

Conor M. Finlay

SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW

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Cellular Immunologist with multidisciplinary skills in inflammation, bioinformatics and clinical research

Snapshot

I am an energetic ambitious immunologist with a clear goal to build an independent research platform. My research passion is which factors control mononuclear phagocyte (macrophage) differentiation during inflammation and how this impacts on disease. My most recent work is currently under revision in the top ranked Immunology journal (IF 31). I am ready to educate the next generation of doctors and scientists and lead my own group to make transformative discoveries in Immunology.

Current Roles

SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW, TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

- COVID-19 SFI-funded strategic partnership, investigating myeloid cell dysfunction in COVID-19
- Core facility development in single cell RNA-sequencing ("TCD Single Cell")
- Trinity Kidney Health Centre, lab management and biomarker research.

HONORARY RESEARCH FELLOW, UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

- Co-managing MRC programme grant with Prof. Judith Allen includes bi-monthly visits and weekly online meetings
- Ongoing collaborations with Judith Allen, Doug Dyer, Mark Travis and Matthew Hepworth groups

Employment History

Research Fellow

Trinity College Dublin

SUPERVISOR: PROF MARK LITTLE

2021

- Single cell RNA-sequencing lead on COVID-19 strategic partnership. Laboratory management of Trinity Kidney Health Centre (THKC). Clinical data analysis: incorporating data from clinical datasets (RedCap) with biobank datasets to stratify patients and combine with biomarker results for analysis using machine learning.

Research Associate

University of Manchester

SUPERVISOR: PROF JUDITH ALLEN.

2017-2021

- Origin, heterogeneity, proliferation and effector function of macrophages during helminth infection and type 2 immune responses. Funding: Medical Research Council/Wellcome Trust. See recent preprint for outputs.

Lecturer (teaching relief)

Trinity College Dublin

SCHOOL OF BIOCHEMISTRY AND IMMUNOLOGY

2016-2017

- Performed the teaching duties for a senior professor on sabbatical for 1 year. Duties included undergraduate practical supervision, undergraduate and MSc teaching via lectures and tutorials, setting examinations and corrections with associated administration duties.

Post-doctoral Researcher

Trinity College Dublin

SUPERVISOR: PROF KINGSTON HG MILLS.

2013-2016

- Research projects: 1. IP-protected translational project identifying and testing novel helminth-derived proteins as therapeutics for inflammatory disease. 2. Role of mast cells in the alternative activation of macrophages via IL-33. 3. Circadian regulation of autoimmune disease

Pharmaceutical advertisement and event reviewer

Bristol-Myers Squibb

PAID INTERNSHIP

2007

- Reviewed pharmaceutical advertisements for assessment of compliance. Created and managed database for reporting issues and producing analysis documents. Liaising with marketing and scientific teams to address and solve issues.

Education

Informatics Training Scheme (Wellcome Trust TPA)

University of Manchester

PROGRAMMING AND COMPUTATIONAL APPROACHES TO BIOLOGY MODULES

2020

- Constituted 50% of taught component of MSc Bioinformatics and Systems Biology

PhD in Immunology

Trinity College Dublin

IMMUNE MODULATION BY THE HELMINTH PARASITE FASCIOLA HEPATICA

2013

- Supervisor: Kingston Mills

BA(Mod) in Natural Sciences

Trinity College Dublin

MAJOR: BIOCHEMISTRY WITH IMMUNOLOGY

2007

- Grade: 1:1, graduated top of class

Funding

MR/V011235/1 Programme Grant

Medical Research Council

2.26 MILLION GBP CO-INVESTIGATOR (2 APPLICANTS)

2021

- “Macrophages in type 2 immunity: unravelling susceptibility and resistance to tissue nematode infection”. I co-wrote grant and provided scientific design and all preliminary data. I was awarded an honorary research fellow position at UoM to facilitate ongoing involvement in this project when I left Manchester to return to Ireland.

