

breakthrough

CANCER RESEARCH



ANNUAL REPORT
2019

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Remarkable progress has been made in 2019 in advancing our research priorities (see page 10). Breakthrough Cancer Research continues to provide support to the research community, advancing new treatments for patients and evidence-based information and tools to people with cancer and the public. We continue to strengthen existing relationships while expanding our reach and impact both nationally and internationally.

Investing in our Research Vision

In 2019, BCR was delighted to provide new and ongoing investment into research programmes and infrastructure to improve cancer care and outcomes with patient benefit at the core. This year, 19 project grants were awarded, aligning with Breakthrough's research priorities. The charity is not in receipt of any state or guaranteed funding so relies solely on fundraised income to invest in our research priorities. The total funds raised for 2019 was €1,565,051, of that we were pleased to be able to invest €1,150,722 into research; with the balance kept in hand for pending projects.

The funds invested in 2019 supported projects in many poor prognosis and currently incurable cancers such as oesophageal, pancreatic and lung

cancers. Breakthrough also continues to support the integration of cancer research into cancer care in Ireland by prioritising funding for projects and infrastructure with significant clinical engagement and input.

This year, we also significantly invested in research into the role of the immune system in cancer development, and to identify opportunities to harness the immune system to control and eradicate metastatic cancers. Continued funding was also given to support research aimed at improving the efficacy and specificity of current cancer therapies which include investment in biomarkers discovery, nutrition and therapeutic delivery.

Commitment of further funding was also made into the discovery and development of new therapeutics, surgical approaches and technologies, and investment into research-led innovation at every stage of the cancer patient journey from first diagnosis through to treatment, clinical trials and palliative care to improve survival and quality of life.

Partnerships Enable Progress

Breakthrough Cancer Research has been extremely fortunate to have had the support of amazing

partnerships throughout the years and 2019 was no different. The partnerships we form play an absolutely vital role in the funds raised each year, which consequently enables each piece of research we invest in. We value these relationships and alliances hugely as we know it will take an inspired, mission-focused team effort to change the future of a disease like cancer.

Our resolute supporters, Musgrave Retail Partners, who once again through their Musgrave triathlon provided €140,000 for cancer research investment and with whom we were able to launch and award the inaugural scholarship for the Musgrave Cancer Research PhD. There is no company in Ireland who has helped us invest as much in cancer research over the many years of our partnership. We cannot thank them enough for their steadfast support.

Again, this year, corporate partners Qualtrics, through their '5 For the Fight' showed immense dedication and commitment to cancer research by raising an astounding €115,783. The '5 for the Fight' initiative is funding a three-person research team investigating how to make immunotherapy more effective for more people with cancer.

Outstanding Voluntary Support

Thank you to our incredible board of directors who volunteer their valuable time and expertise to the charity. This year the board continued its good governance and once again, together with the dedicated team at Breakthrough, worked to ensure the charity had in place the Triple Lock standards set out by the Charity Institute of Ireland - good fundraising, transparent annual financial reporting and governance.

I would also like to acknowledge the amazing expertise, input and drive of our Scientific Advisory Committee and our Public-Patient Panel. These groups bring invaluable insights and perspectives to the strategy and projects we channel our research

investment into, ensuring we have both scientific rigour but also are meeting the unmet needs of people with cancer and their families.

I would also like to take the time to commend Orla Dolan and the entire dedicated team for all of the hard work they put into making 2019 such a great year. The Breakthrough Cancer Research team is immensely passionate and driven to fulfil our mission and are entirely committed to ensuring we are both raising and investing enough funds to make a significant impact for people with cancer.

Lastly, I would like to express my immense gratitude to all of our volunteers and supporters, without whom, we would not have been able to make any of the progress we made this past year. It is wonderful to know that, together with our researchers, clinical collaborators, boards, committees and charity staff, we will develop more treatments for cancer and improve quality of life and survival for more people with cancer, their families and generations to come.

Thank you,



Bryan Mohally
Chairman

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT



At Breakthrough Cancer Research (Breakthrough) we have a singular focus to save the people whose lives will be heartbreakingly shortened by cancer. We passionately believe that research is the way we will do it. While there has been immense progress because of research in some cancers, disparities exist and there are many cancers with devastatingly low survival rates still. We are determined to change that.

In 2019 we continued to invest in novel research programmes, both ongoing and new, and we awarded 19 grants to new projects during the year. All of these projects aligned to our research priorities with the purpose of improving the treatment and care of patients with cancer. Together with all of our supported researchers and institutions, we strive for and are successful in leveraging Breakthrough support to secure additional funding from other National and International Funders.

One way Breakthrough leverages our research funding is as a member of the Health Research Charities Ireland (HRCI) group and our participation in the HRCI-Health Research Board (HRB) Joint Funding Scheme. This innovative scheme allows us to nominate peer reviewed projects, which fulfil our research priorities and if selected, secure 50% funding from the Health Research Board (HRB),

while providing the additional 50% from our charity. In 2019, we provided the second year of funding for three multi-year projects which commenced in late 2018; a project on Oesophageal cancer in Trinity College Dublin, a Lung project in UCC and an Oesophageal project in UCC. Breakthrough was also an Enterprise partner for the Irish Research Council Enterprise scheme, another programme promoting partnerships, and in 2019 we were successful in partnering on two successful grants, a Postdoctoral level grant on Uveal melanoma and a Postgraduate level grant on Palliative care.

2019 also saw the launch of a new strategic partnership called Precision Oncology Ireland. This novel strategic consortium, supported by Science Foundation Ireland, brings together 5 Universities, 6 Cancer Charities including Breakthrough, and 10 International Companies, aims to develop new diagnostics and therapeutics for personalised cancer treatments (page 12). We also launched and awarded the first scholarships for the Musgrave Cancer Research PhD and Breakthrough PhD Scholars to both fulfil our research and education vision.

In September of 2019 we hosted a Translational Cancer Research Conference called 'Breaking Through', bringing 30 International speakers and Irish Cancer Research leaders together. The

conference was also a celebration of 20 years of Cancer Research in Cork and aimed to promote further collaboration and featured opportunities for the public to engage and question Researchers (page 21). This conference also offered the opportunity to unveil the newly appointed Professor Gerald O'Sullivan Chair in Cancer Research, Professor Roisin Connolly. This Joint appointment between UCC and the South-South West Hospital Group was created with the express purpose of driving cancer research for the region and is jointly funded between Breakthrough and the HSE.

