



INNOVATE AND CONNECT: ALL-ISLAND ONCOLOGY INNOVATION INDUSTRY WORKSHOP

Organised by The All-Island Cancer Research Institute

24th April, 2024, Herbert Park Hotel

supported by
InterTradeIreland

**Evaluating the current landscape and economic potential of precision oncology/digital health on the island of Ireland project is funded by InterTradeIreland (ITI). By registering and attending this event, your data will be held by InterTradeIreland. InterTradeIreland will not circulate your details to any third party. Further information can be found : <https://intertradeireland.com/site-pages/privacy-policy>.*



Background to the Project

Since 2020, the All-Island Cancer Research Institute (AICRI) has been bringing together and amplifying the combined expertise of cancer researchers and other stakeholders across the island of Ireland, and linking with US and other international partners in order to tackle the increasing burden of cancer (www.aicri.org). Its core mission is to provide an overarching framework for cancer research and associated innovation across the island of Ireland, from discovery to implementation, for the benefit of cancer patients and wider society. A primary focus for AICRI is to deepen North-South collaboration in research and innovation and strengthen societal and economic links for mutual benefit.

A key aspect of AICRI's activities is to bring multiple stakeholders together, including the industry sector, so as to ensure the broader cancer research and innovation ecosystem on the island of Ireland is both defined and enriched. Hence, in 2023 Co-Leads of AICRI from University College Dublin (Prof. William Gallagher) and Queen's University Belfast (Prof. Mark Lawler) applied to InterTradeIreland for funding under its Synergy Programme to conduct a study to evaluate the current landscape and economic potential of oncology and allied digital health on the island of Ireland. The funding application was successful and Salutem Insights was commissioned by AICRI to conduct the research and produce the Industry Ecosystem Report. The All-Island Oncology Industry Report was completed in the spring of 2024 and is being launched on 24th April 2024 at the Innovate and Connect: All-Island Oncology Innovation Industry Workshop in Dublin.

The report puts forward a number of recommendations which AICRI hopes will lead to further opportunities for collaboration and future investment in Northern Ireland and Ireland. AICRI is most grateful to InterTradeIreland for the funding it received under the InterTradeIreland Synergy Programme. AICRI would also like to extend its thanks to all of the contributors to the report, from industry leaders to members of state bodies and other stakeholders.

Foreword

We are delighted you are joining us today, Wednesday, 24th April 2024 at the Herbert Park Hotel, Dublin, for this unique workshop to launch the Industry Ecosystem Report and discuss the potential for an All-Island Oncology Innovation Cluster.

The workshop has a fantastic line-up of distinguished speakers and panellists. We are honoured to have Conor Murphy, Minister for the Economy, Northern Ireland, along with Minister Dara Calleary, Minister of State for Trade Promotion, Digital and Company Regulation, Ireland, to each deliver a keynote address and jointly launch the Industry Ecosystem Report. This report provides an in-depth insight into the industry ecosystem in the areas of oncology and allied digital health across the island of Ireland. It also shows the economic potential of this sector and provides some key recommendations to maximise its potential.

Today's event brings together a blend of case studies and presentations from companies, researchers, government agencies and public bodies. Through our work we hope to increase collaboration and innovation across academia, industry, and the public sector within the fields of oncology and related digital health domains. Thank you for joining us today. We hope the connections you make here today will be of benefit to you and your organisations in the future.

- AICRI Management Team

Venue Details



Herbert Park Hotel, Dublin

Ballsbridge Terrace, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 R2T2

[\(Click for location on Google Maps\)](#)



Programme Agenda

10:00 Registration, Tea/Coffee

10:30 Opening Welcome

Dr Rosemarie Gannon, University College Dublin

10:35 Opening Comments

Prof. Kate Robson Brown, University College Dublin

10:45 Overview of the All-Island Cancer Research Institute

Prof. William Gallagher, University College Dublin

10:55 Background to this Industry Ecosystem Report

Prof. Mark Lawler, Queen's University Belfast

11:00 Presentation of Main Findings of the Industry Ecosystem Report

Dr Raymond Henderson, Saludem Insights

Prof. Mark Lawler, Queen's University Belfast

Prof. William Gallagher, University College Dublin

11:20 Panel 1: Discussion in relation to Industry Ecosystem Report

Chair of Panel: Prof. William Gallagher, University College Dublin

Prof. Chris Scott (Queens University Belfast)

Prof Walter Kolch (University College Dublin)

Sandra Redmond (Saludem Insights)

Elaine Quinn (Roche)

Orlaith Ryan (Shorla Oncology)

Damien McConville (InterTradeIreland)

11:40 Case Examples in Precision Oncology/Allied Digital Health Industry

Chair: Prof. Chris Scott, Queens University Belfast

5 minute presentations by:

Carrick Therapeutics (Dr Ash Bahl)

Akkure Genomics (Prof. Oran Rigby)

Almac Diagnostic Services (Prof. Richard Kennedy)

Connected Health & Well Being Cluster (Breannán Casey, DKIT)

Presentations followed by short Q and A session

12:15 Spotlight Presentations:

Chair of Panel: **Gráinne Lennon**, InterTradeIreland

Spotlight Presentation - DELL - Arshad Farhad (10 mins)

Spotlight Presentation - AstraZeneca - Ruth March (10 mins)

