

# WELCOME TO THE 55<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL IACR CONFERENCE

Dear IACR Attendees,

On behalf of the Irish Association for Cancer Research (IACR), a very warm welcome to the 55<sup>TH</sup> IACR Annual Conference in the Europa Hotel Belfast 2019.

We have an amazing 3-day event in place showcasing the exceptional cancer research being undertaken across the island of Ireland.

We will hear from national and internationally acclaimed speakers and will be giving awards to PhD students, Post doctoral Fellows and team leaders who have excelled in their cancer research endeavours.

Our conference will open with a public event in honour of the late Professor Patrick (Paddy) G. Johnston QUB where cancer researchers will overview their research for a public forum.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

*Prof. Amanda McCann*

**Prof. Amanda McCann**  
President 2017–2020  
Irish Association for  
Cancer Research (IACR)



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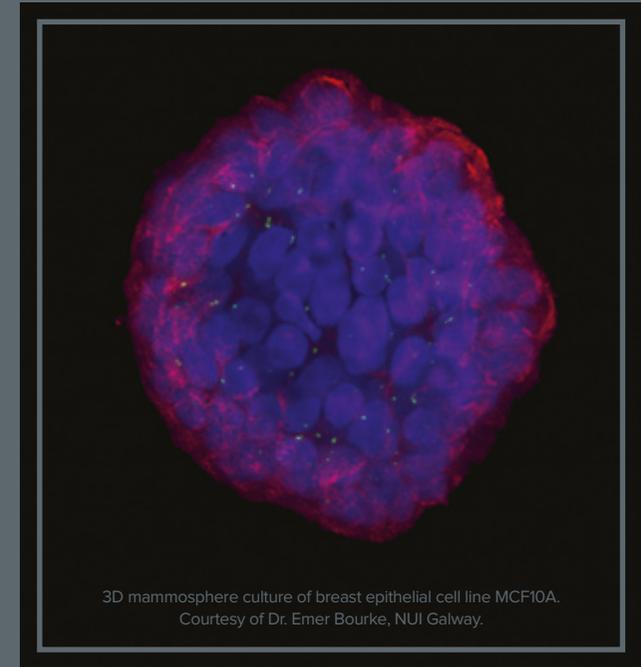
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# 55<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Europa Hotel Belfast, 20–22<sup>ND</sup> February 2019

THE IACR SUPPORTS  
EARLY STAGE INVESTIGATORS,  
REWARDING EXCELLENCE  
IN CANCER RESEARCH  
ON THE ISLAND OF IRELAND.

# GUEST SPEAKERS

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our invited National and International speakers and thank them for their time and participation at this years 55<sup>TH</sup> IACR Annual Conference.



**Prof. Christian Ottensmeier**, UoS



**Prof. David Finlay**, TCD



**Prof. Doreen Cantrell**, University of Dundee



**Dr. Gillian Prue**, QUB



**Dr. Noel McCaffrey**



**Prof. Jacqui Shaw**, University of Leicester



**Prof. Manuel Salto-Tellez**, QUB



**Mrs Margaret Grayson**, MBE



**Prof. Nasir Rajpoot**, University of Warwick



**Dr Nuala McCabe**, Almac



**Prof. Paul Workman**, ICR



**Dr. Robert O'Connor**, Irish Cancer Society



**Dr. Timothy Gilligan**, Cleveland Clinic, Ohio



**Dr. Triona Ní Chonghaile**, RCSI



**Prof. Tim Maughan**, University Of Oxford



## IRISH CANCER SOCIETY GUEST LECTURER

**Prof. Peter A. Jones, Ph.D, D.Sc. (hon)**  
VARI Chief Scientific Officer, Distinguished Professor & Director of Center for Epigenetics Van Andel Research Institute, Michigan, USA

Prof. Jones pioneered the field of cancer epigenetics; discovering the effects of 5-azacytidine on cytosine methylation and first establishing the link between DNA methylation, gene expression and differentiation. Prof. Jones is a past president of the AACR, and a Fellow of the AACR Academy, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the National Academy of Sciences. He has published more than 300 scientific papers and received several honors, including the Outstanding Investigator Grant from the NCI. He and his colleague Dr. Stephen Baylin shared the Kirk A. Landon Award for Basic Cancer Research from the AACR in 2009 and the Medal of Honor from the American Cancer Society in 2011. Prof. Jones is currently the CSO of Van Andel Research Institute, Michigan.

