

Info Session: Dean's Research Initiatives Fund Call Faculty of Health Sciences

Health Research Funding Opportunities

Dr. Chantal Keijzer
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Research Development Office (RDO)

Trinity Research



Examples of the types of supports offered by Trinity RDO



Advice on funding opportunities and funding plans for individuals or research groups



Dedicated specialised supports for all major external research funders



Dedicated support for coordinating major large-scale proposals (e.g. collaborative, infrastructure)



Support with joining collaborative proposals and consortia



In-house proposal development panels and mock interviews



Guidelines, checklists & templates for grant application elements such as CV, budget, ethics, and data management

Trinity Research Funding Supports - contacts

Central Research Development Office Team

Head of Research Development | Dr Fiona Smyth | fiona.smyth@tcd.ie

Team Leads

Dr Camilla Kelly (Head of national funding) | kellyc2@tcd.ie

Dr Aisling Robinson (Pillar 2, MSCA & EIC) | aisling.robinson@tcd.ie

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Research funding specialists:

Research Ireland | Ciarán McEvoy | mcevoyci@tcd.ie

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Research Ireland & other Irish Funders | Maria Treanor | Maria.Treanor@tcd.ie

Health Research Board | Dr Janeen Laabei | jlaabei@tcd.ie

IDR incl. Horizon collaborative (SSH) | Dr Florence Impens | florence.impens@tcd.ie

IDR incl. Horizon collaborative (Climate & Sustainability) | Dr Kate Smith | kate.smith@tcd.ie

IDR incl. Horizon collaborative (Health) | Dr Chantal Keijzer | keijzerc@tcd.ie

Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions & Pillar 2 Security | position vacant

International Funding, UK & Others | Dr Adam Dignam | dignamad@tcd.ie

International Funding, US & Others | Lynn Murphy | lynn.murphy@tcd.ie

European Research Council | Dr Kate Roddy | kate.rodgy@tcd.ie

European Research Council | Dr Doireann Wallace | wallacdo@tcd.ie

Research funding support officer | Dr Joana Augusto | augustoja@tcd.ie

RDO and RPO contacts: www.tcd.ie/research/contact/rdo.php

RDO Email: Research.office@tcd.ie

Locally-based Research Programme Officers

Trinity Long Room Hub | Maureen Burgess | burgess@tcd.ie

Cancer | Dr Patricia Doherty | Patricia.Doherty@tcd.ie

SCSS | Dr Léan Ní Chleirigh | nichlel@tcd.ie

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School of Nursing & Midwifery | Dr Ekaterina Kozina | ekozina@tcd.ie

School of Physics | Dr M. Venkatesan | venkatem@tcd.ie

External funding – where to find opportunities?



[Research Professional](#) – keyword search, deadline calendar, email alerts



TCD RDO Newsletter, [Research Focus](#) – funding updates and event notifications



Funding Agency Websites such as the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#), [Health Research Board*](#), [Research Ireland](#), [Enterprise Ireland](#)