Spotlight Presentation IQVIA - Orlaith Brennan (10 mins)

Spotlight Presentations followed by short Q and A session

13:00 Networking Lunch

13:30 Keynote addresses and official launch of the Industry Ecosystem Report

Minister Conor Murphy, Minister for the Economy, Northern Ireland

Minister Dara Calleary, Minister of State for Trade Promotion, Digital and Company Regulation

14:00 InterTradeIreland and Cross-Border Opportunities

Margaret Hearty, CEO, InterTradeIreland

14:10 Panel 2: Panel Discussion – Building Further Academia-Industry Partnerships

Chair of Panel: **Dr Marion Boland**, Science Foundation Ireland

Joann Rhodes (Health Innovation Research Alliance Northern Ireland)

Prof. Leonie Young, (Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland)

Maureen Timlin (IDA Ireland)

Alison Currie (InterTradeIreland)

Dr Mary Jo Kurth (Randox)

Dr Hugh Cormican (Cirdan Imaging Ltd)

14:40 PEACEPLUS Programme and Cross-Border Opportuniy

Gina McIntyre, CEO, Special EU Programmes Body
(virtual pre-recorded presentation)

14:45 Enterprise Ireland Comments

Cepta Duffy, Manager High Potential Start-Ups, Enterprise Ireland

14:50 Invest Northern Ireland Comments

Brendan McGuigan, Head of Life Sciences, Invest Northern Ireland

14:55 IBEC Comments

Sinead Keogh, Director, BioPharmaChem Ireland

Irish Business and Employers' Confederation

15:00 Next steps and Close

Prof. Chris Scott, Queen's University Belfast

15:10 - 16:00 Networking Event (canapés and soft drinks)

Workshop Participants - Photos and Short Biographies

Dr Rosemarie Gannon Project Manager, All-Island Cancer Research Institute

Dr Gannon is a project manager based in University College Dublin. She has several years of project management experience and currently is the manager at the All-Island Cancer Research Institute (AICRI). She also manages the €4 million HEA funded AICRistart programme which trains 10 PhD students and 10 postdoctoral researchers in precision cancer medicine on the island of Ireland. Rosemarie is also involved in the establishment of the National Cancer Mission Hub (NCMH) in Ireland through the EU-funded ECHO-S project. Dr Gannon played a key role in securing the funding for this industry research project under InterTradeIreland's Synergy initiative, sourcing the consultancy firm, organising today's All-Island Oncology Industry workshop and managing the whole project successfully.

From 2020 to 2023, Dr Gannon was a member the project management team which established AIREN, the All-Ireland Research Excellence Network. She was a member of the UCD Research Managers and Administrators Network (URMAN) advisory group from 2019 – 2023. She successfully managed the EU SWIM project from 2018-2020. This research project developed a model to predict the bathing water quality at selected beaches in Northern Ireland and Ireland.

Rosemarie has a PhD in Information and Communication Studies from UCD, an MSc in Project Management from the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School and a BA Hons in Applied Languages (French and German) from Ulster University. Rosemarie was a Finalist for "Project Professional of the Year" National Award 2023, organised by the Ireland Chapter of PMI (Project Management Institute) in association with PwC.



Prof Kate Robson Brown Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact, University College Dublin

Professor Kate Robson Brown is the newly appointed Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact at UCD Dublin. Before her tenure at UCD, Professor Robson Brown began her career at the University of Cambridge, where she received her PhD in Human Phylogenetics at Newnham College, and then held a Research Fellowship at Downing College. Her research explores the microstructure of living tissues and their response to changing and extreme environments; human factors; forensics; biomimetics in engineering design, and multi-scale modelling of complex material structures and systems. Moving to the University of Bristol, Kate held a fractional appointment across two Faculties (Science and Engineering / Arts Social Sciences and Law) as a Professor of Engineering Mathematics and Biological Anthropology. She was the Director of the Jean Golding Institute for Data Science and AI from 2017-2014. In 2017, she was also awarded a Fellowship from the Alan Turing Institute (the UK National Institute for Data Science and AI) and later was formally seconded to the Turing Institute as the Chair of their Research and Innovation Advisory Committee.

She was honoured with an Honorary Fellowship in 2024 for her extensive contributions. Professor Robson Brown was the University of Bristol lead in the West of England Space Cluster 'SpaceWest' and a Lay Chair for NHS Postgraduate Medical Education South West (Severn Deanery). She retains her status as a Visiting Professor in Data Science at Strathmore University in Nairobi and as an advisor to the ESA Human and Robotic Exploration Directorate. Kate is co-chair of the Space Academic Network, a Board member of the UK Life and Biomedical Sciences Association, and a member of the Space Partnership Board.



Prof William Gallagher

**Professor of Cancer Biology, University College Dublin;
Co-Lead, All-Island Cancer Research Institute (AICRI);
Scientific Director, St. Vincent's-UCD Cancer Centre**

Professor William Gallagher is Full Professor of Cancer Biology at University College Dublin (UCD) and Deputy Director of Precision Oncology Ireland, a large-scale Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Strategic Partnership Programme involving 5 academic institutions, 6 cancer charities and 7 companies (www.precisiononcology.ie). He is also Scientific Director of the recently established St. Vincent's-UCD Cancer Centre (www.stvincentsucdcancercentre.ie/).