## THE IRISH ASSOCIATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH (IACR) AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO CANCER MEDICINE & RESEARCH (2019)



**Prof. Rosemary O'Connor Ph.D**  
Professor of Cell Biology, Head of the School of Biochemistry & Cell Biology, University College Cork

The IACR established this award in 2017 and this year, Prof. O'Connor is being honoured with this prestigious award, to recognise her outstanding contribution to Cancer Research on the Island of Ireland. Rosemary is the 3rd Recipient of this award following Professor William (Liam) Gallaher (2017) and the late Professor Patrick (Paddy) G. Johnston (2018). Prof. O'Connor holds a BSc in Biochemistry from NUIG and a Ph.D. from NUI Maynooth. She gained research experience in lymphoma and leukemia and a drug discovery research programme on apoptosis. She joined the Department of Biochemistry in UCC in 1997, where she is currently Professor of Cell Biology. Her research focuses on growth factor signaling in cancer, particularly the Insulin-like Growth Factor system.



## 2018 THE YEAR IN RESEARCH



**cancer.ie**  
**research@irishcancer.ie**

## WEDNESDAY | 20TH FEBRUARY |

16:00 – 16:05	<b>WELCOME TO IACR 2019</b> Prof. Amanda McCann (UCD), IACR President <b>INTRODUCTION TO THE IACR JUNIOR COUNCIL SESSION</b> Dr. Denis Collins (DCU), Chair of the IACR Junior Council
16:05 – 17:05	<b>THE PROFESSOR PATRICK G. JOHNSTON IACR AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CANCER RESEARCH OUTREACH CHAIRPERSONS</b> Dr. Maria Principe (UCD) & Ruth Boyd (PPI lead NICTN, Belfast City Hospital)  <b>SPEAKERS</b> Amira Mahdi (UL), Ciaran Kenny (TCD), Joanne Nolan (UL), Romina Silva (UCD), Croi Buckley (TCD), Catherine Richards (RCSI)
17:05 – 17:15	TEA / COFFEE / MEET THE CHARITY REPRESENTATIVES
17:15 – 19:00	<b>ENGAGED AND INVOLVED: INSIGHTS INTO CANCER RESEARCH CHAIRPERSONS</b> Dr. Kyle Matchett (UU) & Dr. Sara Charmsaz (RCSI)  <b>SPEAKERS</b> Ramon Whelan (Peer Support with ICS, Cancer Survivor), Ruth Boyd (CRUK Senior Research Nurse, Deputy Director NI Cancer Trials Centre, Belfast City Hospital), Niamh Clarke (Biobank Specialist, TCD), Dr. Elaine McSherry (Country Medical Manager Oncology, Roche Products (Ireland) Ltd.), Dr. Tracy Robson (Translational Cancer Researcher, RCSI) Dr. Timothy Gilligan (Clinician, Cleveland Clinic, Ohio, USA)
19:00	TEA / COFFEE / MEET THE CHARITY REPRESENTATIVES

JUNIOR COUNCIL SESSION KINDLY SPONSORED BY



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Thank you!

