



Accelerating Research to Commercialisation

Expression of Interest Webinar

March 2026



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The ARC Hub for Therapeutics is co-funded by the Government of Ireland and the European Union through the ERDF Southern, Eastern & Midland Regional Programme 2021-2027.

WELCOME

Agenda for today

- Overview of the ARC Hub for Therapeutics
- Expression of Interest application overview
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Live Q&A



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WELCOME

Instructions for today

- Please **type your questions using the Chat** during the session.
- We will address questions during the **Q&A segment at the end of the webinar**.
- This session is being recorded, and the **video and slide deck will be available** on our [EOI webpage](#).



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ARC Hub for Therapeutics Overview

March 2026

Prof Vincent Kelly
Academic Director



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ARC Hub For Therapeutics – Research Ireland

- A new model for regional innovation and entrepreneurial training that will catalyse a step-change in the translation of cutting-edge publicly-funded research toward impact at a regional level.
- The ARC Hub Programme will enhance and accelerate the commercialisation of research to create new products, processes and services.

**ARC Hub
Therapeutics
Dublin based** **€31.63
million
Feb 2025**

ARC Hubs' main focus is on research translation and commercialisation.



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ARC Hub for Therapeutics Academic Leads



Lead Group

Prof Vincent Kelly
Prof William Gallagher
Prof Leonie Young

Co-PIs

Prof Catherine Godson
Prof Fergal O'Brien
Prof Jane Farrar
Prof Keith Murphy
Prof Kingston Mills
Prof Luke O'Neill
Prof Siobhan McClean
Prof Tracy Robson

Host institutions:



University College Dublin
An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath



ARC Hub for Therapeutics Operations Team



Araz Raof
Executive Director



Jacqueline Ballentine-Armstrong
Operations and Finance Manager



Magda Ghanim
Administration Manager



Cintia Marques Silva
Communications Manager

Administration & Communications



Alison Humbles
Senior Portfolio Manager



William McCormack
Business Development Manager



Aoife Campbell
Portfolio Manager



David Loughrey
Portfolio Manager

Science, Business & Training



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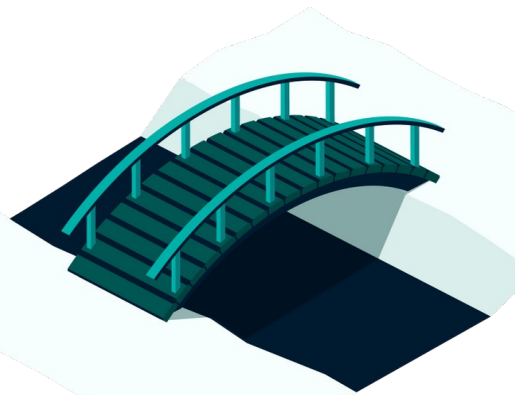
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What We Do

- **Provide funding** for projects of all sizes with strong commercial potential, from early-stage concepts to more advanced innovations.
- **Offer expert advice** at the earliest stages of development, helping researchers shape strong, commercially viable project plans.
- **Connect researchers with a unique network of advisors** from industry and innovation sectors to guide and challenge their thinking.
- Support the **transformation of biomedical researchers into entrepreneurial scientists, turning high-potential research into real-world treatments.**

Vibrant pipeline
of biomedical
research



High quality
spinouts &
trained
entrepreneurial
scientists

Expression of Interest (EOI) – Application Overview

March 2026

Dr William McCormack

Business Development and Training Manager



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What kind of projects are we looking for?

Solid Science

- Proof of concept *in vitro* and *in vivo*
- Good pharmacological tools to demonstrate MOA

Asset maturity

- Biochemical and biophysical profiling of asset, on target recombinant and target related cell-based activity assays, viability/toxicity assays, etc
- Demonstrated bioactivity in multiple cell lines, cross reactivity in key species to enable development, disease relevant preclinical *in vivo* models, explant / organoid assays

Commercial attractiveness

- Unmet market need, commercially attractive disease indication, solid rationale for clinical indication(s) and modality chosen

Solid IP

- Ability to generate Intellectual Property



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Application Process Overview

<https://therapeutics.archub.ie/>



Open Call for New Projects

We are seeking ambitious, commercially viable projects that advance the discovery and development of new therapeutics.

If you have a strong scientific concept, we encourage you to submit an Expression of Interest today.

[Submit an EOI →](#)

Phase I: Expression of Interest (EOI)

Announcement	23rd February 2026
Information Webinar – Session 1	11th March 2026 –11:00
Information Webinar- Session 2	19th March 2026 –12:30
EOI Deadline	31st March 2026 – (23:59)
Notification of EOI Outcome/Shortlisted Projects	May 2026

Phase II: Full application.

Timeline and process to be released



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Translational Research Project Information

7. Thematic area:

- Indication(s) of interest.

8. Scientific background and rationale of target:

- Genetic links and disease-relevant expression.
- Validation: Genetic or pharmacological modulation showing therapeutic effects.
- Biological rationale: Clear link to disease pathways.

9. Therapeutic indication:

- Indication & unmet need: Most suitable disease area(s), target patient populations, and how the therapy improves and/or differentiates on current treatments.
- Supporting evidence & scope: Biomarkers or patient data supporting target relevance

10. Therapeutic modality:

- Modality and key properties of the molecule
- Selectivity & safety: Target specificity and evaluation (or plans to evaluate) off-target effects.