In the field of cancer research, collaboration is essential and has always been important here at Breakthrough – so many of our activities in 2019 illustrated that. In January, together with the National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP), Marie Keating Foundation and Irish Cancer Society, we co-founded the Irish Cancer Prevention Network (page 18). Our first campaign centered around World Cancer Day and focused on how a healthy lifestyle could lower your cancer risk. We also joined multiple stakeholders in the launch of the newly developed "Skin Cancer Prevention Action Plan" in conjunction with Healthy Ireland. On World Pancreatic Cancer Day we 'lit it purple' with our worldwide partners in the World Pancreatic Cancer Coalition. Breakthrough also worked with multiple other Irish charities to host patient events on World Ovarian Cancer Day which brought together several speakers on research, current state of care and appropriate nutrition support.

With the patient at the forefront of our minds and to address unmet needs, we also continued to provide our free, evidence-based, nutrition resources for cancer patients. Last year we commenced work with Dr. Aoife Ryan on the development of a new book aimed at cancer survivors and in 2019, 25,000 copies were released to the public free of charge. This cookbook, and those previously released, aim to support cancer patients and survivors with healthy, evidence-based recipes and information to meet the differing nutritional needs during and post treatment.

The charity also continues to fund the treatment of patients with Electrochemotherapy, a non-surgical technique for the treatment of skin based cancers offered upon referral at Cork University Hospital and Mercy University Hospital. Also in 2019, we worked to actively recruit a broad panel of individuals interested in providing their experience and input into Breakthrough projects and over 30 received training to become part of an informed PPI panel.

Collaboration, team work and partnerships are not only the drivers of our research vision but also it is our partnerships with companies and organisations which are accelerating our research investment. Our long-term partnership with Musgrave Retail Partners has been invaluable and from this year will be used to fund a new PhD scholarship programme. Our growing partnership with Qualtrics and '5 for the Fight' provided support for the second year of the Dermot Costello Cancer Immunology Fellowship and allowed us to boost investment in cancer immunology. Being a main charity for the second time for the Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle provided the opportunity to raise very significant funds and spread our message about the impact of research even wider.

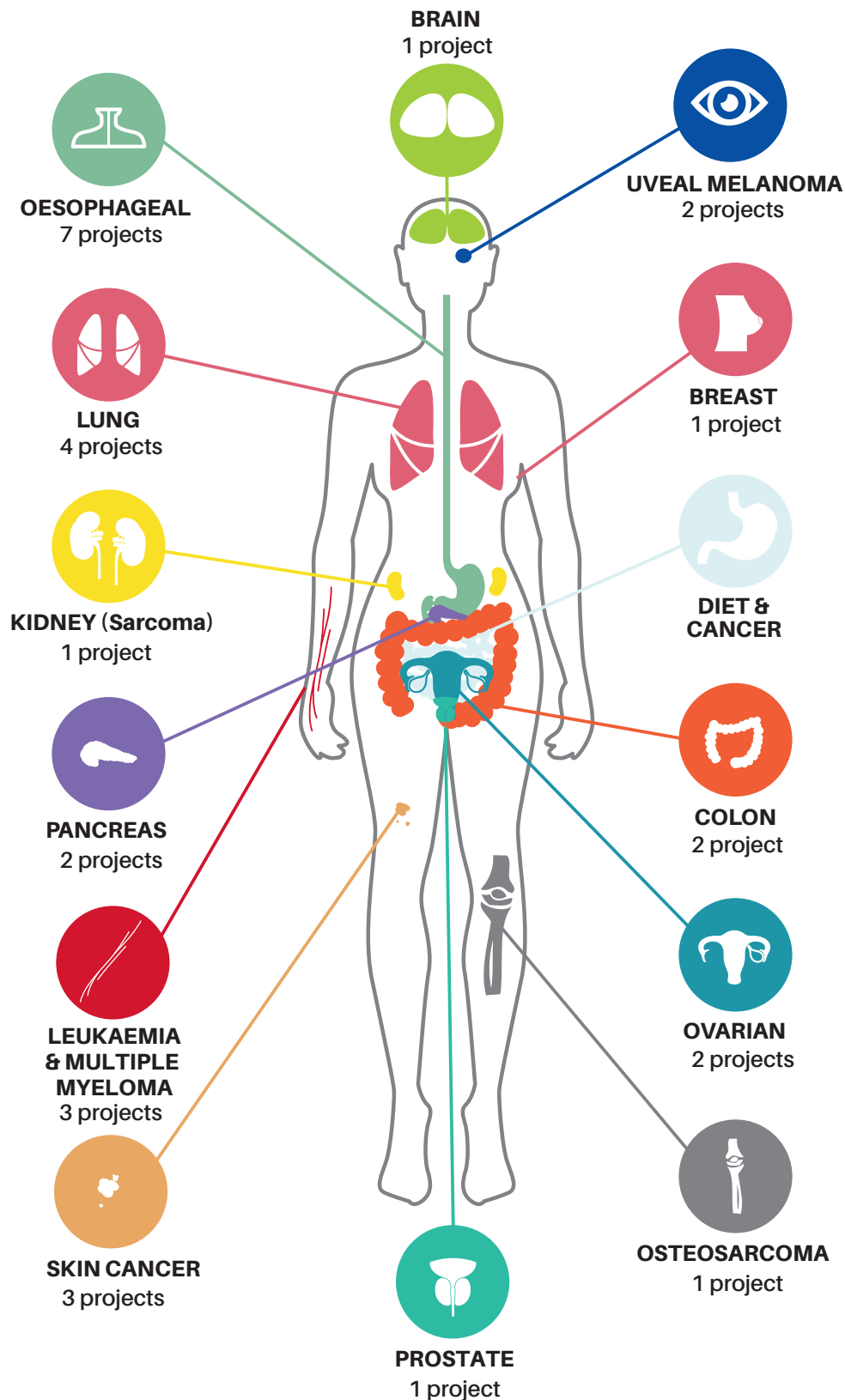
Everyone at Breakthrough knows all of our progress and achievements are only possible because of the amazing companies, organisations, individuals, and families that helped us raise funds again this year. Despite the progress, we know that still too many families are devastated by the impact of cancer – we must continue to strive to change this. I would like to thank all of our supporters, collaborators, board members, and team for their hard work, commitment and generosity, but primarily for their shared passion that research will be the difference. I know we are changing the future of cancer care and treatment, together.



Orla Dolan
CEO

AREAS OF FOCUS

Below are some of the areas we focused our research on during 2019



2019 IN NUMBERS



€1,041,947

Invested in Research



19

Research Grants Awarded



30

Speakers at our
International Conference



775

Sponsored a Scientist



25,000

Healthy Eating Cookbooks
provided for Cancer Survivors



RESEARCH

OUR RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Breakthrough Cancer Research is committed to funding research to improve cancer care and outcomes and to ensure patient benefit is at the core of our efforts. Breakthrough will achieve its strategic objectives through increased investment and focus on these research priorities over the next several years



Increase our research investment into poor prognosis cancers and currently incurable cancers prioritising lung, oesophageal, ovarian and pancreatic cancers.