Building Engagements in Health Research Scheme

Internal TCD

10K EUR, CO-APPLICANT

2021

- Co-Applicant as scientific lead with Jennifer Scott (TCD, ICAT fellow) as medical lead. ‘Nanoparticle modulation of neutrophil and monocyte responses to ANCA’

Scientific Skills

Programming, Data analysis, Statistics & Visualisation: R (Fluent, 5 years), Python (Intermediate, 3 years), RMarkdown (Intermediate, 3 years) Unix/Bash (Beginner). Data analysis/visualisation in and in R. Other programs: FlowJo and Prism, Adobe Illustrator, biostatistics and its application to experimental design and interpretation. Database creation and maintenance. R Shiny Apps. high-performance computing (basic).

Bioinformatics Expert in summarising take-home messages from single cell RNA-sequencing analysis in R and python (4 years experience). Mass cytometry analysis (FACS, Spectre). Analysis of microarray/bulk RNA-seq datasets analysis in R (limma, DESeq2). Pathway analysis (IPA, GO), regulatory network analysis (SCENIC), trajectory inference (Slingshot, RNA velocity), clustering (hierarchical and graph-based methods), dimension reduction (UMAP, t-SNE, PCA), basic experience with machine learning (non linear, random forest) and systems biology (graphs, networks, logical modelling and differential equations).

Animal models of Disease: 12 years experience in in vivo model design: Autoimmunity (Experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis, DSS-colitis, Imiquimod-induced inflammation), Cancer (B16 melanoma, CT26 lung), Infection (*L. sigmodontis*, *B. pertussis*, *F. hepatica*), Allergy (Allergen airway hypersensitivity) and general in vivo manipulation (Cell transfers, Irradiation/bone marrow transplantation peritonitis models, circadian rhythm modulation, cytokine administration, intraplural injections).

Laboratory techniques: Expert in cell culture, cell sorting (BD Machines), high parameter (20+) flow cytometry, mass cytometry (including panel design), tissue digestion, ELISA, lab management, inventory, ordering, health and safety.

Molecular biology NGS library preparation (Illumina) for single cell RNA-sequencing (BD Rhapsody and 10X genomics), Illumina sequencing (NovaSeq 6000) study design for NGS experiments, RNA extraction, RT-qPCR, nucleic acid QC (TapeStation, Qubit), PCR. Label free quantitative proteomics, bulk RNA-seq and ATAC-seq library preparation, enzyme assays.

Clinical research: Cell isolation from blood (Whole blood, granulocytes/neutrophils, PBMC), biobanking, clinical database management (RedCap). Patient stratification, data curating and multi-modal integration: data analysis of longitudinal clinical datasets with 100s of clinical fields and 10000s of patients. Writing reports in RMarkdown to be read by clinicians and scientists.

Teaching & Supervision

FORMAL TEACHING

R programming, data visualisation and transcriptomic analysis (3 workshops)

20 students

MSC IN IMMUNOLOGY

2021

- Part of immunogenetics module - This included 3 dry lab sessions (in person) and assessment: student presentations of bioinformatic analysis (microarray)

T cells (4 lectures)

30 Students

BA(MOD) BIOCHEMISTRY WITH IMMUNOLOGY (4TH YEAR)

2016-2017

- This advanced course teaches most aspect of T cell biology from development, T cell education, tolerance, activation through the immunological synapse, APC function, co-stimulation, expansion, tissue/lymph node homing, T cell subset differentiation, regulation and the concept of immune responses types. Assessment: written exam

Cancer immunology and immunotherapy (2 lectures)

30 Students

BA(MOD) BIOCHEMISTRY WITH IMMUNOLOGY (4TH YEAR)

2016-2017

- Brief history of chemotherapy, failed early immune oncology interventions, recent success, checkpoint inhibitors, combination studies, CAR-T cell, future perspectives Assessment: written exam

Multiple sclerosis (1 lecture)

30 Students

BA(MOD) BIOCHEMISTRY WITH IMMUNOLOGY (4TH YEAR)

2016-2017

- Th1 and Th17 cells in autoimmunity, animal models of disease, S1p1 inhibitors, VLA4, future targets.

