



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin



MAY 2024

School of Medicine Research News Highlights

Welcome to the May 2024 edition of our Trinity School of Medicine Research News Highlights, showcasing selected research news generated by our 800+ strong community of researchers and academic clinicians over the past year.

Tackling the global scourge of antifungal resistance

Antifungal resistance to azoles in *Aspergillus fumigatus*, a pathogen that causes significant infections in the most vulnerable group of patients, is an emerging concern in Ireland and globally.

Dr Alida Fe Talento, Clinical Senior Lecturer in the School of Medicine at Trinity College Dublin and Consultant Microbiologist in the Department of Microbiology, Children's Health Ireland, was recently announced as the Irish partner in a multi-national research project that will highlight the importance of surveillance and a better understanding of how antifungal resistance evolves and can be managed in the future. Dr Alida Fe Talento's project will be hosted in the [Department of Clinical Microbiology, Trinity College Dublin](#), which already has a long-standing interest in fungal diseases with the working groups of Professors Julie Renwick, Tom Rogers, and Johannes Wagener. Dr. Alida Fe Talento and Professor Tom Rogers are also members of the INFORM-AFR network.

Led by Wageningen University & Research, Netherlands, the newly funded scientific study, will bring together seven expert European research teams who will work to gain a greater understanding of this problem.

Antimicrobial resistance is a global problem, and the rapid emergence of drug resistance to human fungal infections is of high concern. Unfortunately, insufficient research efforts and opportunities in the past have resulted in a lack of surveillance systems to track antifungal resistant *Aspergillus fumigatus*, as well as an incomplete understanding of how antifungal resistance evolves or can be managed. Analysing antifungal resistance patterns will strengthen future surveillance methods and investigations by advancing comprehension of transmission routes.

The research project is funded by the [Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance](#), JPIAMR, an international collaborative platform engaging 29 nations and the European Commission to curb antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The [Health Research Board](#) will fund the Irish arm of the research.

[Read more](#)

Sex Chromosomes in Cancer

Unveiling sex disparities and personalised treatment strategies for cancer patients

A research project, led by Laure Marignol, Professor of Radiation Therapy at Trinity College Dublin, aims to address the existing knowledge gap regarding the influence of biological sex on cancer outcomes and treatment responses. By investigating the role of sex chromosomes in cancer, the project seeks to uncover gender disparities in disease progression and therapeutic outcomes. Understanding these disparities is crucial for developing personalized treatment strategies that account for the biological differences between males and females, ultimately aiming to improve clinical outcomes and quality of life for all cancer patients.

The study, which includes researchers, Dr. Adriele Prina-Mello and Professor Thomas Lynch strives to integrate genomic analysis, cell line models, and clinical tissue profiling to explore sex-linked genomic markers associated with treatment resistance in cancer. Methodologically, it will employ isogenic cell line models, whole transcriptome, methylation array analysis, and CRISPR technology.

This research has significant implications for healthcare by enhancing our understanding of how biological sex influences cancer progression and treatment response. It may lead to the development of personalized treatment strategies that improve clinical outcomes and quality of life for patients.

Two papers have been published by the team so far:

- [In silico analysis of overall survival with YBX1 in male and female solid tumours](#)
- [The radiotherapy cancer patient: female inclusive, but male dominated](#)

This research is funded by the [TCD Provost PhD Award](#), [TCD Research Boost programme](#) and TCD MSc Molecular Medicine.



Laure Marignol Professor of Radiation Therapy



Fighting Cancer - Better care and outcomes for Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer (AYA) Patients

Haematology Specialist Registrar, Charlotte O’Sullivan, focusses on Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Cancer in Ireland under the supervision of Prof. Owen Smith.

The adolescent and young adult (AYA) group in Ireland is defined as individuals aged 16-24 years of age. It is widely recognised that the traditional models of cancer care do not meet the needs of this unique group of patients.

Charlotte’s planned research is broken into three strands. Firstly, she will conduct a retrospective review of National Cancer Registry Ireland (NCRI) data of Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) Cancer Epidemiology. Charlotte will study data of patients aged 16-25 years, diagnosed with cancer in Ireland between 2002 and 2018. Her analysis will look at the variations in incidence, disease type, treatment and survival by age, sex, and geographical location of young people with cancer across Ireland.

