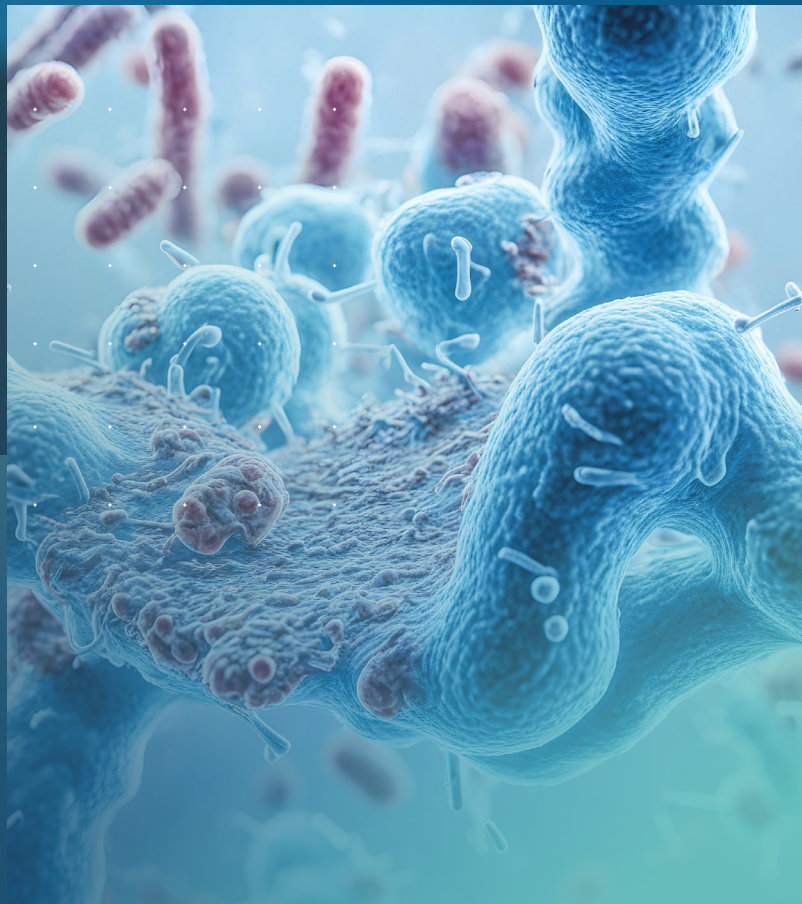




St Vincent's UCD
Cancer Centre

St Vincent's UCD
Cancer Centre:

Annual Report 2024



ST. VINCENT'S
HEALTHCARE GROUP



Chair's Introduction

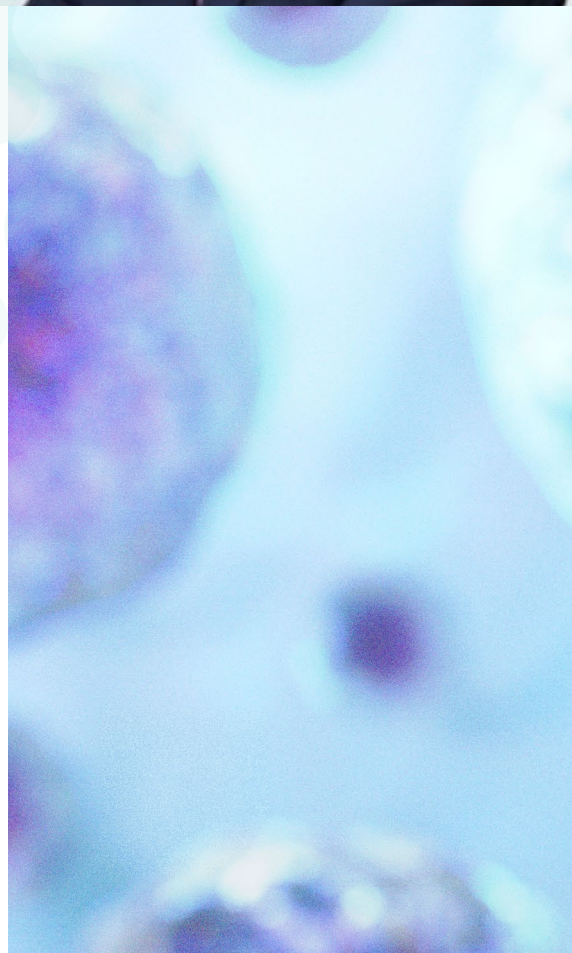
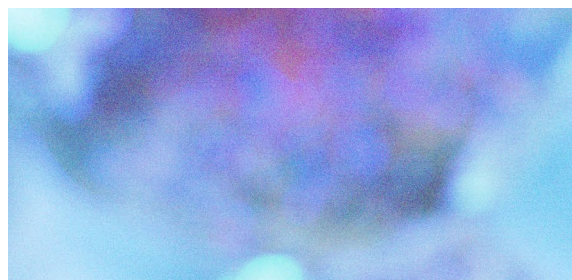
2024 marked a year of significant advancement for the St Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre. As a joint venture between St Vincent's Healthcare Group (SVHG) and University College Dublin (UCD), the Cancer Centre continues to integrate clinical excellence with pioneering research, offering patients personalised, evidence-based cancer care.

This report captures the Cancer Centre's progress toward OECl Comprehensive Cancer Centre designation, alongside growing research output, enhanced patient engagement, and quality-focused care delivery.

Under the leadership of Prof. David Fennelly and Prof. William Gallagher, the Centre continues to align its clinical, academic, and operational priorities with the best practices from around the world. We remain committed to improving patient outcomes and training the next generation of cancer leaders in Ireland.

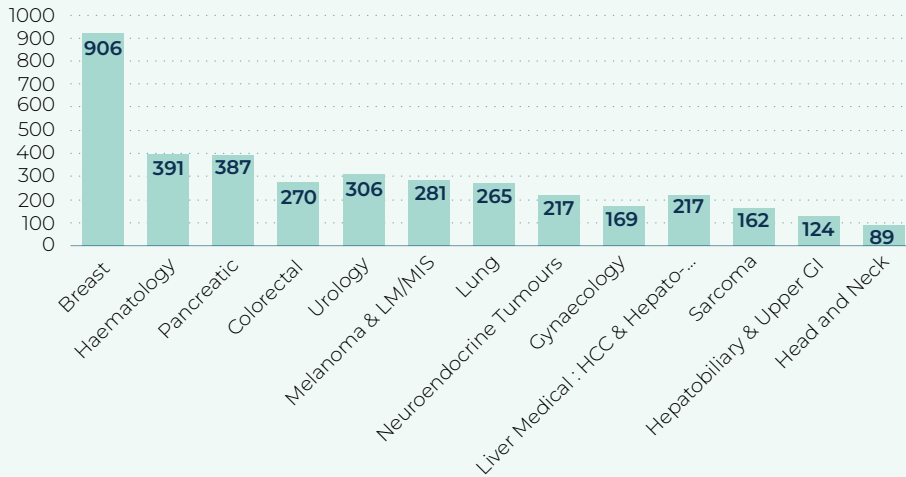
Prof Michael Keane

Chair, St Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre
Dean of Medicine, Head of School,
UCD School of Medicine



A Year in Numbers

Number of Newly Diagnosed Cancers 2024 (excluding skin but including Melanoma)



3,758
Number of Newly Diagnosed Patients in 2024

Pathology and Radiology



481,182

Histopathology and Cytology Requests



766

Cancer Molecular Diagnostic Requests



14,295

Mammography



1,908

PET/CT

Clinical Care



18,700

Number of Chemotherapy infusions



32

Open Clinical Trials



1,376

Number of Surgical Procedures



49

Clinical Trials



16,219

Number of Multi- Disciplinary Meeting Discussions

- 38 IMP Trials
- 5 Radiotherapy trials
- 1 Surgical Trial
- 1 Nutritional
- 5 Allied Health

Research



>€20m

in New Research Grants in year 2023/2024



32

Publications with an Impact Factor (IF) >10 in 2023/24



61

Publications with an Impact Factor (IF) >5 in 2023/24

Highlights of 2024

JANUARY 2024:

Praise U: The EU4Health programme approved PRAISE-U (PROstate cancer Awareness and Initiative for Screening in the European Union), an ambitious three-year project involving 25 institutions from 12 countries.



PRAISE-U, an EU-funded project, is an initiative to improve prostate cancer early detection across Europe. The project aims to develop cost-effective, risk-based screening programmes tailored to different EU member states, reducing morbidity and mortality from prostate cancer. It involves a consortium of 25 institutions and focuses on building a knowledge base, developing performance indicators, and creating a screening protocol that can be adapted to various national contexts. Pilot studies are underway in Poland, Spain, Ireland, and Lithuania.

The Irish PRAISE-U study is designed to break down the barriers that prevent men in Ireland from seeking prostate cancer screening. Through an accompanying campaign designed with a combination of education and humour, Movember will encourage eligible randomly selected men to watch for their invitation and sign up online.

MARCH 2024:

Treatment for Neuroendocrine Tumours now available in Ireland

In March the St. Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre, supported by the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) and the Department of Health, formally launching a new national treatment service for people with neuroendocrine tumours (NETs).

The treatment involves Peptide Receptor Radionuclide Therapy (PRRT), which delivers precise radiation to cancer cells, minimising damage to surrounding healthy tissue. The treatment has been available in St Vincent's since October 2023. Before this, all eligible Irish patients had to access the treatment under the HSE Treatment Abroad Scheme. Providing the service in Ireland marks a significant leap forward in cancer care for patients with NETs.



MARCH 2024:

2000th Robotic Surgery Milestone.

In March 2024, St. Vincent's marked a milestone moment with the completion of its 2,000th robotic surgery procedure at the hospital. The robotic surgery programme which commenced in October 2017, now has 12 consultant surgeons across six surgical specialties performing robotic surgeries.



JUNE 2024:

UCD Cancer Research Symposium 2024 @ UCD Conway

On Friday, 7th June 2024, Prof. Kate Robson Brown, Vice President Research Impact and Innovation, UCD, opened the fourth UCD Cancer Research Symposium at the Conway Institute of Molecular and Biomedical Research. This bi-annual event offers cancer researchers and clinical staff from UCD, the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, and St Vincent's University Hospital a chance to network, collaborate, and discover the latest updates in cancer research.



SEPTEMBER 2024:

Trastuzumab Deruxtecan Shows Promise for Treating Advanced HER2-Positive Breast Cancer with Brain Metastases.

At the September European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) Congress, results from the Destiny-12 clinical trial of Trastuzumab Deruxtecan in metastatic breast cancer were presented. The UCD Cancer Trials Cluster contributed more patients to this study than any other Irish site, with that contribution marked by co-authorship for Professor Michaela Higgins in the academic article in Nature Medicine, published alongside the congress.



SEPTEMBER 2024:***St Vincent's Hosts Ireland's First-Ever Liver Cancer Nurse's Study Day:***

St. Vincent's Cancer Centre hosted the inaugural Liver Cancer Nurse's Study Day, with Prof Risteárd Ó Laoide, National Director of the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), delivering the opening address. This is the first event of its kind in Ireland, drawing over 70 nurses from across the country. The event provided a much-needed platform for education, knowledge sharing and peer networking, particularly focused on Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC)—the most common form of primary liver cancer.

**OCTOBER 2024:*****St. Vincent's Cancer Centre becomes the first Irish centre to achieve International Accreditation System for Interventional Oncology Services (IASIOS):***

In October St. Vincent's Cancer Centre became the first centre in Ireland to receive the prestigious IASIOS Accredited Centre seal, and underscores the Cancer Centre's commitment to excellence in interventional oncology and highlights our commitment to raising the standard of cancer care.