Currently, Prof. Gallagher is a primary driving force behind the All-Island Cancer Research Institute (AICRI), which is creating an overarching framework for cancer research across the entire island of Ireland (www.aicri.org). AICRI-linked programmes were recently awarded over 12 million euro under the recent HEA North-South Research Programme.

Prof. Gallagher is also co-leading, with Prof. Lawler, an InterTradeIreland Synergy project which is mapping the industry ecosystem on the island of Ireland in respect of precision oncology and allied digital health areas, with a view towards ultimately developing an All-Island Oncology Innovation Cluster.

From 2016-2021, Professor Gallagher was Director of the UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research, one of Ireland's largest biomedical research facilities. From 2013-2019, he was the Director of BREAST-PREDICT, which was the first Irish Cancer Society Collaborative Cancer Research Centre (CCRC) to be funded. Prof. Gallagher has received a number of awards for his research and innovation achievements in the oncology arena, including the inaugural Irish Association for Cancer Research Medal in 2017, the SFI Entrepreneurship Award in 2019 and the SFI Researcher of the Year Award in 2021. Prof. Gallagher has co-founded two molecular diagnostics companies, OncoMark Ltd. and OncoAssure Ltd., the former being acquired in March 2021 by the US company Danaher (Cepheid division).



Prof Mark Lawler

**Professor of Digital Health and Chair in Translational
Cancer Genomics at Queen's University Belfast**

Professor Mark Lawler is Professor of Digital Health and Chair in Translational Cancer Genomics at Queen's University Belfast. He is Co-lead of the All-Island Cancer Research Institute (AICRI). He is Scientific Director of DATA-CAN, the UK's Health Data Research Hub for Cancer. Mark is Chair of the International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership, which sets a benchmark for cancer outcomes globally. He is Chair of the Lancet Oncology European Groundshot Commission, the most comprehensive analysis of cancer research in Europe ever, which reimagines cancer research and its implementation across Europe. Mark has a strong commitment to patient-centred research and addressing cancer inequalities. He was architect of the European Cancer Patient's Bill of Rights, launched in the European Parliament (World Cancer Day). He received the 2018 European Health Award, a prestigious award for partnerships that yield real health impact in Europe.

His pioneering work on Covid-19 and cancer received the Royal College of Physicians Excellence in Patient Care Award and the prestigious European Communique Award, which recognised the use of data to enhance cancer services and effect policy change. He leads the European Cancer Organisation's European Cancer Pulse which captures data intelligence to inform mitigation of cancer inequalities. In 2021, Mark received the Irish Association for Cancer Research's Outstanding Contribution to cancer research award, for his pioneering work on cancer research and care on the island of Ireland. In 2022, he and his team won the prestigious HDR-UK Impact of the Year Award for providing the crucial health economic intelligence to inform a change in policy for treating colorectal cancer.

Recently Prof Lawler's group published the most comprehensive analysis of the costs of precision oncology drugs on the market, highlighting how a companion diagnostic informed precision oncology approach is more cost effective than a one size fits all approach in cancer. Prof Lawler was one of the leadership involved in developing and launching a radical new plan for cancer research and cancer care in the House of Commons. In November 2023, Prof Lawler received a Special Merit Award from the European Cancer Organisation, Europe's largest multi-professional cancer organisation, in recognition of his ground-breaking work in Covid and Cancer and his work on cancer inequalities.



Dr Raymond Henderson, MSc., PhD, Senior Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Manager, Salutem Insights Ltd

Dr Raymond Henderson, MSc., PhD, is an award-winning, distinguished Health Economist. With his background in biomedical sciences, precision medicine, economic modelling, and large dataset management, he has a special focus on advancing the economic and medical advantages of precision medicine within the diagnostic, pharmacological, and healthcare sectors. Currently serving as the Senior Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Manager at Salutem Insights Ltd in Ireland, Dr Henderson leads strategic initiatives and market access strategies in the generation and development of Health Economic Outcomes Research (HEOR) evidence to facilitate HTA dossier submissions and to secure approvals from the National Centre for Pharmacoeconomics (NCPe) for the pharmaceutical industry. Throughout his career, Dr Henderson has demonstrated adept leadership in managing and training professionals, fostering a collaborative environment conducive to innovation and excellence. His ability to effectively engage with stakeholders, both domestically and internationally, underscores his capacity to drive transformative change within the healthcare landscape.

Dr Henderson is also a prolific author and presenter, contributing to peer-reviewed manuscripts, international conferences, lecture series, webinars and podcasts. Notably, Dr Henderson's contributions extend beyond traditional boundaries of HEOR, including his pioneering work in modelling the R&D cost of precision oncology medicines, and his award-winning economic evaluation of precision oncology therapeutic approaches in metastatic bowel cancer. These multifaceted contributions to both academia and industry illuminate his commitment to advancing healthcare outcomes through interdisciplinary collaboration, to advance precision medicine and enhance patient outcomes, and position him as a leading figure in the field of applying precision medicine to HEOR.



Prof Christopher Scott Dean of Research, Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Sciences, Queen's University Belfast

Chris is Dean of Research for the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Sciences at QUB. Following a primary degree in biochemistry Chris undertook a PhD and post-doctoral training at Queen's in molecular enzymology. Chris is internationally renowned for his work in development of antibody and nanomedicine-based therapies for the treatment of cancer and other conditions. Work in his laboratory is funded by agencies such as Medical Research Council, US-Ireland, and various industrial sources.