Continue to significantly invest in research on the role of the immune system in cancer development and identify opportunities to harness the immune system to control and eradicate metastatic cancers.



Improve integration of cancer research into cancer care in Ireland by prioritising funding for projects and infrastructure with significant clinical engagement / input.



Continue to discover and develop new therapeutics and surgical approaches / technologies, including increased investment in biological and immunotherapies.



Continue to fund research, which aims to improve the effectiveness or specificity of current cancer therapies including investing in biomarkers discovery, nutrition and therapeutic delivery.



Invest in research-led innovation at every stage of the cancer patient journey from first diagnosis through to treatment, clinical trials and palliative care to improve survival and quality of life.

100% SURVIVAL FOR 100% OF CANCERS



PROFESSOR GERALD O'SULLIVAN CHAIR IN CANCER RESEARCH

In 2019 Breakthrough Cancer Research provided the first year of five years funding for The Professor Gerald O'Sullivan Chair in Cancer Research, a joint appointment between UCC and the South-South West Hospital Group.

This new Chair, based in Cork and jointly funded by Breakthrough Cancer Research and the HSE, was identified as a role of critical importance for the region to bring together all cancer research under one umbrella. It will develop innovative and competitive new cancer research programs as well as contributing to the strategic development of high quality evidence-based cancer services across the hospital group.

In September 2019 Prof. Roisin Connolly was appointed to the position. She has a wealth of experience in translational cancer research and was an Associate Professor of Oncology and Co-Director of the Developmental Therapeutics Program at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Centre at Johns Hopkins University in the US. Building a stronger connection between University College Cork and regional hospitals will be a key focus for Prof. Connolly.

Prof. Connolly commenting at the time said "Academic consultant positions are few and far between in Ireland. The benefit of these positions

is to provide protected time for investigators such that they can take care of patients but also have adequate time for laboratory-based or clinical research. One of my biggest goals will be to create networking and collaborative opportunities to bring together the basic science researchers and the clinicians so we can ultimately translate positive findings to clinical trials and improve patient outcomes."

She'll also work to ensure researchers have the resources they need so they can develop more trials, which will benefit more patients.



"My vision is that patients in Ireland will be able to access the best clinical care and access clinical trials as is the case in a centre of excellence elsewhere in Europe or the United States. My position would not have been possible without funding from donors to Breakthrough Cancer Research".

PRECISION ONCOLOGY IRELAND

In 2019, a new strategic partnership called Precision Oncology Ireland was launched. This is part funded by Science Foundation Ireland under their Strategic Partnership Programme, and is coordinated by Systems Biology Ireland.



This brand-new consortium brings together 5 universities, 6 cancer Research Charities and 10 International Companies. Breakthrough is part of this consortium, which aims to develop new diagnostics and therapeutics for personalised cancer treatments. Precision (or 'personalised') medicine uses data about a person's genes (genomics), along with additional information on their cancer, to understand the unique pathways of a disease or treatment response in that person, and target their treatment accordingly.

The great news is that this the first time researchers, charities and industry have collaborated in this way, with a joint view of achieving greater impact for patients by uniting investments in the Precision Oncology Ireland programme. The combined funding commitment will total €11.9 million over the next five years.

It is led by Professor Walter Kolch, Director of Systems Biology Ireland in UCD, and a leading international proponent of precision medicine. The Deputy Director is Professor William Gallagher, Professor of Cancer Biology and Director of the Conway Institute in UCD.

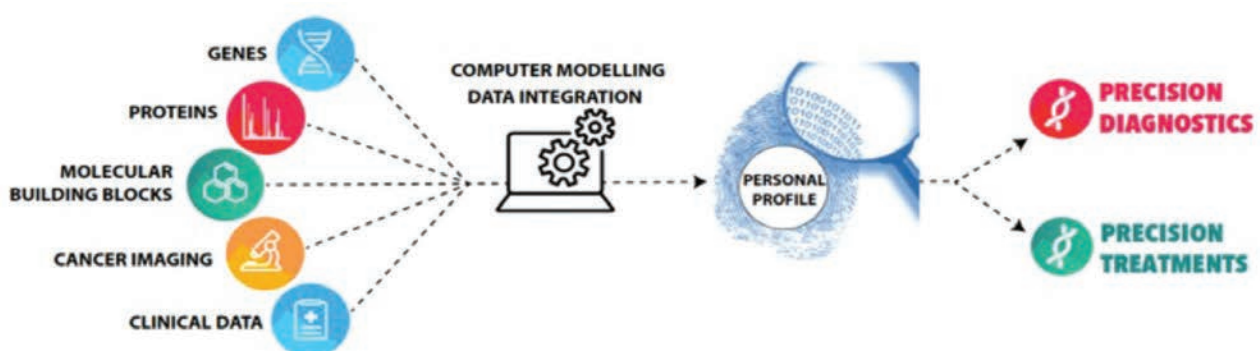


Professor Walter Kolch



Professor William Gallagher

The mission is to use cutting-edge research to carry out a detailed analysis of the genes, proteins and molecules involved in cancer. Using novel computer and data methods, they aim to combine this information to generate a big picture of cancer to understand how it develops, progresses, and responds to treatment. This will help to develop better diagnostic tests and personalised cancer therapies so that each patient can receive the optimal treatment for their cancer. Ultimately, the goal is to enable clinicians to treat the right patient with the right drug at the right time, minimising side-effects, reducing healthcare costs, and improving the outcome for patients and their families.





In 2019 Breakthrough Cancer Research launched and awarded the first scholarship for the Musgrave Cancer Research PhD and Breakthrough PhD Scholars.

Applications were open to any researchers in Clinical, Biological, Epidemiologic or Public Health fields, as long as they had a patient focused proposal, as well as the ultimate aim to improve cancer care, increase survival, and fit with Breakthrough's research priorities.

This scholarship opportunity funds world class cancer research in Ireland while educating the next generation of cancer research leaders. Awardees are provided the opportunity to study at PhD level in any university in Ireland currently engaged in cancer research.

This scholarship opportunity will further promote and drive more patient focused cancer research within Ireland. The Musgrave Cancer Research Scholarship is funded for three years, with a stipend of up to €18,000 per annum plus fees, and up to €15,000 in consumables with justification.