Contents

Section 1	Introduction	9
Section 2	About the Cancer Centre	10
Section 3	International Collaboration	14
Section 4	Prevention and Diagnosis	17
Section 5	Treatment and Care	19
Section 6	Quality	28
Section 7	Patient Involvement	30
Section 8	Research and Education	31

Welcome to the St Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre Annual Report

The St Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre's ambition is to provide patients with world class care and access to cutting edge research when attending our cancer centre. We work constantly on improving our own internal processes to ensure that the care that we deliver is both high quality and meets the needs of patients.



Just as importantly we work together with other Irish cancer centres and within the international network for academic cancer care to ensure that we rapidly translating the advances in cancer research into patient benefits.

In 2024 we updated our Strategic Plan. The plan reflects the challenges that we face and also the changes to the way cancer care is organised and delivered. We are now delivering cancer care in an increasingly collaborative environment, where large elements of care will be delivered in Cancer Networks, one that matches the collaborative

nature of cancer research both on this island and in the broader international research community.

In 2023 the Cancer Centre committed to undergo the Accreditation and Designation Programme of the Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OECI). The OECI has two designation categories – cancer centre and comprehensive cancer centre. The difference between the two designations is the quantum of research undertaken at the centre. Our goal is to become a comprehensive cancer centre within the next 5 years. 2024 was a year of preparation for the first OECI Peer Review visit in May 2025.

In this annual review we provide an update on our progress in 2024, and highlights some activities that will equip us even better for further development.

Prof David Fennelly,
Director
St Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre

SECTION 2

About the Cancer Centre

The St Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre is one of the eight designated cancer centres in the country and one of three adult stem cell transplant centres in Ireland. The Cancer Centre is the largest breast cancer screening and treatment centre in the country and is one of the two permanent sites of the national BreastCheck Screening Programme.

The Cancer Centre is differentiated by the types of services offered and the complexity of cases handled and is distinguished by its national specialities in pancreatic cancer, sarcoma and Neuroendocrine Tumours (NET), as one of four national sites for Radical Cystectomy for the treatment of Bladder

Cancer and one of four national sites for the Gynae-Oncology Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) meeting. In addition, the Cancer Centre provides a supra-regional service for Liver Cancer and is also the National Centre for Peptide Receptor Radionuclide Therapy (PRRT).

Specialty Areas - Clinically

NATIONAL CANER CENTERS

1 of 8 Nationally Designated Cancer Centres

NATIONAL CANER SCREENING PROGRAMMES

For Breast, Lung, Colorectal and Prostate

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR NEUROENDOCRINE TUMOURS

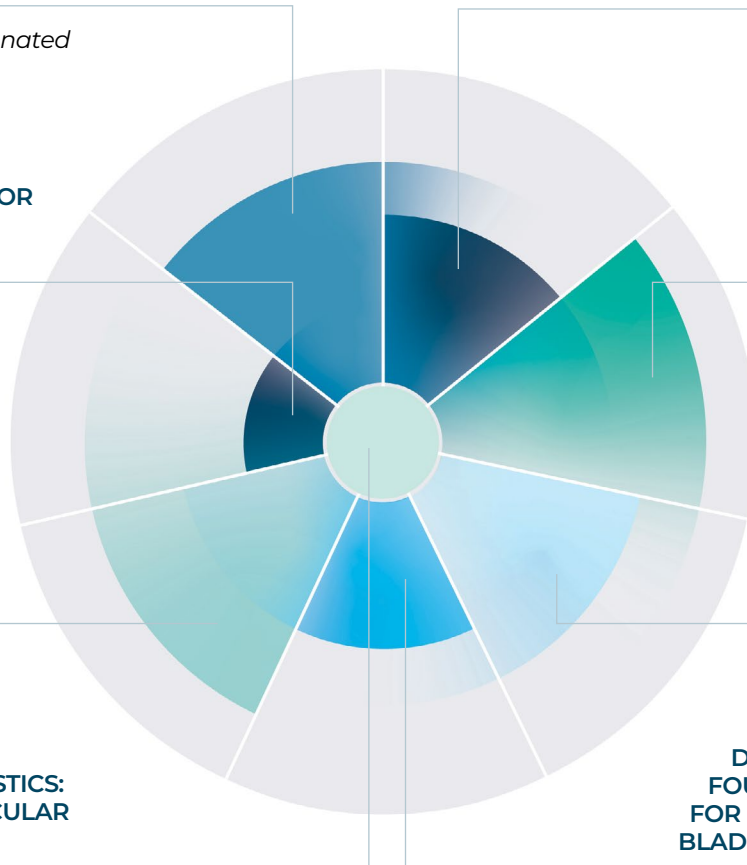
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR SARCOMA

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR PEPTIDE RECEPTOR RADIONUCLIDE THERAPY - PRRT

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR PANCREATIC CANCER

ADVANCED DIAGNOSTICS: HISTOLOGY & MOLECULAR LABS

DESIGNATED AS ONE OF FOUR NATIONAL CENTRES FOR GYNAE-ONC MDM AND BLADDER CANCER SURGERY



The ambition of the St Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre is to become a comprehensive cancer centre, that is nationally and internationally recognised as leading cancer centre that delivers high quality care, one that rapidly translates the output from research into tangible patient benefits and that educates and develops the clinicians and researchers of the future.

OUR VISION



To be a nationally and internationally recognised comprehensive cancer centre delivering world-class care, advanced research, and education.

OUR MISSION



To transform lives through integrated cancer care, personalised medicine, and research excellence.

WHO WE ARE



- One of eight *Nationally Designated* adult cancer centres in Ireland.
- National Centre for Neuroendocrine Tumours (NETS)
- National Centre for Peptide Receptor Radionuclide Therapy - PRRT
- National Centre for Sarcoma
- National Centre for Pancreatic Cancer
- Leading Colorectal and Urological Surgical Unit
- Designated as one of four national centres for Gynae-Oncology MDM
- Designated as one of four national centres for bladder cancer surgery
- *Deep Research-Clinical* partnership between St Vincent's Healthcare Group (St Vincent's University Hospital, St Vincent's Private Hospital, St Michael's Hospital) and University College Dublin.



PATIENT CENTRED CARE

We are a patient-centred organisation in all that we do



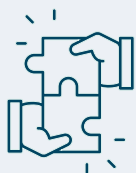
EXCELLENCE

We focus on providing the highest standards of cancer care and research to transform the lives of our patients.



INNOVATION

We build and empower a culture of innovation that rapidly translates discovery into tangible benefits for patients.



COLLABORATION

We work with national and international colleagues to advance the care and treatment of cancer.

Governance Board



Prof Michael Keane
Chair, Dean of the
School of Medicine,
UCD



Ms Averil Power
CEO, Irish Cancer
Society



Prof Walter Kolch
Director and Principal
Investigator, Precision
Oncology Ireland



Mr Gerry O'Brien
Group Director of
Operations, St Vincent's
Healthcare Group



Mr Brian Fitzgerald
CEO, St Vincent's
Private Hospital



Mr Nicky Jermyn
Director of Strategy,
St Vincent's Healthcare
Group



Ms Miriam Staunton
Patient Representative



Mr Wim Van Harten
European Cancer
Centre Representative



Ms Sharon Ryan
CEO, St Michael's
Hospital



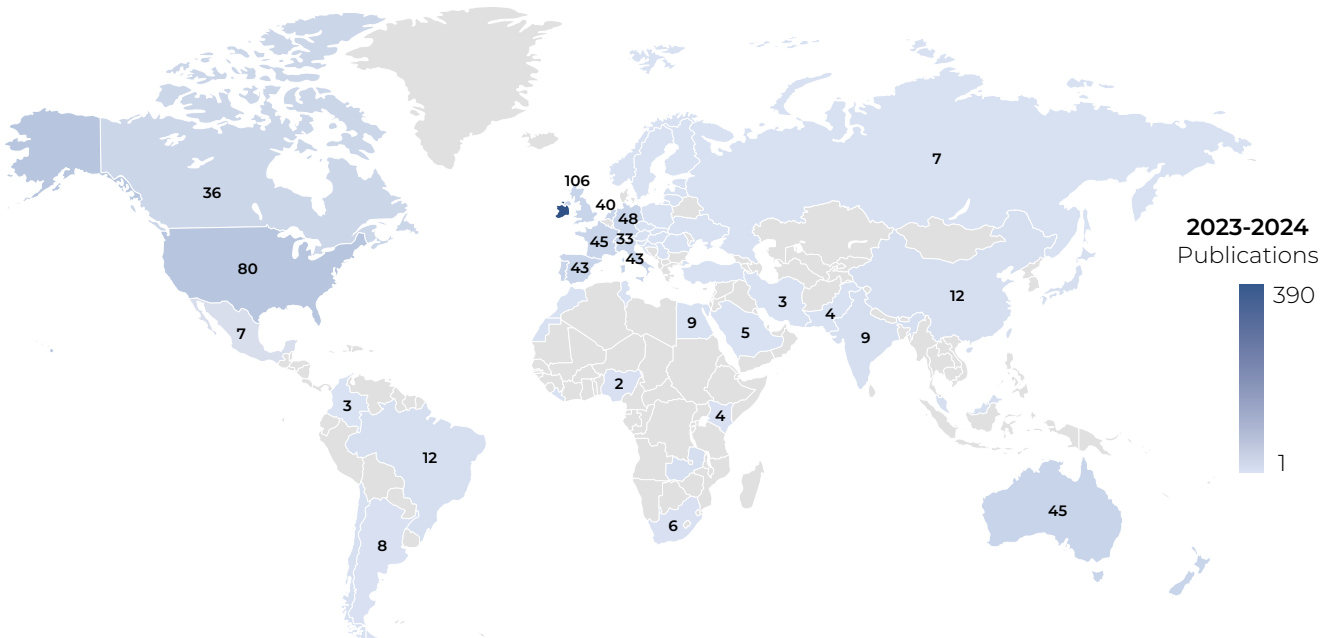
Prof Peter Doran
Director of the
Clinical Research
Centre, UCD



Mr Johnny O'Shea
Patient
Representative

SECTION 3

International Collaboration



International collaboration with 81 countries for the years 2023-2024.

Top 10 Collaborating Countries:

United States: 62 Publications

United Kingdom: 60 Publications

France: 32 Publications

Germany: 31 Publications

Italy: 31 Publications

Spain: 31 Publications

Netherlands: 30 Publications

Belgium: 25 Publications

Australia: 23 Publications

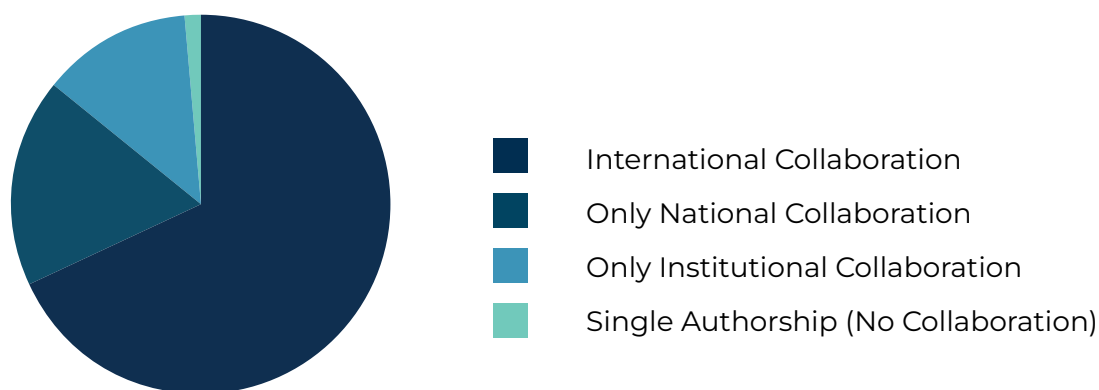
Canada: 22 Publications

International collaboration is 68.1% of publications with a FWCI of 2.33

At St. Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre, research collaboration plays a critical role in driving high-impact outputs. In 2023-2024, international collaboration accounts for the largest share of publications at 68.1%, generating the highest number of citations (1,339) and achieving a Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI) of 2.33. This highlights the significant influence of global

partnerships on research visibility and quality. Collaboration, particularly at the international level, is a key driver of high-impact research at the centre.