Chris also held a Royal Society Industrial Fellowship with GSK from 2012-15, and won the Vice Chancellor's Prize for Innovation in 2015 with his group's work on developing a novel nanomedicine which is now out-licensed and in phase 2/3 clinical development for macular degeneration. Chris is part of the MRC's early translation funding panel (DPGS) and a member of the EPSRC Healthcare Technologies Scientific Advisory Board.

Chris has been involved in the development of a number of companies in life and health sciences in nationally and internationally, including Fusion Antibodies Plc, and is scientific co-founder of Aviceda Therapeutics and AilseVax Ltd. Chris is also the lead for the NI Precision Biomarkers and Therapeutics Consortium – a founding group of companies and both universities in NI focused on developing cluster strengths in life and health sciences.



Prof Walter Kolch

Director, Systems Biology Ireland, University College Dublin (UCD)

Walter Kolch is Director of Systems Biology Ireland (<https://www.ucd.ie/sbi/>) and the Precision Oncology Ireland Consortium (<https://www.precisiononcology.ie/>). Trained as an MD he worked in experimental clinical research, pharmaceutical industry, and basic biological research. Before moving to Dublin in 2009 he held a Chair for Molecular Cell Biology at the University of Glasgow and was a Senior Group Leader at the Cancer Research UK Beatson Institute in Glasgow, Scotland. He is best known for his work in oncogene signal transduction, proteomics, systems biology, and precision medicine. He is ranked No 5 in the world in precision oncology by citations. He has made salient contributions to elucidating the function of the RAF kinases and the RAS-ERK pathway, and more recently to understanding the network wide effects of oncogenes. His current research interest focuses on understanding molecular mechanisms of malignant transformation and network mediated drug resistance in cancer, as well as multiomics data integration and Digital Twin models for cancer. These computer models will eventually allow us to simulate individual cancer patients in order to diagnose and treat their cancer in a precise and personalized way. He has vast experience in leading highly successful, strategic interdisciplinary research projects (total value of €73.M) including two major (>€16M) EU FP7 grants. He serves on several editorial boards and scientific advisory boards and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and a Member of the Royal Irish Academy.



Sandra Redmond

Managing Director, Salutem Insights Ltd

Sandra Redmond has over 20 years of experience in providing expert economic and modelling advice. Her journey began with a degree and master's in economics from University College Dublin (UCD), followed by roles as a researcher at UCD and as an economic consultant at Goodbody Stockbrokers in Dublin and Econtech in Australia. In 2005, Sandra joined GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) as a health economics specialist, later becoming Head of Market Access in 2016. As the Managing Director, Sandra's expertise in economic consulting and navigating the Irish reimbursement process ensures that she can successfully guide companies through complex market access challenges.



Elaine Quinn

Precision Medicine Partner, Roche Ireland

Elaine Quinn is Precision Medicine Partner at Roche Ireland and holds an MSc. in Molecular Medicine and PhD in Chemistry from Trinity College Dublin. Elaine has responsibility for system-shaping initiatives that support Roche's ambition to deliver the potential for personalised healthcare in Ireland. A key aspect of this ambition involves expediting and enhancing the screening, diagnosis, treatment, and preventive measures for diseases, thereby significantly improving the lives of individuals throughout the island of Ireland - ensuring access to the right treatment for the right patient at the right time. Elaine has worked at Roche for nine years holding positions in regulatory, medical and healthcare innovation, primarily focused on oncology.



Orlaith Ryan

CTO, Co-Founder, Shorla Oncology

Orlaith Ryan is CTO, Co-Founder, and board member of Shorla Oncology ('Shorla'), a pharmaceutical company headquartered in Ireland with an office in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Shorla Oncology develops and commercialises innovative oncology drugs solving unmet needs by focusing on indications where existing treatments are limited, in shortage, or inadequate for the target population.

Orlaith is a Chartered scientist and holds an MSc in Regulatory Affairs from the University of Wales, BSc in Applied Biology with Quality Management from Waterford Institute of Technology & a Certificate in Corporate Governance from INSEAD.



Damien McConville

Programme Manager in the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Directorate, InterTradeIreland

Damien McConville is a Programme Manager in the Innovation and Entrepreneurship directorate at InterTradeIreland. On a day-to-day basis Damien manages the Synergy programme. This is a cluster support programme aiming to build connections between cluster organisations in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Damien is interested in developing and supporting collaborative cluster projects that increase innovation, increase skills, embrace industry 4.0, digitalisation and the green economy amongst SMEs and has worked on a variety of projects in sectors with an all-island importance, including Fintech, Cyber, Bioeconomy and Advanced Manufacturing.



Dr Ash Bahl

Co-founder, Chief Scientific Officer, Carrick Therapeutics

Dr Bahl is co-founder and Chief Scientific Officer of Carrick Therapeutics. Dr Bahl has over 25 years of international pharmaceutical experience leading collaborations in US, Japan, and Europe. His previous roles were with Eli Lilly (Vice President of External Innovation), AstraZeneca (Vice President Head of R&D New Opportunities) and Glaxo.

