

Thursday, 28th November 2024

Croke Park, Dublin



**CLÁR TAIGHDE  
THUAIDH THEAS  
NORTH SOUTH  
RESEARCH  
PROGRAMME**

HEA | AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS  
HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

**NORTH SOUTH  
RESEARCH  
PROGRAMME**

A CATALYST FOR  
ALL-ISLAND  
COLLABORATION  
IN RESEARCH  
EXCELLENCE

# The North South Research Programme: A Catalyst for All-Island Collaboration in Research Excellence

## Agenda

<b>09:00 – 10:00</b>	<b>Registration &amp; Networking</b>
	Poster Exhibition on display
<b>10:00 – 10:50</b>	<b>Conference Opening</b>
	<p><b>Welcome and Opening Address</b>  <b>Dr Alan Wall</b>  <i>Chief Executive Officer, HEA</i></p> <p><b>Dr Deirdre Lillis</b>  <i>Assistant Secretary, DFHERIS</i></p> <p><b>Caitríona Ryan</b>  <i>Head of Research Policy, HEA</i></p> <p><b>Conference Keynote Speaker</b>  <b>Professor Cathy Gormley-Heenan</b>  <i>Provost, Ulster University</i></p>
<b>10:50 – 12:00</b>	<b>Panel Session I: Research Excellence through Collaboration across a Shared Island</b>
	<p><b>Panel Chair: Professor Sinéad Ryan</b>  <i>Dean of Research, Trinity College Dublin.</i></p> <p>This session will focus on the experiences of higher education institutions and researchers collaborating with each other and with communities across the island. The discussion will explore the challenges and the benefits of collaboration and consider opportunities for the future.</p> <p><b>Panel members:</b></p> <p><b>Dr Isobel Cunningham</b> <i>SE Lead Investigator, Atlantic Technological University</i></p> <p><b>Dr Orla Duffy</b> <i>ENSPIRED Lead Investigator, Ulster University</i></p> <p><b>Professor William Gallagher</b> <i>AICRlstart Lead Investigator, University College Dublin</i></p> <p><b>Margaret Hearty</b> <i>CEO of InterTradeIreland</i></p> <p><b>Professor Aoife McGrath</b> <i>YouthDance Lead Investigator, Queen's University Belfast</i></p>
<b>12:00 – 13:45</b>	<b>Networking Lunch and Poster Walkthrough</b>
	A showcase of the research underway across the NSRP.
<b>13:45 – 13:55</b>	<b>Impact of the North South Research Programme</b>
	<p><b>Dr Deirdre Quinn</b>  <i>Senior Manager, Research Policy, HEA</i>  Presentation on NSRP and People Development.</p>

13:55 – 15:05	<b>Panel Session II: Nurturing Talent and Early Career Researcher Opportunities</b>
	<p><b>Panel Chair: Professor Colin McCoy</b>  <i>Dean of the Graduate School, Queen’s University Belfast.</i></p> <p>This session will hear from researchers, PhD students and postdoctoral researchers and consider the impact of the North South Research Programme on career development and experiences.</p> <p><b>Panel members:</b></p> <p><b>Dr Kate Antosik-Parsons</b> <i>ReproCit Post Doc, Trinity College Dublin</i></p> <p><b>Lauren Crawford</b> <i>EpiHyper PhD Student, Ulster University</i></p> <p><b>Dr Richard Franke</b> <i>AICEEHP Post Doc, Trinity College Dublin</i></p> <p><b>Dr Gillian McNaul</b> <i>TOGETHER Post Doc, Ulster University</i></p> <p><b>Dr Megan Ryan</b> <i>SLSSHUB Post Doc, University of Limerick</i></p> <p><b>Dr Sreeja Sumangala Devi</b> <i>VitDOC Post Doc, University College Cork</i></p> <p><b>James Sweeney</b> <i>I-SWAP PhD Student, Atlantic Technological University</i></p> <p><b>Manon Williams</b> <i>ExoBcell PhD Student, Queen’s University Belfast</i></p>
15:05 – 15:30	<b>Afternoon Break</b>
15:30 – 16:40	<b>Panel Session III: Partnering to Advance Healthcare on the Island of Ireland</b>
	<p><b>Panel Chair: Dr Caitriona Creely</b>  <i>Head of International Cooperation, Evaluation and Targeted Programmes, Health Research Board.</i></p> <p>The North South Research Programme has supported twenty-eight projects in health and medical related fields. This session will discuss collaborations supported in these fields, assess the benefits and consider the potential for the future.</p> <p><b>Panel members:</b></p> <p><b>Professor Michaela Black</b> <i>AIM4HEALTH Lead Investigator, University of Ulster</i></p> <p><b>Dr Meadhbh Brennan</b> <i>ExoBcell Lead Investigator, University of Galway</i></p> <p><b>Professor David Henshall</b> <i>SeeDeepER Lead Investigator, Royal College of Surgeons Ireland</i></p> <p><b>Professor Mark Lawler</b> <i>AICRIstart &amp; eHealthHub Lead Investigator, Queen’s University Belfast</i></p> <p><b>Professor Lorraine O’Driscoll</b> <i>CLuB Lead Investigator, Trinity College Dublin</i></p>
16:40 – 16:45	<b>Conference Close</b>

