



Conor M. Finlay

SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW

Trinity Translational Medicine Institute, Trinity College Dublin

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Cellular Immunologist and bioinformatician combining molecular, in vivo and translational research.

SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW, TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN (2022-PRESENT)

- HEALED consortium - molecular biology and sequencing lead (with Aideen Long), since August 2023
- TCD Omics - Single cell RNA-sequencing platform technology (founder and lead), since 2021
- COVID-19 SFI-funded strategic partnership - transnational immunology, up to mid-2023
- Trinity Kidney Health Centre - lab management, student supervision and biomarker research (with Mark Little), up to mid-2023
- Multi-modal clinical data analysis (with Mark Little), up to mid-2023
- Co-supervising longitudinal immune cell phenotyping transnational study, PARADISE project, (with Mark Little), 2022-present

HONORARY RESEARCH FELLOW, UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER (2021-PRESENT)

- Collaboration on MRC programme grant with Prof. Judith Allen.

Past roles & Education

2021-2022 Research Fellow, Supervisor: Prof Mark Little

2020 Informatics Training Scheme (Wellcome Trust TPA), Programming and Computational Approaches to Biology Modules

Trinity
University of
Manchester
University of
Manchester

2017-2021 Research Associate, Supervisor: Prof Judith Allen.

2016-2017 Lecturer (teaching relief post), School of Biochemistry and Immunology

2013-2016 Post-doctoral Researcher, Supervisor: Prof Kingston HG Mills.

2013 PhD in Immunology, Immune modulation by the helminth Parasite *Fasciola hepatica*

2007 BA(Mod) in Natural Sciences, Major: Biochemistry with Immunology, Grade: 1:1

Trinity
Trinity
Trinity
Trinity

Funding

SFI-Pathways Programme

Science Foundation Ireland

457K, PI

2024-2028

- Macrophage Activation and Transition in the Autoimmune Kidney (MacATAK): uncovering functional outcomes of macrophage differentiation in the inflamed kidney

Dean's Research Initiatives Fund

Faculty of Health Sciences, TCD

20K, PI

2024

- Mapping human macrophage anti-microbial function in pleural infection

Enterprise Ireland-funded Industry collaboration

Legend Biotech

84K

2024

- Title withheld, scRNA-sequencing of blood cancer

Building Engagements in Health Research Scheme

Internal TCD

10K EUR, Co-PI

2023

- Understanding mast cells and their progenitors in Telangiectasia Macularis Eruptiva Perstans (TMEP)

MR/V011235/1 Programme Grant

Medical Research Council

2.26 MILLION GBP, RESEARCH CO-INVESTIGATOR

2021

- "Macrophages in type 2 immunity: unravelling susceptibility and resistance to tissue nematode infection". I co-wrote grant and provided scientific design and preliminary data. Awarded an honorary position at UoM to facilitate ongoing collaboration after leaving Manchester

Building Engagements in Health Research Scheme

Internal TCD

10K EUR, Co-PI

2021

- 'Nanoparticle modulation of neutrophil and monocyte responses to ANCA'

Presentations, Awards & contributions

PRESENTATIONS

- 4 invited speaker presentations

- 13 conference oral presentations, selected from abstract
- 8 conference poster presentations

AWARDS AND MEDIA

- Commentary in *Immunity*: “Macrophages show up in style when Th2 lymphocytes organize their homecoming”
- Paper featured on The Immunology Podcast - Episode 51
- Immunity paper featured on August 2023 edition of *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* News Beyond Our Pages.

DISCIPLINE CONTRIBUTIONS

- Reviewed articles for 5 journals.
- Reviewed grants for 4 funding bodies
- Sat on 3 researcher interview panels
- Co-Inventor on a patent for Trinity Spin-out (Parvalis Tx)

Active Collaborations

15 active collaborations, with groups in NIH, Leiden, Manchester, RCSI, Trinity college Dublin, St James’ hospital.