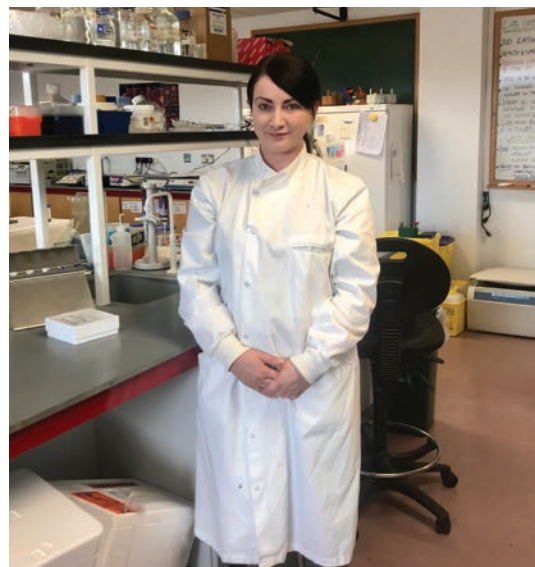
Fiona O'Connell was the successful candidate in this inaugural year. Her PhD study at Trinity College Dublin is entitled 'Radiation Response in Oesophageal Cancer: the role of visceral fat tissue in controlling response through immune-metabolic regulation'.

The aim of this project is to look at how obesity effects the response of the immune system by looking at how adipose (fat) tissue taken from obese and non-obese patients effects how different cells from the immune system grow and work.

At the end of the project, a profile should be developed that shows a different signature for

patients that will respond to radiation therapy and those that won't, as well as how obesity will affect the response to radiation.

This patient-focused project aims to have a significant impact on Oesophageal cancer patient response to treatment prior to surgery. The findings will allow better understanding of events controlling treatment response and resistance in oesophageal cancer patients.



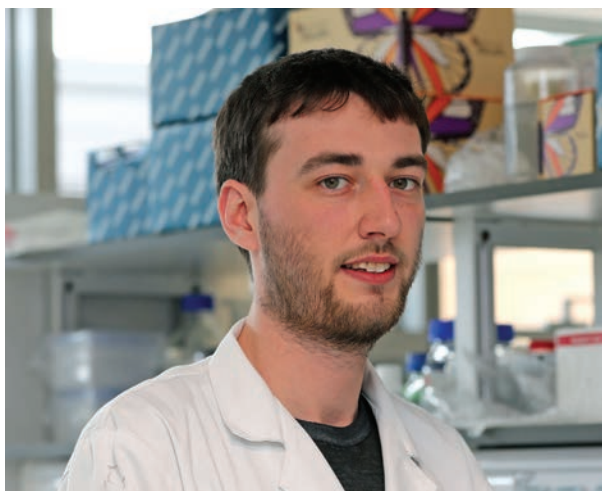
Commenting on the scholarship award Fiona said 'this Research Scholarship will provide me with an incredible opportunity to contribute to patient orientated research in the Oesophageal Cancer space, a cancer with a poor prognosis, in which I believe I can make meaningful impact. This novel research may also be translated to other cancer types associated with obesity with the hope of improving treatment responses.'

The Health Research Charities Ireland (HRCI – formerly MRCG) is the national umbrella organisation of charities active in health, medical and social care research, which represent over 1 million people in Ireland. Through the Joint Funding Scheme, run in partnership with the Health Research Board, they offer members the potential for matched research funding.

Some current Breakthrough Cancer Research projects that have been awarded co-funding are:

Evaluation of the role of MxA and ISGylation in chemosensitivity in oesophageal cancer

Principal Investigator, Professor Sharon McKenna and PhD Scholar, Robert Hayes at UCC



Robert Hayes

Many oesophageal cancers develop resistance to the drugs currently used to treat this disease. This allows the cancer cells to survive and the cancer can come back again at variable times after the initial treatment. Research already performed by this group has identified genetic differences between cancer cells that respond well to treatment and those that do not.

This project will examine how the genes involved can re-program cancers and influence their response to treatment. We have already identified a novel gene pathway that can dramatically improve how cancer cells respond to chemotherapy. Understanding these novel genes and how they regulate death and survival in cancer cells will enable us to develop more specific anti-cancer agents for the future. The overall aim of this project is to identify new ways of targeting drug-resistant oesophageal cancers, so that chemotherapeutic regimes can be improved and recurrent disease eliminated in cancer patients.

Gold-drug: Targeting a novel dual inhibitor drug with gold nanoparticles for improving radiation response in oesophageal cancer

Principal Investigator, Professor Jacintha O'Sullivan and Researcher, Dr. Simone Marccone at TCD

Oesophageal cancer has low survival rates and a very poor response to treatment. Sadly, this cancer type is on the rise in Ireland and is linked with increasing obesity rates. Unlike many other cancer types, we are still only using treatments that have existed for decades – chemotherapy drugs with radiation treatment (CRT) to kill the cancer cells followed by surgery. However, the tumours in a large percentage of patients (70%) do not respond. As



Professor Jacintha O'Sullivan

most patients go through CRT for no benefit, whilst enduring significant side effects, it is really important for the majority of patients that we can make their tumours sensitive to treatment.

Cancer cells do two things to prevent radiation from killing them, they (1) generate a lot of energy and (2) send out signals to trick your body, for example, they encourage blood vessels in your body to grow to the tumour so it can get more nutrients. This allows the tumour to survive instead of dying.

We discovered a novel drug called CC8 that stops cancer cells doing these two things in oesophageal cancer cells and can increase response to treatment in resistant cells.

With this grant, using patient tumour samples and in mouse studies, we will package our drug with tiny gold particles. This packaging will make our drug go to the tumour and target the powerhouse of the cells that provide the energy for the cancer cells to survive. We will see how well this new combination works in oesophageal cells in the lab, in patient tumour samples and in mice.



Dr. Patrick Forde UCC

Combining Electrochemotherapy with a toll like receptor agonist for the treatment of lung cancer

Principal Investigator, Dr. Patrick Forde UCC and PhD Scholar, Maura Bendix at UCC

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among men and women in Ireland. The aim of successful lung cancer treatment is to totally eliminate the tumour and the risk of recurrence. Lung cancer treatment currently relies on removal of the tumour by surgery or radiotherapy, followed by chemotherapy to destroy any remaining cancer cells which may be circulating in the body.

We are examining these two aspects of treatment (removal of the tumour and the cancer cells circulating in the body) with the aim of eliminating the tumour non-invasively and recruiting an immune response against any remaining cancer cells.

DERMOT COSTELLO CANCER IMMUNOLOGY FELLOWSHIP



In 2019 Breakthrough Cancer Research provided support for the second year of the Dermot Costello Cancer Immunology Fellowship, which is being funded with support from the 5 For The Fight campaign. This fellowship was created in 2018 in honour of Dermot Costello, who passed away in January 2018.