THE IACR WISHES TO THANK ALL OUR GROUP & INDIVIDUAL DONORS

## THURSDAY | 21ST FEBRUARY |

<b>PLENARY SESSION 1</b>	<b>PRECISION MEDICINE IN CANCER CHAIRPERSONS</b> Dr. Alexander Eustace (DCU) & Dr. Declan McKenna (UU)
9:00 – 9:30	THE CHALLENGE AND THE PROMISE OF PRECISION MEDICINE IN CANCER. Prof. Tim Maughan (Oxon)
9:30 – 10:00	LIQUID BIOPSIES: PROFILING ctDNA FOR EARLY DETECTION AND MONITORING OF BREAST CANCER. Prof. Jacqui Shaw (UoL)
10:00 – 10:30	DISCOVERY OF NOVEL HSF1 PATHWAY INHIBITORS: CHEMICAL PROBES & A CLINICAL CANDIDATE. Prof. Paul Workman (ICR)
10:30 – 10:50	<b>PLATINUM SPONSOR PRESENTATION – ALMAC DIAGNOSTICS</b> <i>Using Gene expression to analyse the Hallmarks of Cancer.</i> Dr Nuala McCabe
10:50 – 11:20	TEA / COFFEE / POSTERS & MEET THE SPONSORS
<b>PLENARY SESSION 2</b>	<b>THE PROFESSOR JOHN FITZPATRICK ORAL POSTER PRESENTATIONS</b> 8 x 7 Min Presentations, Selected From Abstract Submissions CHAIRPERSONS Dr. Claire Kilty (ICS) & Prof. Margaret McGee (UCD)
11:20 – 11:27	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE APPROACH IDENTIFIES IL2RB AS A COMMON PROGNOSTIC AND POTENTIAL PREDICTIVE BIOMARKER ASSOCIATED WITH IMMUNE CHECKPOINTS IN COLORECTAL CANCER. Dr. Matthew Alderdice (QUB)
11:27 – 11:34	INVESTIGATING THE ANGIOGENIC POTENTIAL OF SECRETORY LEUKOCYTE PROTEASE INHIBITOR (SLPI) IN LUNG ADENOCARCINOMA. Caoifa M Dougan (QUB)
11:34 – 11:41	DEVELOPING A 'LIQUID BIOPSY' FOR THE EARLY DETECTION OF HIGH-GRADE SEROUS CARCINOMA. OF THE FALLOPIAN TUBE/OVARY. Dr. Laura F Feeney (QUB)
11:41 – 11:48	THE ROLE OF DLX1 AS A BIOMARKER AND NOVEL TARGET IN POOR PROGNOSTIC PROSTATE CANCER. Dr. Nicholas Forsythe (QUB)
11:48 – 11:55	3D CULTURE DEMONSTRATES EFFICACY OF NOVEL COMBINATION TREATMENTS FOR INVASIVE LOBULAR CARCINOMA. Dr. Katherine E Haley (RCSI)
11:55 – 12:02	FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE MAPK SCAFFOLD KSR1 IN MALIGNANT MELANOMA. Z Liu (UCD)
12:02 – 12:09	IDENTIFICATION OF DETERMINANTS OF CHEMOTHERAPY RESISTANCE IN OESOPHAGEAL ADENOCARCINOMA THROUGH FUNCTIONAL GENOMIC AND HIGH-THROUGHPUT DRUG SCREENING APPROACHES. Niamh H McCabe (QUB)
12:09 – 12:16	TRANSCRIPTOMIC BIOMARKER DEVELOPMENT FOR ULCERATIVE COLITIS PATIENTS AT-RISK OF DEVELOPING COLON CANCER AND THERAPEUTIC RESPONSE TO INFLIXIMAB. Enya E Scanlon (QUB)
12:16 – 12:30	<b>GOLD SPONSOR PRESENTATION – AXIS BIOSCIENCES</b> <i>Mission Immuno-possible.</i> Dr. Jenny Worthington
12:30 – 13:00	IACR AGM
13:00 – 14:00	LUNCH / JUNIOR COUNCIL NETWORKING SESSION

