



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin



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The Faculty
of Health Sciences
presents

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25th April 2024

The Inaugural Lecture
of Professor

Aideen Long



*From Biotechnology to Immunology:
a journey of a cell biologist under the
microscope*

Professor Aideen Long

Aideen Long is Professor of Cellular and Molecular Immunology at Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin. She completed a B.Sc. in Biochemistry at UCD and graduated with a PhD in Biotechnology from DCU. She joined the Department of Clinical Medicine in 2005 where she was appointed Senior Lecturer in Molecular Medicine. Prior to joining Trinity she held the post of Senior Lecturer in Biochemistry at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. She was Dean of Graduate Studies at Trinity from 2013 to 2016. Aideen has been an active member of the Irish Society for Immunology and was elected president of the society in 2007. She served in this post until September 2013 during which time she was actively engaged in promoting Irish immunology both at home and abroad.

Professor Long is currently Director and a Principal Investigator in the Trinity Translational Medicine Institute, based on the St James's Hospital campus. Her research focuses on how white blood cells (in particular T cells) function in health and disease. Recently this has involved the analysis of T cell responses during COVID-19 infection and following vaccination. Her group investigates how T cells interact with blood vessel walls and how these cells transmit signals to one another to facilitate the circulation of the T cells into tissue. Her research group is particularly interested in the regulation of T cell shape during the migratory process and the structural proteins and enzymes that regulate this. This research is important in the context of working out the mechanisms of inflammatory and autoimmune diseases such as inflammatory bowel disease and psoriasis.



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Inaugural lectures provide newly appointed professors with the opportunity to showcase their academic activity to the College community and members of the public. An inaugural lecture is a significant event in an academic staff member's career.

At Trinity College, inaugural lectures are a ceremonial occasion, which is why academic robes are worn by the inaugural professor and the rest of the platform party.