The second strand of the research project will look specifically at the experience of Haematological cancers in young people across three of the newly designated AYA Cancer Centres, CHI Crumlin Hospital, St James’s Hospital and University Hospital Galway. There will be a specific focus on fertility preservation and clinical trial enrolment.

Thirdly, Charlotte will conduct a survey of healthcare professionals involved in the care of AYA’s with cancer to assess their current knowledge of AYA cancer and the unique needs of this group of patients and identify areas where additional training is required.

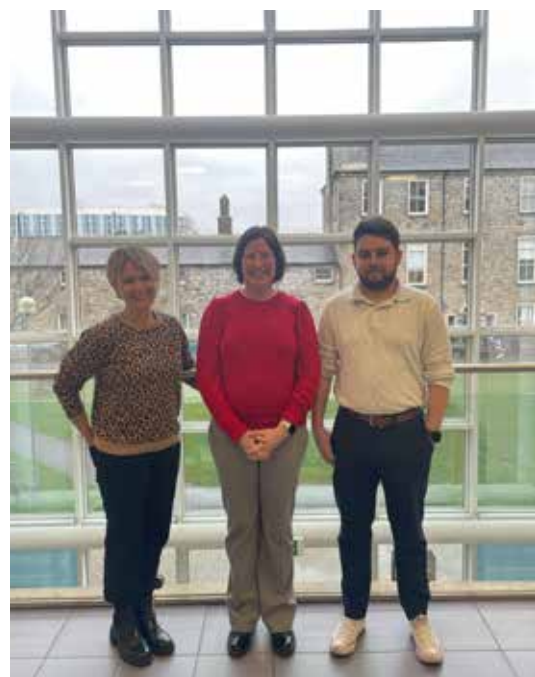
Combatting Advanced Prostate Cancer

Trinity researchers, led by Professor Michelle Leech (Co-I), have conducted a prospective study to examine the role of Periprostatic adipose tissue and advanced prostate cancer risk.

Periprostatic adipose tissue and advanced prostate cancer risk; a prospective study examines the association between peri-prostatic adipose tissue (PPAT), which is a modifiable fat depot encircling the prostate, and the incidence of advanced prostate cancer. We are developing an innovative AI approach for imaging-based assessment of PPAT quantity and morphology, prospectively examining the association between PPAT adiposity and risk of advanced prostate cancer in a population-based context and, finally, deriving a robust genetic instrument of PPAT adiposity to test whether this association is causal.

If a causal relationship is found between PPAT morphology and PPAT distribution and advanced prostate cancer incidence, this will add to the body of work that already exists regarding obesity and prostate cancer. Given that PPAT is modifiable, our hope is that this work will inform future study into this fat depot and its metabolic effects.

The project is funded by the World Cancer Research Fund and brings together numerous specialties from laboratory sciences, genetics, and radiation oncology to collaboratively identify men who are at high risk of advanced prostate cancer. Partners include Dr Emma Allott (PI), Queen’s University Belfast and Professor Tom Gaunt (Co-I), University of Bristol.



Aggressive Prostate Cancer Therapies – Preventive measures

Investigating the potential advantages of adopting a low-insulinemic diet and lifestyle as preventive measures for prostate cancer.

Meanwhile, another team at the School of Medicine is also investigating potential therapies for Prostate Cancer. Dr. Sinead Flanagan, Adjunct Assistant Professor at Trinity College Dublin has been awarded funding by the [Prostate Cancer Foundation \(PCF\)](#) to investigate the potential advantages of adopting a low-insulinemic diet and lifestyle as preventive measures for prostate cancer.

The most commonly inactivated tumour suppressor in prostate cancer is Phosphatase and tensin homolog (PTEN), with PTEN loss being a strong independent risk factor for metastases and death from prostate cancer. PTEN is also a critical negative regulator of insulin signalling. Diet and lifestyle-induced hyperinsulinemia have been linked with an increased risk of developing prostate cancer, along with progression of established prostate cancer.

The expected results from the new research hold significant importance for the design of future clinical trials. Dr. Flanagan, lead investigator on the study, believes that by combining PTEN, an easily implementable biomarker, with accessible, cost-effective, and safe dietary, lifestyle, and statin interventions, patients with aggressive prostate cancer will benefit from an overall improvement in health. Dr. Flanagan received the [2023 Rob & Cindy Citrone – PCF Young Investigator Award](#) to support this work.



