



# Conor M. Finlay

SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW

Trinity Translational Medicine Institute, Trinity College Dublin

+353 857148825 | [cofinlay@tcd.ie](mailto:cofinlay@tcd.ie); [conor.finlay@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:conor.finlay@manchester.ac.uk) | 0000-0001-8285-0903 | [kQ6U7AkAAAAJ](#) | [conorisco](#) | [conorisco](#)

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

Trinity

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

Trinity

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

Trinity

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

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., Shakhshere, 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)