Between 2023 and 2024, St. Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre engaged in international research collaboration with 66 countries, reflecting its strong global research footprint.



Metric	Publication Share	Scholarly Output	Citations	Citations per Publication	Field-Weighted Citation Impact
International Collaboration	68.1%	154	1339	8.7	2.33
Only National Collaboration	17.7%	40	102	2.5	0.78
Only Institutional Collaboration	12.8%	29	88	3	0.60
Single Authorship (No Collaboration)	1.3	3	45	15	1.95
Total		226			

The United States was the leading partner, contributing to 62 co-authored publications, followed by the United Kingdom with 60. Other top collaborating countries included France (32), Germany (31), Italy (31), Spain (31), the Netherlands (30), Belgium (25), Australia (23) and Canada (22). This extensive international engagement highlights the centre's commitment to advancing cancer research through global collaboration.



CCI4EU: Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures for Europe (CCI4EU) is a Coordination and Support Action with the goal of developing or improving existing or future Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures (CCIs) by fostering research innovation and digital capacity development in cancer care.

European Cancer Initiatives

The EU's selection of cancer as one of the highly prioritised mission areas and the development of the EU Beating Cancer Plan are expressions of the priority cancer is given within the wider EU health portfolio. In conjunction with several Irish partners, including the National Cancer Control Programme, the St Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre are involved in several Cancer Mission programmes.



EUnetCCC: The European Comprehensive Cancer Centre Network, was launched in October 2024, with the aim of connecting Comprehensive Cancer Centre structures across Europe in order to provide all patients with access to high-quality research and care structures. The network will serve to establish research and care structures in the exchange of best practice, resources and research results in the Member States.

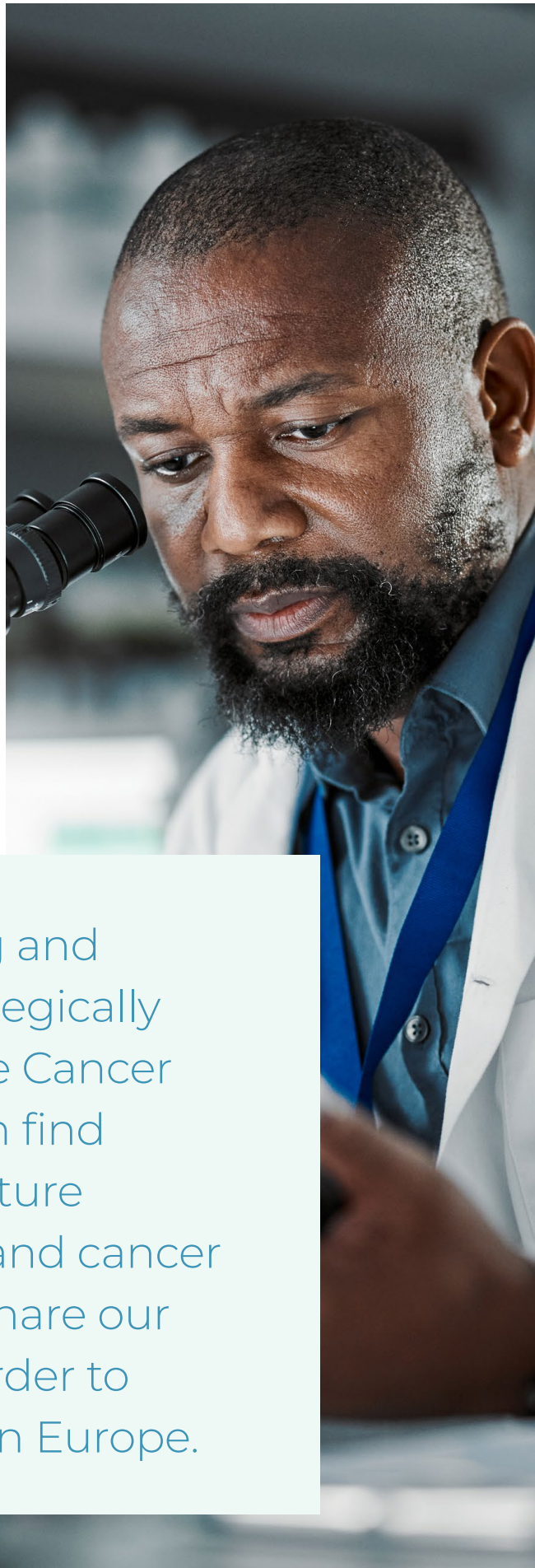


EP PerMed

European Partnership
for **Personalised Medicine**

Joint Action on Personalized Cancer Medicine (JA PCM): JA PCM is a European initiative aimed at improving access to personalised cancer care. It focuses on tailoring cancer treatments to individual patients based on their unique tumour characteristics. This approach, also known as Precision Cancer Medicine (PCM), utilises molecular profiling of tumours to identify specific genetic and molecular changes that can guide the selection of targeted therapies.

European networking and collaboration is a strategically important area for the Cancer Centre, so that we can find partners to explore future research/innovation and cancer centres that we can share our experiences with in order to improve cancer care in Europe.



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SECTION 4

Prevention and Diagnosis

National Cancer Screening Programmes

The National Cancer Screening Service (NCSS) was established in January 2007, following the launch of a “Strategy for Cancer Control in Ireland 2006”, that advocated a comprehensive cancer control policy programme in Ireland.

The National Screening Service is responsible for the following cancer screening programmes:

BreastCheck - The National Breast Screening Programme

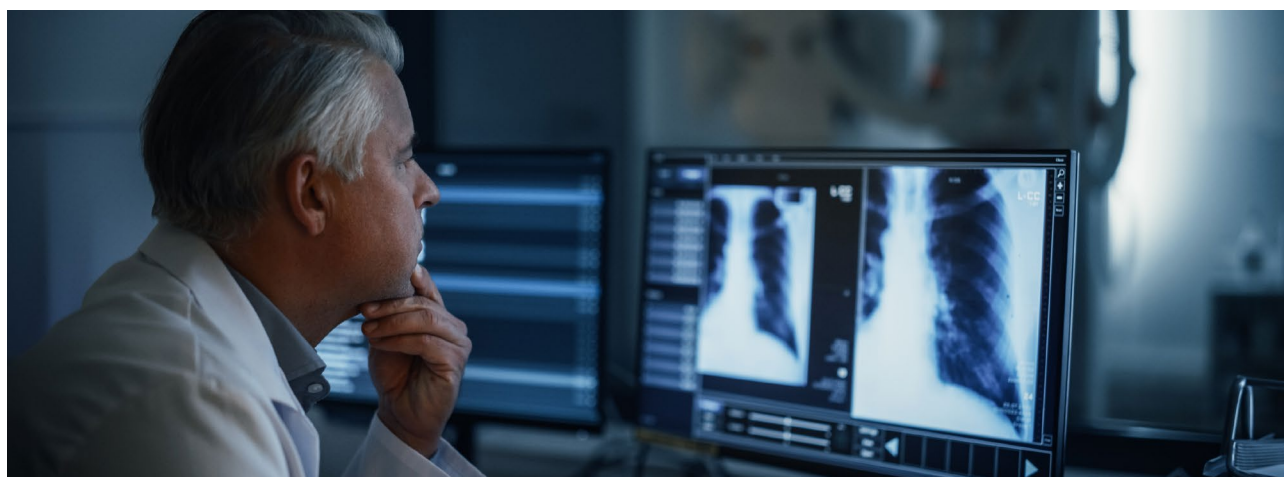
CervicalCheck - The National Cervical Screening Programme

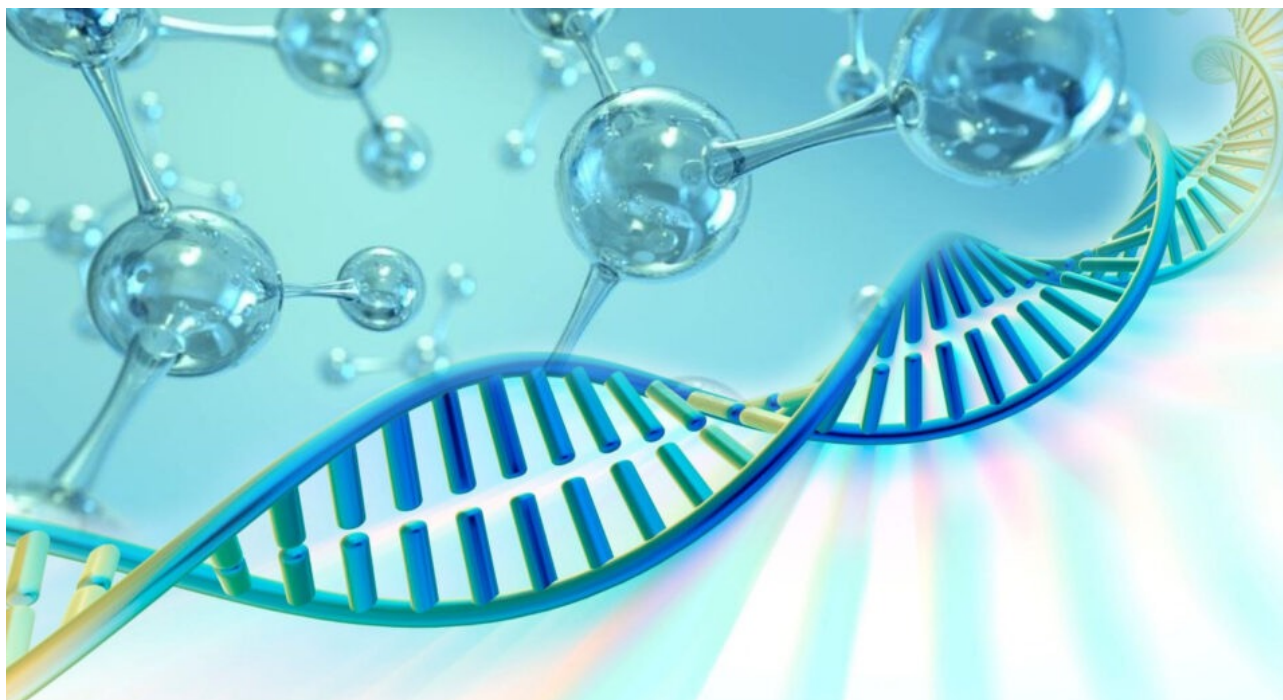
BowelScreen - The National Bowel Screening Programme

BreastCheck: Is the National Breast Screening Programme that has 4 physical locations, one of which is on the St Vincent’s University Hospital campus which works closely with the breast cancer clinical teams in the St Vincent’s UCD Cancer Centre.