Academic networks and associations, partners, peers and mentors

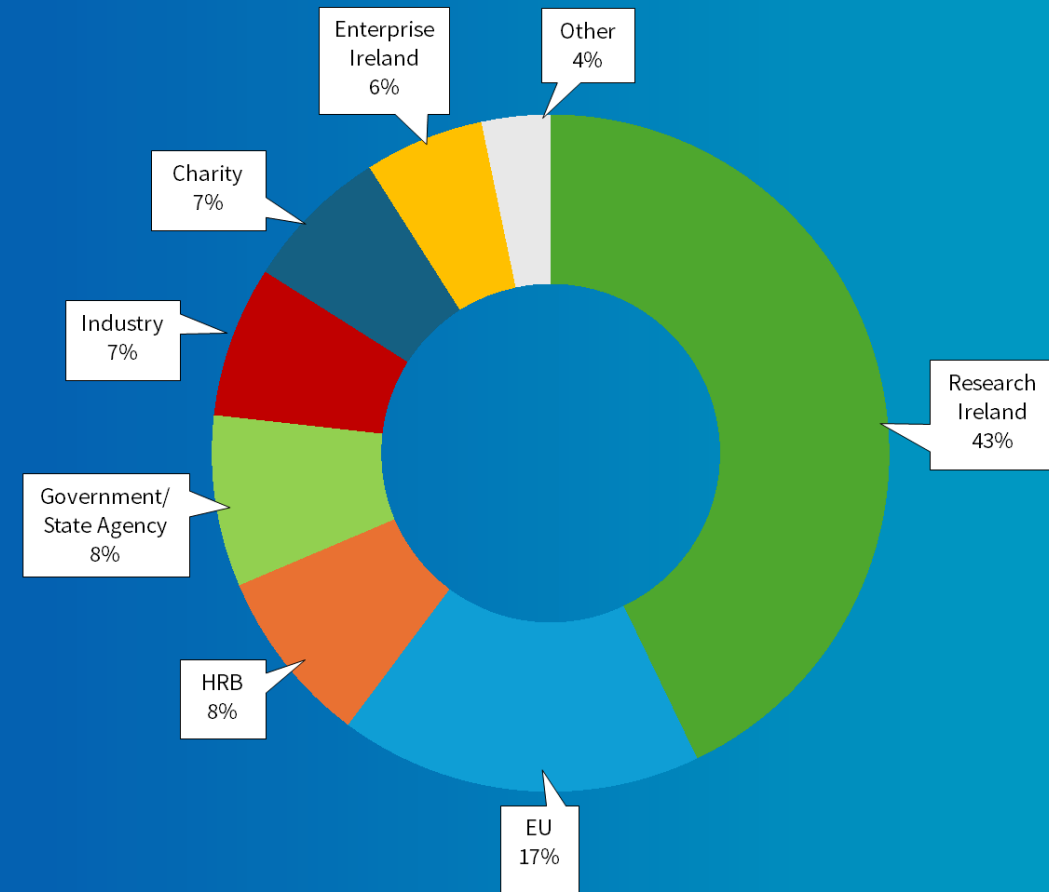
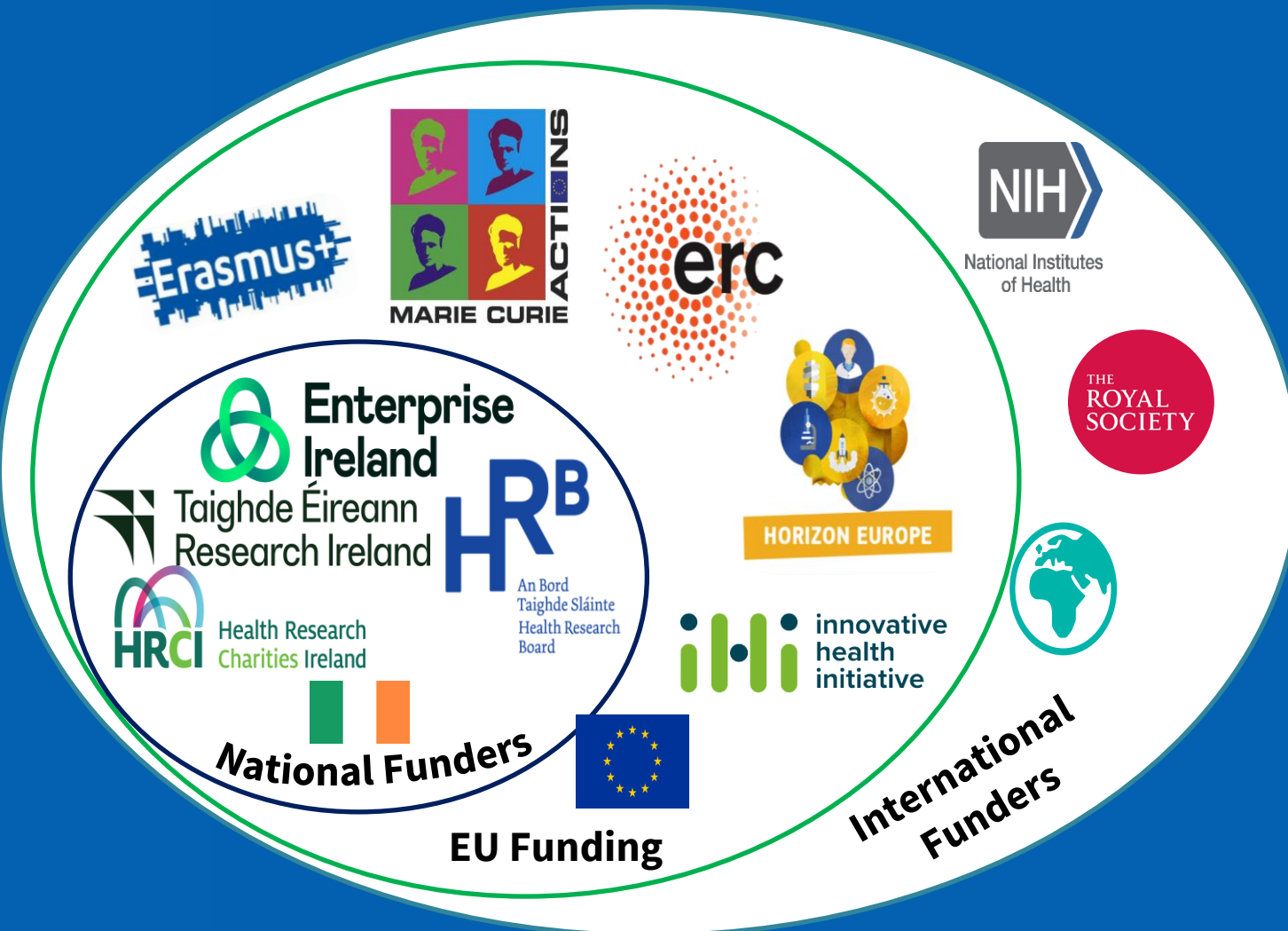


