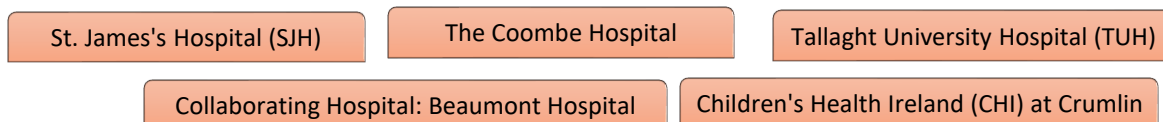


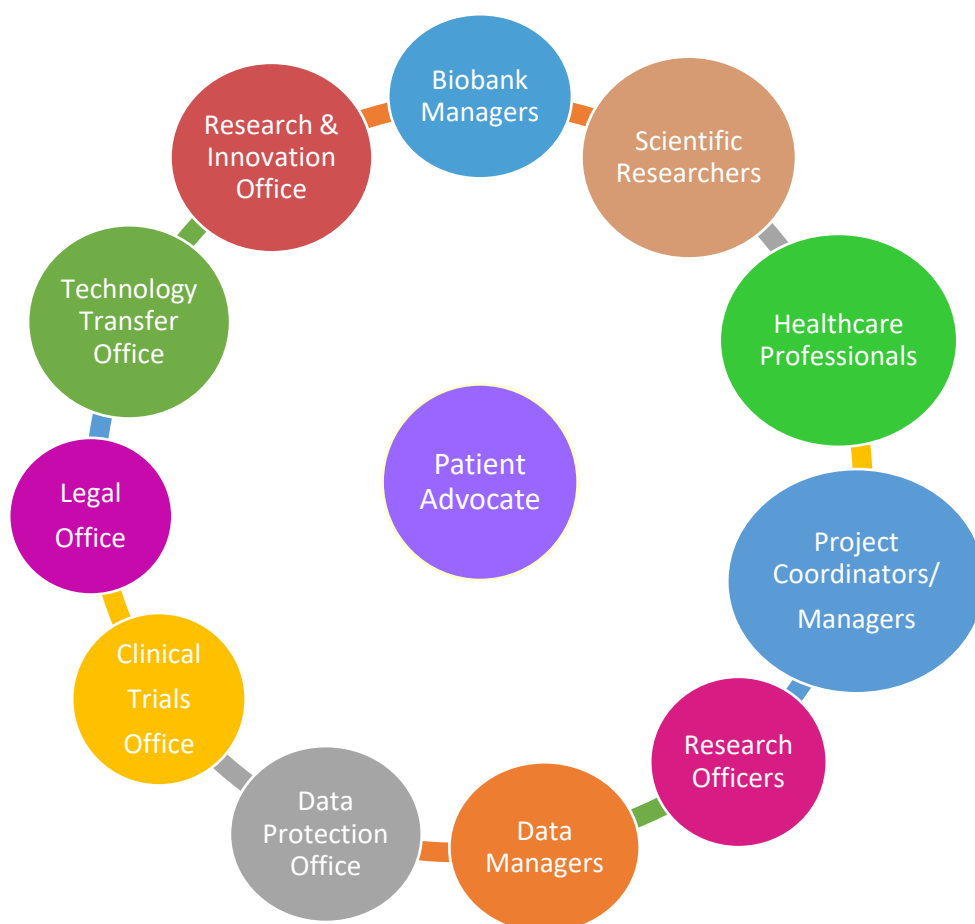
The 2023 Annual TSBN Newsletter

Welcome to our first, annual **Trinity St. James's Biobank Network (TSBN)** newsletter! This first newsletter will explain who we are and feature some highlights from the group.