# Biographies

## Conference Opening



### **Dr Alan Wall, CEO of the HEA**

Dr Alan Wall is the Chief Executive Officer of the Higher Education Authority and was appointed to the role in 2019. He began his career with the Department of Education in 1993 where he served in a number of areas, including the Central Policy Unit, the ICT Policy Unit and the Office of the Secretary General. In 2005 he was appointed Deputy Director of the newly formed Teaching Council where he played a lead role in the establishment of that body. He returned to the Department of Education and Skills in 2007 to head up the Teacher Education Section and the ICT Policy Unit. He was appointed Director in January 2011 with responsibility for curriculum reform and then Assistant Secretary General with responsibility for the Planning and Building Unit in November 2014. Before taking up his current role as CEO of the Higher Education Authority, Dr Wall led the Department of Education's Research, Reform, Policy and Data Division



### **Dr Deirdre Lillis, Assistant Secretary, DFHERIS**

Dr. Deirdre Lillis is Assistant Secretary General in the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science in Ireland, with responsibility for the Research, Innovation, Evidence for Policy and EU/International Division. A proven senior executive, her prior experience includes university leadership roles in university-enterprise engagement in TU Dublin and as Head of Computer Science in Dublin Institute of Technology. She has a track record of research capacity building and transformation in higher education including principal investigator for an unprecedented national investment of €17.5m in university-enterprise engagement ([www.convene.ie](http://www.convene.ie)), the €4m global HubLinked Knowledge Alliance ([www.hublinked.ie](http://www.hublinked.ie)) and Marie-Curie RISE GETM3 Global Entrepreneurial Talent Management programme. She is a Chartered Director and has served on the Board of the Higher Education Authority in Ireland, the Senate of the National University of Ireland and the Board of the Irish Writers Centre. Her research interests include national research and innovation systems, higher education policy, university-industry innovations and young talent management. She has won European awards for her sustained commitment to developing the careers of female academic staff and for increasing the participation of females in technological higher education programmes.



### **Caitríona Ryan, Head of Research Policy, HEA**

Caitríona Ryan is Head of Research Policy in the HEA since January 2024 and has responsibility for the North South Research Programme. Caitríona has worked in the HEA for over 20 years and has carried out a range of roles in the organisation. Most recently she was Head of Access Policy and previously she was Head of Policy and Planning. Prior to joining the HEA, she held positions in Deloitte & Touche Management Consultants, the Department of Enterprise and Employment and the Department of Health and Children.

# A Catalyst for All-Island Collaboration in Research Excellence

## Keynote Speaker:



### **Professor Cathy Gormley-Heenan, Provost, Ulster University**

Professor Cathy Gormley-Heenan is the University Provost at Ulster University, playing a major role in institution-wide strategic leadership and planning, including shaping institutional strategies and priorities and communicating the strategies and priorities to internal and external stakeholders. She has worked in Higher Education for 26 years, having also served previously as Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Impact) and Research Institute Director. She is a Professor of Politics with research interests in political elites, peace processes, the politics of divided societies, public policy and governance and in 2021 was appointed by the Minister for Finance (NI) as a fiscal commissioner in the Independent Fiscal Commission for Northern Ireland to consider the case for increasing fiscal powers available to the NI Assembly. She is a founding member of ARINS (Analysing and Researching Ireland, North and South), through the Royal Irish Academy and the University of Notre Dame. Cathy is also Chair of the Advisory Body for the UK in a Changing Europe (UKICE).