T cell differentiation, effector function and regulation (2 lectures)

20 students

MSC IN IMMUNOLOGY

2016-2017

- Introductory course to T cell biology, differentiation and the cytokine control of immune responses. Assessment: written exam

Introduction to parasite and type 2 Immune responses (3 lectures)

20 students

MSC IN IMMUNOLOGY

2014-2017

- This is an advanced course that covers aspect of type 2 immune responses. Th2 cells, helminth infections, eosinophils, M2 macrophages, wound repair, hygiene hypothesis and allergy. Workshop style with three PBL topics. Assessment: written exam

Integratated Tutorials

3 students

BA(MOD) BIOCHEMISTY WITH IMMUNOLOGY (3RD YEAR)

2014-2017

- Ongoing small group tutorials for 3 students each year integrated with specific modules

Additional teaching duties In 2016 I took on the academic duties for a Professor in TCD on teaching sabbatical. This included all aspects of the role, including practical supervision, assessment and marking, tutorials and administrative duties (including backboard). I have organised visits for school students at various points between 2013-2016. I have developed a 12 hour course in basic data science skills for immunologists basic data science skills for immunologist (click here). I acted as official 'external mentor' of a PhD student in Wellcome Trust in Immunomatrix in Complex Disease PhD program in Manchester. My teaching philosophy is Think-Pair-Share - a method to keep students engaged by creating a mini student led discussions in class.

YOUNG SCIENTIST SUPERVISION

Katy White

Trinity College Dublin

BA(MOD) MOLECULAR MEDICINE (INTERCALATING MEDICAL STUDENT)

2022

- "Nanoparticle modulation of neutrophil and monocyte responses to ANCA" Primary supervisor (ongoing)

Medical Student Lab Rotations

Trinity College Dublin

BACHELOR IN MEDICINE

2021-2022

- Two students per year - Lab/statistical training. Continued Informal mentorship with one student, another student presented research from this project at Irish Nephrology Conference 2022. Grade: I (2021 & 2022)

Makala Carroll

Trinity College Dublin

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

2021-2022

- "PREVENTION IN PERSONALISED MEDICINE - paradise study". Direct supervision and training. Daily interaction and mentorship.

Amrita Dwivedi

Trinity College Dublin

PHD STUDENT

2021-2022

- "Aberrant neutrophils are associated with poor outcome and display a disease specific response in Covid 19" Informal co-supervisor. Project management, bioinformatics training, manuscript writing.

Ruán Ó Conluain

Trinity College Dublin

BA(MOD) MOLECULAR MEDICINE (INTERCALATING MEDICAL STUDENT)

2021

- "Soluble urokinase plasminogen activator receptor in ANCA-associated vasculitis." Primary supervisor with lab/statistical training, writing mentorship. Ongoing collaboration with a co-first author paper in preparation together. Prizes: Best Overall Student: M.Sc. in Molecular Medicine. David Oliveira Medical Student Prize (Shortlisted and Oral Presentation) Royal Society of Medicine: Nephrology Section. Presented Poster: Vasculitis + ANCA International Conference 2022. Henry Coke Drury research scholarship. Presented at the TTMI Immunology meeting

Charlotte Hargreaves

University of Manchester

MRES INFECTION BIOLOGY

2020-2021

- "The role of B lymphocytes within a murine filarial nematode infection." Grade: II.1 Co-primary supervisor - project design and mentorship & direct supervision/training, now in UK graduate Industry role.

Anya Morrison

University of Manchester

MRES INFECTION BIOLOGY

2018-2019

- "The role of CD4+ T cells in macrophage proliferation and alternative activation." Grade: II.1 Co-primary supervisor - project design and mentorship & direct supervision/training, student now a Virology PhD Student in Leeds.

Dr Kyle Cunningham

Trinity College Dublin

PHD STUDENT

2017-2021

- "Helminth products promote anti-inflammatory trained innate immunity by imprinting long-term hematopoietic stem cells." Informal supervisor. Project design and management and career mentorship. Two papers published together. Awarded best presentation at Irish society of Immunology 2018. TCD Postgraduate Research Symposium "€€€ First Prize. Now type 2 Immunology Post-Doc in Glasgow.

Aisling Ui Mhaonaigh

Trinity College Dublin

MSC IMMUNOLOGY

2016

- "The Immunoregulatory activity of exosomes secreted by the parasitic worm, Fasciola hepatica." Grade: II.1 Co-primary supervisor - project design and mentorship & direct supervision/training. PhD candidate in TCD.

Dr Robert Walsh

Trinity College Dublin

PHD STUDENT

2015-2017

- "Modulation of immune responses by Fasciola hepatica-derived products" Informal supervisor. Project design and management. Now at Novartis as medical science liaison.