CervicalCheck: CervicalCheck is Ireland’s National Cervical Screening Programme. The programme provides free, regular cervical screening tests to women and people with a cervix between the ages of 25 and 65. Patients that require further investigation attend one of the colposcopy clinics around the country. The Colposcopy Clinic at the National Maternity Hospital Holles street is linked to the Gynae Oncology service at St Vincent’s UCD Cancer Centre.

BowelScreen: The BowelScreen colorectal screening programme offers free screening to people aged 55-74 on a two-yearly cycle. The programme is currently available to people aged 59-69. The programme utilises a home stool test and patients with abnormal samples offered a colonoscopy at their local hospital.





National Cancer Control Programme: Rapid Access Clinics

The National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), provides Rapid Access Clinics (RACs) for suspected breast, lung, and prostate cancers in the 8 designated cancer hospitals in Ireland. These clinics provide a streamlined pathway to diagnostic evaluation and specialist review for these cancers.

The NCCP has set Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) targets for the Rapid Access Clinics that are outlined below:

- **Access KPIs:** Breast (Urgent) within 10 working days, Breast (Non-Urgent) within 12 weeks, Lung within 10 working days and Prostate within 20 working days.
- **Treatment KPIs:** Radiation Oncology within 15 working days and Medical Oncology within 15 working days.

The National Cancer Control Programme's Rapid Access Clinics was reviewed in the National Cancer Strategy 2017-2026 and is subject to a specific recommendation (Recommendation 8, on page 59 of the National Cancer Strategy).

Molecular Diagnostics

Molecular diagnostics are available, in the form of a clinically validated next generation sequencing tests that cover clinically relevant mutations in 52 cancer-associated genes, for all tumour types for which sequencing is standard of care according to current oncology guidelines.

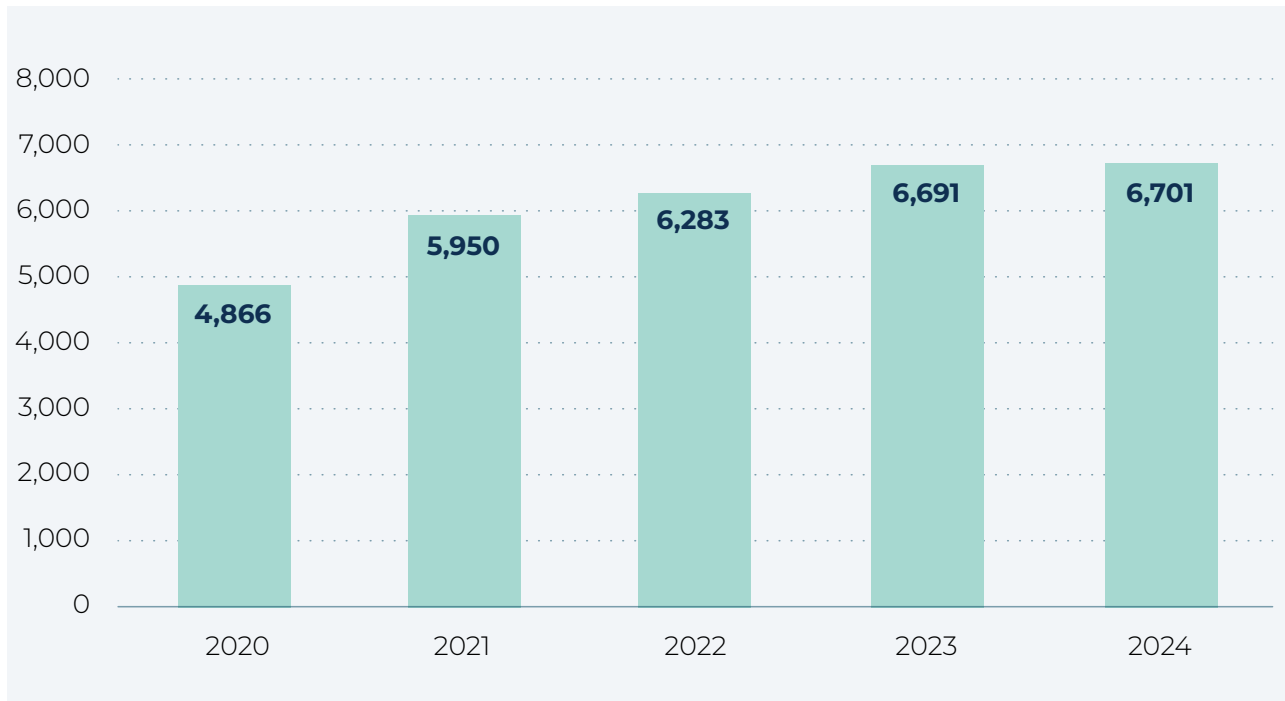
The St Vincent's pathology laboratory has specialists and equipment for molecular pathology for those tumour sub-types for which clinically validated tests are approved. The molecular diagnostics laboratory works to Good Clinical Practice and Good Laboratory Practice Standards. The cancer centre has a formal link with a molecular tumour board to support therapeutic decisions.

Genetic characterisation enabled by cancer genomics assists clinicians in choosing the most effective therapeutic strategies for individual patients.

SECTION 5

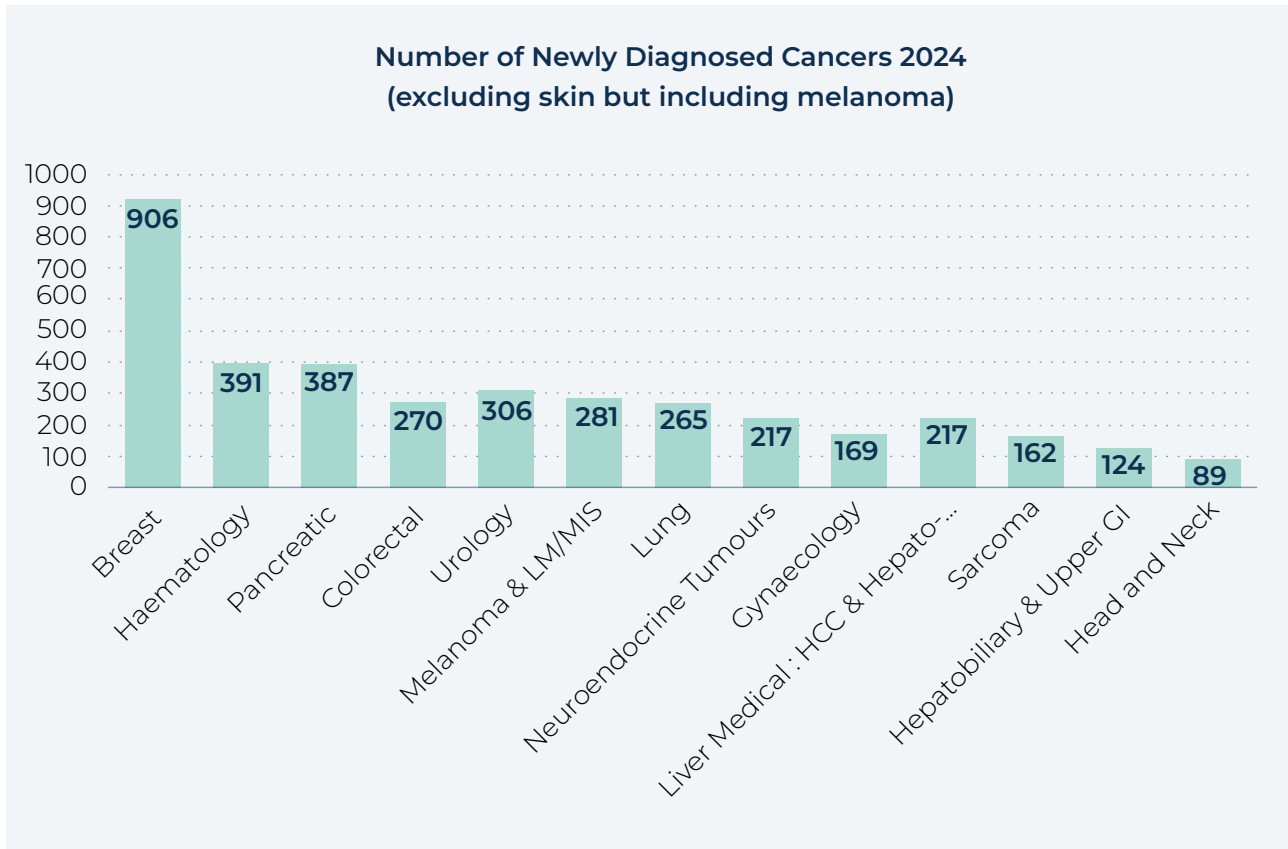
Treatment and Care

Total Diagnosed Cancers 2020-2024 (including skin cancer)



Between 2020 and 2025, the number of cancers diagnosed at the St Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre has increased by 37%. That growth is generally quite broad based with exceptionally high growth rates in Neuroendocrine Tumours (85%), Hepatocellular Carcinoma (42%), sarcoma (41%) and lung cancer (38%).