Dermot Costello, Chairman of Qualtrics EMEA, was diagnosed with stage four colorectal cancer in 2014, during the last months of his illness he started up the '5 For The Fight' campaign in Ireland and Europe, one which raises funds for cancer research to improve the outcome for patients.

Dr. Sylvie Amu was awarded the inaugural Dermot Costello Cancer Research Fellowship in 2018 and began in January 2019. Her team now consists of a PhD student, Axelle China, and a research assistant, David Zelaya.

In recent decades the emergence of immunotherapy for the treatment of cancer has changed the outcome for many patients with advanced cancer. However, only about 20%-30% of patients will benefit from the treatment. One way of improving the effect of immunotherapy is to decrease the immunosuppressive environment of the tumour.

Dr. Amu and her team, aim to study one of these suppressor immune cells (regulatory B cells) in the tumour and blood of cancer patients, and to determine how best to stop their suppressive function. By blocking or removing this suppressive cell subset we will permit an immune anti-tumour response to occur which will result in the killing of tumour cells and an improve clinical outcome for the patients.

IRC ENTERPRISE SCHEME

The Irish Research Council (IRC) Enterprise Scheme is a unique national initiative linking excellent researchers to enterprise. The scheme brings great research ideas to an enterprise partner with the support of a higher education institution. An enterprise partner is a company; a registered charity; a social, cultural or not-for-profit civic organisation; a state-owned enterprise; or an eligible public body that will co-fund the researcher for the duration of the award. Breakthrough Cancer Research are enterprise partners in two research projects for 2019 with the Irish Research Council's (IRC) Enterprise scheme.



The Enterprise Partnership Scheme has been operating for 15 years in the Irish research and innovation landscape and connects enterprises, early career researchers, and higher education institutions. These unique partnerships provide key benefits for all parties. For postgraduate and postdoctoral participants, the scheme builds links between researchers and the broader economy and society, which is key to driving future innovation. In 2019 we were successful in securing two grants - a Postdoctoral level grant in Uveal Melanoma and a Postgraduate level grant on Palliative care.

PUBLIC PATIENT INVOLVEMENT



PPI (Public Patient Involvement) is defined as the involvement of members of the public and patients in research. In 2019 we actively worked to recruit a broad panel of individuals, interested in providing their experience and input into Breakthrough Cancer Research projects and activities.

81 individuals expressed their interest and 25 attended the first training in September 2019 and 14 attended the second training in December 2019 to become part of an informed PPI Panel. Within these workshops, PPI panellists have learned about the research process, and researchers have learned about some important patient-related issues.

One individual involved in the PPI panel, Eileen, shares her experience, "It was a pleasure to attend Monday's workshop, meet lovely people and to get an insight into what's going on behind the scenes.... happy to say what I learned was invaluable and it makes sense to start at the nitty gritty of basics to get the true and accurate picture of what's involved and an understanding of the amazing work our scientists put in."

Research applications undergo a PPI review to get the perspective of patients and the public – those who are likely to be impacted by the research. By asking patients and members of the public for their opinion, research can and is improved.



ELECTROCHEMOTHERAPY CANCER TREATMENT

Breakthrough Cancer Research continues to fund the treatment of patients with Electrochemotherapy, a non-surgical technique for the treatment of skin-based cancers offered upon referral at Cork University Hospital and Mercy University Hospital. Funding is provided for a clinical trial nurse to support trials initiated because of research at University College Cork and for the purchase of probes and micro-needles.

Electrochemotherapy is a targeted localised therapy for malignancies of skin and non-skin origin that has been gaining wide acceptance into clinical practice since the initial standard operating procedures were developed in an international multicentre clinical trial including the Cancer Research at UCC.

IRISH CANCER PREVENTION NETWORK

breakthrough
CANCER RESEARCH



In 2019, Breakthrough was a founding member of the Irish Cancer Prevention Network (ICPN) with the National Cancer Control Programme, Marie Keating Foundation and Irish Cancer Society. The Irish Cancer Prevention Network (ICPN) brings together collaborative working between organisations with the aim to reduce cancer risk for the people of Ireland. The ICPN will bring those specifically working in cancer prevention together to:

- align with Ireland's National Cancer Strategy 2017-2026
- support national programmes with a unified voice
- collaborate on cancer prevention initiatives in Ireland
- agree consistent evidence based cancer prevention public awareness messages
- disseminate up to date cancer prevention research
- support members and organisations in cancer prevention queries
- facilitate peer learning

The first campaign by the ICPN about a healthy lifestyle for cancer prevention was launched on World Cancer Day. A Skin Cancer Prevention plan was also launched, in conjunction with Healthy Ireland, in May 2019. This campaign arises from the HSE's National Cancer Strategy 2017-2026, and is aimed at tackling the most common type of cancer in Ireland. Aligning with the Healthy Ireland framework and the National Cancer Strategy, this plan sets out to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration to increase awareness and adoption of skin cancer preventative behaviours.



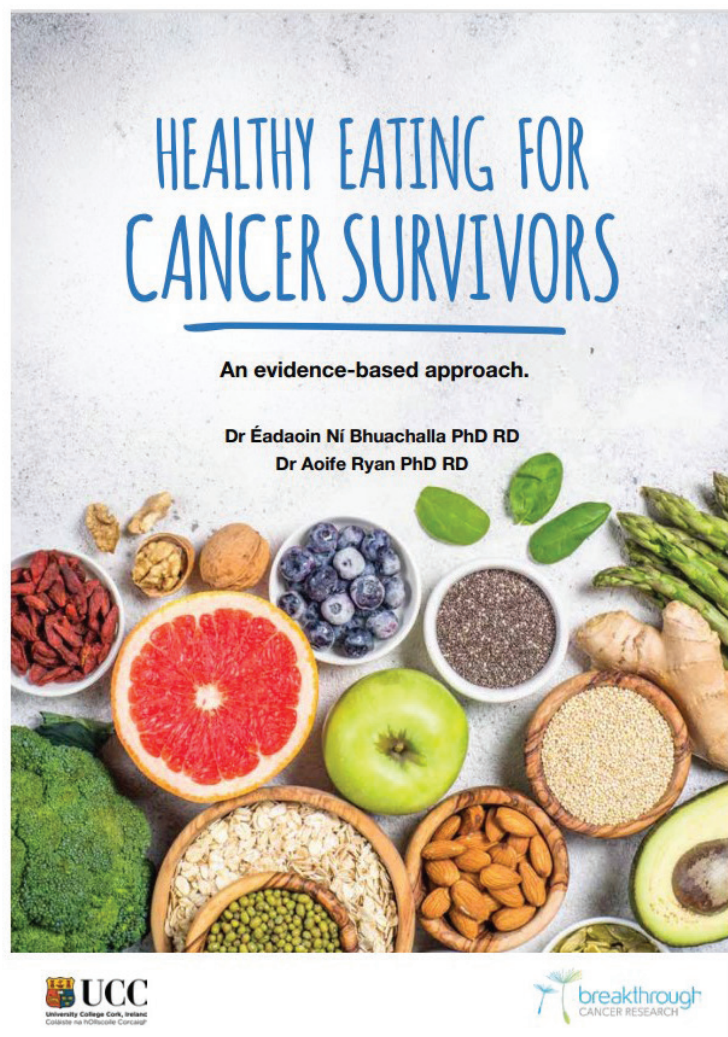
CANCER COOKBOOK

In 2019, investment was made in activities to provide people with cancer and the public with evidence-based strategies to lower their cancer risk, identify early signs of cancer and to improve tolerance to cancer treatments including dietary interventions.