## THURSDAY | 21ST FEBRUARY |

<b>PLENARY SESSION 3</b>	<b>CANCER AND IMMUNE METABOLISM CHAIRPERSONS</b> Dr. Triona Ní Chonghaile (RCSI) & Dr. Joanne Lysaght (TCD)
14:00 – 14:15	<b>INTRODUCTION BY ORLA DOLAN</b> CEO, BREAKTHROUGH CANCER RESEARCH
14:15 – 14:45	DISCOVERY OF A NOVEL SPECIFIC HISTONE DEACETYLASE 6 INHIBITOR. Dr. Triona Ní Chonghaile (RCSI)
14:45 – 15:15	FUELLING ROBUST ANTI-TUMOUR NK CELL RESPONSES. Prof. David Finlay (TCD)
15:15 – 15:45	ENVIRONMENT CONTROL OF T CELL FUNCTION. Prof. Doreen Cantrell (UoD)
15:45 – 16:15	TEA / COFFEE / POSTERS & MEET THE SPONSORS
<b>PLENARY SESSION 4</b>	<b>IRISH CANCER SOCIETY SESSION CHAIRPERSONS</b> Dr. Fiona Furlong (QUB) & Dr. Marion Butler (NUIM)
16:15 – 16:30 (ICS PhD)	THE ACTION OF PYRAZINIB, A NOVEL RADIOSENSITISER IN THE OESOPHAGEAL ADENOCARCINOMA TUMOUR MICROENVIRONMENT. Amy M Buckley (TCD)
16:30 – 16:45 (ICS PostDoc)	MULTIOMIC PROFILING IDENTIFIES A NOVEL CLINICALLY ACTIONABLE STEROID CO-REGULATOR INTERACTOME CONFERRING THE PRO-METASTATIC PHENOTYPE IN ENDOCRINE RESISTANT BREAST CANCER. Dr. Damir Varešlija (RCSI)
16:45 – 17:15	CANCER LANDSCAPE IN IRELAND. Dr. Robert O'Connor (Head of Research Irish Cancer Society)
17:15 – 18:15	<b>IRISH CANCER SOCIETY LECTURE</b> <i>Introduced by Dr. Robert O'Connor</i> <b>EPIGENETIC THERAPIES</b> Prof. Peter A. Jones, PhD, DSc (hon) Chief Scientific Officer, Van Andel Research Institute
18:45 – 21:30	FORMAL POSTER SESSION
18:45 – 20:30	BUFFET DINNER AND WINE RECEPTION
19:30 – 20:30	TRADE EXHIBITION Presentation of <i>Odd</i> Poster Numbers
20:30 – 21:30	TRADE EXHIBITION (Coffee and Dessert) Presentation of <i>Even</i> Poster Numbers



thank you!

THE IACR WISHES TO SPECIALLY THANK THE ASSOCIATION OF IRISH FLORAL ARTISTS (AOIFA) FOR THEIR DONATION.

In conjunction with AOIFA the IACR is delighted to announce 3 New Awards for 2019.

IACR AOIFA Conference Award, IACR AOIFA Mobility Award, IACR AOIFA Seed-Funding Award

## FRIDAY | 22ND FEBRUARY |

PLENARY SESSION 5	PROFFERED PAPERS CHAIRPERSONS Dr. Stephen Maher (TCD) & Dr. Paul Dowling (NUIM)
09:00 – 9:15	iTAP: A NOVEL REGULATOR OF THE CELL SURFACE METALLOPROTEASE ADAM17/TACE. Dr. Colin Adrain (Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciencia)
09:15 – 09:30	A REVISIONIST STUDY OF TUMOUR INTRACRINOLOGY PROVIDES NOVEL INSIGHT INTO THE DICHOTOMOUS ROLE OF ANDROGENS IN AROMATASE INHIBITOR RESISTANT BREAST CANCER. Rachel Bleach (RCSI)
09:30 – 09:45	A NOVEL ROLE FOR THE COMPLEMENT CASCADE IN CHEMORADIATION THERAPY RESISTANT OESOPHAGEAL ADENOCARCINOMA. Aoife Cannon (TCD)
09:45 – 10:00	TARGETING OF SURVIVIN TO OVERCOME CISPLATIN RESISTANCE IN OESOPHAGEAL ADENOCARCINOMA. Rosalie V Douglas (QUB)
10:00 – 10:15	COMBINING 1, 4 DIHYDROXY QUININIB (Q8) AS A NOVEL THERAPY IN COMBINATION WITH STANDARD COLORECTAL CANCER THERAPY. Susan A Kennedy (TCD)
10:15 – 10:30	INVESTIGATING HOW THE SOURCE OF DIETARY FAT SHAPES THE ANTI-CANCER IMMUNE RESPONSE IN OBESITY. Roisin M Loftus (TCD)
10:30 – 10:45	INSULIN-LIKE GROWTH FACTOR 1 SIGNALLING PROMOTES TURNOVER AND PROTECTION IN CANCER CELLS. Sarah Riis (UCC)
10:45 – 11:00	UHRF1 IS REQUIRED TO SUPPRESS VIRAL MIMICRY THROUGH BOTH DNA METHYLATION DEPENDENT AND INDEPENDENT MECHANISMS. Catherine Scullion (UU)
11:00 – 11:30	TEA / COFFEE / POSTERS & MEET THE SPONSORS