Newly Diagnosed Cancers 2024

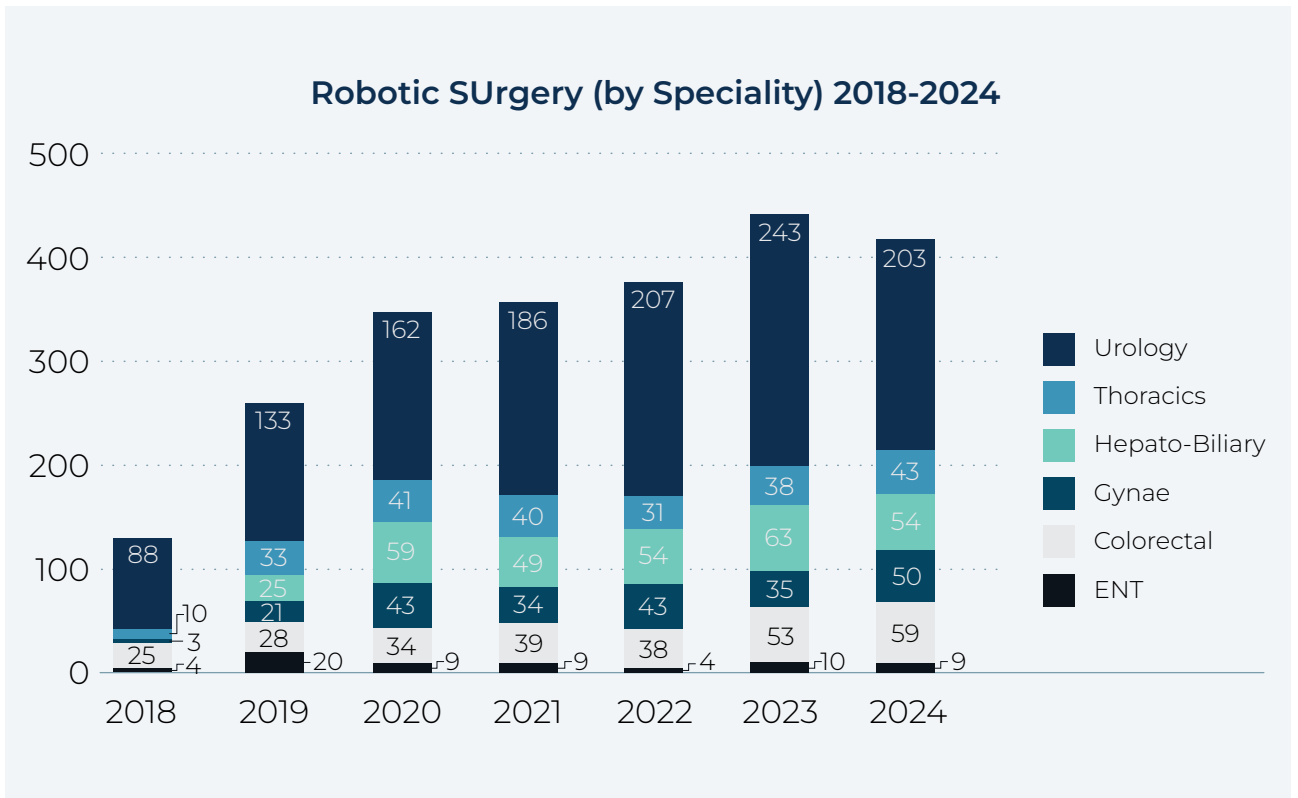


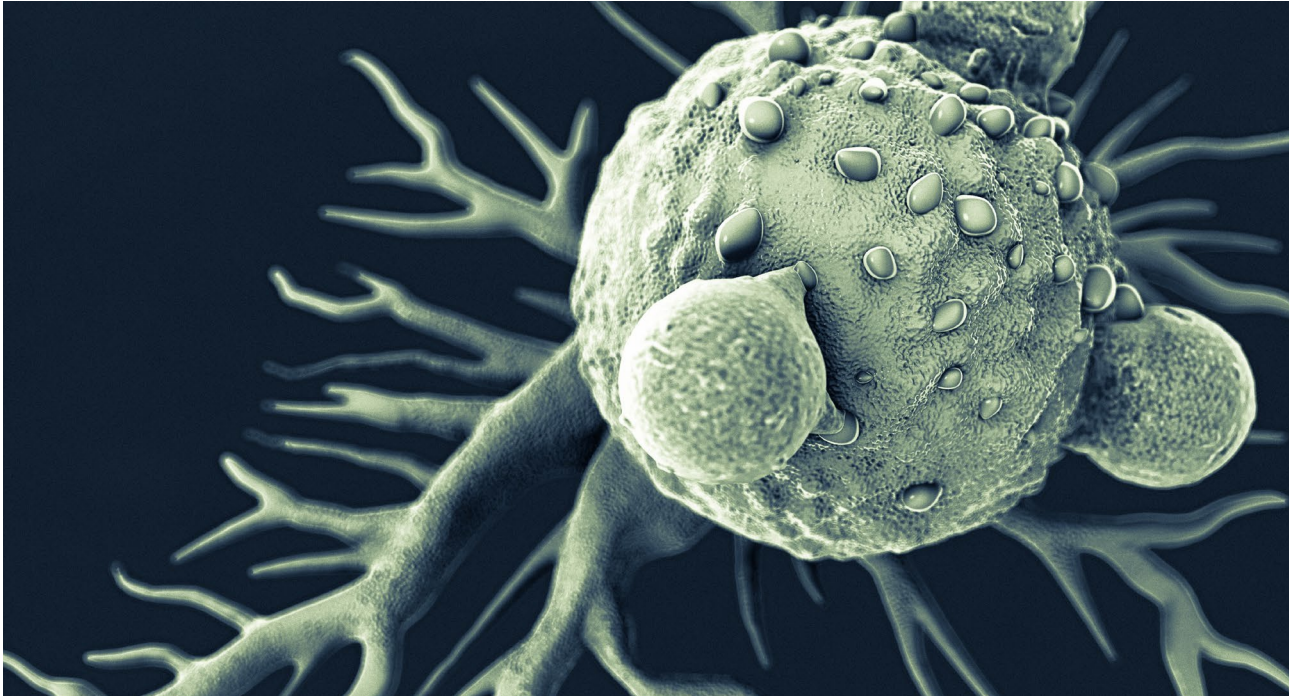
Multi-Disciplinary Meetings (MDM) Activity

Multidisciplinary working is an essential cornerstone of cancer care and MDMs are coordinated discussions to ensure that all newly diagnosed cancer patients benefit from expert multidisciplinary evidence-based discussion of their diagnosis and management. Multidisciplinary team meetings are weekly or bi-weekly meetings between healthcare professionals with different medical expertise. The goal is to discuss patients diagnosis and agree each patients treatment plan according to the most appropriate evidence-based protocols.

MDT Activity	No. of MDTs	No. of Discussions in 2024
Breast	51	3,164
Colorectal	46	877
Lung	45	1,248
Urology	50	853
Pancreatic	51	1,894
Hepatobility & Upper GI	22	573
Liver Medical: HCC & CCA	51	1,615
Neuroendocrine Tumours	28	1,118
Gynaecology	26	538
Head and Neck	26	684
Sarcoma	27	694
Haematology	131	2,374
Melanoma & LM/MIS	27	587
	581	16,219

Robotic Surgery Programme:





Oncogenetics:

The St. Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre offers a Cancer Genetics Service for individuals and families concerned about increased cancer risk. This service provides information, support, and counselling related to hereditary cancer risk and genetic testing. Initially, an assessment of the heritability of cancer in a patient will be made by the treating consultant in Colorectal Surgery, Breast Surgery, Gynae Surgery or Medical Oncology. The patient can be referred to the ANP (Advanced Nurse Practitioner) led cancer genetics clinic within their specialty, or directly to the medical oncology oncogenetics clinic. This decision is made by the treating consultant taking into account the current scope and remit of each ANP led clinic.

Medical Oncology Oncogenetics Clinic:

Referrals to this clinic are for patients where there is a suspicion of inherited cancer in a patient based on their own cancer diagnosis or their family history. New referrals are reviewed by the consultant weekly and triaged according to urgency. The consultant

medical oncologist lead for cancer genetics meets the *oncogenetics clinic* on a weekly basis to review all cases.

Hereditary and Familial Colorectal Cancer Clinic:

This clinic operates under the supervision of a consultant colorectal surgeon that accepts patients with suspected inherited colon cancer predisposition syndromes. The hospital follows a universal Immunohistochemistry (IHC) testing policy for all Lynch Syndrome associated cancers to identify those patients who may be at higher risk of inherited cancer. IHC testing is the starting point of a testing algorithm which will identify those who meet criteria for germline testing. Patients attending this clinic are investigated for inherited colon cancer risk and inherited polyposis syndromes with germline genetic testing is carried out at this clinic following pre-test counselling and consent.



GynaeOnc Family History Clinic:

This clinic is under the supervision of a consultant gynae-oncology surgeon who reviews all referrals to the clinic. It accepts referrals from patients with a known pathogenic/likely pathogenic germline variant associated with an increased risk of gynaecological malignancy, and from patients with a family history suggestive of the same who may be awaiting germline testing. The clinic focuses on risk-reducing surgery and post-operative care, where patients are counselled and advised with regard to cancer risk reducing surgery (hysterectomy, oophorectomy) in the context of their specific genetic risk. The patient's surgery is coordinated through this clinic, and the patient receives ongoing post-operative follow up and management of surgery-specific considerations, e.g. menopause symptoms, sexual health.

Breast High Risk Family History Clinic:

Referrals are accepted to this clinic for patients who are affected by breast cancer and suspicion exists that there may be an inherited component to the cancer. Referrals

are also accepted for patients unaffected by breast cancer where there is a significant family history of breast cancer (e.g. >1 affected relative, or young age of affected relative). The clinic operates under the supervision of a consultant breast surgeon.

Multidisciplinary Meeting (MDM):

There is a regional oncogenetics MDM every second week. Patients in whom the germline result was unexpected or complex, or to discuss screening recommendations, are put forward for discussion. The meeting is co-chaired by the Medical Oncologist Service Lead. The genetics ANPs are in attendance as is the Medical Oncologist with a special interest in Cancer Genetics from Cork University Hospital (CUH) and the Genetics Counsellor from CUH. Patients are discussed and clinical opinion documented. The outcome from the MDM is dictated and forms part of the patient's medical record. The intention is that, in time, the St Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre will contribute to a national Cancer Genetics MDM when it is set up.

Radiotherapy:

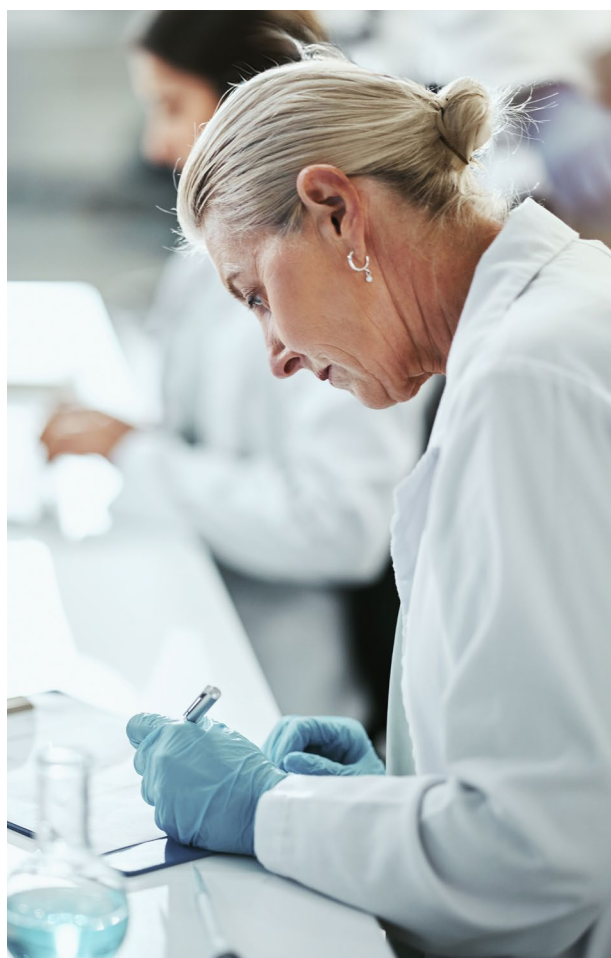
St Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre utilises a mixed model of radiotherapy for its patients with public patients treated through St Luke's Radiation Oncology Network and private patients through St Vincent's Private Hospital. There are 2 Linacs at St Vincent's Private Hospital and 14 clinical linacs at St Luke's Radiation Oncology Network - 4 Elekta and 10 Varian Linacs.

St. Luke's Radiation Oncology Network (SLRON) provides radiation therapy across three locations - in St. Luke's Hospital, Dublin and in St Luke's Radiation Oncology Units on the grounds of St James's and Beaumont Hospitals. These three centres operate as a clinical network, with a centralised referral process for all patients, and with standard clinical practice guidelines.

Pharmacy:

The pharmacy department provides a wide range of services to cancer patients. The team includes pharmacists and pharmaceutical technicians who are highly trained and specialised in this clinical area and in aseptic compounding. Pharmacy staff clinically review all chemotherapy prescriptions, compound parenteral chemotherapy in a controlled and validated environment, supply certain oral anti-cancer medications and lead on the development and revision of treatment protocols and supportive care guidelines. The team works in conjunction with all other healthcare professionals to provide an efficient and quality service to patients.

Pharmacy supports clinical trials for cancer patients by providing compounding, dispensing and full accountability for clinical trial medications. Pharmacy also coordinates several compassionate/expanded access schemes for cancer patients. These services enable patients to access new and innovative treatments before full licence/reimbursement status is granted.



SECTION 6

Quality

Quality of care is at the heart of the St Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre. Our patient treatment and research processes are quality assured, transparent and subject to continuous improvement.