Commencing in 2016 and expanding yearly, funds have been provided by Breakthrough to support the development and dissemination of three books providing advice and recipes for patients experiencing cancer induced weight loss. They are titled "Good Nutrition for Cancer Recovery", "Eating well with Swallowing Difficulties in Cancer" and "Nourishing Your Body during Pancreatic Cancer Treatment". All of these books are provided to the public for free and the development of a fourth recipe book for cancer survivors was supported in 2018, of which 25,000 copies were released in 2019.

In 2019, through the support of our generous donors, we launched a new cookbook – "Healthy Eating for Cancer Survivors" - to offer a healthy, evidence-based diet for people with cancer who are either in remission from their disease or those receiving treatment who require healthy eating advice.

The book was developed by Dr. Aoife Ryan and Dr. Éadaoin Ní Bhuachalla and is available for free in hospitals throughout Ireland or can be ordered through our website.



OUR TRANSLATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH CONFERENCE



2019 marked twenty years of a translational 'bench to bedside' approach, kicked off by Prof. Gerry O'Sullivan – when he, through the backing of amazing donors, founded a Cancer Research Centre and charity.

So much has been achieved in these 20 years. To mark this incredible milestone, in September, cancer researchers and clinicians from all over Ireland, and indeed around the world, came together for a conference hosted by Breakthrough. It was a great opportunity to celebrate these discoveries and advances, share learnings and ideas, forge new relationships and discuss the revolutionary breakthroughs just around the corner.

Our first session was on survivorship and celebrated the fact that because of research there are many more cancer survivors in Ireland than ever before.

This was followed by a session on cutting-edge research around the Autophagy process, which is one of the ways cancer can survive chemotherapy.

The next two sessions looked at the tumour microenvironment, its complexity and the challenge of getting the immune system to better attack cancer, followed by a session on therapeutic delivery. A bit like science fiction, it looked at ways we can now target molecules using electroporation, viruses, bacteria etc.





The last session before the keynote was a real highlight, it showed the translation of research and all the ways this work is able to change the way people with cancer are treated and how it saves lives. Prof. Gögenur from Denmark presented on their trials using the electroporation technology, and his excitement was palpable.

The welcome of the new director, the celebration of how much research has been delivered, and the projects in the pipeline was inspiring. It was a pleasure to bring Irish and International cancer research experts together for an incredibly insightful and informative conference committed to patient-focused research. We are full of hope that we will be able to host many similar events in the future!



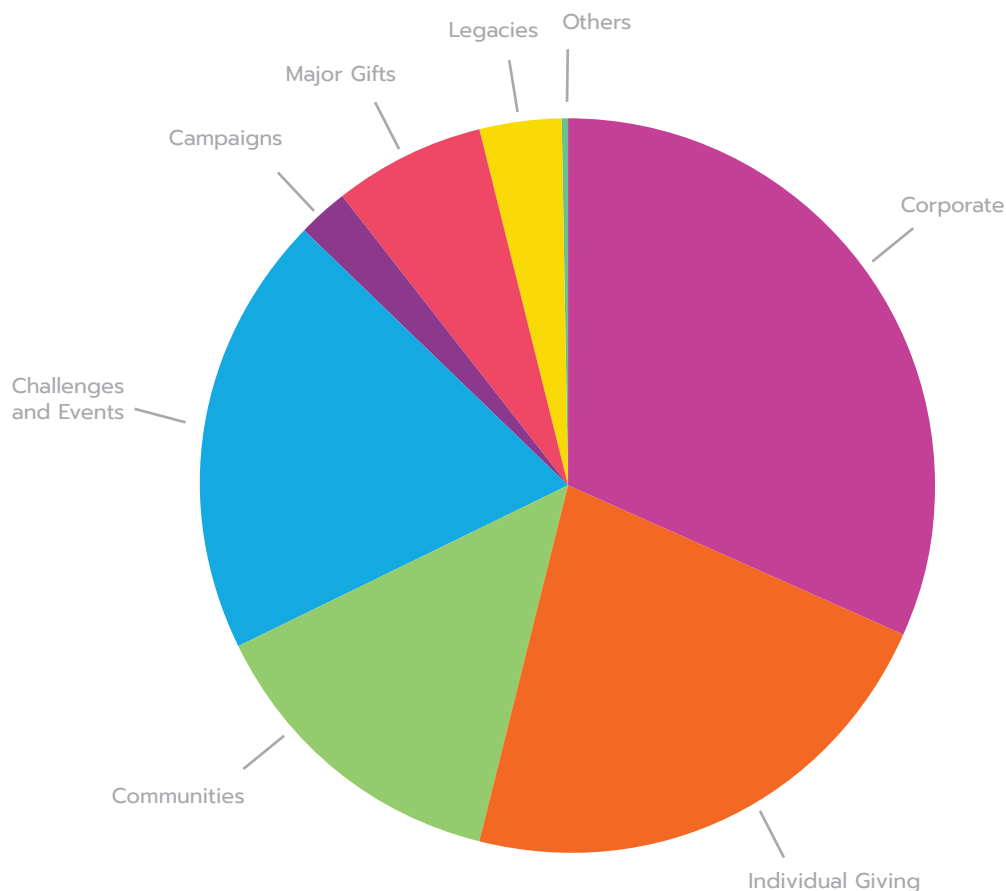
FUNDRAISING



TOTAL INCOME 2019

We couldn't fund life saving cancer research without your support.

Our Breakthrough community support us in many different ways from coffee mornings and fashion shows to corporate challenges, cycles and triathlons. This support ensures that we can continue to fund cutting-edge research to find new and better ways to treat cancer.