## Panel Session I:

### **Research Excellence through Collaboration across a Shared Island**

#### **Panel I Chairperson: Professor Sinéad Ryan**



### **Professor Sinéad Ryan, Dean of Research, Trinity College Dublin**

Sinéad Ryan FTCD is Professor of Theoretical High Energy Physics. She has served as the Head of School of Mathematics from 2012-2016 and from 2019-2022. She has held honorary and visiting positions in Europe and the US and is a life member of Clare Hall Cambridge. Professor Ryan has national and international experience as a researcher and in the development of research policy. She has served as chair of the PRACE (Partnership for Advance Computing in Europe) Scientific Steering Committee (2017/18). She is a member of the Irish Research Council, a member of the Scientific Advisory Board at the Mainz Institute for Theoretical Physics and chair of the EuroHPC Infrastructure Advisory Group with responsibility for developing the strategic agenda for classical and quantum computing resources in Europe.

# Biographies

## Panel I Members:



**Dr Isobel Cunningham - SE Project Lead Investigator, Atlantic Technological University**

Dr Isobel Cunningham is a Lecturer in Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Atlantic Technological University. Her research interests include social and inclusive entrepreneurship, SME formation and development and entrepreneurship education. She is currently leading a North South Research Programme funded project on social entrepreneurship, and is a researcher on the Atlantic Futures a North South Research programme project. Isobel, along with Professor Laura Bradley at University of Ulster, is involved in many research groups in the area of Social Entrepreneurship. This has led to the inclusion of social entrepreneurship as a stream at EURAM conference 2025. Isobel is part of a group concerned with aiding the development of social entrepreneurship-based strategies serving members of the Traveler Community. Locally, Isobel is aiding Donegal Local Development Committee in the formation and group of their newly established Social Innovation Hub. Isobel is involved in many research networks across Europe and United States around female/social entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship education.



**Dr Orla Duffy - ENSPIRED Project Lead Investigator, Ulster University**

Dr Orla Duffy is a lecturer in Speech and Language Therapy at Ulster University specialising in vocal health. She conducts impactful research for people with communication, eating, drinking and swallowing needs. She and her team secured major funding from the Institute of Occupational Safety and Health to investigate vocal health in occupational voice users, gaining international attention. Dr Duffy has extensive experience in qualitative research, PPI and co-design and collaborating with computing science. She also researches cognitive communication, aphasia, frailty, Parkinson's and technology, while supervising Master and PhD students. Orla is the Northern Ireland lead on the Enspired project, funded by the HEA North South Research programme.



**Professor William Gallagher - AICRIstart Project Lead Investigator, University College Dublin**

Professor William Gallagher is a Full Professor of Cancer Biology at University College Dublin (UCD) and Deputy Director of Precision Oncology Ireland, a large-scale Research Ireland Strategic Partnership Programme involving 5 academic institutions, 6 cancer charities and 7 companies. He is also Scientific Director of the recently established St. Vincent's-UCD Cancer Centre. Currently, Professor Gallagher is a primary driving force behind the All-Island Cancer Research Institute (AICRI). AICRI-linked programmes were awarded over 12 million euro under the HEA North South Research Programme, including an all-island Doctoral and Post- Doctoral Training Programme in Precision Cancer Medicine (AICRIstart) which Professor Gallagher co-leads, together with Professor Mark Lawler (Queen's University Belfast). Professor Gallagher has received a number of awards for his research and innovation achievements in the oncology arena, including the inaugural Irish Association for Cancer Research Medal in 2017, the SFI Entrepreneurship Award in 2019 and the SFI Researcher of the Year Award in 2021. Professor Gallagher has co-founded two molecular diagnostics companies, OncoMark Ltd. and OncoAssure Ltd.

# A Catalyst for All-Island Collaboration in Research Excellence



## **Ms Margaret Hearty - CEO of InterTradelreland**

Margaret Hearty is the Chief Executive of InterTradelreland, the all-island trade and business development body. InterTradelreland helps businesses across the island to grow through trading cross border, collaborating, innovating and attracting investment.

Established in 1999, as one of the cross-border bodies, InterTradelreland plays a unique role in making connections between businesses, organisations and policy makers North and South, identifying opportunities where an all-island approach can contribute to the delivery of shared policy priorities and accelerate business growth. Margaret was appointed to the position of Chief Executive in 2021, having worked in a number of roles in the organisation. She heads up the Senior Leadership Team and is responsible for the development and delivery of InterTradelreland's Corporate Strategy and operational delivery. She has a long-established track record of developing and delivering innovative solutions and supports for businesses during a career spanning over two decades of working with entrepreneurs, small and medium sized enterprises and start-ups. As a business leader, Margaret is highly networked within the all-island economic policy and business eco- system and has extensive experience of working collaboratively with multiple partners. Margaret is a business and marketing graduate and has an MBA.