Research leadership

Student projects 15 projects designed and supervised across Trinity (12-15 weeks) and Manchester (6 months).

Direct line manager for 2 research assistants, thesis committee for 2 students.

TCD Omics Core facility. I have established formal pipelines for a single cell RNA-sequencing core service ‘TCD Omics’.

Publications (last 2 years)

1. Finlay, C. M., & Allen, J. E. (2024). IL-4-ever young: Type 2 cytokine signaling in macrophages slows aging. *Immunity*, 57(3), 403–406. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.immuni.2024.02.013>
2. Ridge, K., Moran, B., Alvarado-Vazquez, P. A., Hallgren, J., Little, M. A., Irvine, A. D., O’Farrelly, C., Dunne, J., Finlay, C. M. (co. & co-senior), & Conlon, N. (2024). Lin-CD117+CD34+FceRI+ progenitor cells are increased in chronic spontaneous urticaria and predict clinical responsiveness to anti-IgE therapy. *Allergy, In Press*.
3. Han, J., Gallerand, A., Erlich, E. C., Helmink, B. A., Mair, I., Li, X., Eckhouse, S. R., Dimou, F. M., Shakhsher, B. A., Phelps, H. M., Chan, M. M., Mintz, R. L., Lee, D. D., Schilling, J. D., Finlay, C. M., Allen, J. E., Jakubzick, C. V., Else, K. J., Onufer, E. J., ... Randolph, G. J. (2024). Human serous cavity macrophages and dendritic cells possess counterparts in the mouse with a distinct distribution between species. *Nature Immunology*, 25(1), 155–165. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41590-023-01688-7>
4. Tachó-Piñot, R., Stamper, C. T., King, J. I., Matei-Rascu, V., Richardson, E., Li, Z., Roberts, L. B., Bassett, J. W., Melo-Gonzalez, F., Fiancette, R., Lin, I.-H., Dent, A., Harada, Y., Finlay, C., Mjösberg, J., Withers, D. R., & Hepworth, M. R. (2023). Bcl6 is a subset-defining transcription factor of lymphoid tissue inducer-like ILC3. *Cell Reports*, 42(11), 113425. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2023.113425>
5. Finlay, C. M., Parkinson, J. E., Zhang, L., Chan, B. H. K., Ajendra, J., Chenery, A., Morrison, A., Kaymak, I., Houlder, E. L., Murtuza Baker, S., Dickie, B. R., Boon, L., Konkel, J. E., Hepworth, M. R., MacDonald, A. S., Randolph, G. J., Rückerl, D., & Allen, J. E. (2023). T helper 2 cells control monocyte to tissue-resident macrophage differentiation during nematode infection of the pleural cavity. *Immunity*, 56(5), 1064–1081.e10. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.immuni.2023.02.016>
6. McEntee, C. P., Houston, S., Finlay, C. M., Rossi, S., Liu, G., Shaw, T. N., Casulli, J., Fife, M., Smedley, C., Griffith, T. S., Pepper, M., Hussell, T., Hansbro, P. M., Schwartz, J.-M., Paidassi, H., & Travis, M. A. (2023). A subset of CD4+ effector memory T cells limit immunity to pulmonary viral infection and prevent tissue pathology via activation of latent TGFβ. *bioRxiv*, 2023.03.02.527395. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.03.02.527395>
7. McManus, C. M., Bouchery, T., Suleiman, M., Kildemoes, A. O., Ferguson, A., Wang, T., Finlay, C. M., Chan, R., Renahan, T., Mukundan, A., Nkurunungi, G., & Bobardt, S. D. (2022). Hydra 2022: return of the interactive conference on helminth parasitology after the pandemic. *Trends in Parasitology*, 38(12), 999–1007. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pt.2022.09.013>
8. 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>

Referee

Prof Judi Allen, Professor of Immunobiology; Lydia Becker Institute University of Manchester

Full details on research, teaching and contributions are available on my long-form CV posted on GitHub (here)