The TSBN is a working group of representatives from biobanks in Trinity College Dublin (TCD) and its associated hospitals with the patient voice embedded:



The network consists of:

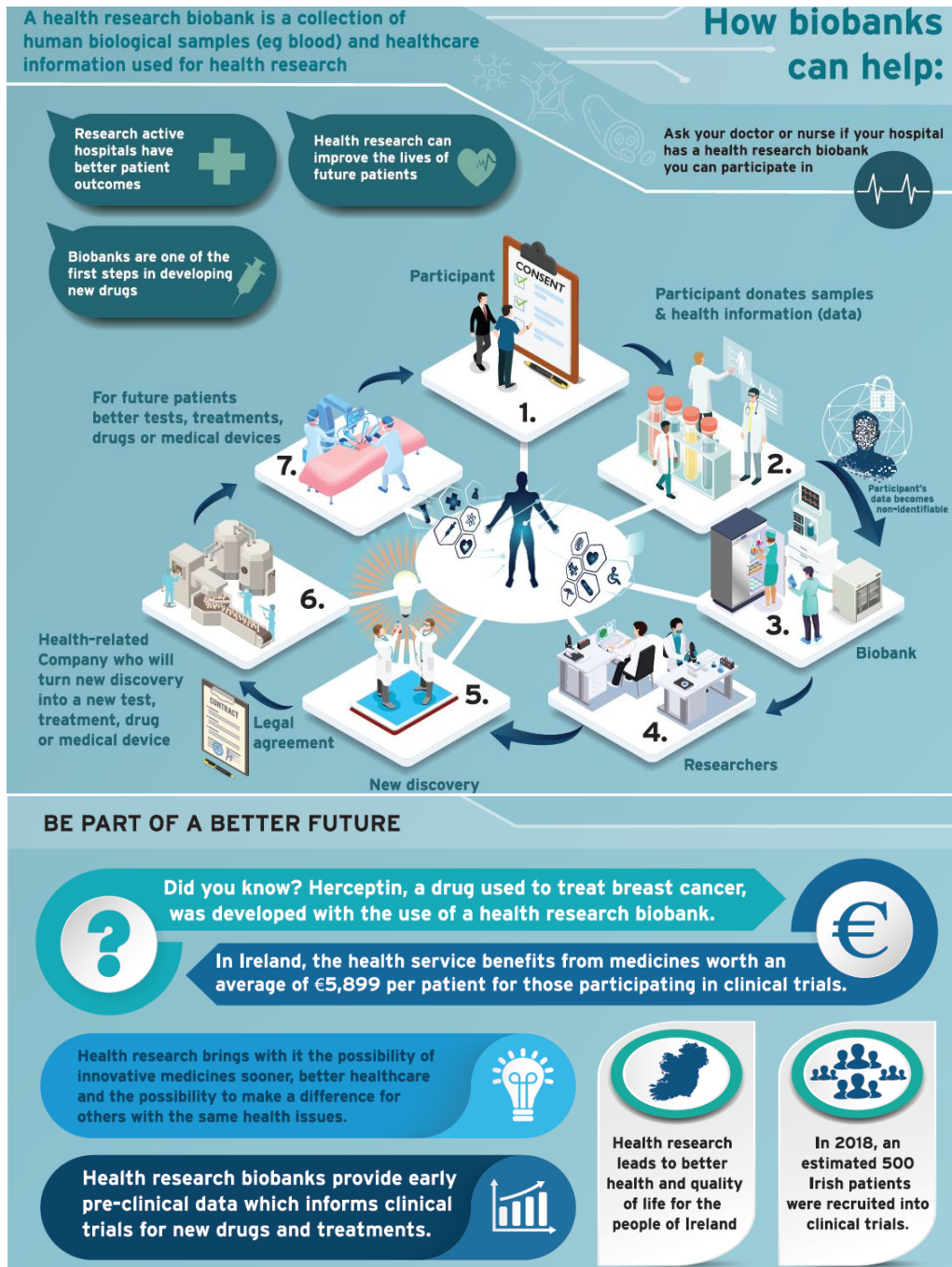


Purpose: to act as a forum for education, co-ordination, and policy generation for all areas relating to biobanks represented in the TSBN.

What is a biobank? A biobank is a collection of tissue, blood or other bodily fluids and healthcare data (information in patients' hospital charts such as details about their condition, test results, images/scans) provided by patients for health research.

The biobanks are used by researchers to learn more about different diseases, to develop better diagnostic tests, treatments, and a better quality of life for people living with a disease. All research studies need approval to ensure they are carried out ethically and safely, that patient rights are protected, and the study complies with data protection regulations.