## **Professor Aoife McGrath - YouthDance Project Lead Investigator, Queen's University Belfast**

Professor Aoife McGrath is a dance practitioner-scholar and Professor of Dance at the School of Arts, English and Languages, Queen's University Belfast. Following a professional dance career in Germany and Ireland, Aoife

has worked as a choreographer, community dance and theatre facilitator, and Dance Advisor for the Irish Arts Council. She is interested in finding out how embodied knowledge can be valued and included within policy-informing, collaborative research processes. Her Dance and Borders projects focus on dance in a Shared Island context, encompassing the curation of the first all-island dance industry and research conference, Co- Motion (2019), policy-informing commissioned reports such as Dance Think Tanks Report (2020), and interdisciplinary dance and sociology projects such as Sites of Significance (2022), Dance Connects in Rural Border Regions (2023), and Youth Dance Matters (2022) (with Co-PI, Dr Victoria Durrer, UCD). She has published widely about dance on the island of Ireland, and her work has been funded by Horizon Europe, AHRC, Creative Ireland, and the North South Research Programme, amongst others.

## **Impact of the North South Research Programme**



## **Dr Deirdre Quinn - Senior Manager in Research Policy, Higher Education Authority**

Deirdre Quinn joined the HEA in 2021 to take up responsibilities around research, policy and strategic planning. She led on the roll out of the North South Research Programme and the update of the HEA's

Principles of Good Practice in Research within Irish Higher Education Institutions. She was the 'Plan Lead' on the HEA's most recent Corporate Strategic Plan. Her area of work is now focused on Research Policy. Prior to this, she held numerous roles in the Irish Research Council including Assistant Director (Acting) and National Contact Point for the European Research Council and for Societal Challenge 2 under H2020. She also worked in the Graduate Studies Office and Humanities Institute at Maynooth University (MU). She has a PhD in Media Studies from MU where she lectured in Media Studies as well as in Irish Studies at University College Dublin.

## Panel Session II:

### Nurturing Talent and Early Career Researcher Opportunities

#### Panel II Chairperson: Professor Colin McCoy



#### **Professor Colin McCoy - Dean of the Graduate School, Queens University Belfast**

Professor Colin McCoy has 25 years of research experience in biomaterials chemistry, primarily towards protection of medical device polymers against bacterial infection. He has an international profile in polymer synthesis, surface modification, characterisation and application development, including numerous collaborative engagements with industry globally. His approaches include translation of the photodynamic effect to material surfaces and triggered drug delivery approaches for site-specific therapy. His research has attracted >£5M of funding and he is the author of more than 100 publications and several patents in biomaterials and drug delivery. His work has received more than 10,000 citations.

#### Panel II Members:



#### **Dr Kate Antosik-Parsons - ReproCit Project, Post-doctoral Researcher, Trinity College Dublin**

Dr Kate Antosik-Parsons is a contemporary art historian and interdisciplinary scholar. She is a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in Social Studies at Trinity College Dublin on the ReproCit Project, an HEA-funded cross-border study of abortion seekers on the island of Ireland since 2019. She is the co-author of the ground-breaking Unplanned Pregnancy and Abortion Care Study (2022). Her research interests include art, embodiment, social policy and feminist politics. Her recent publications include 'Say Nope to the Pope: performance and resistance in the creative interventions during the 2018 papal visit to Ireland' (Irish Studies Review, 2024).



#### **Lauren Crawford - EpiHyper Project, PhD Student Researcher, Ulster University**

Dr Lauren Crawford is a second-year PhD researcher at Ulster University, investigating the "Epigenetic Effects of MTHFR 677 TT Genotype and Riboflavin Supplementation in Hypertension Using Isogenic Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells" in a HEA North South Research Programme funded project with the University of Galway. With a First-Class Honours degree in Biomedical Science and a Diploma in Professional Practice, she has presented her research at international conferences and has completed bioinformatics training at the University of Edinburgh. She has experience in clinical laboratory settings, including a year-long placement at Randox Clinical Laboratory Services and volunteering in Ulster University's lateral flow testing units during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her scientific expertise includes clinical and academic laboratory techniques, statistical software proficiency, leadership, problem-solving, and communication skills.