Dr. Sinead Flanagan, Adjunct Assistant Professor at Trinity College Dublin



Professor Andreas Charalambous, Founder and Chair of the European Cancer Community Foundation, presented Dr Amy Taylor with the Rising Star Grant at the European Cancer Summit, Brussels, November 2023.

Specialist Palliative Care’s Role in Cancer Survivorship (PRISM)

Developing European consensus recommendations on the role of specialist palliative care in cancer survivorship to inform a model of care.

Dr Amy Taylor, Palliative Medicine Specialist Registrar and Clinical Research Fellow, Our Lady’s Hospice & Care Services, and PhD Candidate, School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin has been awarded a [European Cancer Community Foundation Rising Star Grant](#) for her research in Specialist Palliative Care’s Role in Cancer Survivorship (PRISM).

Specialist palliative care services (SPCS) provide holistic care for individuals with health-related suffering and those close to them. Historically, SPCS have cared for patients with advanced cancer, and most patients on anticancer treatment (especially “maintenance”) and those deemed in remission/“cured” do not have access to SPCS. However, many still have significant unmet needs, including poor symptom control (i.e., physical, psychological). Cancer survivorship is broadly accepted to begin at diagnosis and continue through life, so all these patients are classed as “cancer survivors”. This research aims to determine the potential role of SPCS in the different cohorts of cancer survivors.

Under the supervision of PI Professor Andrew Davies, Professor of Palliative Medicine, Trinity College Dublin / University College Dublin / Our Lady’s Hospice & Care Services, outcomes will be achievement of consensus (using pre-defined a-priori criterion) regarding key recommendations on specialist palliative care interventions throughout survivorship.

Finding digital solutions for improved access to cascade genetic testing

Researchers at Trinity St James Cancer Institute and School of Medicine at Trinity College Dublin (TCD) are investigating an alternative pathway to improve access to cascade genetic testing for people with a high risk of hereditary cancer predisposition.

Dr Rosie O Shea, PhD, Principal Genetic Counsellor, Cancer Genetic Service, Trinity St James Cancer Institute, St James Hospital leads the Irish Cancer Society funded study which aims to improve access to cascade genetic testing in the cancer genetic service in St James Hospital. Cascade genetic testing occurs in families where a known cancer predisposition gene is found and is associated with a high lifetime cancer risk. A two-year wait exists for family members to access genetic counselling for cascade genetic testing in the service. Innovate service delivery solutions are required to overcome the access delay and the downstream effect of delayed cancer prevention and screening. This research project will develop and evaluate an alternative pilot digital cascade genetic testing pathway for those at high risk of inheriting a cancer pre-disposition gene.

The findings of the research will inform the implementation of the HSE - NCCP Hereditary Cancer Model of Care and can be leveraged to inform the future scale up of genomics into population based cancer screening programs. The award brings timely focus to Genetic Counsellors, an allied health profession with limited visibility and recognition in Irish healthcare, and is an exemplar being the first to be awarded to a genetic counsellor.

[Read More](#)



Dr Rosie O Shea, PhD, Principal Genetic Counsellor, Cancer Genetic Service, Trinity St James Cancer Institute, St James Hospital.

TCD PhD Provost Award for Cerebral Palsy Project

The TCD PhD Provost Award is funding four PhD projects that have the goal of achieving improved outcomes for children with cerebral palsy (AIM CP).

The four Doctoral projects include:

1. Movement patterns (School of Engineering).
2. Multiorgan function and inflammatory patterns (School of Medicine).
3. Sleep (Discipline of Occupational Therapy, School of Medicine).
4. Modelling health and wellbeing indicators (School of Computer Science and Statistics).

[Read more](#)



COVID-19 Pandemic – Ethical Principles

The Ethical Principles in Ethical Guidance Documents during the COVID-19 pandemic in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland: A Qualitative Systematic Review.