Dr Bahl did his first degree in Pharmacy at Kings College London, trained as a pharmacist at John Radcliffe Hospital Oxford and then a PhD in Immunology at University College London (UCL). Dr Bahl has delivered over 10 compounds into clinical development from his leadership of drug discovery projects in R&D. Dr Bahl has also helped in establishing pioneering collaboration with the Medical Research Council and NIH/NCATS in drug repositioning. Within Eli Lilly he led collaborations with the Chorus Unit and Lilly's Venture funds, this resulted in creation of several new project focused companies.



Prof Oran Rigby Chief Executive Officer, Akkure Genomics

Prof Rigby, a Churchill scholar, is an Executive medical director, digital health entrepreneur and senior consultant Intensive care medicine & surgery sub-specialising in neuroICU, with Australian and European postgraduate qualifications in Surgery, Aeromedicine, Tropical medicine & International health. His Churchill fellowship was awarded to support clinical translational research into applications for virtual care and networked Telemedicine. His MPH focused on surge capacity in ICU during pandemic & disaster responses Oran was engaged as the senior medical consultant advising the Royal Flying Doctor Service on redesign and digital transformation of their medical services & function for the 21st century through the company CRITeCARE of which he was CEO. He was senior medical director/ co-ordinator with the NSW aeromedical & counter disaster service until 2016 occupying both clinical, strategic & tactical roles. His previous roles as Australian NSW state medical director for the major trauma network of over 200 hospitals & Executive Medical Director for Oneview Healthcare, an ASX listed provider of patient engagement, allowed for the practical application of his vision for digital health transformation. An Associate Professor of Autonomous systems with QUT he is a serial Tech entrepreneur fusing his medical expertise with a passion for technology, data and its futuristic novel application, creating over seven digital health companies and multiple medtech patents over the past decade.



Prof Richard Kennedy Professor of Medical Oncology, Queen's University of Belfast; Global VP and Medical Director, Almac

Richard Kennedy is Global VP and Medical Director at Almac and Professor of Medical Oncology at Queen's University of Belfast. He graduated in medicine from Queen's University Belfast in 1995. As a post-graduate he trained as a medical oncologist and received a PhD in Molecular Biology in 2004. From 2004-2007 he worked as an Instructor in Oncology at Harvard Medical School, USA, where he identified novel biomarkers and drug targets for cancer treatment. This work was published in several high impact journals and the associated patent was in-licensed by a Boston-based start-up company in 2007.

In August 2007 Richard joined Almac Diagnostic Services as a College of American Pathologists approved molecular lab director and has been responsible for the development and delivery of precision medicine biomarkers in over 300 clinical studies on behalf of multiple large pharmaceutical companies. In 2011 he also established a research group in Queen's University Belfast focussed on various aspects of precision medicine. He continues to publish regularly in this field. He currently sits on the MATRIX NI Government science advisory panel and the Royal College of Physicians Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine Oncology Advisory group. He is a past member of the MRC Stratified Medicine Panel and the CR-UK new agents committee.



Breannán Casey Education and Outreach Manager, Connected Health and Wellbeing Cluster

Breannán Casey has twenty years 'economic development' experience across multiple sectors, including startup support and foreign direct investment, and roles in the public and private sector. His role at Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT) is developing a 'Connected Health and Well-Being' Cluster as part of Enterprise Ireland's 'Regional Technology Cluster Fund' initiative.

The Connected Health & Wellbeing (CHW) Cluster, www.chwcluster.ie, was formally launched in November 2021, and currently has over 50 members. The aim is to increase collaboration across key stakeholders in the health ecosystem. Current members range from startups to technology giants, research centres, healthcare providers, and support groups. Recent examples of successful collaborative projects include the 'AI for Health' all-island programme, the creation of the startup programme www.ehealth-embark.ie in partnership with Amazon Web Services (AWS), and the successful application to become Ireland's only Active and Healthy Ageing 'Reference Site', www.rscn.eu.



Grainne Lennon

International Funding and Collaborations Broker
Manager, InterTradeIreland

Grainne Lennon is the International Funding and Collaborations Broker Manager in the Innovation and Entrepreneurship directorate at InterTradeIreland. Leveraging international collaborative opportunities for North/South research partnerships through secretariat of the US-Ireland R&D Partnership and management of InterTradeIreland's support for North/South co-operation on Horizon Europe.



Arshad Farhad

Healthcare CTO & Practice Lead – Europe, Middle
East & Africa (EMEA), Dell Technologies

Arshad Farhad, with over two decades in healthcare IT and notable expertise in AI, is a leading figure in digital healthcare. His impactful 14 years at the UK's NHS drove significant advancements in AI-driven medical solutions. Now CTO for Healthcare and Life Sciences at Dell Technologies, he pioneers innovation at the nexus of medicine and technology. He is also an advisory board member for IoT and Federated learning in Medical Informatics Europe. Pursuing a PhD in AI research, complemented by an MPhil from Oxford University, his insights promise to reshape global healthcare IT. A luminary in his field, Arshad's work is pivotal in digital medical evolution.

Outside the realm of Dell Technologies, Arshad has been an active voice in global healthcare IT forums, contributing his unique insights, and serving as an inspiration for the next generation of healthcare IT leaders. His thought leadership book, articles, white papers, and keynote addresses have been instrumental in shaping discussions on the future of healthcare IT. He is also a member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and the European Federated Learning Board for research. He has published numerous papers including Medical Informatics Europe, IEEE and BCS ICHCI.

