

Towards a kinder yet impactful way to conduct lung cancer research

Dr Dania Movia champions the reduction and replacement of animal testing via research and training of young scientists. Her current research work focuses on developing new, non-animal methodologies (NAMs) that can be used as an alternative to animal experimentation in lung-cancer and lung-toxicity research. Her research outcomes have obtained official recognition by the European Commission's Centre for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ECVAM) as a promising advance in animal-free respiratory disease research. Dr Movia is a member of several professional bodies and organisations, which include the Irish Lung Cancer Alliance (ILCA) and the Scientific Advisory Panel of Animal-Free Research UK.

The impact of the TCD MED Research Award

Lung cancer is a leading cause of cancer-related mortality in Ireland and worldwide. Targeted drugs significantly improve the quality of life of people affected by lung cancer. However, drug resistance arises in most patients.

Early detection of drug resistance could improve patients' prognosis. 'How' to detect it, is still an open question. Dr Movia's project makes the first step to determine whether it is possible to use non-animal experiments to find ways to monitor the acquisition of drug resistance in lung cancer.

"The preliminary data generated by this project will support my application to larger funding, where the research output generated will be of great value to the Irish healthcare landscape, by improving patients' prognosis and reducing the societal impact of lung cancer."

Dr Dania Movia

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