This systematic review, led by Dr. Ghaiath Hussein, aims to identify the ethical principles in ethical guidance documents and explore the consistency, or inconsistency, of the definition and application of these principles across guidance documents. Dr. Hussein and his team addressed the gaps in the literature and the implications of the existing literature in changing the healthcare landscape as it adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This research provided insight to the practicalities of the newly found ethics of COVID-19, how to continue high standard of care, how to address the gaps and how to learn from our mistakes.

[Read More](#)

Trinity team discovers underlying cause of “brain fog” linked with Long COVID

A team of scientists from Trinity College Dublin and investigators from FutureNeuro have announced a major discovery that has profound importance for our understanding of brain fog and cognitive decline seen in some patients with Long COVID.

The study findings, ‘Blood–brain barrier disruption and sustained systemic inflammation in individuals with long COVID-associated cognitive impairment’ published in *Nature Neuroscience* showed that there was disruption to the integrity of the blood vessels in the brains of patients suffering from Long COVID and brain fog. This blood vessel “leakiness” was able to objectively distinguish those patients with brain fog and cognitive decline compared to patients suffering from Long-COVID but not with brain fog.

The team led by scientists at the Smurfit Institute of Genetics in Trinity’s School of Genetics and Microbiology and neurologists in the School of Medicine have also uncovered a novel form of MRI scan that shows how Long-COVID can affect the human brain’s delicate network of blood vessels.

In recent years, it has become apparent that many neurological conditions such as Multiple sclerosis (MS) likely have a viral infection as the initiating event that triggers the pathology. However, proving that direct link has always been challenging.

The research was supported by Science Foundation Ireland, the European Research Council and FutureNeuro, the SFI Centre for Rare and chronic neurological, neurodevelopmental and neuropsychiatric conditions.

[Read More](#)



[Professor Colin Doherty, Head of School of Medicine, TCD](#)

New insight into the future understanding of MS and its treatments

School of Medicine neurologists develop a novel test that has the potential to be applied in clinical trials that target the Epstein Barr Virus.

In a related Neurological breakthrough, led by Dr Hugh Kearney, Neurologist, School of Medicine, and FutureNeuro, a new and unique blood test to measure the immune response to the Epstein Barr Virus (EBV) which is the leading risk factor for developing multiple sclerosis (MS) has been developed. The team’s findings published in the paper ‘Disease-Modifying Treatments for Multiple Sclerosis Affect Measures of Cellular Immune Responses to EBNA-1 Peptides’ in the journal *Neurology Neuroimmunology and Neuroinflammation* has implications for future basic research in further understanding the biology of EBV in MS, as well as having the potential to be applied in clinical trials that target the virus.

The Trinity researchers are the first team of scientists to capture the immune response to EBNA-1 using whole blood samples carried out exclusively with equipment that is used in the hospital laboratory day to day.

This research is important because a standard blood test that was processed in a hospital laboratory provides important information on the immune system’s response to EBNA-1. This response appears to be at the heart of the pathogenesis of MS. The ability to measure this in a scalable test, that was developed using an existing diagnostic test as its basis, has implications for future basic research in further understanding the biology of EBV in MS. But the test also has the potential to be applied in clinical trials that target the virus. This would mean that there is the potential to directly measure the immune response to any potential antiviral treatments, rather than measuring MS outcome measures alone.

[Read more](#)

Research uncovers new reasons to target neutrophils for TB therapy

Improving our understanding of how tuberculosis infection causes lung damage and how we might prevent this.

Tuberculosis is the biggest infectious killer in the world, causing 1.2 million deaths every year.

In a recent study, using cell models of infection, Professor Joseph Keane and his team, examined the cross-talk between two lung immune cells: the macrophage and the neutrophil. These cells contrive to cause lung disease in the setting of tuberculosis. The group found that macrophages infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacteria that causes tuberculosis, could directly activate neutrophils, heighten their metabolism, and lead to the production of Neutrophil Extracellular Traps (or NETs). NETs are known to drive type 1 interferons, the proteins that are harbingers of severe tuberculosis disease. These events also detain the damaging neutrophil cells in the lung where further insult can occur.

The study results, published in the *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, explains how by dissecting out these pathways of human disease, the group has improved our understanding of how we might target inflammatory neutrophils in lung disease. Simple measures like administering steroids to tuberculosis patients might diminish destructive neutrophil activity and spare the lung.