The most recent book that he published is on GenAI strategy for healthcare and life sciences, "Nurturing Health: Unleashing the Potential of Generative AI Strategies".

He lives with his wife Kiran and two children, Arham & Namrah in Cronon, Merseyside. UK



Dr Ruth March

Senior Vice-President of Precision Medicine, R&D
Oncology, AstraZeneca

Ruth March leads Precision Medicine and Biosamples at AstraZeneca, with a mission of "accelerating cure – from samples to precision medicines". She is accountable for development of novel diagnostics for AstraZeneca's drug projects in all therapy areas and phases of drug development, where to date she has successfully launched 58 diagnostic tests for eight Precision Medicine drugs. She is also leading the transformation of AstraZeneca's use of Human Biological Samples, creating end-to-end digital systems that will drive the next generation of innovative medicines for patients. Dr March has a proven record of driving innovation, including the world's first drug label based on circulating tumour DNA; the first FDA approval of a lab-based companion diagnostic and the first point of care diagnostic for respiratory disease. She gained investment for several strategic programmes, including a world-leading genomics initiative that is delivering novel targets for drug discovery, use of circulating tumour DNA and artificial intelligence-based tools for patient selection.

In the Covid-19 pandemic, she set up an end-to-end programme to test AstraZeneca key employees for infection in 3 major markets, keeping the workplace safe and maintaining the supply chain of key medicines, for which she was awarded an OBE.

Dr March is passionate about diversity, early career researchers and innovation in life sciences, including experience at Board level and public-private partnerships, driving strategic collaborations with diagnostic companies and academic institutions. Since relocating to Dublin, she is building a team based on the unique skills base that Ireland has to offer.



Orlaith Brennan

Market Development Director, IQUIA

A pharmacist by profession, Orlaith has over 25 years industry experience ranging from community practice to national policy development. Having practiced pharmacy immediately after qualification she completed an MBA and then spent ten years with United Drug plc. in a variety of roles, working with hospital pharmacists and multinational manufacturers, focused on the supply chain and strategy development.

More recently she has worked with IPHA, the representative body of the research based pharmaceutical industry, where she facilitated and developed industry positions and was the main interlocuteur with the HSE and Department of Health on operational matters. She has also played a key role in the negotiation and implementation of the Framework Agreements between the industry and the State since 2012. Through her various experiences in the healthcare ecosystem she has focused on engaging with stakeholders and experts to develop evidence based, practical solutions and outcomes.



Margaret Hearty

CEO, InterTradeIreland

Margaret Hearty was appointed to the role of Chief Executive of InterTradeIreland in April 2021. InterTradeIreland is the cross-border body established to provide leadership advice and support to maximise export growth opportunities through greater cross-border collaboration, innovation, entrepreneurship and trade.

Margaret is an experienced Business Leader. Before being appointed to the role of CEO, Margaret worked with InterTradeIreland for over twenty years leading the development and delivery of its range of innovative business supports. She has been a member of the organisation's Senior Management Team for over eleven years. Margaret's career spans two decades of experience working with entrepreneurs, small & medium sized enterprises and start-up businesses. She has extensive experience designing innovative solutions and supports for business.

Margaret is highly networked within the all-island economic policy and business ecosystem and has extensive experience of working collaboratively with multiple partners. Margaret is a business and marketing graduate and has a MBA.



Dr Marion Boland

Head of Research Policy, Science Foundation Ireland

Dr Marion Boland is Head of Research Policy at Science Foundation Ireland since late 2017. Prior to this, Marion was Head of Post Award (2012), having joined SFI as a Scientific Programme Manager in May 2009. Marion holds a Ph.D. from the Institute of Cancer Research/University of London and was a career scientist prior to joining SFI. She held positions at Trinity College Dublin, the University of Alberta and University of Cambridge before joining the Centre for Cancer research and Cell Biology at Queen's University Belfast in 2001 as a Lecturer in Molecular Oncology. Marion's research focused on the role of specific transcription factors in breast cancer responsiveness to DNA damaging drugs. Marion has a track record of publishing and securing grant funding, from both National and international sources.

Within SFI, Marion manages a diverse portfolio of research policy and governance related areas, including Research Integrity, State aid, Grant Terms & Conditions, Open Science, Data management and SFI's adoption of DORA principles. SFI's EDI Strategy is also part of Marion's brief, where SFI is recognised as a leader in Innovative practices that improve the representation of women in STEM. Marion's team has recently led in a Horizon2020 funded project to develop funder communities of practice in sex and gender dimension actions. Marion represents SFI at various national and international fora, including cOALitionS, the Science Europe Working Groups on Research Integrity and Research Culture, and the GRC EDI Working Group.



Joann Rhodes

Chief Executive, Health Innovation Research Alliance Northern Ireland; Visiting Professor, Ulster University – Health & Life Sciences

As Chief Executive of HIRANI, the life and Health sciences cluster, Joann provides sector-specific support to accelerates health innovation from the lab-clinic-patient-home. Through strategic insights, Joann facilitates alignment of NI capabilities with local & global health and life sciences opportunities for collaboration and investment to drive health and prosperity for the citizens and businesses of Northern Ireland. The life sciences cluster was successful in Oct 2023 in securing a £7.5M Innovate-UK place-based Launchpad investment for local SME R&D growth.