#### **Dr Richard Franke - AICEHP Project, Post-doctoral Researcher, Trinity College Dublin**

Richard Franke (PhD, Kiel University) is a Research Fellow at the Centre for Economics, Policy and History (CEPH) at Trinity College Dublin. Before joining Trinity, he was a researcher at the Kiel Institute for the World Economy and the University of Bayreuth, Germany. He is interested in the causes and consequences of regional disparities and conducts research at the intersection of regional economics, economic history, labour economics and demographic economics. His work has been published in the Journal of Economic History and the Economic History Review.





**Dr Gillian McNaul - TOGETHER Project, Post-doctoral Researcher, Ulster University**

Gillian is a Lecturer in Criminology at Ulster University. She was previously a Research Fellow in at Queen's University Belfast where she co-facilitated 'Learning Together' in Hydebank Wood Secure College as part of the North South HEA funded project, 'TOGETHER'. She is interested in participatory methodologies, with her last project, the ESRC funded 'Coping with Covid in Prisons' using a Participatory Action Research framework. She is also interested in State harm, having recently completed an Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission funded project with the Irish Council for Civil Liberties, 'Death Investigation, Coroners' Inquests and the Rights of the Bereaved' which explored the experience of inquests in Ireland. More broadly Gillian's research and activism focuses on prison abolition, ecological and transformative justice and the harms of criminal justice decision-making. In addition, with an extensive background in the third sector, she is interested in the penal voluntary sector and formerly co-ordinated prison peer support schemes for Samaritans Ireland.



**Dr Megan Ryan - SLSSHUB Project, Post-doctoral Researcher, University of Limerick**

Dr Megan Ryan is a postdoctoral researcher based in the University of Limerick. She works with the Stable Lives Safer Streets Hub, a collaboration between University of Limerick, Queen's University Belfast and the Centre for Effective Services. Megan's work within the Hub is developing a standardised framework measure for use in community-based projects aimed at diverting young people from offending. This will facilitate comparisons across locations and strengthen the current evidence base for how these programmes influence offending behaviour in young people. This quantitative self-report measure will be focused on capturing concepts that make a lasting change in offending behaviour.



**Dr Sreeja Sumangala Devi - VitDOC Project, Post-doctoral Researcher, University College Cork**

Dr Sreeja Sumangala Devi is a researcher with expertise in tumour-hypoxia, cancer, and osteogenesis. She obtained her PhD in Biochemistry for her work on tumour hypoxia-targeted drug delivery. Following her doctorate, she began her postdoctoral career focusing on the development of biodegradable osteoconstructs for osteosarcoma treatment and osteogenesis. She was awarded and received financial support from the Science and Engineering Research Board, India for her work. In November 2022, Dr Sreeja joined University College Cork as a postdoc of the Ireland's Higher Education Authority - funded project titled 'Vitamin D receptor and ligands in oesophageal adenocarcinoma,' under the North South Research Programme.



**James Sweeney - I-SWAP Project, PhD Student, Atlantic Technological University**

James is a PhD student at ATU Donegal. He is currently undertaking research to examine the factors that influence the transition to third-level education. He previously worked as a research assistant on the Irish Student Wellbeing and ADHD Project (I-SWAP). James previously worked in mental health as a Low-Intensity Cognitive Behavioural Therapist in the NHS and other various roles in the community with vulnerable populations such as homeless and addiction services, adult intellectual disabilities services, and with children with autism. James studied for his undergraduate degree in Psychology and holds a master's in applied psychology at the Ulster University.



**Manon Williams - ExoBcell Project, PhD Student, Queen's University Belfast**

Manon completed both undergraduate and master's by research degrees at Lancaster University, specialising in the evolution of the eukaryotic innate immune system and viral interferon antagonism. She relocated to

Queen's University Belfast to work as a Research Assistant on the North South Research Programme project ExoBcell, focusing on the immunomodulatory effects of MSC-derived extracellular vesicles on B cells. This research experience provided the foundation for her PhD position, where Manon continues to explore similar themes, looking at the therapeutic potential of MSC-EVs on B cells in a mouse model of Type I diabetes.

## Panel Session III:

### Partnering to Advance Healthcare on the Island of Ireland

#### Panel III Chairperson: Dr Caitriona Creely



**Dr Caitriona Creely - Head of International Cooperation, Evaluation and Targeted Programmes, HRB**

With a PhD in Biophysics from Trinity College Dublin, she joined the HRB in 2007 after postdoctoral research in Barcelona. She has held Programme Manager roles in International Affairs, Clinical Trials and Infrastructures, and Data Infrastructures and Personalised Medicine. She drove international collaborations to embed Ireland in partnerships for rare disease research and on genomics infrastructure. In 2023 she became Head of International Cooperation, Evaluation and Targeted Programmes, leading a coordinated and strategic approach to international and N/S engagements, and maximising value from the Horizon Europe and EU4Health Programmes. She also coordinates research evaluation activities for the HRB's funding portfolio and oversees a suite of targeted research programmes that delivers value for national health policy and service delivery users.

