



How prevalent are blood cancers in Ireland?

Blood cancers make up approximately 10% of all cancers and are the fourth most common cause of cancer-related deaths in Ireland. Blood cancer is an umbrella term for cancers that affect the cells of the blood or the organs where blood cells grow and develop, such as the bone marrow and the lymphatic system. It includes cancers such as leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma.



What difference will BCNI make to patients with blood cancer?

BCNI will bring novel treatment options to Irish patients by establishing a national network for early phase clinical trials in blood cancers. In addition BCNI will establish a national dedicated blood cancer biobank and patient registry, creating critical infrastructure to support clinical research. This unique resource will make Ireland more internationally competitive at attracting new clinical trials, ultimately leading to treatment benefits for Irish patients.



About Irish Cancer Society

The Irish Cancer Society is the leading voluntary funder of cancer research in Ireland. Over the past decade alone the Society has spent €25 million on cancer research projects and initiatives to accelerate the pace of scientific discovery and provide better treatment options for cancer patients. For more information visit www.cancer.ie/research.



About Science Foundation Ireland

Science Foundation Ireland funds oriented basic and applied research in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) which promotes and assists the development and competitiveness of industry, enterprise and employment in Ireland. The Foundation also promotes and supports the study of, education in and engagement with, STEM and promotes an awareness and understanding of the value of STEM to society and in particular to the growth of the economy. For more information visit www.sfi.ie.



A collaborative cancer research initiative supported by



and



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Blood Cancer Network Ireland



Towards new treatments and better outcomes for blood cancer patients



Blood Cancer Network Ireland (BCNI)

What is BCNI?

BCNI is a new national clinical research network that will benefit blood cancer patients in Ireland. BCNI will offer early stage clinical trials to blood cancer patients, providing them with the opportunity to avail of new potentially life-saving treatments and drugs. BCNI will also see the establishment of a biobank and blood cancer registry, which will further our knowledge and expertise in the field of blood cancer research and ultimately improve patient outcomes. BCNI is funded by the Irish Cancer Society and Science Foundation Ireland and its aims are supported by the pharmaceutical industry.

What is the aim of BCNI?

BCNI aims to provide Irish blood cancer patients with access to novel and innovative cancer treatments through early phase clinical trials. The network will also collect information and samples from blood cancer patients in Ireland in order to improve our understanding of blood cancers and to support future research.

Who is involved in BCNI?

BCNI is a collaborative network of clinicians, scientists, and population health experts with a shared interest in blood cancer research. Members of the national network are based at the National University of Ireland, Galway / University Hospital Galway, University College Cork / Cork University Hospital, Trinity College Dublin / St James Hospital and the National Cancer Registry Ireland. The key investigators involved are Professor Michael O'Dwyer, Professor Mary Cahill, Professor Paul Browne, Dr Eva Szegezdi and Dr Harry Comber. The Irish Clinical Oncology Research Group is also a collaborative partner in this network.

The BCNI Team



Partner Institutions



BCNI Clinical Trials

BCNI will carry out early phase clinical trials in cancer care centres in Galway, Cork and Dublin. Clinical trials are designed to develop and test new and improved ways to treat cancer; help prevent a return of cancer; and improve comfort and quality of life for people with cancer. Advances in treatments for blood cancers depend on clinical trials of new therapies or new combinations of therapies. BCNI trials will focus on novel targeted approaches, including immunotherapy.

BCNI Biobank

BCNI will establish a national blood cancer biobank network linking the sites in Galway, Cork and Dublin. Biobanks play a crucial role in biomedical research. Blood and bone marrow samples from blood cancer patients will be analysed using the latest genomic techniques providing the research community with invaluable data on blood cancers.

BCNI Registry

A blood cancer registry will be developed as part of BCNI. Cancer registries collect data on cancer incidence, treatment and survival and the analysis of this information can help to find ways to improve treatments and reduce cancer burden. The BCNI will collect information relating to the incidence and prevalence of blood cancers in Ireland and will also collect data on Patient-Reported Outcomes Measures (PROMs) to better assess the impact treatment has on the patient's health and quality of life.