Corporate	€496,165
Challenges and Events	€351,064
Communities	€213,577
Individual Giving	€305,117
Campaigns	€38,024
Major Gifts	€102,483
Legacies	€54,308
Other	€4,313

TOTAL: €1,565,051



QUALTRICS 5 FOR THE FIGHT

In December of 2017, Qualtrics and Breakthrough teamed up to take part in Qualtrics's '5 For The Fight' campaign and raised over €300,000 within this first year, an outstanding achievement!

The idea behind 5 For The Fight is that it invites people to donate €5 (or more) towards the fight against cancer and for each €5 donation, Qualtrics matches that donation to help raise as much funds towards vital cancer research as possible. 5 For The Fight is an international Qualtrics campaign which was brought to life in Ireland by the late EMEA Chairman Dermot Costello. Dermot's passion and drive for this initiative was inspiring and has played a huge role in the success the campaign has received to date.

In 2019, researchers Axelle China and David Alberto Zelaya joined Dr Sylvie Amu's Dermot Costello



Cancer Immunology team for their 3 year tumour immunology programme. The team will be studying regulatory B cells and how they can stop their suppressive function and/or deplete them from the tumour, thus improving the clinical outcome for the patient.

It has truly been a pleasure to work with Qualtrics who have accomplished so much in such a small period of time! We look forward to the continuation of this partnership and seeing the progression of the much needed cancer research we can and will fund, together.

RING OF KERRY CHARITY CYCLE 2019

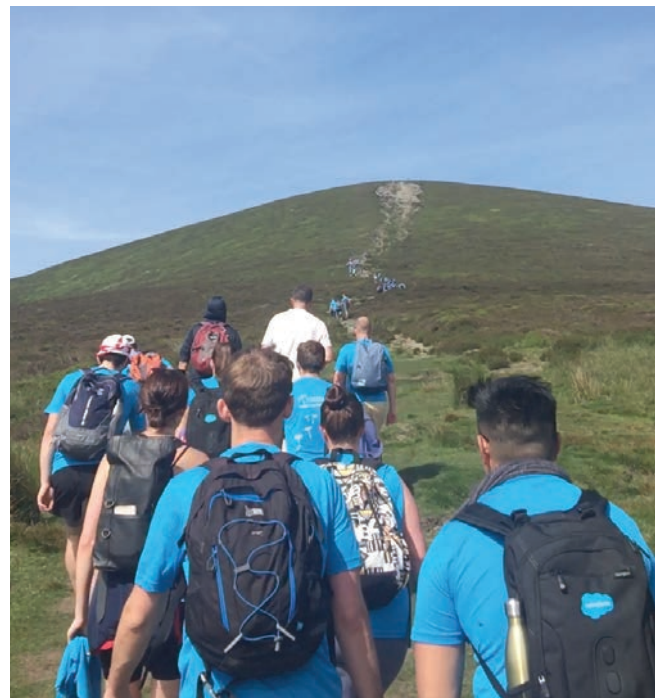
We were honoured to be selected once again as one of the main charity beneficiaries of the 2019 Ring of Kerry Charity Cycle which took place on July 6th, 2019. With over 6,000 cyclists taking on the 175km challenge, Breakthrough had a great representation around the event with our ambassador, Olympian and wellness advocate, David Gillick, joined by over 750 Team Breakthrough cyclists and 60 volunteers. Between the event and the fantastic cyclist fundraising, Breakthrough received just over €190,000 from this amazing one day cycle – the biggest charity cycle in the country!



SALESFORCE WICKLOW HIKE

In 2018 a group of 23 Salesforce Dublin employees decided to hike 18km of the Wicklow Way to raise funds for Breakthrough Cancer Research. When the organisers set out to increase the numbers in 2019 the group grew to over 150 and they managed to raise four times as much with over €28,000 raised including generous match funding by Salesforce.

There are already plans afoot for 2020 and we hope these numbers may grow even further.



TEDDY DALY MEMORIAL CLIMB

In April, over €16,444 was raised at the 3rd annual Teddy Daly Memorial Climb, with hundreds of friends, family, walking groups and community members meeting at the bottom of Slievenamon to set off to the summit in memory of Teddy Daly who passed away from pancreatic cancer in April 2016 at the age of 43. Funds raised from this event will be used to help fund a two year Cork based masters programme focused on pancreatic cancer research.

Speaking about the importance of the climb and, of research into pancreatic cancers, Teddy's wife Noreen states, "I always hoped that the funds we have raised from the climb will help the Breakthrough Cancer Research team come closer to

finding more successful treatment options for pancreatic cancer patients and keep awareness of this disease a priority, it is great to see that in action. I know that's what Teddy would have hoped for too."



VALENTINE'S BALL

Donned in their finest tuxedo's and ballgowns, VIP's from across the Cork medical, scientific, academic, corporate and political worlds once again joined us at the always luxurious Fota Island Resort for Breakthrough's annual Valentine's Day Ball on Saturday 9th February. The glamorous event raised an incredible €45,000 for cancer research.



96FM GIVING FOR LIVING RADIOTHON



Breakthrough was delighted to once again be one of the five local Cork charities who received fantastic support from the 2019 Giving for Living Radiothon. The Giving for Living Radiothon, run each year by Cork's 96FM, raises much needed funds for five cancer charities in Cork and as an organisation founded and based in Cork, we are absolutely delighted to be a part of this local initiative and receive such generous and inspiring support from local communities.

The three day Radiothon shows the best of community spirit, with neighbours and friends, schools, corporates, coming together to host coffee mornings, non-uniform days and so much more! The 12th annual Cork's 96FM's Giving for Living Radiothon 2019 ended with a total of €440,451 being donated to the five chosen charities, including Breakthrough.

WOMEN'S LITTLE CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA & FASHION SHOWCASE

Breakthrough Cancer Research was delighted to host our 8th annual Women's Little Christmas Afternoon Tea & Fashion Showcase on Sunday, 6th January at the Cork International Hotel. Full of fabulous and glamorous guests, it was a great afternoon of helpful and practical fashion and beauty tips and full of all the glamour and luxury our beautiful guests could ask for!



LEE VALLEY GOLF CLASSIC

With the sun shining, it was an absolutely gorgeous day for golf at the annual Lee Valley Golf & Country Club on Friday, 24th May as close to 100 golfers teed off in aid of Breakthrough Cancer Research for our 9th Annual Lee Valley Golf Classic.



FINANCE



FINANCE MANAGER

MAIREAD PEREZ

GOVERNANCE

Breakthrough Cancer Research is fully committed to openness, transparency and integrity to our donors, supporters, volunteers and funding partners by adhering rigorously to the Triple Lock standards set out by the Charities Institute of Ireland - good fundraising, transparent annual financial reporting and governance. For more information on our Governance go to www.breakthroughcancerresearch.ie.