#### Panel III Members:



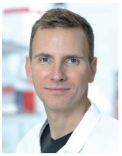
**Professor Michaela Black - AIM4HEALTH Project Lead Investigator, University of Ulster**

Michaela Black's (Professor of Artificial Intelligence at Ulster University) career has seen her apply AI and gamification to a wide range of domains with 70+ publications and securing £30M+ in pedagogic and research funding. She is engaged in a wide range of AI projects, including coordinating an EU-funded project MIDAS (Meaningful Integration of Data, Analytics and Services). She was one of the researchers who secured EC funding for LUCIA: Understanding Lung Cancer related risk factors and their Impact (£12.5M) which seeks to improve the outcome of lung cancer by providing in-depth knowledge of the risk factors and facilitating prevention and early diagnosis. Michaela strives to encourage more women to join this field and is part of the Athena Swan (AS) team to promote diversity and equality. She secured EPSRC funding with University of Bath Inclusion Matters Scheme, to host a datathon which aimed to improve equality, diversity and inclusion within the engineering and physical sciences.



**Dr Meadhbh Brennan - ExoBcell Project Lead Investigator, University of Galway**

Dr Meadhbh Brennan is a Senior Research Lecturer in Biomedical Engineering and Regenerative Medicine with a co-appointment between the School of Medicine and the School of Engineering at NUIG. Her interdisciplinary research focuses on the therapeutic potential of mesenchymal stem/stromal cells (MSCs) and their secretome, with a particular interest in tissue engineering, mechanobiology, and bone repair. Dr Brennan earned her Ph.D. and B.Eng. degrees in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Southampton, and NUIG, respectively. From 2017 to 2020, she was a Marie Skłodowska Curie global fellow at Harvard University, Prior to this she was a postdoctoral researcher in INSERM, Faculty of Medicine, Nantes, France. Research currently ongoing in Dr Brennan's group is centred on MSC secreted factors, particularly extracellular vesicles (EVs) and the physical and chemical cues that can regulate their secretion and immunomodulatory roles.



**Professor David Henshall - SeeDeepER Project Lead Investigator, Royal College of Surgeons Ireland**

David obtained his PhD in neuropharmacology from the University of Edinburgh. He then spent six years in the USA, first at the University of Pittsburgh and later at the Robert S. Dow neurobiology laboratories in Portland, Oregon. Since 2004, he has been at the RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences where he is professor of molecular physiology and neuroscience. David's interests are the causes, diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy. Since 2017 he has been director of FutureNeuro, a Science Foundation Ireland research centre focused on diagnostics, therapeutics and digital health solutions for chronic and rare neurologic disorders.



**Professor Mark Lawler - AICRIstart & eHealthHub Project Lead Investigator, Queen's University Belfast**

Mark Lawler is a Professor of Digital Health and Chair in Translational Cancer Genomics at Queen's University Belfast. Mark co-leads the All-Island Cancer Research Institute (AICRI), an island-wide coalition of 10 universities, co-leading two HEA-funded North South Research Programmes in precision medicine and digital health. In 2021, Mark received the Irish Association for Cancer Research's Outstanding Contribution to cancer research award, for his pioneering work on cancer research and care on the island. In September 2023, Mark highlighted the all-island work at the Science Summit of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, where it was heralded as an exemplar of the health dividend of peace.



**Professor Lorraine O'Driscoll - CLuB Project Lead Investigator, Trinity College Dublin**

Lorraine O'Driscoll is Full Professor of Pharmacology and Biomedicine, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Trinity College Dublin; Research Director, Trinity St. James's Cancer Institute; Lead Investigator of the €4M North South Research Programme the All-Ireland Cancer Liquid Biopsies Consortium. Post-PhD, Lorraine performed research for US and European industry and gained post-doctoral experience at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute and University of Miami. She has supervised 35xPhDs and 5xMDs. Her team's research has translated to clinical trials, intellectual property, and publication in prestigious journals including Nature Methods, Cancer Research, New England J Medicine. Lorraine is Vice-President of the Royal Irish Academy.



# CLÁR TAIGHDE THUAIDH THEAS NORTH SOUTH RESEARCH PROGRAMME

HEA | AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS  
HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



Find out more