

Tripartite alliance to battle COVID-19

Researchers at St James's Hospital, Tallaght University Hospital and Trinity College Dublin have received €7.5 million funding under Science Foundation Ireland's Strategic Partnership Programme to accelerate research into understanding SARS-CoV2 and to develop solutions to inform pandemic responsiveness and protect our communities.

Led by Professor Aideen Long, director of the Trinity Translational Medicines Institute (TTMI) and by Professor Kingston Mills, director of the Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute (TBSI), the team brings together clinical specialists in infectious disease, immunology, intensive care medicine and respiratory medicine with immunologists from TTMI and TBSI. It is also supported by AIB and the Clinical Research Facility funded by the HRB-Wellcome Trust.

We have various projects underway, including better diagnostic methods to detect the virus and the body's response to it; differing immune

responses to infection and vaccination among different patient groups; risk factors for disease; and the development of new

“Our research initiative has the opportunity to continue to develop and inform strategy around SARS-CoV2 infection both nationally and internationally.”

Dr Niall Conlon

Co-chair of the STTAR Bioresource and a principal investigator on the project

treatments and improved vaccines. Significant outputs to date include:

- Developed the STTAR Bioresource, the largest COVID-19 biorepository in the country
- Introduced TriniScreen-rapid cost-effective screening for SARS-CoV2 in students and

staff at Trinity College Dublin

- Published many papers on COVID-19-related themes, including on coagulopathy, long COVID, disease severity indices and new blood tests
- Contributed to national and international COVID-19 research projects