11. Research to support hypothesis:

- Key findings **you** have developed/ identified to support the target and the critical experiments needed to further validate the approach.
- Give details of disease specific assays and models

Translational Research Project Information

<p>7. Thematic area (Select all that apply):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardiovascular & Metabolism • Infection & Immunology • Neuroscience • Oncology • Rare Diseases • Other
<p>8. Scientific Background and Rationale of Target selection - Is there adequate evidence the proposed target/ approach has a therapeutic potential (2,100 characters max.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there genetic links with disease? Is there differential expression in healthy vs disease tissue? • Has the target been successfully modulated using genetic approaches (e.g. knockout, knockdown, overexpression) or using pharmacological tools? • Do these interventions produce therapeutically relevant outcomes? • Target tractability: has this approach been used successfully to modulate similar targets- please elaborate? • What are the key pathways of the selected target in the disease and can they mechanistically explain the known efficacy data?
<p>9. Therapeutic Indication (1,600 characters max.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which disease would be the best indication for your target and why? • For technologies with platform potential please describe the range of possible indications. • What is the current treatment approach for the indication(s) you have mentioned and why do you think your treatment would be superior i.e. is there a clear gap in existing therapeutic options? • Are there specific patient subtypes/populations that would respond better to this treatment, if so, please describe. • Are patient data or biomarkers available that support target involvement?
<p>10. Therapeutic Modality (1,700 characters max.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the modality you are using to modulate your target of interest (small molecule, antibody, siRNA, gene therapy, cell therapy, vaccine, antibiotic, etc) • Provide details of the molecule you have identified/developed and please include any characterization you have performed to validate this molecule and its mechanism. • How specific is your targeting approach – have you examined whether there is any “off target” activity? If not, please describe how you would investigate non-specific activity
<p>11. Research to support Hypothesis (3,600 characters 2 figures max. to be uploaded in the next question)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please describe research to date highlighting any significant discoveries relevant to the project of interest specifically including details of data generated that validates your hypothesis / target. Please specify the maturity of the therapeutic - whether you have validated your molecule/target in vitro or in vivo.

Translational Research Project Information

- **Uploading figures**
 - **2 figures maximum**
 - Maximum 1 A4 page per figure
 - Figures need to be clearly annotated
 - 800 characters maximum for figure legend
 - PDF format
 - Upload via preferred platform, please ensure the link works
 - Please clearly label files as outlined
- **Intellectual property**
 - Please provide details of any existing patents or IDFs and if necessary, give details of any freedom to operate issues.
 - Contact your TTO if you are unsure about any IP related issues.

12. Figure Upload Instructions

Please upload your two figures using your preferred file transfer platform (e.g., OneDrive, SharePoint, Google Drive, Dropbox, WeTransfer, etc.) and paste the shareable link below.

- Each figure must be submitted as a separate PDF file.
- The legend for each figure must not exceed 800 characters (including spaces).
- Please name your files using your application name, followed by 1 and 2.

Example:

JohnDuffy1.pdf

JohnDuffy2.pdf

Please ensure the file access permissions allow us to view and download the files.

13. Intellectual Property (1,100 characters max.)

- Has an IDF or patent been filed in relation to this technology. If a patent has been filed, please provide application details and priority filing date
- Has this work been published or do you intend to publish this work in the next 18 months?
- Is there any risk that there could be freedom to operate issues i.e. that your IP/project might infringe on another patent?

Frequently Asked Questions

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Eligibility

Translational researchers or Co-translational researchers must be:

- A member of academic staff, contract researcher, postdoctoral researcher of an eligible RPO
 - Applicants must be either on a permanent contract or a fixed term contract covering the full TRP duration
 - Postdoctoral researchers must have a commitment from a suitable mentor at the application stage
- TR is not required to hold a PhD or equivalent qualification. However, they must have relevant experience that deems them suitable to lead a TRP, including a strong track record in research (commensurate with their career stage and research Discipline)
- Applicants must be a senior author on a research publications. Review articles are not counted
- An individual who will be recognised, on receipt of ARC Hub funding, as a member of staff or contract researcher of an eligible RPO.
- Industry collaborations are allowed but not mandatory
 - An industry partner is the company participating in the TRP and contributing cash or in-kind support



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Technology readiness level

- Technology readiness level (TRL) is a method for estimating the maturity of technologies during the assessment phase of a project.
- Projects are expected to be at **TRL 3** or higher at the time of application

TRL1: Scientific literature review

TRL 2: Research idea developed, hypothesis generated

TRL 3: Initial proof of concept demonstrated *in vitro* and *in vivo*

TRL 4: Safety of asset demonstrated in laboratory/*in vivo* models

TRL 5: Preclinical studies including GLP animal safety and toxicity testing

TRL 6-9: Ph I-III trials



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Intellectual Property

- Projects must be able to **generate intellectual property** to be considered for funding.
- Applicants may be required to engage with their institutional technology transfer office to clarify IP position
- If no patent exists, we advise applicants not to publish anything related to the project while the application is under review
 - This includes conference abstracts and posters
 - Please consult your TTO regarding plans to publish

■ Budget – eligible costs

- **Applicants do not have to submit a budget for the EOI.** Successful applications will work on a budget with the ARC team
- **Types of eligible costs:**
 - Salary
 - Consumables
 - Equipment
 - Travel
- A consultancy budget is also accessible for all funded ARC projects. This covers a range of consultants including patent advisors, preclinical experts, clinicians etc.



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Review Process

EOIs will be assessed by the ARC Hub Leadership Team on a number of criteria:

- *Commercial attractiveness*
- *Maturity of the asset or technology*
- *Translational potential of the project*
- *Strength of supporting preclinical or proof-of-concept evidence*
- *A clear and realistic project plan*

Shortlisted applications will be reviewed by the ARC Hub Advisory Committee.

Questions & Answers

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