This work provides scientific plausibility for using anti-neutrophil directed therapies in tuberculosis treatment alongside antibiotics. As the rate of antibiotic-resistant tuberculosis infections is constantly increasing, finding alternative ways to treat patients is now vitally important.

This research was funded by the Royal City of Dublin Hospital Trust and the Health Research Board.

[Read more](#)



Study challenges one-size-fits-all approach to vitamin D supplementation guidelines

A new study from the School of Medicine sheds light on the complexities of achieving optimal vitamin D status across diverse populations.

Despite substantial research on the determinants of vitamin D, levels of vitamin D deficiency remain high. Researchers now believe their findings have significant implications for the development of tailored recommendations for vitamin D supplementation. The study has been published in the journal [Clinical Nutrition](#).

The authors analysed data from half a million participants from the United Kingdom (UK,) and for each person, they calculated the individualised estimate of ambient ultraviolet-B (UVB) level, which is the wavelength of sunlight that induces vitamin D synthesis in the skin.

A comprehensive analysis of key determinants of vitamin D and their interactions revealed novel insights. The first key insight is that ambient UVB emerges as a critical predictor of vitamin D status, even in a place like the UK, which receives relatively little sunlight. The second is that age, sex, body mass index (BMI), cholesterol level, and vitamin D supplementation significantly influence how individuals respond to UVB. For example, as BMI and age increase, the amount of vitamin D produced in response to UVB decreases.

The Department of Public Health and Primary Care team, who published the study findings are first author, Dr Margaret M. Brennan, principal investigator, Professor Lina Zgaga, Associate Professor of Epidemiology and PhD candidate, Rasha Shraim,

[Read More](#)



STRAP Researcher Rachel Fitzpatrick

HEALTH POLICY & ENGAGEMENT

Impact of Covid-19 control measures on people with dementia and care partners living at home.

Strategising Transdisciplinary Research Priorities (STRAP) around the impact of COVID-19 control measures on people with dementia and care partners living at home: A European and Global South perspective.

The STRAP project - is a multi-disciplinary, multi-stakeholder project that aims to ascertain multi-stakeholder research priorities arising from the impact of COVID-19 on people with dementia living at home and their care partners.

Led by [Professor Iracema Leroi](#), the STRAP team distributed an online survey to people with dementia, carers, and health care professionals (HCP) across 14 countries in Europe and the Global South.

The survey generated some important findings and among the top priorities of the respondents were - accelerated cognitive and physical decline, increased anxiety, depression, loneliness, and increased care burden.

The results of this project will:

- Advance research to inform better care models for people with dementia and their informal carers during future pandemics or global crises.
- Provide valuable insights for funding bodies
- Inform policymakers on how to better adapt policies for people with dementia and their informal carers in future pandemics and/or crises.
- Reduce research waste.

This project received funding from the [EU Joint Programme – Neurodegenerative Disease Research \(JPND\)](#).

Physical Health in People Experiencing Homelessness

Two new Research Projects recently commenced in the area of Physical Health in People Experiencing Homelessness

Two tranches of funding, one from the Irish Research Council (IRC) New Foundations Awards and one from the National Disability Authority (NDA) Research Promotions Scheme, have been awarded to Dr Julie Broderick.

The IRC award is funding a novel study that is evaluating the feasibility of an exercise intervention to target frailty and poor physical functioning in women with problematic drug use and homelessness. This programme is underway in Janes's Place, Merchants Quay Ireland, led by PhD student Fiona Kennedy.

The National Disability Authority (NDA) award is funding a project evaluating the scale and impact of physical disability in people experiencing homelessness and is particularly focussed on how this relates to accommodation. The first study within this project will be a 'census' study which is mapping physical disability to accommodation in users on hostel accommodation in Dublin and Cork on a given night and mapping this to accessibility of their accommodation. This study is currently recruiting and is led by Dr Rikke Siersbaek.

Collaborators on the project include Prof. Cliona Ní Cheallaigh, School of Medicine, Prof. Roman Romero-Ortuno, School of Medicine, Sarah Quinn, Discipline of Occupational Therapy, Jess Sears, St. James's Hospital. The project also includes HSE representation, Dr Leonie Boland, HSE Programme for the Homeless, and advocacy groups, Aoife Wilmet, Cork Region Housing First Team, Focus Ireland and De Paul.