RDO funding info events: [Eventbrite website](#)

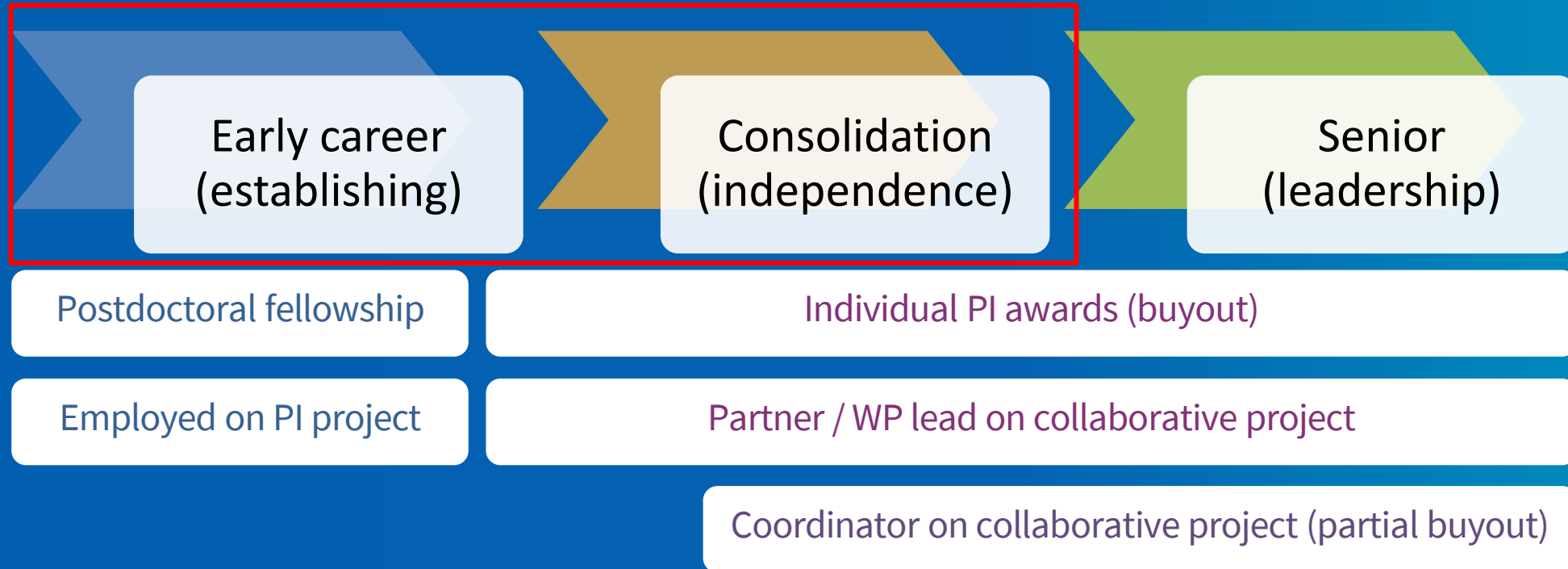
*** [Launch of new HRB Strategy 2026-2030](#)**

The Research funding landscape: example

74% of Trinity research funding comes from four sources, Taighde Éireann, the European Commission, Health Research Board and Enterprise Ireland



What kind of funding do you need?



Features of **fellowship grants**:



Bottom-up



Original research



Secondment or mobility may be an expectation.



Mentorship and host institution support



Focus on training and professional development is typical.