Dr Kyle Cunningham

Trinity College Dublin

MSC IMMUNOLOGY

2015

- "The role of IL-33 in the induction of regulatory-type-2 responses that control autoimmunity." Grade: I with Distinction. Co-primary supervisor - project design and mentorship & direct supervision/training. Keith Tipton Award Second Prize. Project led to IRC-funded PhD that I co-wrote (see above)

Ben Doyle

Trinity College Dublin

MSC IMMUNOLOGY

2014

- "Modulation of Innate immune responses by the helminth parasite Fasciola hepatica "Grade: II.1 Co-primary supervisor - project design and mentorship & direct supervision/training. Student now at Nuritas Ltd.

Outreach and organisation

Discover Research Night, Dublin Sep 2014. Marie Skłodowska-Curie-funded. I was the event organiser responsible for public engagement at Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute, organising a team of 50 researchers in leading themed tours of scientific facilities. We were the most subscribed event of Dublin Research Night (>500 members of the public) 8 weeks' full-time.

10th International Symposium on Bordetella, Sep 2013. Logistics manager responsible for operations of the conference including registration, AV equipment and support for speakers.

Manchester Immunology Group Seminar Series, May 2017 – Sep 2018. Co-lead organiser. Handling invitations, hospitality, communications, for renowned international speakers to visit University of Manchester.

School talk, Oaklands Community College, Edenderry Co. Offaly, 2021. "The life of a scientist".

Single Cell TCD Core facility. I formed a working group in 2021 to address the competitive disadvantage of not having a working single cell RNA-sequencing in TCD. The service was soft launched internally in 2022 on a cost-for-service basis and delivers a full pipeline from consultation, cellular isolation, library preparation, sequencing, bioinformatics and basic downstream analysis. I am to expand this to a full service and hire talent to expand the capability of this service to include external industry clients.

Presentations & awards

ORAL

2022	COVID-19 Immunology, Vaccines and Lessons for the Future	TCD, Dublin
2022	Parasitic Helminths: New Perspectives in Biology and Infection	Hydra, Greece
2022	Trinity Translational Medicine Institute - Conference 2022	TTMI, Dublin
2021	Cytokine and interferon society meeting	Cardiff
2019	Irish Society of Immunology	RCSI, Dublin
2019	BSI Type 2 Immunology Meeting	Manchester
2019	KU Leuven, UZ Gasthuisberg Campus	KU Leuven
2015	Molecular and cellular biology of helminth parasites IX	Hydra, Greece
2015	TBSI Post-Doc Research Day	TCD, Dublin
2015	1st TBSI-Weimann joint Immunology conference	Rehovot, Israel
2015	European Congress of Immunology	Vienna
2009	European Congress of Immunology	Berlin

POSTER

2019	British Society of Immunology	Liverpool
2018	Type 2 Immunity in Homeostasis and Disease	Bruges
2017	British Society of Immunology	Brighton
2016	British Society of Immunology	Liverpool
2015	Frontiers in neurology	TCD, Dublin
2014	Cytokine and interferon society meeting	Melbourne
2012	Keystone: Biology of Cytokines	Colorado
2011	Cytokine and interferon society meeting	Florence

AWARDS

2022	Wiley Top Cited Article Award - Parasite Immunology
2021	EFIS/EJI Travel/Abstract Award Winners Presenting at Cytokines 2021
2019	Best presentation from selected abstracts - Irish Society of Immunology
2015	Visiting student training scheme - Weizmann Institute of Science
2015	TBSI Post-Doc Research Day - Runner up talk prize
2014	Milstein Travel Award - International Cytokine society
2007	Valdicotrian - Biochemistry with Immunology degree
2007	Best Undergraduate Research Poster Prize - School of Biochemistry and Immunology