Dr Julie Broderick, Trinity College Dublin

Mobilising Patient and Public Involvement in development of digital technology solutions

Study provides guidance on the development of PPI technologies.

Trinity's Alison Keogh and Professor Lynn Rochester (Newcastle University) are lead authors on the Mobilise-D consortium's recent publication in the Journal of Medical Internet Research. The paper provides guidance on the development of PPI technologies. Although the value of patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE) activities in the development of new interventions and tools is well known, little guidance exists on how to perform these activities in a meaningful way.

Mobilise-D is an example of a large research consortium that aims to develop new digital outcome measures for real-world walking in 4 patient cohorts. Mobility is an important indicator of physical health. As such, there is potential clinical value in being able to accurately measure a person's mobility in their daily life environment. To achieve this, there is a need to create new ways of measuring walking. Recent advancements in digital technology help researchers to meet this need. However, before any new measure can be used, researchers, healthcare professionals, and regulators need to know that the digital method is accurate, accepted by, and produces meaningful outcomes for patients and clinicians. Therefore, this paper ([Mobilizing Patient and Public Involvement in the Development of Real-World Digital Technology Solutions: Tutorial](#))

provides a roadmap and set of recommendations for others to work from so that high-quality PPIE becomes the norm in this rapidly developing area of research.

The project is funded through IMI: Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 Joint Undertaking

[Read more](#)

HEALTH RESEARCH & INNOVATION

Health Technology Management in the Irish Health Services

A team from the School of Medicine's Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, presented their research at the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) Annual Conference in November 2023.

The Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics team members - Bernard Duggan, Karen Finnigan, and Dr Claire Gorry presented their work in the area of "Evaluating Health Technology Management Initiatives" implemented by the HSE Medicines Management Programme in recent years. These programmes aim to support the cost-effective use of high-cost medicines in the Irish health service.

The research outlined in the presentations was conducted in collaboration with the HSE Medicines Management Programme and the HSE Primary Care Reimbursement Service.

[Read more](#)

New AI-powered technology helps diagnose early-Alzheimer's disease.

GaitKeeper measures walking speed - often referred to as the "sixth vital sign."

"How we walk is reflective of how well we are, and changes in how we walk can indicate we are becoming unwell!" A new AI-powered technology, driven by a smartphone app hailed a significant breakthrough is helping doctors at Tallaght University Hospital (TUH) diagnose early Alzheimer's and supports identification and recovery in many other serious conditions. GaitKeeper measures walking speed which is often referred to by doctors as the "sixth vital sign."

This new software has been developed by Dublin City University principal investigator Dr. Aidan Boran working in conjunction with consultants, physiotherapists, and patients at TUH.

The GaitKeeper technology is a CE marked, class one medical device and is now available to buy on license from DCU spin-out company Digital Gait Labs.



Gaitkeeper

Enhancing kidney healthcare across Europe

A new EU-funded project – KitNewCare – aims to help health and care systems better embrace environmental sustainability and climate-neutrality, with a focus on kidney care. Aquaporin joins the project that runs to December 2027.

The KitNewCare project employs a systematic approach to pilot and benchmark interventions, holistically assessing their effectiveness and aligning with major EU initiatives that call for developing, implementing, and upscaling sustainable solutions throughout the healthcare landscape.

[Read more](#)

Inaugural Healthcare Innovation Summit

Plans are in place for the Healthcare Innovation Summit 2024 following the success of the inaugural event in 2023.

In June 2023, Professors Seamus Donnelly and Alison Keogh, hosted key leaders and influencers in the domain of digital health at the inaugural Healthcare Innovation Summit at Trinity College Dublin. The Healthcare Innovation Summit aimed to bring together leaders from the fields of funding, e-health implementation, regulatory affairs, and industry to Ireland to discuss and debate how innovation is fundamentally changing healthcare, and how best to implement the required change effectively.



[Speakers at the event including Professor Donnelly and Dr Keogh](#)

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

TILDA has been designated as a WHO Collaborating Centre

TILDA has recently been designated as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Longitudinal Studies on Ageing and the Life Course.