Features of **investigator-led grants**:



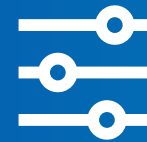
Bottom-up



Researcher-led



Innovative approaches



Flexible Grants



Focus on Scholarly Excellence

National Health research fellowships



Fellowship / PI-Led



HRB Research in-Practice Fellowships for Health and Social Care Practitioners

- Aimed at finding practical solutions to specific problems or evidence gaps
- Eligibility: Health and social care practitioners with a PhD.
- Funding: 50% buyout of salary and €80k in research expenses.
- Duration: 4-5 years

Irish Cancer Society Translational Research Fellowship

- 3 year fellowship in translational cancer research

Social, nursing, and allied health sciences fellowships:

- 2 year fellowships for cancer researchers and clinical professionals

Research Ireland Pathway Programme*

- Supports **postdoctoral researchers** across all fields to become independent investigators.
- Funds PI salary, PhD student and expenses up to a maximum of €495k for 4 years.
- Institutional limits on applicants

* The programme will continue in its current format with a programme call launch every 18 months.

International Health Research Fellowships



Jacobs Foundation: CIFAR Research Fellowship Program which offers fellowships to *early- and mid-career* researchers whose work is dedicated to improving the learning and development of children and youth worldwide.

- PhD or equivalent qualification within the past 10 years
-



Branco Weiss Fellowship, addresses *junior researchers* with a record of outstanding scientific achievement and a passion for venturing into new territory.

- Funding up to CHF 600,000 (~€650K) over 5 years
 - Covers: salary and/or equipment, travel expenses, consumables, personnel, etc.
 - Fellows are encouraged to seek faculty positions during their exploitation phase (last 2.5 years)
-



Simon's foundation: neuroscience and autism among their **priority areas** of funding.

- **Fellows-to-Faculty Award**: for *talented early-career scientists* and their research vision as they transition into tenure-track or equivalent faculty positions.
- \$600,000 USD (~€525K) three-year faculty research grant
- Applicants must hold a Ph.D. and/or M.D., or equivalent doctoral degree

Investigator-Led Grants



European Research Council Grants

- Focused on frontier research across all fields, on the basis of scientific excellence
- **Starting Grant** (0-10 years after PhD) up to €1.5 million for 5 years + €1M* (Expected deadline in October)
- **Consolidator Grant** (5-15 years after PhD) up to €2.0 million for 5 years + €1M* (Expected deadline in January)



Royal Society University Research Fellowships

- Supports outstanding scientists, who have the potential to become leaders in all fields of natural sciences.
- 3-8 years post PhD, researchers based at UK or Irish HEIs
- Salary & research expenses of €90,000 per year for up to 8 years.
- (Expected deadline in September)



Lister Prize

- Funds researchers in any area of biomedical research
- Aimed at **younger, researchers in the early years of running their own groups**
- €345k available for 4 years duration
- Eligibility: 3 – 10 years post-PhD

Investigator-Led Grants



Frontiers for the future*

- **For independent investigators** to conduct highly innovative, collaborative research with the potential to deliver impact, whilst also providing opportunities for high-risk, high-reward research projects.
- Funding: €600,000 - €1,500,000 (direct costs)
- Deadline: rolling, Duration 4-5 years.

* Frontiers for the Future (Awards) to be replaced with a new programme offering in 2026



Investigator-Led Projects (ILP)*

- Provides funding for clearly defined research projects in **1) Patient-Oriented Research (POR)**, **2) Population Health Research (PHR)** and **3) Health Services Research (HSR)**
- **Lead applicant must hold a post as independent investigator** + show evidence of achievement in their field.
- Duration: 24-48 months; max. €430,000 (incl. overheads)

* May not run in this format again

Common features of collaborative grants



**Complex
problems**



**Team based
approach**



**Integration of
disciplinary and
sectoral knowledge**



**Generally large
budgets**



**Strong impact
focus**



**Detailed
implementation
plan**

Mostly top-down:

funder predefined thematic priorities listing expected outcomes that the project must address



Partner

Learn how collaborative projects work before leading
Less time commitment and responsibility than coordinating
Difficult to get invited to join a consortium
Little control over budget, content or quality



Coordinate

Significant control over content, quality and budget
Significant leadership experience and international profile
Easier to attract partners than be invited to a consortium
Significant time commitment and full responsibility
Challenging to build a team, manage inputs, negotiate budgets
More time on administration and management than research

