



Breakthrough Clinical Cancer Research Fellowship

UCC CANCER TRIALS GROUP



Cancer Research @UCC and the UCC Cancer Trials Group (UCC CTG) are pleased to invite applications for the 2024 Breakthrough Clinical Cancer Research Fellowship; a 2-year Fellowship experience which will facilitate patient-focused research in UCC and its affiliated hospitals. The Fellowship is aimed at a medical graduate dedicated to a career in the field of oncology, haematology or a related discipline, ideally who has completed some training in the discipline and is registered with the affiliated training body. The Fellow will work closely with clinician scientists taking care of patients with cancer in the region, and their associated research teams. The successful candidate will be expected to register for a doctoral thesis (most usually an MD) in the appropriate area, if not already obtained. This opportunity builds on initiatives such as the ICAT Fellowships and the National Doctors Training and Planning (NDTP) Aspire Fellowship, and aims to provide high-quality training experience in advance of or as an alternative to international training opportunities.

Background

Over the last decade, University College Cork (UCC) has seen a major expansion in clinical and translational medical research. Cancer research is one of five focus research areas for UCC's College of Medicine & Health. The strengths of the region including the thriving Health Research Board funded HRB-Clinical Research Facility at the Mercy University Hospital (MUH) and Cork University Hospital (CUH), the Oncology Clinical Trials Units of the UCC Cancer Trials Group (UCC CTG), modern scientific laboratories, excellent interdisciplinary collaborations (e.g. Tyndall, APC Microbiome Ireland), and of course the large patient population attending the region's health care facilities. Collaborations between UCC CTG and the wider academic community, along with provision of excellent training opportunities, foster sustainable, multidisciplinary research programmes which span the entire research ecosystem from bench to bedside and beyond, placing UCC on a par with top academic centres nationally and internationally.



The Breakthrough Clinical Cancer Research Fellowship will provide a high-quality experience to the successful Fellow in research training, career development and ongoing education. This two year time frame will optimise the training experience, allowing the Fellow to bring concepts from inception to completion; experiencing the full spectrum of clinical/translational research all the way to presentation and publication. The two year Fellowship will also facilitate a structured certifiable educational experience such as an MD in Clinical Medicine. It is envisaged that at least one year of academic credit will be available to successful candidates from the relevant higher-specialist training schemes. This will be discussed individually with applicants.





Research Experience

A primary mentor from the UCC Cancer Trials Group will supervise all aspects of the proposed research. The Fellowship will be supported by dedicated clinical investigators across the UCC CTG, pathologists and molecular pathologists, laboratory based scientists in UCC and academic institutions pending further discussions (e.g. Trinity College Dublin, Queens University Belfast, Royal Marsden, Johns Hopkins and MSKCC, USA).

In addition to regular research meetings with the study teams, the mentor will meet with the Fellow regularly to ensure that deadlines are met and progress is made as the Fellow:

1. Conducts and develops translational concepts in the field of cancer.
2. Submits new protocols to regulatory committees including the Cork Research Ethics Committee.
3. Oversees all aspects of the translational projects including patient screening and enrolment, study execution and monitoring, and sample and data collection.
4. Analyses the data with guidance from our statistical colleagues.
5. Prepares and submits abstracts and manuscripts.

Career Development and Educational Experiences

These will be a priority and will include:

1. Further clinical trial design knowledge, for example through the online Masters in Clinical Investigation led by the HRB-CRF-UCC. [Postgraduate Certificate Clinical Trials | HRB Clinical Research Facility \(ucc.ie\)](#)
2. Attendance at regularly scheduled educational and research meetings in the UCC-affiliated Teaching Hospitals and UCC, and leadership and professional development opportunities in UCC and other national and international institutions.
3. Participation in annual meetings and seminars to present data and meet with other researchers in the field, including: European Society of Medical Oncology, American Society of Clinical Oncology.
4. Mentoring of medical students and other trainees as appropriate.

Clinical Training

The UCC-affiliated hospitals in the South/Southwest Hospital Group include National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) designated cancer centres, including the only centre nationally that caters to all disease types in one city including liver and central nervous system (CNS) cancers (Cork University Hospital). The successful Fellow will continue to see outpatients in their area of interest to enhance their clinical expertise in that area over the course of the Award. The Fellow will also care for patients on clinical trials in a dedicated clinical trials clinic, under supervision of the UCC CTG team. The clinical exposure, however, will remain focused, and will not impact their research productivity during the Award period.

Post Details

- Duration: 24 months
- Commencing: July 2024
- Role: Clinical/translational cancer research fellowship
- Eligibility: Available to doctors training in any cancer discipline, preferably those at Registrar or Specialist Registrar level, and aligned with an Irish Postgraduate Training Body.

Applications close at **5 pm on October 18th 2023** and interviews will be held on Friday 3rd November pending finalisation.

To apply interested candidates must submit the following to **uccctg@ucc.ie**:

1. An up-to date Curriculum Vitae
2. Statement of interest (1 page)

For informal enquiries please contact

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Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive