

# The All-Island Cancer Research Institute

14th May 2024

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Co-Lead, All-Island Cancer Research Institute

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Head of Research, Irish Cancer Society



# *Building an Overarching Framework for Cancer Research on the Island of Ireland*



*Cancer has no Borders*

# All-Island Cancer Research Institute: What does it Entail?



10 Academic Institutions



Including patient advocates



**Cross Border Research Programme**, connecting key stakeholders



**Reducing Fragmentation** in research, diagnosis and treatment



Building **Critical Mass** in Precision Medicine & Personalised Health



**Virtual 'Institute'** with linked facilities in IRE & NI



**A Data-Driven Knowledge Cluster** built on Collaboration



**Gravitational 'hub'** to attract world-leading expertise & investment



**Global Leadership** in the cancer-obesity-inflammation intersect

# Institute of Innovation & Discovery – 3 Themes

10 Year Programme

€100M



Funding mechanisms:

- Government (NI, IRE, UK)
- Philanthropy
- Charities
- Funding agencies
- Industry partnerships

## Theme 1



### Discovery Science

- Pipeline to innovation
- Bottom-up research approach
- Cross-border training programme

## Theme 2



### Innovation for Health

- Delivering innovative healthcare
- Digital health and AI
- Phase I clinical trials
- Biobanking & data management

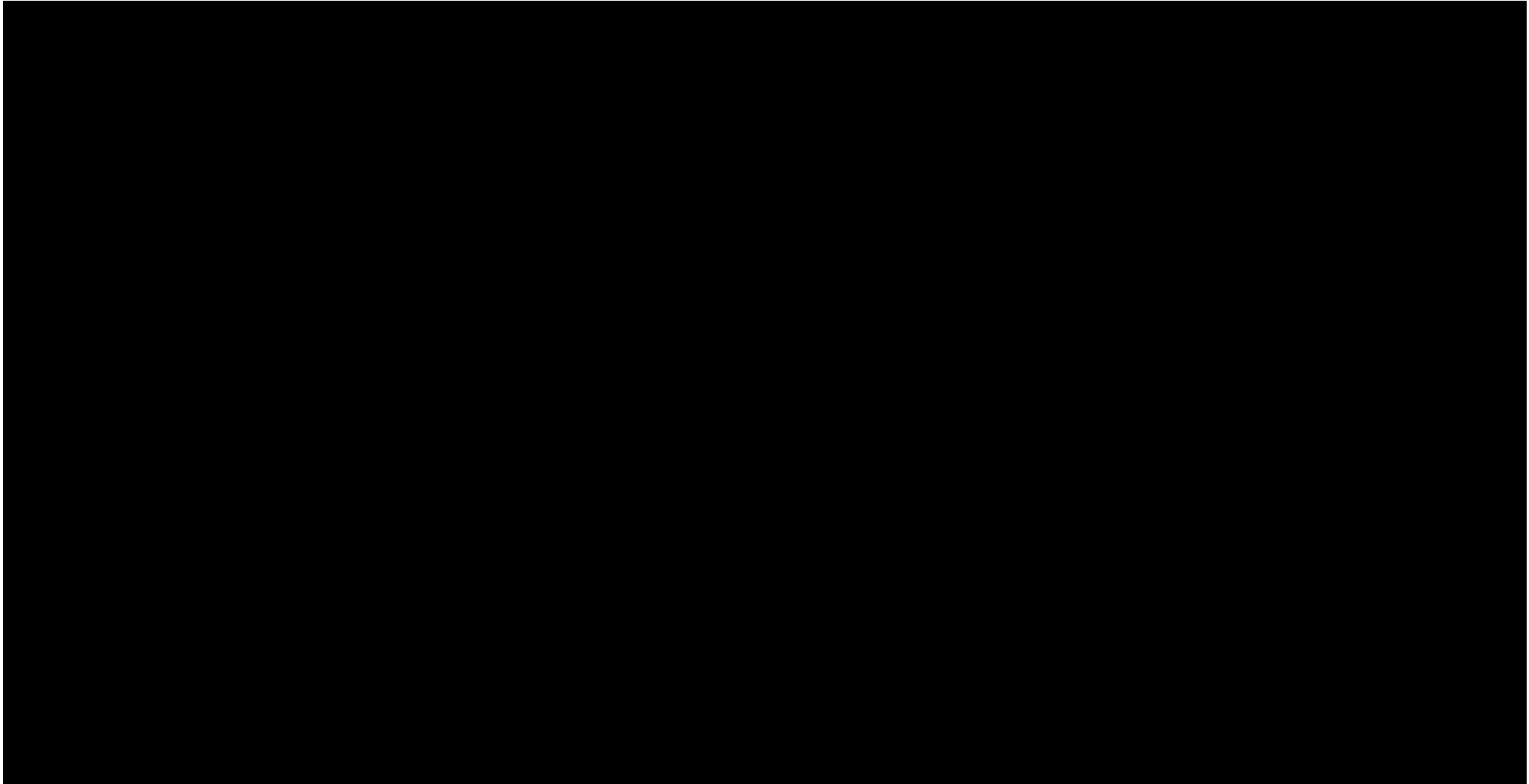
## Theme 3



### Fuel the Knowledge Economy

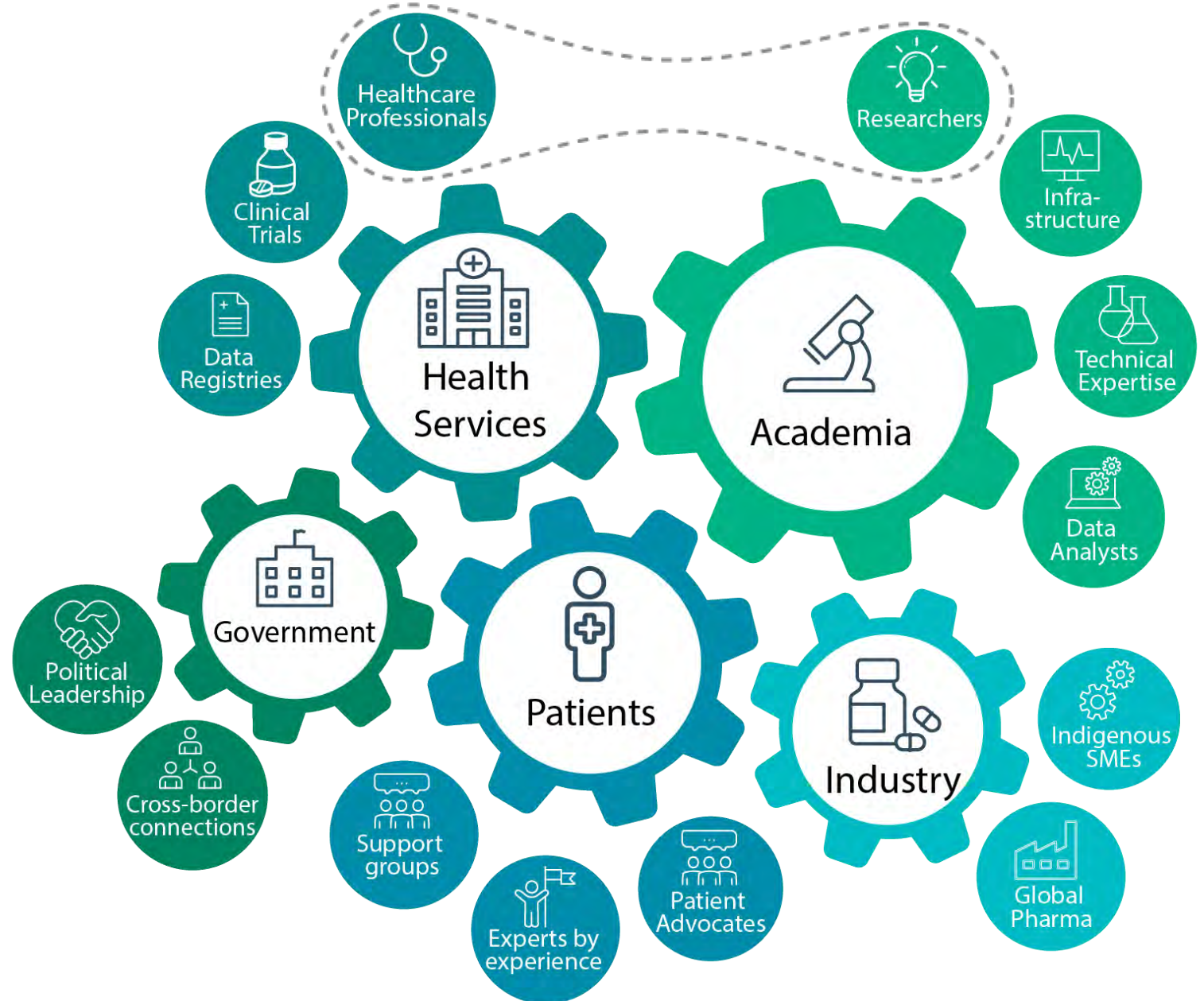
- Research with industry partners
- Spin out, Spin-in and SME opportunities
- Attract investment from industry partners

# All-Island Cancer Research Institute (AICRI): The Vision



# The Key Stakeholders involved in AICRI

*“With the patient;  
around the patient;  
for the patient”*



# Impact of AICRI on Healthcare: Thematic Areas

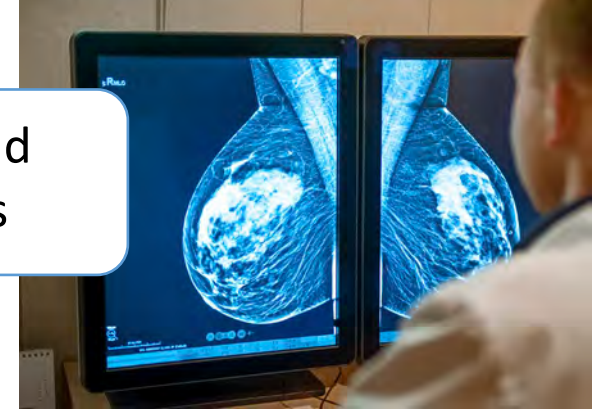
## 1. Cancer Prevention

Better health for citizens and reduced healthcare burden



## 2. Improved Diagnostics

Reduced disease burden and improved patient outcomes



## 4. Enhanced Survivorship

More people living well with and beyond cancer

## Less Treatment Toxicity

Better quality-of-life and reduced hospital visits

## 3. Improved Treatments (Precision Medicine)

Tailored treatments, only given to patients in whom they will be effective  
High individual treatment cost but lower overall healthcare burden



# HEA North South Research Programme



North South Research Programme  
awards announcement

March 2022: One third of the funding under this round of the North-South Research Programme has been allocated towards all-island cancer research initiatives (>12.6 million)

## Awards

Under Strand III, 'A Foundation Stone for the All-Island Cancer Research Institute ([AICRI](#)): Building Critical Mass in Precision Cancer Medicine,'

10 institutions involved, led by UCD and QUB (€4 Million)



Under Strand II, the 'All-Ireland Cancer Liquid Biopsies Consortium' (CLuB), led by TCD and QUB (€4 Million)



Under Strand II, 'eHealth-Hub: All Island Research Hub for Federated Analysis of Cancer Data,' led by UL and QUB (€4 Million)



Several Strand I (circa €200,000) each in the cancer space.





- **4 Billion Euro in funding dedicated to cancer research and care**
- **Major focus on cancer prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment and survivorship**
- **Key opportunities to also participate internationally**

# Establishing a National Cancer Mission Hub in Ireland



Funded by  
the European Union



National Cancer  
Control Programme



# AICRI-US Outreach – Washington 2024

## All-Island Cancer Research Institute Cancer Caucus Briefing



Marking the benefit of 25 years of transatlantic collaboration for cancer researchers and patients on the island of Ireland and how it can be pivotal in addressing the impending global cancer crisis.

**Cancer knows no Borders – Neither Should We.**

 **Date: 3/14/2024**  **Time: 3:00 PM EDT**

 **Room: Rayburn 2043**

Delegation:



**William Gallagher, PhD**  
University College  
Dublin



**Mark Lawler, PhD**  
Queen's University  
Belfast



**Jarushka Naidoo, MD**  
Beaumont RCSI  
Cancer Centre



**Ciaran Briscoe, MBS**  
CEO NECRET



Briefing on AICRI to US Congressional Cancer Caucus

# JOINT EURO-AMERICAN FORUM ON CANCER

# CANCER HAS NO BORDERS - TOGETHER, STRONGER

25<sup>TH</sup> & 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024

FARMLEIGH HOUSE, DUBLIN, IRELAND

HOSTING THE  
EURO-AMERICAN  
CANCER FORUM:



An Roinn Sláinte  
Department of Health

**nccp** National Cancer  
Control Programme



IN COLLABORATION WITH:

**ASCO**  
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY  
KNOWLEDGE CONQUERS CANCER



**NIH** NATIONAL  
CANCER  
INSTITUTE

# 10 Key Benefits of AICRI

## Cancer Researchers

- 1) Build collaborations & cross-border relationships
- 2) Unique all-island partnership of scale
- 3) Bring together classically separate disciplines



## Academic Institutions

- 4) Cross-institutional partnership of scale
- 5) Greater participation in EU funding calls



## Society and Industry

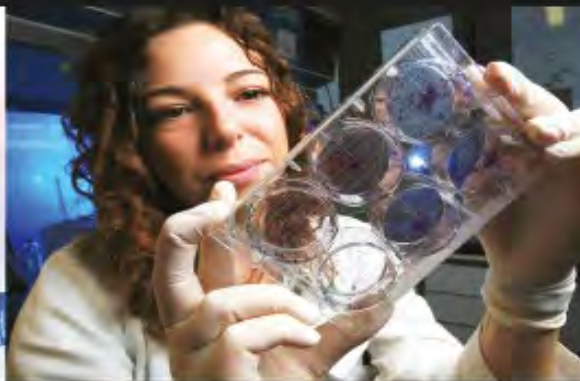
- 6) Benefits in areas of health, education, economy and promote peace
- 7) Foster innovation and new academia-industry partnerships



## Cancer Patients and Policy

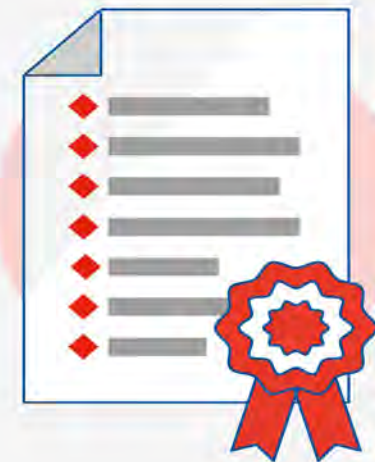
- 8) Translate lab-based science into impactful patient care
- 9) Contribute to Shared Island Initiative and cancer policy development
- 10) Greater stakeholder engagement with patients, NCCP, CTI and cancer charities

## European Groundshot—addressing Europe’s cancer research challenges: a *Lancet Oncology* Commission



The *Lancet Oncology* European Groundshot Commission on cancer research makes 12 realistic recommendations for achieving impactful change

- 1 Double implementation science and health services research activity by 2024
- 2 Ensure all Europeans benefit from cancer research no matter where they live
- 3 Increase cancer research capacity and capability in eastern Europe by 25% by 2025
- 4 Double cancer research funding in Europe to 50€ per head by 2030
- 5 Mitigate Brexit by facilitating UK involvement in European cancer research
- 6 Enhance gender equality in cancer research
- 7 Implement research advances to eradicate HPV-driven cancers by 2030
- 8 Deploy comprehensive cancer centres as powerhouses for cancer research and its translation into superior clinical care
- 9 Establish a European Cancer Survivorship Research Plan by 2023
- 10 Deliver a data dashboard to capture and mitigate in real time the impact of COVID-19 on cancer by 2023
- 11 Ensure clinical trial activity is maintained and enhanced in central and eastern Europe despite the impact of the war in Ukraine
- 12 Double collaborative cancer research between Europe and low-income and middle-income countries by 2027



### Professor Mark Lawler

Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Professor of Digital Health  
Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Sciences

Chair in Translational Cancer Genomics  
Patrick G Johnston Centre for Cancer Research  
Queen's University Belfast

Co-Lead, All-Island Cancer Research Institute (AICRI)

Chair, International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership

Scientific Director, DATA-CAN  
The UK's Health Data Research Hub for Cancer

Associate Director, Health Data Research Northern Ireland



“Too often, opinion, even expert opinion, has trumped data in the genesis and implementation of cancer research policies...analysing these data and deploying the resulting evidence...will help nurture a cancer research culture that delivers pragmatic, patient-focused solutions for Europe.”



# AICRI Irish Cancer Society Formal Partnership



- Formally launching our Irish Cancer Society & AICRI partnership in May
- Critical new member of expanding AICRI team (Shashank Srinivas – Started April 2024)
- Initial focus on conducting detailed landscape analysis of cancer research ecosystem across the island of Ireland
- Assist in defining priority areas for AICRI and engagement with stakeholders (important for development of AICRI Strategy)
- Key project management supports for AICRI as it further expands

# Thank you

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