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# The Inaugural Lecture of Professor Maeve Lowery

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# The Arc of Progress in Precision Cancer Medicine: How Far Have We Come and Where Do We Have to Go?

Professor Maeve Lowery



Maeve Lowery is Professor of Translational Cancer Medicine at Trinity College Dublin and Consultant Medical Oncologist at St James Hospital. She is the Academic Director of the Trinity St James Cancer Institute (TSJCI).

She was born in Dublin and educated at Holy Faith primary and secondary schools, Clontarf. She received her medical degree from University College Dublin.

She completed basic and higher medical training with the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland at the Mater hospital and St James hospital Dublin and the

Mayo Clinic, Arizona. In 2009 she was awarded a scholarship from the Irish Society of Medical Oncology to pursue a fellowship in advanced gastrointestinal oncology at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC), New York. Following completion of specialist training in 2011 she was appointed on faculty to the department of gastrointestinal oncology at MSKCC as an Attending Clinician and translational researcher.

In New York she joined Maria Jasin's lab at the Sloan Kettering Institute, focusing on therapeutic targeting of homologous recombination deficiency in pancreatic cancer. She led a portfolio of early phase clinical trials of molecularly targeted therapy for gastrointestinal cancers and was awarded an R01 by the NIH to study non-invasive imaging of drug distribution in murine pancreatic cancer models.

In 2018 Maeve was appointed to her current position and has worked over the last five years to develop and progress the ambition of the Trinity St James Cancer Institute, initially as Cancer Clinical Trials lead of the TSJCI Development Group responsible for achieving accreditation by the Organisation for European Cancer Institutes (OECI) in 2019.

*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.*

The accreditation is a recognition of excellence in clinical care, research, clinical trials and education, and enables cooperation with peer institutions and hospitals across Europe to improve outcomes for patients with cancer. Maeve was appointed Academic Director of TSJCI in 2021.

Her research focuses on understanding the genetic and molecular causes of cancer, on establishing and refining patient derived cancer models and applying this knowledge to oncology drug development. Her work is funded by the Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund, Science Foundation Ireland, the Health Research Board, Horizon Europe & Enterprise Ireland. She has recently opened the first prospective study in Ireland evaluating the utility of whole genome sequencing for therapy selection in patients with advanced gastrointestinal cancers as a funded investigator under the Precision Oncology Ireland Consortium.

Maeve is committed to improving access for Irish patients with cancer to innovative clinical trials and she is principal investigator of the HRB-funded Trinity Academic Cancer Trials Group. She sits on several international advisory boards for industry stakeholders and academic cooperative clinical trial groups. She is a member of the Advanced Therapeutic Medicinal Products group of League of European Research Universities (LERU), advising on how University medical centres and industry can work together across the EU to improve patient access to innovative and complex new medicines.

She is a member of the core working group of the All-Ireland Cancer Research Institute (AICRI), chairperson of the Safety Monitoring Committee of Cancer Trials Ireland, and chairperson of the Cancer Molecular Diagnostics Advisory Group of the National Cancer Control Program.

Maeve lives in Dublin with her husband James and their two children Lorcan and Cormac.