Annual internal audits and management reviews ensure the achievement of quality management objectives, with a sustained focus on patient and staff safety. Both St Vincent's University Hospital and St Vincent's Private Hospital are accredited by Joint Commission International (JCI) with the former holding accreditation of an Academic Medical Centre.

Accreditation



Joint Commission International (JCI)

At the forefront of healthcare quality and patient safety standards globally, Joint Commission International (JCI) leads the way in accrediting healthcare organisations worldwide.

St. Vincent's Healthcare Group stands alone in having two JCI accredited hospitals within its scope, one of which is the first and only Model 4 hospital to be JCI accredited nationally to date.

St. Vincent's University Hospital (SVUH) and St Vincent's Private Hospital are both Joint Commission International (JCI) Accredited, with the private hospital being re-accredited in October 2024. JCI Accreditation underlines

the continuous commitment of the organisation to positioning high standards of patient care and safety at the centre of the patient journey.

Academic Medical Centre Excellence

JCI's rigorous standards are designed to acknowledge the significant contributions that large academic healthcare centres, like St. Vincent's Healthcare Group, make to both their patients and the community. The Academic Medical Centre Standards set additional benchmarks, requiring institutions to excel in areas such as Medical Professional Education and Research Programmes. This ensures processes are developed to provide ongoing oversight and guidance to education and research programmes, irrespective of which entity is affiliated with or sponsors the programmes.

European Society of Gynaecological Oncology (ESGO): Leading in Gynae-



Oncology Excellence

The UCD Gynaecological Oncology Group (UCD-GOG), comprising Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, St. Vincent's University Hospital, and University College Dublin, are accreditation by ESGO as a recognized centre for Gynae-Oncology Training and for Advanced Ovarian Cancer Surgery. The UCD-GOG is the largest Gynaecological Oncology Group in the country, catering to over two million individuals.

Comprehensive Gynae-Oncology Treatment

UCD-GOG offers specialised treatment for all types of gynaecological cancers, including advanced surgery, radiotherapy, and

chemotherapy. The group receives 500 new referrals annually from across the country and treats nearly 400 new cancers each year.



JAG Accreditation

St. Vincent's University Hospital and St. Vincent's Private Hospital are both accredited by the Joint Advisory Group (JAG) on Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, whose purpose is to ensure that each endoscopy service has the skills, resources and motivation necessary to provide the highest quality, timely, patient centred care.



1st Adult Stem Cell Transplant service in Ireland to achieve JACIE accreditation

Following a four-year application process, St Vincent's Stem Cell Transplant programme was awarded JACIE* (Joint Accreditation Committee of ISCT and EBMT) accreditation in June 2023. This makes St Vincent's the first adult autologous programme in Ireland to receive this prestigious accolade. The Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant (HSCT) programme, established in 1995 at the hospital, has been providing exceptional care to patients with solid and haematological malignancies who undergo high-dose chemotherapy with stem cell rescue.

JACIE, Europe's only official accreditation body in the field of HSCT and cellular therapy, promotes excellence in patient care, medical practice, and laboratory procedures through a voluntary, profession-led accreditation scheme. Recent studies have shown that JACIE accreditation leads to improved patient outcomes, reduced transplant-related morbidity and mortality, and closer

alignment with international consensus on HSCT indications and management.

**The Joint Accreditation Committee ISCT-Europe & EBMT (JACIE) is Europe's only official accreditation body in the field of haematopoietic cell transplantation (HCT) and cellular therapy (CT). It promotes high-quality patient care and medical and laboratory practice through a profession-led, voluntary accreditation scheme.*



SECTION 7

Public and Patient Involvement and Engagement (PPIE)

Purpose: The goal of the St Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre is to embed meaningful public and patient engagement across care, research, education and policy so that decisions within the cancer centre reflect lived experience, reduce inequalities, and accelerates impact. We strive to ensure that PPIE engagement is co-designed, inclusive, transparent, and evaluated, and is aligned with OECl Comprehensive Cancer Centre standards and national policy.

Patient Advisory Board: With this objective a Patient Advisory Board (PAB) has been established, drawing on their shared personal experience with cancer, to help improve care and research at the St Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre. Two of the PAB members also sit on the Governance Board of the Cancer Centre, and can also draw on the expertise of Patient Advocate board member, who is CEO of the Irish Cancer Society. The remit of the PAB is to:

- *Give Advice on Patient-Centred Care.*
- *Support Real and Meaningful Patient Involvement.*
- *Make Research More Relevant and Fair.*
- *Encourage Working Together.*
- *Improve Communication.*
- *Improve the Patient Experience.*
- *Build Community Connections and Trust.*

The Patient Advisory Board also act as a link between the Cancer Centre and the wider community — helping people understand the value of patient involvement and building trust. This includes working with other groups and organisations like Cancer Trials Ireland, the Patient Voice in Cancer Research, PPI Ignite, and the Irish Platform for Patient Organisations, Science & Industry (IPPOSI).



SECTION 8

Research

The St. Vincent's-UCD Cancer Centre is dedicated to advancing cancer research that directly improves patient outcomes, enhances prevention strategies, and drives innovations in treatment. Over the last year, we launched our new Strategic Research Plan covering 2025-2027 which will focus on three key themes: (1) Preventive Oncology and Early Detection, (2) Discovery Science and Precision Oncology, and (3) Innovations in Clinical Care.



This Strategic Research Plan will help deepen collaborations with national and international research initiatives to solidify the position of St. Vincent's-UCD Cancer Centre as a leader in cancer research and care. This plan is particularly focused on better integration of cutting-edge scientific advancements with clinical practice to reduce the burden of cancer, improve early detection, and provide personalised therapies for patients. The fantastic work and support of Prof. Grainne O'Kane (Chair, Research Committee), Thematic Leads/Co-Leads, the Cancer Research Programme Office and other key colleagues within the Cancer Centre is acknowledged in generating this clear plan of action.

In 2024, we saw the recruitment of an expert Scientific Advisory Board to help advance the research and innovation mission of St. Vincent's-UCD Cancer Centre (see page 35). These world-leading researchers cover a range of specialities and are ideally placed to provide constructive advice to better advance our mission.

Over the last year, the scale and significance of the cancer research carried out by investigators within the St. Vincent's-UCD Cancer Centre showed continued excellence. At least one seventh of all cancer research publications in Ireland are co-authored by investigators from our Cancer Centre, with the field weighted citation impact of these works exceeding national and international benchmarks.

Our investigators continue to be at the forefront of practice-changing cancer clinical trials, as well as provide key leadership in national and international cancer research programmes of scale, such as Precision Oncology Ireland and the All-Island Cancer Research Institute.

We look forward to continuing to build on our progress and establish a world-leading, patient-focused cancer research ecosystem.

Prof William Gallagher
Scientific Director



Research Highlights 2023–2024:



Trials/Studies
Open

>40



Multi-Disciplinary
Team Discussions

14,772



Cancer Centre
Publications in 2024

226



Centre publications
with a JIF >10
in 2024

32



Centre publications
with a JIF >5
in 2024

61



New Research Grants
(2023-2024)

>20 Million

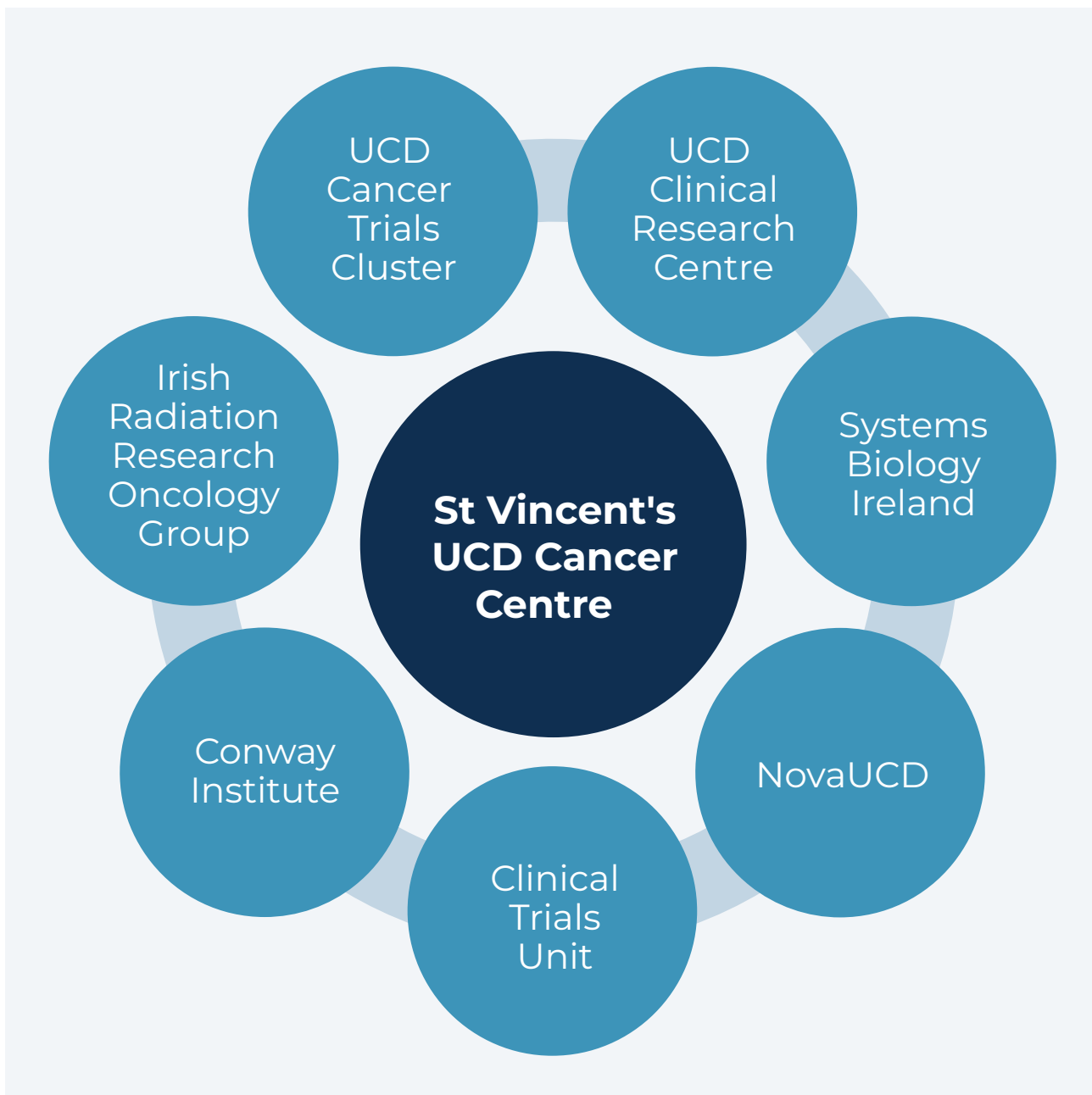
Research Themes:

The St. Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre focuses on three core themes:

- 1. Preventive Oncology and Early Detection**
- 2. Discovery Science and Precision Oncology**
- 3. Innovations in Clinical Care**

These core themes guide the Cancer Centre's work in identifying cancer risk, detecting cancers earlier, delivering personalised treatments based on tumour biology, and introducing new therapies and technologies to enhance patient care. Together, they ensure the research and clinical programmes within St. Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre are closely aligned to improve outcomes for patients.