Joann started her career as a cellular pharmacologist and industry fellow at Imperial college developing novel therapies for COPD and delivering clinical biomarker rationale for 4 novel therapeutics to accelerate progression to the clinic. In 2011, Joann started her own company act as an honest-broker to facilitate industry-academic-clinical partnerships delivering the £16M US-UK Pfizer Rare Diseases Consortium, and in 2018 as Chief of Staff at Merck (MSD) UK R&D Laboratories, to realise the start-up vision for the new collaborative £1.3B UK R&D Innovation laboratories for Neurodegeneration at The Francis Crick Institute, in London.

She also holds advisory positions, co-chairing the recent Matrix foresight report at C-TRIC, the British Pharmacological Society and TopM-D. Joann graduated in 2020 from Imperial College with an Executive MBA from Imperial College, London winning the Dean's award and Joan Woodward Prize for Organisational Strategy. She is also visiting Professor at Ulster University



Prof Leonie Young,

Professor, Department of Surgery, RCSI

Professor Leonie Young, based at York House in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, leads the Endocrine Oncology Research Group. Graduating from Trinity College Dublin and completing her PhD training at University College Dublin in 1997, Prof. Young's research centers on unraveling networks implicated in SRC-mediated resistance in breast cancer to tamoxifen and aromatase inhibitors. Her investigations aim to identify predictive markers and develop new therapeutic targets, focusing on SRC-1 and utilizing high-throughput experimental methods, molecular studies, functional models, and translational research. Leveraging primary breast cell cultures from patient tumors and extensive clinical datasets, Prof. Young's group explores mechanisms of SRC-1 resistance to define predictive markers and therapeutic targets for commercial development and clinical trial interventions, with the goal of improving patient outcomes.



Maureen Timlin

VP of Medical Technologies for US Mid West IDA
Ireland Life Sciences Division

Maureen Timlin is business development manager within the Medical Technologies of IDA Ireland, with responsibility for winning inward investment activity from large multinational companies within the Medical Technologies and Medical Devices sector. These activities include advanced manufacturing, R&D, supply chain optimisation, global business services and taxation planning for the European and EMEA markets. Maureen collaborates with a diverse set of US MedTech clients as they seek to expand and transform their global operations in Ireland via upskilling, decarbonisation, and digitalisation initiatives. Maureen has a BA from University College Dublin and an MSc in Business and International Marketing from Strathclyde University and an IMI Diploma in Strategy.



Alison Currie Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, InterTradeIreland

Alison Currie is the Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at InterTradeIreland, leading an experienced team that strives to enhance opportunities for cross border trade, innovation, collaboration and investor readiness.

Alison's focus is on helping businesses to grow, through collaborative innovation supports, developing investor readiness and facilitating cross border clustering activities. Ultimately the goal is to connect businesses with cross-border partners to increase efficiency, boost profits, reduce costs and improve sustainability through innovative processes, products and services. Alison is spearheading the delivery of InterTradeIreland's key strategic priority which is to support collaboration, clusters and networks as well as supporting the all-island entrepreneurship ecosystems so that even more investor ready business can grow and scale.

Alison has significant experience working in strategic management roles within the economic development and innovation ecosystem in Northern Ireland, Ireland, and Scotland. Previously she was the Co-Innovate Programme Director, an EU Interreg funded programme delivering cross-border collaboration and innovation projects. Prior to this, Alison was an Operations Manager in InterTradeIreland leading on the delivery of cross-border trade supports.

Alison works closely with The Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment in Ireland to promote and deliver economic, entrepreneurship and clustering policy.



Dr Mary Jo Kurth Business Development Manager, Randox Laboratories Ltd

Dr Mary Jo Kurth is Business Development Manager at Randox Laboratories. Randox is the largest indigenous manufacturer of clinical diagnostics in the UK and Ireland. Established in 1982, the principal activity of Randox is the design, manufacture, and marketing of quality products for laboratory medicine. Randox's extensive product portfolio includes clinical chemistry reagents and analysers, quality control material, internal quality control software, RIQAS – the largest global EQA scheme in the world – and Biochip Array Technology (BAT) that allows simultaneous detection of multiple analytes using a single patient sample enabling evidence-based decision making and appropriate treatment e.g. for cancer. Randox products are used worldwide by hospital and veterinary laboratories, pharmaceutical/CRO companies, forensic laboratories and in food and wine testing laboratories.

As Business Development Manager, Mary Jo is involved in national and international collaborative Health and Life Sciences R&D projects with academia and consultants to identify and address clinical challenges. Studies often include sponsorship and supervision of MDs/PhDs, testing of samples at Randox Clinical Laboratory Services and/or Randox Genomic Services, and study results have led to the manufacture of diagnostic products for cancer.

Prior to joining Randox in 2008, Mary Jo completed a BSc Hons in Applied Biology at the University of Greenwich, a PhD in Orthopaedics at Queens University Belfast, and post-doctoral research positions at Manchester University, Baylor College of Medicine (Houston, Texas), and Ulster University. Mary Jo has over 50 published peer-reviewed manuscripts and patents and is an author of book chapters and invited reviews.