Irish funders



Strategic Partnerships Programme*

- For academic researchers to build strategic collaborations with key stakeholders
- Aims to support stand-alone research initiatives of scale with strong potential for delivering economic and societal impact to Ireland
- PhD or equivalent qualification for at least three years at time of submission
- Senior author on at least three international peer-reviewed articles
- Capacity to supervise and lead a team

* Programme currently paused not accepting EOIs, to align objectives with new strategy

HORIZON EUROPE STRUCTURE



European Commission



PILLAR 1

Excellent Science

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Research Infrastructures



PILLAR 2

Global Challenges & European Industrial Competitiveness

- CLUSTERS
- Health
 - Culture, Creativity & Inclusive Society
 - Civil Security for Society
 - Digital, Industry & Space
 - Climate, Energy & Mobility
 - Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment

Joint Research Centre



PILLAR 3

Innovative Europe

European Innovation Council

European Innovation Ecosystems

European Institute of Innovation & Technology

Missions

- Cancer
- Adaptation to Climate Change
- Ocean Seas and Waters
- Climate Neutral and Smart Cities
- Soil Health and Food

Widening Participation & Strengthening the European Research Area

Widening Participation & Spreading Excellence | Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I System

Pillar 1: Scientific Excellence



MSKA-Doctoral Networks

- Doctoral Programmes by partnerships of organisations from different sectors across Europe and beyond
- Funds all areas of research, Fellowship of 3-4 years duration
- Each beneficiary must recruit at least 1 PhD Candidate
- Funds PhD candidate salary and Research
- Expected Deadline end November

Pillar 2: Global Challenges & Industrial Competitiveness



Cluster 1: Health

- Top-down call topics – defined scope, outcomes, impacts
- Interdisciplinary + Transdisciplinary, large-scale initiatives
- AHSS integration
- Research Fellows may apply - need School support and fund salary
- Funding between ~ €3-6 million per project, depending on the call.
- Typically 3-4 year duration

EU Mission: Cancer



EU Mission: Cancer

Improving the lives of more than 3 million people by 2030 through prevention, cure and for those affected by cancer including their families, to live longer and better.

- *Unites research, innovation, and public health policies* in ways that cannot be achieved through isolated research or policy actions at the EU, national, regional, or local levels.

Horizon Europe Pillar 3:

Innovative Europe

Breakthrough
technologies &
innovations

EIC Pathfinder: *focusing on the earliest stages of scientific and technological development*



Pathfinder Open: Bottom-up

- Funding: up to €3 million
- Consortia of at least 3 different countries

Pathfinder Challenges:

- Top-down, funding up to €4 million,
- consortia of at least 3 different countries

EIC Transition: *provides a bridge between advanced research outputs and development for market*



- Bottom-up, funding up to €2.5 million,
- Commercialisation opportunity arising from previously EU- funded research
- Accepts single applicant and small consortium applications

ARC Hubs: A new model for Accelerating Research Commercialisation



ARC Hub Programme for Therapeutics

- Driven by Research Ireland:
- Enterprise Ireland supports the broader start-up

Led by Trinity College Dublin, in collaboration with UCD, RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences, and investigators throughout Ireland.

- accelerating translational research to develop therapeutics such small molecule therapies, biological therapies, biomaterials, biomarkers with therapeutic potential and in advanced therapy medicinal products.
- The hubs provide a **translational research budget to support projects with high commercial potential**, ensuring that research is shaped for success from early stages

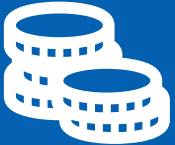
Contact: Trinity Innovation

Next Steps: Making a funding plan



Ambition

- What are your *research goals and priorities?*
- What are your *career goals and priorities?*



Resources

- Do you need to *fund your own salary?*
- What *size team* do you need? Do you *need collaborators?*
- What *other resources* do you need, e.g., conference travel, fieldwork, infrastructure, data access or processing?



Funders

- What funding schemes can support your goals?
- *Eligibility requirements* – PI (profile, career stage), partners



Planning

- Make a timeline of targets for the next 3-5 years
- Build your profile – publications, skills, preliminary data, experience
- Grow your network – different disciplines and sectors
- Factor in existing commitments
- **Start early!**

Q&A

Research Development Office

research.office@tcd.ie

Research Development Office (RDO)

Trinity Research



Important links

- [HRB Funding opportunities](#) : Link to the [new HRB Strategy 2026-2030](#)
- [Research Ireland funding](#)
- [Horizon Europe Health Cluster](#)
- [Marie Curie Funding](#)
- [European Research Council](#)
- [Health Research Charities Ireland \(HRCI\)](#)
- [Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Funding](#)