Research Infrastructure:



- **Conway Institute:** The UCD Conway Institute is a leading interdisciplinary research centre at UCD, supporting over 500 researchers across fields such as cancer biology, genomics, proteomics, imaging, and bioinformatics. With state-of-the-art facilities and strong links to St. Vincent's Healthcare Group and the St. Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre, the Institute drives translational research, accelerating the development of improved diagnostics and therapies.
- **UCD Clinical Research Centre:** The UCD Clinical Research Centre (UCD CRC) is a leading academic clinical research facility jointly operated by UCD and St. Vincent's University Hospital, with an additional site at Mater Misericordiae University Hospital. It provides state-of-the-art infrastructure, expertise, and governance to support the design and delivery of patient focused clinical research.
- **Systems Biology Ireland:** Systems Biology Ireland, based at UCD, is a world-leading research centre focused on using systems-level approaches to understand disease processes and develop innovative therapeutic strategies.
- **Clinical Trials Unit**
- **UCD Cancer Trials Cluster:** The UCD Cancer Trials Cluster is a collaborative cancer research initiative, funded by the Health Research Board, involving St Vincent's University Hospital, the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, and University College Dublin
- **NovaUCD:** NovaUCD is the innovation hub at University College Dublin, supporting the commercialisation of research and the development of new technologies across a range of sectors, including healthcare and cancer research.
- **Irish Radiation Research Oncology Group:** The Irish Radiation Research Oncology Group (IRROG) is a national collaborative group that coordinates clinical and translational research in radiation oncology in Ireland, funded by a Health Research Board grant and institutional co-investment.



Scientific Advisory Board (SAB)

The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) serves as an independent body of external experts providing strategic, scientific, and operational guidance to ensure the St Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre achieves its mission. The core responsibilities of the SAB are:

- Assessing the scientific quality and impact of the Centre's research programmes.
- Advising on emerging opportunities and trends in cancer research and innovation.
- Evaluating the Centre's alignment with its strategic goals and mission.
- Providing recommendations to improve the Centre's operational and research effectiveness.
- Facilitating connections with national and international research communities.

Members of the SAB are:



Professor Manon van Engeland

Scientific Director, GROW-Research Institute for Oncology and Reproduction; Scientific Director, Maastricht UMC+ Comprehensive Cancer Center.



Professor Rita Lawlor

Research Centre Vice-Director and Biobank Director ARC-NET Centre for Applied Research on Cancer, University of Verona.



Professor Peter O'Dwyer

Professor of Medicine (Haematology-Oncology) at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and the Presbyterian Medical Center of Philadelphia.



Professor Patrick Forde

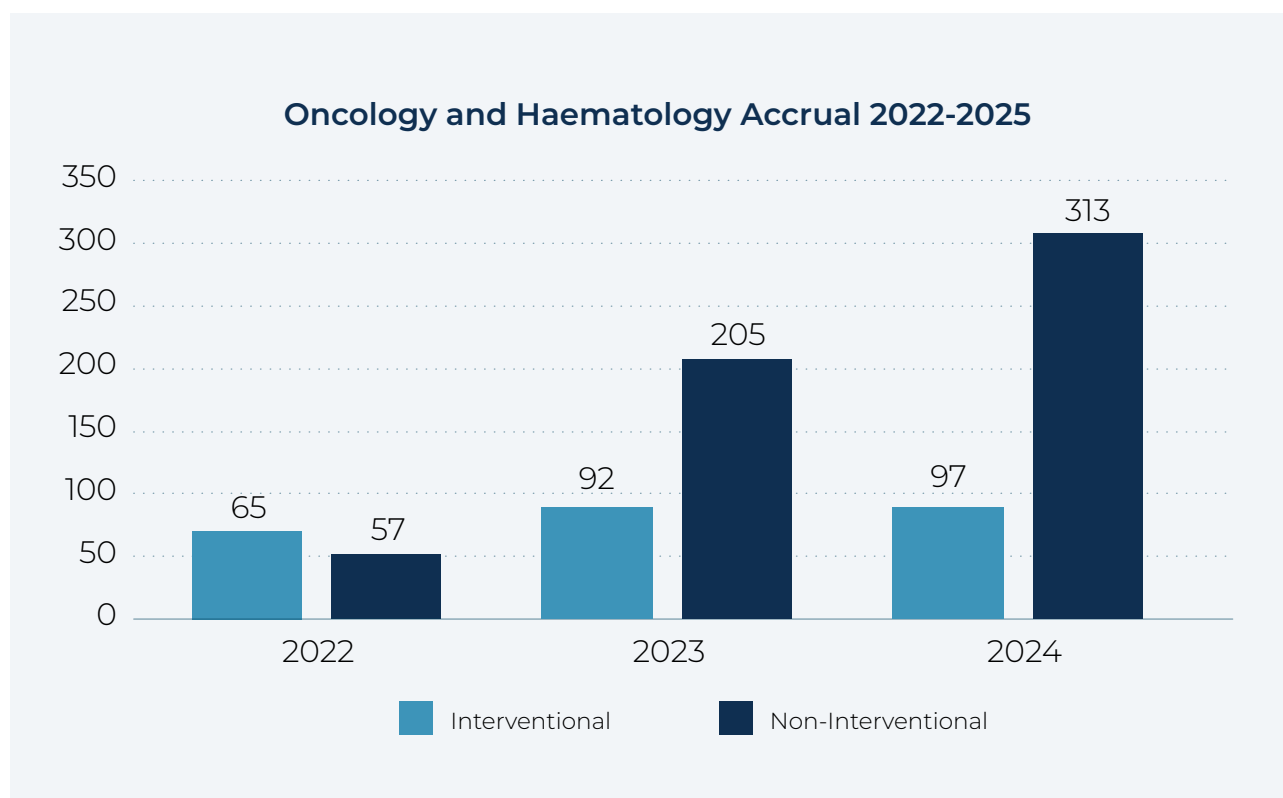
Professor of Oncology and Consultant Medical Oncologist, Trinity St. James's Cancer Institute.



Professor Josephine Hegarty

Professor of Nursing, University College Cork.

Clinical Trial Accrual and Study Type:



Radiation Studies: Irish Research Radiation Oncology Group (IRROG)

Basket

EÂ²-RADlatE: EORTC-ESTRO RADiotherapy InfrAstrucTure for Europe (EÂ²-RADlatE)

Breast

EXamining PERSONalised Radiation Therapy for Low-risk Early Breast Cancer (EXPERT):

A randomised phase III trial of adjuvant radiation therapy versus observation following breast conserving surgery and endocrine therapy in patients with molecularly characterised luminal A early breast cancer.

Head and Neck

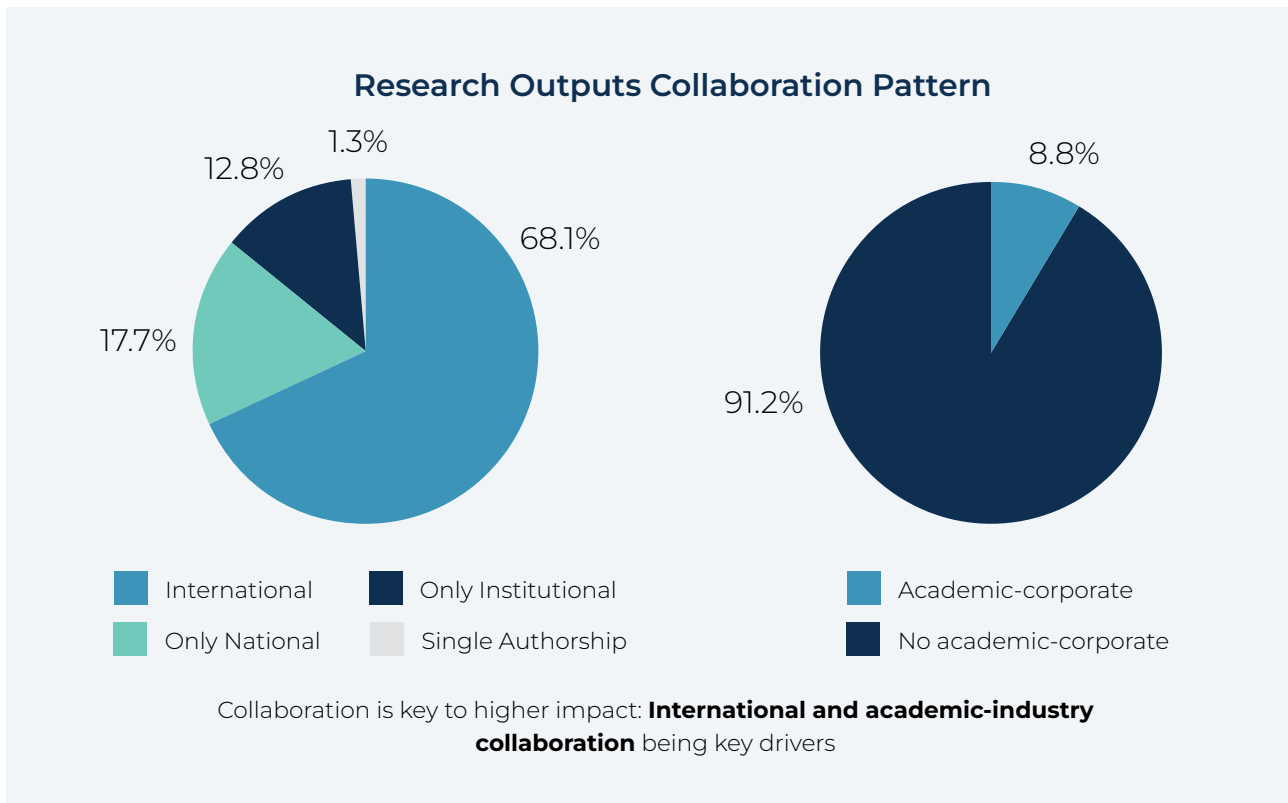
OPEN: Optimising Patient Experience in head and neck radiotherapy, A phase 3 randomised controlled trial comparing open versus full face masks.

Preservation of Swallowing in Respected Oral Cavity Squamous Cell Carcinoma:
Examining Radiation

Volume Effects (PRESERVE): A Randomized Trial

Lung

Source - Stereotactic Ablative Radiation Therapy Of UltRaCEntral LUNG Tumours



Publication Summary

Across 2023 and 2024, St. Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre produced a total of 226 publications. The published output from St. Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre had a Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI) of 1.83, with the global average set at a FWCI of 1. Over the same period, 2,712 publications were recorded across the Republic of Ireland, with a total FWCI of 2.27. This data highlights the strong research output and high quality of published work from the Cancer Centre relative to the broader national landscape.

Top 5 FWCI Publications

Publication	Citation	Filed-Weighted Citation Impact
Breast Cancer Incidence Among US Women Aged 20 to 49 Years by Race, Stage, and Hormone Receptor Status. Xu, S., Murtagh, S., Han, Y. and 2 more (2024) JAMA Network Open, 7 (1).	804	142.59
Overall Survival With Palbociclib Plus Letrozole in Advanced Breast Cancer. Slamon, D.J., Diéras, V., Rugo, H.S. and 12 more (2024) Journal of Clinical Oncology, 42 (9), pp. 994-1000.	209	70.1
Robotic Versus Laparoscopic Liver Resection in Various Settings: An International Multicenter Propensity Score Matched Study of 10,075 Patients. Sijberden, J.P., Hoogteijling, T.J., Aghayan, D. and 58 more (2024) Annals of Surgery, 280 (1), pp. 108-117.	97	32.54
Trastuzumab deruxtecan in HER2-positive advanced breast cancer with or without brain metastases: a phase 3b/4 trial. Harbeck, N., Ciruelos, E., Jerusalem, G. and 88 more (2024) Nature Medicine, 30 (12), pp. 3717-3727.	42	29.44
Efficacy and safety of prostate radiotherapy in de novo metastatic castration-sensitive prostate cancer (PEACE-1): a multicentre, open-label, randomised, phase 3 study with a 2 × 2 factorial design (2024) The Lancet, 404(10467), 2065-2076	90	18.48

Education:

Overview

The St Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre is committed to providing world-class cancer training and education for all specialities involved in cancer care. In partnership with University College Dublin and other relevant training and accreditation bodies, like the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland, the Cancer Centre educates and trains the next generation of cancer researchers, clinicians, and health care professionals. Details of undergraduate and post-graduate programmes is captured in this document.