Dr Hugh Cormican

CEO, Cirdan Imaging Ltd.

Dr Hugh Cormican, originally studied Physics at Queens University Belfast and is a Fellow of the Institute of Physics.

During his PhD studies he became involved in the start-up of Andor Technology. Hugh acted as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Andor Technology from its inception in 1989 and guided Andor through its successful stock market listing in December 2004.

In 2008 Hugh moved to the US to seek medical imaging opportunities and took up the post as acting CEO for Bioptics Inc in Tuscon, Arizona.

Hugh returned to Northern Ireland in 2010 and became a founding member and CEO of Cirdan. As the CEO, Hugh orchestrated the successful purchase of the ULTRA LIS from GE Healthcare in 2013 and has helped grow the company to over 50 employees.



Gina McIntyre

Chief Executive, Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)

Gina is the Chief Executive of the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), a cross-border body established under the Good Friday Agreement and working to the Government of Ireland and the Northern Ireland Assembly.

She is currently responsible for the European Union PEACE IV and INTERREG VA funding programmes, totalling in excess of €0.5 billion, and a new PEACEPLUS Programme with a value of €1.144 Billion. The PEACE Programme represents a unique investment by the European Union in support of the peace process, and both Programmes support the development of a more sustainable and prosperous cross-border region, across Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland (INTERREG only). The PEACEPLUS Programme incorporates objectives and activities from both previous Programmes and has a focus on sustaining Peace and Prosperity in the region, building on the past 25 years of work.

Having spent most of her career involved with EU support programmes, Gina has gained extensive knowledge of the complex cross-border development needs of the region and the appropriate European funding instruments available to meet them.

Gina is a qualified chartered accountant who trained and qualified with Coopers & Lybrand (now PWC). Before joining the SEUPB as the Director of Corporate Services in 2003, she gained extensive practical knowledge of managing the distribution of cross-border PEACE funding during her work for Co-operation Ireland.

Gina is a regular speaker at major conferences and exhibitions across Europe on the management of EU Programmes in a post conflict society.



Dr Cepta Duffy

Manager High Potential Start-Ups, Enterprise Ireland

Cepta is Head of High Potential Start Up unit in Enterprise Ireland, covering Life sciences and Industrial products. Enterprise Ireland is the government agency that helps Irish companies to start, scale and grow globally. Enterprise Ireland supports over 4,000 Irish companies through over 40 offices worldwide. The Agency also invests in innovation capability in universities and regional projects throughout Ireland.

Cepta provides advise and support to a portfolio of life science companies in business strategy, team building, marketing, operations, and finance - with a strong focus on fundraising and building relationships with the funding eco-system.

Prior to Enterprise Ireland Cepta worked in the Biotechnology and BioPharmaceutical industries, mainly in the areas of research and manufacturing in US, Brazil and Ireland.

Cepta has a B.Sc and Ph.D in Biochemistry from the University of Galway, Ireland and qualifications in statistics, PM and more recently corporate governance.



Brendan McGuigan

Head of Life Sciences, Invest Northern Ireland

Brendan McGuigan is the Head of Life Sciences at Invest NI, with over 20 years' experience in economic development. For the past 9 years Brendan has been responsible for leading the Invest NI Life Science team which provides funding and expert advice to support local Life Science businesses innovate and scale internationally. Brendan also leads on Invest NI's external partnership working with the sector, including businesses, universities, sector bodies and health delivery, to drive collaboration across the sector to maximise the health and wealth benefits for Northern Ireland.

In previous roles in Invest NI, Brendan was responsible for the design and delivery of the £50m Competence Centre Research Programme, to drive industry lead collaborative research between local businesses and universities. He was also a R&D Technology Executive responsible for technical due-diligence, project management and evaluation of a portfolio of grant funded R&D projects with local businesses. Before joining Invest NI, Brendan worked internationally as a R&D engineer in the automotive industry.

Brendan has Masters of Engineering (MEng) in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering and a Masters Degree in Management, both from Queen's University Belfast.



Sinead Keogh,
Director, BioPharmaChem Ireland
Irish Business and Employers' Confederation

Sinead Keogh was appointed Director of BioPharmaChem Ireland, the Ibec group that represents the biopharma and chemical sectors in 2023, having held the role of Director of Ibec Medtech and Engineering for the previous 10 years. She also took up the role of Strategic Business Lead and Ibec Head of Sectors in 2022 within Ibec. With over 18 years of experience in Ibec in the area of lifesciences, Sinead recently joined the Industry Advisory Board for SSPC, the Science Foundation Ireland Research Centre for Pharmaceuticals, having previously sat on the Industry Advisory Board for BioInnovate Ireland from 2013-2023, and the Governance Board for Science Foundation Ireland funded Irish Photonic Integration Centre (IPIC) for three years. She has joined the National Association Boards at EU Groups, Cefic and EuropaBio. Before joining Ibec, Sinead held technical roles at 3Com Technologies and lectured part-time at DIT, Kevin Street. She holds a Ph.D. in the Physics of Molecular Materials/Nanotechnology and B.Sc. (Hons.) in Applied Physics, DIT Kevin St as well as a number of marketing, strategy and leadership post graduate qualifications.



Notes



Building an Overarching Framework for Cancer Research on the Island of Ireland

FOLLOW US



@AICRIproject

Visit www.aicri.org