Our Board of Directors is made up of independent individuals with diverse backgrounds who volunteer their time, expertise and passion to our vision. The Board provides the advisory and governance role for the charity. We do not pay members of our Board, cover their expenses or provide recompense in any other way.

The Board of Breakthrough has formally adopted, is signed up to, and is fully committed to achieving the standards contained within the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising.

The Statement exists to:

- Improve fundraising practice
- Promote high levels of accountability and transparency by organisations fundraising from the public
- Provide clarity and assurances to donors and prospective donors about the organisations they support.



Best Practice in Transparency and Accountability

We, Breakthrough, have considered the Statement and believe we meet the standards it sets out. Breakthrough's annual accounts are independently audited every year by Moore Ireland. We prepare our accounts in accordance with Irish accounting standards and with reference to the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) for charities.

This is a comprehensive framework that enables us to explain what we aim to do, how we go about it and what we achieve.

You can download and view our most recent audited accounts at

www.breakthroughcancerresearch.ie/aboutus

Breakthrough Cancer Research is fully compliant with the Governance Code for Community, Voluntary and Charitable Organisations, and are currently migrating towards the Charities Governance Code as set out by the Charities Regulator in 2018

FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

(INCLUDING INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2019

FUNDING IS RECEIVED FROM: 100% FUNDRAISING

The investments made into the three priorities for the organisation in terms of research expenditure were:

EDUCATION & INFORMATION:

2019 - €152,016 (2018 - €75,564)

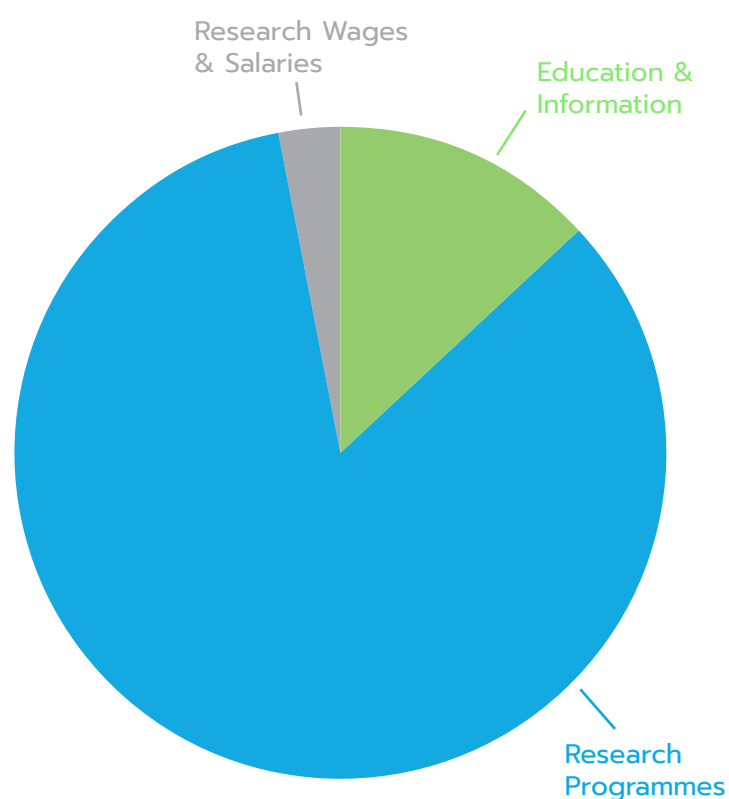
RESEARCH PROGRAMMES:

2019 - €964,866 (2018 - €666,039)

RESEARCH WAGES & SALARIES:

2019 - €33,840 (2018 - €38,320)

TOTAL: €1,150,722



These figures represent the financial year
1st January 2019 to 31st December 2019.

The gross income was €1,565,051
(2018: €1,316,546).

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
for the year ended 31 December 2019

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS €	RESTRICTED FUNDS €	TOTAL 2019 €	TOTAL 2018 €
Income from:				
Legacies	54,308	-	- 54,308	7,702
Charitable activities	1,238,238	268,192	1,506,430	1,308,844
Other income	4,313	-	4,313	-
Total income	<u>1,296,859</u>	<u>268,192</u>	<u>1,565,051</u>	<u>1,316,546</u>
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	<u>277,388</u>	-	<u>277,388</u>	<u>223,161</u>
Charitable activities	<u>182,549</u>	-	<u>182,549</u>	<u>174,843</u>
Research costs	<u>657,731</u>	<u>492,991</u>	<u>1,150,722</u>	<u>779,923</u>
Total resources expended	1,117,668	492,991	1,610,659	1,177,927
Net income/(expenditure) for the year/ Net movement in funds	179,191	(224,799)	(45,608)	138,619
Fund balances at 1 January	<u>442,900</u>	<u>330,827</u>	<u>773,727</u>	<u>635,108</u>
Fund balances at 31 December	<u><u>622,091</u></u>	<u><u>106,028</u></u>	<u><u>728,119</u></u>	<u><u>773,727</u></u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All Income and expenditure derive from continuing operations.

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2019

	2019 €	€	2018 €	€
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Assets		3,367		1,781
Current assets				
Debtors	199,158	-	99,111	
Cash at bank and in hand	794,436		849,394	
	<u>993,594</u>		<u>948,505</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>(268,842)</u>		<u>(176,559)</u>	
Net current assets		724,752		771,946
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>771,946</u>		<u>773,727</u>
Income funds				
Restricted funds		106,028		330,827
Unrestricted funds		622,091		442,900
		<u>728,119</u>		<u>773,727</u>

COMMENTARY

Breakthrough Cancer Research is pleased to confirm that the accounts have been prepared in accordance with the statement of recommended practice (Charities SORP in accordance with FRS 102, effective January 2015). This reporting structure is accepted as best practice in the charity sector. Also, this is reflective of Breakthrough Cancer Research's on-going commitment to good governance and financial transparency.

The reserves for the year are €728,119 (2018 : €773,727). Breakthrough Cancer Research remains

in a position to support existing research projects, and to continue to fund research programmes in 2020.

The statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet included on page 33 and 34 respectively are an extract from the full statutory financial statement of the company for the year ended December 31st 2019, which are available on our website, www.breakthroughcancerresearch.ie.

BANKERS

AIB Bank plc.
College Road
Cork

AUDITORS

Moore Stephens
Chartered Accountants
& Statutory Audit Firm
83 South Mall
Cork

SOLICITORS

Ronan Daly Jermyn
2 Park Place
City Gate Park
Mahon Point
Co. Cork

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS WHO SERVED THE PERIOD:

- **Bryan Mohally**
- **Breda O'Sullivan**
- **Brendan Buckley**
- **Derek Power**
- **Sean Ryan**
- **Doreen O'Mahony**
- **Enda Lynch**