PLENARY SESSION 6	SURVIVORSHIP IN CANCER CHAIRPERSONS Mrs. Margaret Grayson (Belfast) & Dr. Antoinette Perry (UCD)
11:30 – 11:45	SURVIVORSHIP: WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CANCER? Mrs. Margaret Grayson (MBE. Chair, Northern Ireland Cancer Research Consumer Forum)
11:45 – 12:15	COMMUNITY-BASED EXERCISE IN CANCER SURVIVORSHIP. Dr. Noel McCaffrey (Sports & Exercise Medicine Specialist)
12:15 – 12:45	WHEN EXERCISE IS THE DRUG: CAN ACTIVITY LEVELS REALLY BE USED TO TREAT PROSTATE CANCER? Dr. Gillian Prue (QUB)
12:45 – 13:15	SURVIVORSHIP ISSUES IN GENITOURINARY MALIGNANCIES. Dr. Timothy Gilligan (Cleveland Clinic, Ohio)
13:15 – 14:15	LUNCH

PLENARY SESSION 7	DIGITAL PATHOLOGY CHAIRPERSONS Dr. Niamh Buckley (QUB) & Dr. Naomi Walsh (DCU)
14:15 – 14:30	GOLD SPONSOR PRESENTATION – NANOSTRING <i>Digital Spatial Profiling and Highly Multiplexed Gene Expression Profiling - New Frontiers in Cancer Research.</i> Jim White
14:30 – 15:00	DIGITAL PATHOLOGY AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: THE THIRD REVOLUTION IN PATHOLOGY. Prof. Manuel Salto-Tellez (QUB)

## FRIDAY | 22ND FEBRUARY |

15:00 – 15:30	MOLECULAR EVALUATION OF IMMUNE CELLS TO STEER CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY. Prof. Christian Ottensmeier (UoS)
15:30 – 16:00	CANCER HISTOLOGY FOOTPRINT ANALYTICS. Prof. Nasir Rajpoot (UWAR)
16:00 – 16:15	TEA / COFFEE / POSTERS & MEET THE SPONSORS

EACR YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARDS CHAIRPERSONS Prof. Amanda McCann (UCD) & Dr. Graham Pidgeon (TCD)	
16:15 – 16:45 (Young Investigator)	FUNCTIONAL GENOMIC SCREENING IDENTIFIES THE DEUBIQUITINASE USP11 AS A NOVEL REGULATOR OF ER $\alpha$ TRANSCRIPTION IN BREAST CANCER. L Dwane (RCSI)
16:15 – 16:45 (Senior Investigator)	RNA-METHYLATION IN ER-POSITIVE BREAST CANCER. Dr. Sara Charmsaz (RCSI)
17:15 – 18:15	<b>THE IRISH ASSOCIATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH (IACR) AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO CANCER MEDICINE AND RESEARCH (2019)</b> UNSOLVED MYSTERIES – INSULIN AND IGF ACTIVITY IN CANCER. Prof. Rosemary O'Connor (UCC)
18:15	CLOSE OF MEETING
19:30	55 <sup>TH</sup> IACR CONFERENCE DINNER AWARD PRESENTATIONS



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## SAVE THE DATE

56<sup>th</sup> IACR Annual Conference 2020 | Galway Bay Hotel  
Joint IACR / EACR Conference 2020 | February 26–28<sup>th</sup> 2020



Complex biologies,  
intelligently simplified.

