression module associated with brain metastasis.
- 7) **TCD:** A Functional Investigation of Non-Coding Driver Mutations in Breast Cancer and Associated Pathophysiological Impact.
- 8) **DCU:** Exploration of therapeutic response prediction to immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICI) in homologous recombination deficient (HRD) pancreatic cancer.

- 9) **QUB:** Use of tumour associated antigen nanoformulations to drive potent anti-tumour CD4 and CD8 T cell responses.
- 10) **UU:** Developing epigenetic synergistic drug combinations with albendazole in paediatric acute myeloid leukaemia

**13:15 – 14:00**      **Lunch and Networking Opportunity**

**14:00– 14:10**      **HEA North South Research Programme**  
 Dr. Louise Callinan, Head of Research, HEA

**14:10– 15:10**      **AICRistart Post-doctoral Projects**  
**Co-Chairs: Prof. Fiona Lyng (TU Dublin) and Dr. Denis Collins (DCU)**

**Presentation of AICRistart Post-doctoral projects by Post-doctoral fellows/PIs followed by Q & A and discussion at the end**

- 1) **UL, TCD & UU:** Immune exhaustion in cancer patients, defining the host-microbe interaction and exploring a potential role of human and microbial extracellular vesicles
- 2) **RCSI, UCC & DCU:** Immune responses to intratumoural bacteria; Consequences and opportunities for immuno-oncology
- 3) **UCD:** Integrative analysis of CRISPR screens to identify genetic dependencies in cancer, with applications to DMG and DLBCL
- 4) **UoG:** Targeting microRNA megacluster 379/656 in Breast Cancer
- 5) **TuD:** Harnessing the power of the liquid biopsy and optical spectroscopy for cancer diagnosis, prognosis and prediction of treatment outcome in cancer patients
- 6) **QUB:** A cancer disease positioning platform to improve alignment between clinical lesions and pre-clinical models

**15:10– 15:20**      **Overall Management of AICRistart**  
 Dr. Rosemarie Gannon, University College Dublin

**15:20 – 15:35**      **Tea/Coffee break**

**15:35- 15:45**      **Overview of Saolta-University of Galway Cancer Network**  
 Prof. Michael Kerin, University of Galway

**15:45 – 16:15**      **Science on Screen – The People There to Catch Us**  
 Dr. Róisín Dwyer, UoG, Claire Riordan, UoG, with Rachel O’ Mahony and Tom Hope (Patient Partners)

**16:15 – 16:50**      **PPI involvement in Cancer Research and Cancer Survivorship – What Researchers Need to Know? (Co-Chairs: Prof. Amanda McCann (UCD) and Jacqueline Daly, East Galway & Midlands Cancer Support Group) with Clodagh Barry, Michael Daly, Rachel O’ Mahony and Tom Hope (Patient Partners)**

- 16: 50 - 17:00** Spend Less to Achieve More – Delivering the Precision Medicine Paradigm  
Prof. Mark Lawler, Queen’s University Belfast
- 17: 00 - 17:10** Wrap-up and Close of Day 1  
Prof. Michael Kerin, UoG and Prof. William Gallagher, UCD
- 17:30** Bus departs for Harbour Hotel
- 19:00** Dinner and networking opportunity – Harbour Hotel Galway  
Followed by a music session – please bring along an instrument if you would like to join in

## Day 2

- 9:30 – 10:50** Translational and Clinical Research – From Lab to the Clinic and Cancer Patients –Collaboration and Benefits for All (Co-Chairs: Prof. Joanne Lysaght, TCD and Dr Laura Barkley, UoG)  
Prof. Michael O’Dwyer UoG, Prof. Joe O’Sullivan, QUB,  
Prof. Ruth Clifford, UL and Prof. Jack Gleeson, UCC  
  
Followed by discussion and Q and A

**10:50 – 11:05** Tea/Coffee break

- 11:05 - 12:15** Engagement with Cancer Clinical Trials – Advice for Emerging Researchers (Co-Chairs: Prof. Michael Kerin, UoG and Dr Kyle Matchett, UU)  
Eibhlin Mulroe, CEO Cancer Trials Ireland, Prof. Aoife Lowery, UoG,  
Prof. Austin Duffy, Director of Research, START Dublin and  
Dr. Veronica McInerney, UoG  
  
Discussion and Q and A

- 12:15 - 12:35** Next steps for AICRIstart and development of partnerships and networks  
Prof. Michael Kerin, UoG and Prof. William Gallagher, UCD

- 12: 35 - 12:45** Wrap-up and Close

**12:45 – 13:30** Lunch and Networking Opportunity

- 13:30** Close

**Note:** On Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November photography and videography will be in use. This content will be used for promotional purposes for the AICRIstart project. Please let us know if you would prefer not to be in the photographs and/or video.