Referees

Prof Judi Allen

PROFESSOR OF IMMUNOBIOLOGY; JUDI.ALLEN@MANCHESTER.AC.UK

University of Manchester

Lydia Becker Institute

Dr Matthew Hepworth

SIR HENRY DALE FELLOW; MATTHEW.HEPWORTH@MANCHESTER.AC.UK

University of Manchester

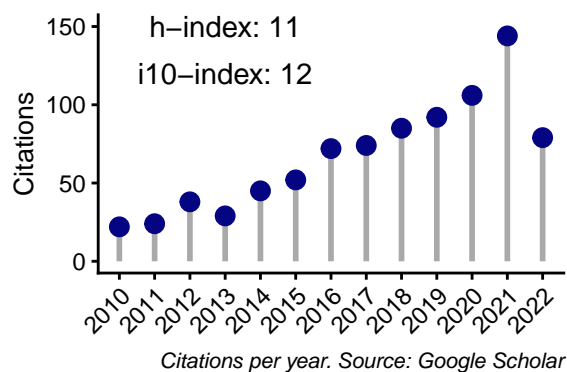
Lydia Becker Institute

Prof Kingston HG Mills

PROFESSOR OF EXPERIMENTAL IMMUNOLOGY; KINGSTON.MILLS@TCD.IE

Trinity College Dublin

School of Biochemistry and Immunology



Details	Number of papers
Total papers	15
As First Author	6
As primary supervisor	1
Secondary author – Major contribution (>3 months)	6
Secondary author – Minor contribution (<3 months)	2
As corresponding author	4

- Finlay, C. M., Parkinson, J. E., Chan, B. H. K., Ajendra, J., Chenery, A., Morrison, A., Houlder, E., Baker, S. M., Dickie, B., Boon, L., MacDonald, A., Konkel, J. E., Ruckerl, D., & Allen, J. E. (2021). Genotype and Th2 Cells Control Monocyte to Tissue Resident Macrophage Differentiation During Nematode Infection of the Pleural Cavity. *bioRxiv - Under Review in Immunity IF 31*, 2021.12.17.472661. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3992680>
- Fiancette, R., Finlay, C. M., Willis, C., Bevington, S. L., Soley, J., Ng, S. T. H., Baker, S. M., Andrews, S., Hepworth, M. R., & Withers, D. R. (2021). Reciprocal transcription factor networks govern tissue-resident ILC3 subset function and identity. *Nature Immunology*, 22(10), 1245–1255. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41590-021-01024-x>
- Cunningham, K. T., Finlay, C. M., & Mills, K. H. G. (2021). Helminth Imprinting of Hematopoietic Stem Cells Sustains Anti-Inflammatory Trained Innate Immunity That Attenuates Autoimmune Disease. *The Journal of Immunology*, 206(7), 1618–1630. <https://doi.org/10.4049/jimmunol.2001225>
- Finlay, C. M., Cunningham, K. T., Doyle, B., & Mills, K. H. G. (2020). IL-33–Stimulated Murine Mast Cells Polarize Alternatively Activated Macrophages, Which Suppress T Cells That Mediate Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis. *The Journal of Immunology*, 205(7), 1909–1919. <https://doi.org/10.4049/jimmunol.1901321>
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- Czajkowska, B. I., Finlay, C. M., Jones, G., & Brown, T. A. (2019). Diversity of a cytokinin dehydrogenase gene in wild and cultivated barley. *PLOS ONE*, 14(12), e0225899. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0225899>
- McEntee, C. P., Finlay, C. M., & Lavelle, E. C. (2019). Divergent Roles for the IL-1 Family in Gastrointestinal Homeostasis and Inflammation. *Frontiers in Immunology*, 10. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2019.01266>
- Campbell, S. M., Knipper, J. A., Ruckerl, D., Finlay, C. M., Logan, N., Minutti, C. M., Mack, M., Jenkins, S. J., Taylor, M. D., & Allen, J. E. (2018). Myeloid cell recruitment versus local proliferation differentiates susceptibility from resistance to filarial infection. *eLife*, 7, e30947. <https://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.30947>
- Sutton, C. E., Finlay, C. M., Raverdeau, M., Early, J. O., DeCoursey, J., Zaslon, Z., O'Neill, L. A. J., Mills, K. H. G., & Curtis, A. M. (2017). Loss of the molecular clock in myeloid cells exacerbates T cell-mediated CNS autoimmune disease. *Nature Communications*, 8(1), 1923. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-017-02111-0>
- Finlay, C. M., Stefanska, A. M., Coleman, M. M., Jahns, H., Cassidy, J. P., McLoughlin, R. M., & Mills, K. H. G. (2017). Secreted products of *Fasciola hepatica* inhibit the induction of T cell responses that mediate allergy. *Parasite Immunology*, 39(10), e12460. <https://doi.org/10.1111/pim.12460>
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- Bernard, N. J., Finlay, C. M., Tannahill, G. M., Cassidy, J. P., O'Neill, L. A., & Mills, K. H. (2015). A critical role for the TLR signaling adapter Mal in alveolar macrophage-mediated protection against *Bordetella pertussis*. *Mucosal Immunology*, 8(5), 982–992. <https://doi.org/10.1038/mi.2014.125>
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- Coleman, M. M., Finlay, C. M., Moran, B., Keane, J., Dunne, P. J., & Mills, K. H. G. (2012). The immunoregulatory role of CD4 + FoxP3 + CD25 - regulatory T cells in lungs of mice infected with *Bordetella pertussis*. *FEMS Immunology & Medical Microbiology*, 64(3), 413–424. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1574-695X.2011.00927.x>
- Walsh, K. P., Brady, M. T., Finlay, C. M., Boon, L., & Mills, K. H. G. (2009). Infection with a Helminth Parasite Attenuates Autoimmunity through TGF- β -Mediated Suppression of Th17 and Th1 Responses. *The Journal of Immunology*, 183(3), 1577–1586. <https://doi.org/10.4049/jimmunol.0803803>