Medicine

Undergraduate: Undergraduate degree programmes in Medicine, Graduate Entry Medicine, Radiography, Biomedical Health and Life Sciences are available through the UCD School of Medicine. Irish and other EU/EEA applicants apply via the Central Applications Office (CAO). UCD School of Medicine has HEAR (Higher Education Access Route) and DARE (Disability Access Route to Education) places available for Undergraduate Entry Medicine, Radiography and Biomedical Health & Life Sciences. Non-EU applicants apply directly through UCD.

Post-Graduate: The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (www.rcpi.ie), a postgraduate medical training college dedicated to ensuring that doctors have the skills to provide patients with the best possible care, supports doctors to enhance their skills, competencies and professionalism throughout their working lives; delivered through structured postgraduate training in hospitals, examinations, educational programmes, and continuous professional development opportunities.

Basic Specialty Training Programmes and Higher Specialist Training

Step 1: Medical school

Step 2: Intern year

Step 3: Basic specialty training

Step 4: Higher specialty training

Other Oncology Specific Education: A range of educational opportunities and supports are also in place for ongoing oncology education at the St Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre including:

- Journal club every week
- Oncology seminar every 2 weeks (translation focus)
- Oncology Teaching Sessions: Every Thursday meeting
- Medical grand rounds
- Oncology conferences: Support for attendance at 2 conferences per year e.g. Gathering Around Cancer, ASCO and ESMO etc.
- Fellowships: 2 MD Fellow and 1 ICAT (Irish Clinical Academic Training) Fellow in oncology.



Researchers

The St Vincent's UCD Cancer Centre is committed to developing a cadre of highly-skilled clinical investigators, who are equipped with the knowledge, skills and competencies to drive and deliver national and international programmes of clinical and translational research. The *Excellence in Translational Research* programmes are under the remit of the UCD Clinical Research Centre who provide a portfolio of programmes for medicine, health science and science graduates looking to advance careers in academic- or industry-led research. These programmes include:

- MSc in Clinical & Translational Research – both full and part-time.
- Online Graduate Certificate in Clinical Trials.
- Graduate Certificate in Clinical Trials Part Time.

More details on the programmes are available at <https://www.ucd.ie/medicine/studywithus/graduate/clinicaltranslationalresearch/>

Nursing

Undergraduate: The UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems is one of Ireland's leading education providers for undergraduate and taught graduate programmes. Undergraduate Programmes include BSc (Hons) General Nursing, BSc (Hons) Nursing (Children's and General), BSc (Hons) Midwifery and BSc (Hons) Mental Health Nursing.

Post-Graduate: St Vincent's provides post graduate Oncology and Palliative education for nurses once they have completed the National SACT programme. St Vincent's always encourage nurses to complete either CPD in Oncology or Haematology before they start the post graduate program in University College Dublin (UCD).

All nurses are supported by funding and study leave for academic courses and short courses.

UCD provides the post graduate Oncology course and staff need to complete two weeks of placement either in St Vincent's University Hospital/St James' Hospital /Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and also they have attend two days of Radiotherapy placement as part of the post programme.

Nurses, who are attending post graduate palliative course, are required to complete one week community placement, one week placement in Harold Cross Hospice and one week placement in either Mater Misericordiae University Hospital or St James' Hospital as part of their curriculum.

Students feedback in relation to the course collected by the UCD program co-ordinator at the end of the programme. The course overview can be downloaded from <http://www.ucd.ie> .

The Graduate Diploma Cancer Nursing is a NFQ Level 9 programme; it has 3 strands (Adult, Breast, Children). It comprises 6 modules in total (10 credits each) for a total

of 60 ECTS. It has Category 2 approval from the NMBI (Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland). It is delivered via blended learning (4 in person days) with the remainder online. Lectures are given by nursing and medical experts in cancer care and epidemiology.

There are a varied suite of assessments including case presentations, assignments, posters, group work and clinical assessments (undertaken in the clinical area). The students have to complete module evaluations for each module and these are managed centrally by the UCD. Biannual Curriculum Group meetings are held between Clinical Facilitators/Clinical experts and the UCD Programme Director to discuss all issues related to the programme.

The programme is reviewed annually by a UCD appointed External Examiner. The course overview can be downloaded from <http://www.ucd.ie> .

Allied Healthcare Professionals

Undergraduate: The UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sport Science offer:

- BSc in Human Nutrition
- MSc in Food, Nutrition and Health.
- Graduate Diploma in Food, Nutrition and Health

Post-Graduate: The UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems offer:

- MSc Palliative Care
- Graduate Diploma Palliative Care
- Graduate Certificate Palliative Care

Clinical Audit

Clinical Audit: At St. Vincent's, our commitment to continuous improvement extends to the realm of clinical audit, which serves as a cornerstone of quality assurance across the entire St. Vincent's Healthcare Group. With a shared focus on St. Vincent's University Hospital, St. Vincent's Private Hospital, and St. Michael's Hospital, our clinical audit function plays a pivotal role in driving forward patient care standards and fostering a culture of excellence.

Our multifaceted approach to clinical audit encompasses:

- Educating staff on audit principles and methodologies.
- Providing guidance on audit design and implementation.
- Leveraging existing information sources and electronic systems to enhance audit effectiveness.
- Facilitating the reporting of audit findings to key committees within the St. Vincent's Healthcare Group.
- Supporting medical students in undertaking audit projects, now recognised for final professional elective credits in UCD.

Over the past decade, hospitals within the St. Vincent's Healthcare Group have collectively undertaken over 1,300 audit projects, spanning national initiatives, inter-hospital collaborations, and departmental specialties.

Clinical Audit Training: We also recognise the pivotal role of clinical audit training in nurturing a culture of continuous improvement among our medical professionals. As members of the clinical audit committee during their rotations, Medical SpRs gain invaluable exposure to organizational management issues, enriching their perspectives and honing their leadership skills.

Analysing and Providing for Oncology Training Needs

Medicine 2030: Educational and training programmes at the UCD School of Medicine are subject to ongoing and continuous improvement based on feedback from stakeholders and changes in the practice of medicine. Medicine 2030 is a comprehensive review that was launched in 2023/2024, the outcome of which will be the implementation of a new curriculum for undergraduate and graduate entry medicine programmes. The new Medicine 2030 curriculum will launch in the 2026-2027 academic year.

RCPI: The Royal College of Physicians in Ireland carry out a 5-yearly Quality Improvement Audit that approves St Vincent's University Hospital as an approved RCPI approved training site. The latest site visit was in September 2024 and the RCPI report is included in supporting documentation. Of note, the RCPI uses trainee feedback forms that captures the experience and recommendations of those undergoing the RCPI programmes as well as specific recommendations for specific specialities. Medical oncology feedback is on page 37 with histopathology on pages 33-35.

Physiotherapy: As part of physiotherapy quality assurance mechanisms the UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sport Science meets the following stakeholders:

- Physiotherapy Managers (and potential employers), every 6 months.
- Physiotherapy Tutor, every 6 months.
- External contributors to the programme (Anatomy, Legal med etc.).
- PPI engagement, where patients review and give feedback on the curricula.
- Staff student meetings every trimester.
- Student feedback on placement (there are a broad range of placements across Ireland including cancer care placements

Our Lady's Hospice Harold's Cross, Wicklow Hospice, Crumlin, and cancer care in acute sites all over Ireland).

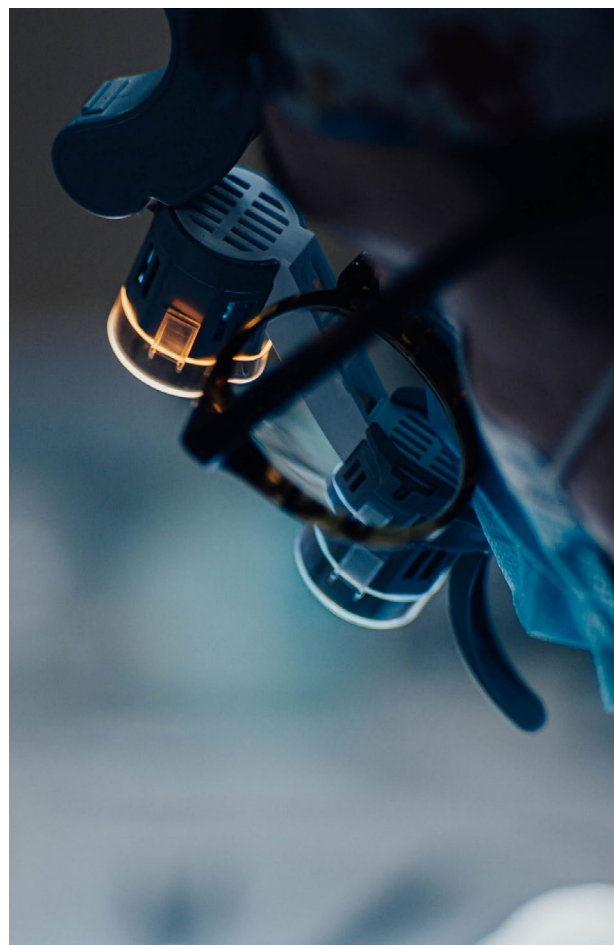
- Student feedback is collected through the UCD system (although engagement levels are low.)
- External Examiner feedback

This feedback is collated and analysed by the physiotherapy team and forms the basis for a Physiotherapy Review meeting held in June each year. At this meeting a plan to implement programme changes is developed. More pressing issues are dealt with at the Physiotherapy Programme meetings held monthly.

Nutrition: All UCD programmes are reviewed by an external examiner on a yearly basis, with a report going back to the registrar and then head of school. The external examiner gathers feedback from several sources including those undergoing or just completing the programmes. The department have to comment on any feedback, which is carried out at a programme level.

Separate and independent to the external examiner review, there is a yearly programme review meeting with all academic staff that analyses feedback and discuss the programme.

Additionally, the UCD programmes are accredited programme by the Association of Nutrition (AFN; <https://www.associationfornutrition.org/>). Reaccreditation occurs every four years the AFN with a yearly report on any changes sent to the AFN.



Education and Research Centre (ERC):

In the early 1990s, St. Vincent's University Hospital (SVUH) opened the Education and Research Centre (ERC) as a cornerstone of its commitment to advancing medical knowledge and enhancing patient care. Designed to serve as a hub of innovation, the ERC's state-of-the-art laboratory and clinical research facilities are strategically aligned with the needs of primary clinical workers, augmenting their efforts in diagnosis and treatment across a spectrum of diseases.

Collaboration lies at the heart of the ERC's mission, with close ties to biomedical research initiatives at the Conway Institute, University College Dublin (UCD). Through interdisciplinary partnerships and shared expertise, the ERC fosters a dynamic environment where groundbreaking discoveries are made, and transformative healthcare solutions are born.

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