

## BCNI Principal Investigator Profile

**Name:** Professor Mary Cahill

**Current position:** Consultant Haematologist and Clinical Professor (Haematology), Cork University Hospital and University College Cork

**Contact:** maryr.cahill@hse.ie

**Role in BCNI :** Principal Investigator



**Background career information.** Mary Cahill graduated from UCC in 1986 and completed two years training at Cork University Hospital. She then trained in haematology in Leicester Royal Infirmary, the Royal London and St Bartholomew's Hospital in London and was awarded an MD for her research on platelets and platelet function in myeloproliferative disorders. In 1997 she was appointed Consultant Haematologist in the Mid-Western Health Board. She moved to Cork University Hospital in 2004 to commence a full time position as Clinical and Laboratory Haematologist in CUH and Kerry General Hospital.

**Research Interests- clinical trials.** In 2002/3 Prof Cahill obtained funding from the HRB for clinical trials and she continued her interest in clinical trials at CUH. Her participation in Blood Cancer Network Ireland (BCNI) as a principal investigator will build on her experience in Clinical Trials as well as utilizing the HRB Clinical Research Unit in UCC, thereby facilitating the establishment of the all-Ireland BCNI phase one clinical trials network.

**Research interests Autophagy and siRNA in acute leukaemia.** Prof Cahill combines her full time clinical post with collaborative research with Dr Sharon McKenna in Cork Cancer Research Centre (CCRC) focusing on autophagy in leukaemia. Drs Cahill and McKenna have co-supervised the research of two medical haematology doctors. She also has strong links with Prof Caitriona O'Driscoll in the School of Pharmacy, researching novel methods of therapeutics involving siRNA in leukaemia cells. This research has recently resulted in successful intracellular inhibition of BRD4 in fresh human leukaemia cells, with altered sensitivity to chemotherapy and increased cellular differentiation. Prof Cahill collaborates with Professor Tom Cotter Department of Biochemistry, UCC who shares a cognate interest in Leukaemia.

**Research interests – Health Services Research.** Prof Cahill has complimentary research interests in health care delivery and diagnosis. She is working with UCC's department of Epidemiology and Public Health on a large study examining the diagnosis of pre-myeloma and myeloma. In addition, she is supervising a HRB funded Sphere Scholar carrying out research in this area.

**Education and teaching.** Prof Cahill is the current chair of the curriculum committee in the Medical School in UCC and has a major interest in teaching medical, nursing and science students.