Appendix

DISCIPLINE CONTRIBUTIONS

2022	Frontiers in Immunology	Article review
2022	Irish Nephrology Society Conference	Session Chair
2022	Post-Doctoral scientist at TCD	Interview panel
2022	PhD Candidate in TCD	Continuation Viva
2021	French National Research Agency (ANR) 2021 generic call	Grant review
2021	BBSRC Discovery Fellows award	Grant review
2021	Research Assistant at TCD	Interview panel
2021	Venture capital funded Trinity Spinout – Parvalis Tx	Patent (inventor)
2018	Scientific Reports	Article review
2017-2020	Parasite Immunology	Article review

TRAINING

2022	Illumina Sequencing (NovaSeq 6000)	Illumina
2018	Single Cell RNA-sequencing	Earlham Institute
2017	Home Office personal animal licence	Manchester
2014	Fluorescent activated cell sorting	UCD

COURSES

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

- Data Protection
- Introduction to High Performance Computing
- Introduction to version control using Git
- Introduction to the UNIX shell
- Programming with Python
- Data analysis using R
- Introduction to Python

TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

- Biological safety workshop
- Cyrogenics safety workshop
- Radiological safety workshop
- LAST animal handling course (2009)
- Data Protection and Health Research (2021)
- Project Management
- Academic Practice: Perspectives on Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (1/3 SpCert - July 2022)
- Data Protection: Data Transfer and Secondary Use of Data (2021)

SOCIETIES AND COMMITTEES

SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

- British Society of immunology
- Irish Society of Immunology
- International Cytokine & Interferon Society
- Myeloid Network

COLLEGE COMMITTEES

- STTAR Data Committee (2021-present)
- Single Cell TCD core facility working group (Chair)
- FLOCI -Flow cytometry analysis committee (2021-Present)
- Post-Doc Representative for comparative medicine unit (CMU; animal research unit) executive committee (2016)
- Covid Strategic partnership (SFI Funded) (2021-present)
- STTAR Covid-19 M-Bio LIMS (clinical data access)

SHORTLISTED APPLICATIONS

- Shortlisted for UKRI Innovation/Rutherford Fund Skills Development Fellowship (Computational Biology), 2017.
- Shortlisted as candidate from school of medicine for Science Foundation Ireland Pathways programme, 2021
- Shortlisted for academic-industry partnership with Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Belgium, 2019

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

Dwivedi, A., Ui Mhaonaigh, A., Carrol, M., Little, M and Finlay, C.M. Characterisation of low density neutrophils in SARS-Cov 2 patients

Finlay, C.M. Parkinson, J.P., Chan, B.H.K. and Allen, J.E. The proteome of the pleural fluid

O'Conluain, R., Hollingsworth, s., Little, M. and Finlay, C.M., Soluble urokinase plasminogen activator receptor is a biomarker of kidney disease in ANCA-associated vasculitis