The figure below details the process of biobanking in our network:



Rachel Lynch (on behalf of National Biobank Working Group)

Currently, there are several different biobanks, including cancer and non-cancer biobanks, in our network.

The **cancer biobanks** include Thoracic (lung) cancer, Gynaecological (ovarian, cervical, endometrial, vulva and vaginal), Breast, Upper Gastrointestinal (oesophagus, stomach), Lower Gastrointestinal (colon, rectal), and Blood cancers. SJH also houses the Histopathology Cancer biobank. **Non-cancer biobanks** include the Trinity Biobank, TILDA (The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing), the RITA Ireland Vasculitis Registry and Biobank, Barrett's Oesophagus, Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD), Ageing & Autoimmune Disease, Child Health, Motor Neuron Disease and COVID-19 Biobanks.

For more information about these biobanks, who we collaborate with, charities involved, and our privacy policies, please visit: <https://www.tcd.ie/medicine/trinity-st-jamess-biobank-network/>. Publications arising from research using biobank samples will be updated on the TSNB website.

Below are some recent highlights from the biobank network:

COVID-19 Biobank:

The St James's Hospital, Tallaght University Hospital, Trinity College Dublin Allied Researchers, or STTAR COVID-19 Bioresource, was established in 2020 via an SFI Strategic Partnership Programme grant. To date, 1563 people have participated. STTAR has produced twenty-eight publications and numerous presentations.

One of STTAR's researchers, Liam Townsend, presented his published work at the Annals of the American Thoracic Society to the World Health Organisation. Professors Cliona Ni Cheallaigh & Niall Conlon also promoted the inclusion of socially excluded cohorts within STTAR e.g., homeless people & prisoners. In June 2022, TCD hosted a conference on COVID-19 Immunology, Vaccines and Lessons for the Future (<https://www.tcd.ie/COVID-19immunology/conference/>). The conference set out to inform on the most up-to-date findings and the third day was dedicated to Public Outreach with a dedicated Public Discussion. A dedicated COVID-19 Bioresource webpage has been created (<https://www.tcd.ie/COVID-19immunology/biobank/>). Future work will include the development of a strategy to integrate STTAR within the larger National Irish COVID Biobank (NICB).



Pictured: Prof. Peter Openshaw, Prof. Adrian Hill, Dame Kate Bingham, Prof. Alex Sette, Stephen Donnelly TD, Prof. Cliona O'Farrelly, Prof. Kingston Mills, Prof. Luke O'Neill, and Dr. Cillian de Gascun (COVID-19 Conference, 2022).

Lung Cancer Biobank:

Dr Anna Keogh recently submitted her MD thesis under the supervision of Professor Stephen Finn and Dr Steven Gray. Central to her research thesis in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), was the consented use of lung tumour samples from the Lung Cancer Biobank housed within the Thoracic Oncology Research Group at St James's Hospital. Findings from her research resulted in several publications. At the Faculty of Pathology Annual Symposium 2023, Dr Anna Keogh was awarded the George Greene Medal by the Faculty of Pathology, Royal College of Physicians in Ireland (RCPI) for her publication on USO1. This medal is awarded to a pathologist-in-training who submits, what is considered by the selectors, to be the best written communication relating to any of the pathology disciplines.



Dr Anna Keogh receiving her award at the Annual Symposium in RCPI. Further details can be found at: <https://www.rcpi.ie/News/faculty-of-pathology-annual-symposium-2023>.

Biobank Outreach Events



Faye Lewis and Dr Tanya Kelly promoting biobanking as part of World Ovarian Cancer Day on May 8th, 2023.



Dr Ola Ibrahim, Dr Cara Martin and Dr Mark Ward highlighting biobanking as part of the Trinity St James's Cancer Institute Research Day on June 23rd, 2023.



Ms Kirstan Murphy, Dr Marina Zaki & Mr Cian Gargan raising money for the Oesophageal Cancer Fund (OCF) on Lollipop Day (February 24th, 2023). The OCF kindly fund the Upper Gastrointestinal Biobank.



Dr Tony McElligott and Dr Martin Barr creating awareness of biobanks on World Cancer Day on February 4th, 2023.



The Gynaecological Cancer Team promoting biobanking at the World Ovarian Cancer Day Awareness Event May 2023.