The WHO Collaborating Centre for Longitudinal Studies on Ageing and the Life Course at Trinity College Dublin will provide expert knowledge to inform the development, design, and best practice to conduct national surveys of ageing, supporting WHO's target to have data on older populations in over 60% of countries in the world. The Centre will facilitate knowledge exchange, translation, and dissemination across international networks of ageing studies, and the network of international collaborating centres in the area of ageing and life course research.

This new Collaborating Centre is the first in Trinity, and one of four in Ireland - suicide prevention (UCC); health research with refugees and migrants (UL); and health promotion research (UoG). There are over 800 Centres worldwide, with 16 in the area of ageing. The WHO Collaborating Centre for Longitudinal Studies on Ageing and the Life Course at Trinity will operate through WHO Geneva HQ.

[Read More](#)

HRB-funded CDA, NEPTuNE, hosts final Study Day

The HRB Neonatal Encephalopathy PhD Training Network (NEPTuNE) hosts its final Study Day

The €1.4 million Collaborative Doctoral Award, commenced in 2018, brought researchers with expertise in neonatology, paediatrics, neurodevelopment, PPI, clinical trials and methodology, and neuroimaging in neonatal brain injury together to improve outcomes for infants with NE.

The ambitious project is led by Prof. Eleanor Molloy, Consultant Neonatologist and Chair of Paediatrics TCD, and co-lead, Prof. Geraldine Boylan, Director of INFANT Centre, UCC, included collaborators Declan Devan, School of Nursing and Midwifery, Professor of Health Research Methodology, University of Galway and Mandy Daly, Irish Neonatal Health Alliance.

By the end of summer 2024, seven PhD scholars will have graduated from the programme. Key to the success of the programme was the commitment from PPI partner, the [Irish Neonatal Health Alliance](#). To date, the programme has published a wealth of research outputs (including [50 peer reviewed papers](#)).

[Read more](#)



RB NEPTuNE Scholars, from l to r: Tim Hurley, Fiona Quirke, Chelo Del Rosario, Megan Dibble, Andreea Pavel

SAVE THE DATES

Research Summer School 2024: Empowering Clinical Researchers

ST JAMES'S HOSPITAL and TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN have joined forces to deliver a Research Summer School scheduled for July 22 - 26 JULY 2024. The in-depth programme will offer daily seminars on clinical research essentials, from study design, grant writing, study conduct, patient and public involvement, dissemination and much, much more. This will be a chance to engage with industry experts and gain practical insights to advance your research network and career. Don't miss this opportunity to interact with, and learn from, experts in the field. Programme of events to follow.

Child Health Research Festival 2024: Wednesday 25th September 2024

The Office of the Dean of Research warmly welcomes everyone to our "Child Health Research Festival 2024" on Wednesday 25th September 2024 from 3pm-7pm, on the Front Square of our historic campus. The Festival is a unique opportunity for the public to experience the vitally important work of our researchers brought to life via interactive demonstrations, hands on activities, games, fun installations, teddy bear clinics and exciting visual displays.

Visitors have the unique advantage of taking a virtual tour around the corridors and the operating theatres of the magnificent new Children's Hospital as a scale model of the new Children's Hospital will be a focal point of the Festival.

Enjoy refreshments in our reception tent offering plenty of opportunities for meeting researchers, clinicians, and academics. Most importantly for our younger visitors, there will be loads of circus fun in the Front Square with art activities, giant games, children's literature corner, Augmented Reality (AR) anatomy models, Teddy bear hospital and lots of treats!

The new CAO of Childrens Health Ireland to launch the event by "cutting the ribbon" on the festival launch symbolising TCD's standing around Child Health.



Research Impact Case Study Competition Open: 26th August 2024

The 26th August 2024 marks the launch date of our Research Impact Case Study Competition 2025. Bridget Gavin, Research Impact Officer, School of Medicine and Dr Luciana Lolic, Research Impact Officer, School of Nursing and Midwifery are working together to organise the competition which will seek submissions to showcase research impact excellence in both schools. The winners will be awarded with a €1,000 prize at a specially convened presentation ceremony and each winner will benefit from the production of a 3-minute video about their work which will be promoted college wide.

Following the official launch of the competition, a series of Research Impact masterclasses and training workshops will be co led by Bridget and Luciana during September and October to demonstrate best practice in articulating pathways to research impact for maximum effect. More details to follow.

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Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin