

★ **IRISH ASSOCIATION OF PHARMACOLOGISTS (X Anniversary)** ★
ANNUAL MEETING 2026

“Transforming Healthcare Through Science, Technology & Education”

Friday, 6th November ‘26 Wellcome–Wolfson Institute, Queen’s Belfast, UK

Time	SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE
9:00 am (15’)	Registration at reception desk <u>Location:</u> Outer foyer
9:15 am (15’)	Opening Remarks by IAP President, Dr Monica de Gaetano (UCD SBBS, Dublin) <u>Location:</u> Seminar Room
9:30 am (1h10’)	Session 1 (EXPERIMENTAL PHARMACOLOGY): Next-Generation Experimental Pharmacology: Intelligent Drug Delivery, Therapeutics and Precision Medicine <u>Location:</u> Seminar Room <u>Chair:</u> Prof. Steve Kerrigan, RCSI, Dublin 9:30 – 10:00 am (Keynote 1) (2’+ 25’talk + 3’Q&A): Prof. Silvia Giordani (School of Chem. Sc., DCU, Dublin) “Carbon Nano-Onions as Smart Nanocarriers for Targeted and Controlled Drug Delivery” 10:00 – 10:15 am (Selected Speaker 1): (12’talk + 3’Q&A) = 15’ Prof. David Brayden, UCD “Pharmacokinetic assessment of the delivery of a GLP-1 RA semaglutide peptide analogue from a dissolving sub-lingual bilayer film in pigs”. 10:15 – 10:30 am (Selected Speaker 2): (12’talk + 3’Q&A) = 15’ Dr Ciaran Kennedy, UCD “Lipoxin A4 and synthetic mimetics remodel inflammatory pathways in human atherosclerotic plaques: towards targeted Nano-delivery”. 10:30 – 10:40 am (2 x 5’ Flash talks) * for more detail refer to the programme booklet
10:40 am (40’)	Coffee Break & Moderated Poster Session 1 (Even numbers) <u>Location:</u> Inner & Outer foyer
11:20 am (1h10’)	Session 2 (CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY): Advancing Therapeutic Care at Intersections of Pharmacology, Technology & Medicine <u>Location:</u> Seminar Room <u>Chair:</u> Dr Fiona Furlong, QUB, Belfast 11:20 – 11:50 pm (Keynote 2) (2’+ 25’talk + 3’Q&A): Clinical Prof. Richard Turkington (School of Medicine, Dentistry & Biomed. Sc, QUB) “ From Biomarker to Bedside: Precision Medicine in Drug Development” 11:50 – 12:05 pm (Selected Speaker 3): (12’talk + 3’Q&A) = 15’

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	Dr Raveena Dwarika – UCD “Guidelines can recommend a drug- but have prescribing habits changed? An analysis of cardiovascular drug prescribing (2008 2025) in Ireland, as it relates to the HSE Preferred Drugs Initiative”. 12:05 – 12:15 pm (Selected Speaker 4): (12’talk + 3’Q&A) = 15’ Ms Anisha Pattanayak - TCD “Sick Day Rules in the Real World: Medication Use and Management in Acute Admissions” 12:15 – 12:30 pm (2 x 5’ Flash talks) *for more detail refer to the programme booklet
12:30 pm (45’)	12:30 – 1:15 pm Lunch Location: Inner & Outer foyer
1:15 pm (45’)	John Feely Lecture & Award Location: Seminar Room Chair: Prof. Martina Hennessy, TCD, Dublin Awardee: Prof. Alice Stanton (School of Med & Health Sc., RCSI) [Professor of Cardiovascular Therapeutics / Consultant in Healthy Sustainable Diets]. (5’ intro + 30’talk + 10’Q&A) = 35’ “Dose Response Curves, Food Systems Transformation and Nutritional Security”.
2 pm (45’h)	Session 3 (EDUCATIONAL PHARMACOLOGY): Re-imagining Pharm. Edu. through Connected Learning & Digital Innovation Location: Seminar Room Chair: Rosemary Smyth, ATU, Sligo 2:00 – 2:30 pm (Keynote 3): (2’+ 25’talk + 3’Q&A): Prof. Sharon Haughey, Dean of Edu. (School of Pharmacy, QUB, UK); “From Mechanism to Medicine: Bridging Pharmacological Theory and Clinical Practice Through Simulation” 2:30 – 2:45 pm (Selected Speaker 5): (12’talk + 3’Q&A) = 15’ Dr Katie Coubrough (Strathclyde, UK) “Bridging the Theory-Practice Gap: A Mixed-Methods Linguistic Framework for Analysing Undergraduate Practical Pharmacology Competencies”
2:45 pm (40’)	Coffee Break & Moderated Poster Session 2 (Odd numbered) Location: Inner & Outer foyer
3:20 pm (40’)	‘Educational Showcase’

Time	SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE
	<u>Location</u>: Seminar Room <u>Chair</u>: Dr Seema Nathwani (UCD) <u>Elevator Pitches</u>: 5' 3:20-3:25pm – (Invited Speaker 1): Prof. Cherry Wainwright (BPS-IAP partnership) 3:25-3:30 pm – (Invited Speaker 2): Dr Roisin Kelly (IPEN activities) <u>Showcase</u>: [10+5 Q&A] 3:30-3:45pm – (Invited Speaker 3): Mr Jack Carey (Anytime creativity platform) 3:45-4:00pm – (Invited Speaker 4): JoVE (Video T&L platform)
4 pm (15')	4:00-4:15pm Annual General Meeting (AGM) <u>Location</u>: Seminar Room <u>Chair</u>: Dr Cormac Kennedy, IAP VP (TCD, Dublin)
4.15 pm (45')	4:15-4.45 pm IAP X ANNIVERSARY: “Reeling the years...what’s next?” <u>Location</u>: Seminar Room <u>Chair</u>: Prof. David Williams / <u>Co-Chair</u>: Dr Monica de Gaetano <i>“A Decade of the Irish Association of Pharmacologists (IAP): Reflecting on Our Progress and Shaping the Next 10 Years”</i> 4:45-4.55 pm BPS-sponsored Best Oral & Poster Presentation Prizes (awarded by BPS President) 4:55-5:00 pm Closing Remarks by IAP President
From 6 pm	Networking Evening (platters will be served at around 7pm) <u>Location</u>: The Linen Hall Bar, Belfast

INVITED SPEAKERS BIOS & TALK ABSTRACTS



John Feely Medal Awardee 2026: Professor Alice Stanton
(School of Med & Health Sc., RCSI, Dublin, Ireland). ***Title: “Dose Response Curves, Food Systems Transformation and Nutritional Security”.***

Prof. Alice Stanton is a clinician-scientist. Current roles include; Professor of Cardiovascular Therapeutics at the RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences, and Consultant concerning Healthy Sustainable Diets. She served on the Committee developing “Ireland’s Agri-food

Strategy to 2030”, and as an Assembly Member for the Horizon Europe Cancer Mission. She is a Member of the Irish Climate and Health Coalition, the World Action against Salt, Sugar, and Health (WASSH), Meat Technology Ireland, and the Scientific Council of World Farmers Organisation. She has authored in excess of 150 peer-reviewed published papers (Scopus h-index 60), and delivered many lectures concerning evidence-based healthy diets from sustainable food systems. Recently, she was lead author on a Lancet letter, which robustly questioned the reliability of the Global Burden of Disease 2019 collaborators’ estimates of deaths attributable to unprocessed red meat. As Professor of Cardiovascular Therapeutics, she contributes to all three pillars of RCSI’s strategic plan; delivering a transformative learning experience, leading impactful research, and supporting healthcare and societal well-being in Ireland and internationally. As Director of Human Health, and a Leadership Team Member at Devenish, she contributed to the company’s vision of being the leading provider of integrated environmental, animal and human health solutions - she was principal investigator on a range of human nutrition related research projects, and provided expert advice to a range of Devenish teams (Food Innovation, Agriculture & Sustainability, Regulatory Affairs, and Commercial Teams).



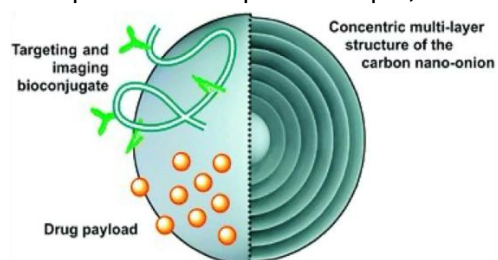
Keynote 1: Prof. Silvia Giordani (Chemical Sciences, DCU, Dublin). silvia.giordani@dcu.ie; <https://www.giordanigroup.com/>.

Silvia Giordani is Professor and Chair of Nanomaterials at Dublin City University (DCU), where she served as Head of the School of Chemical Sciences from 2020 to 2023. She holds a degree in Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Technology from the University of Milan and a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Miami, USA. Throughout her career, she has held academic and research positions at Trinity College Dublin, the Italian Institute of

Technology and the University of Torino, where she established and led internationally recognised research groups. Her research focuses on the design and development of nanomaterials and supramolecular systems for biomedical, environmental and energy applications, with particular interests in nanomedicine and advanced drug delivery. She has authored more than 150 scientific publications in leading international journals, which have received over 12,000 citations, and holds a patent on carbon nano-onions. Her honours include the President of Ireland Young Researcher Award, the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Fellowship and the DCU President's Research Award. She was recently appointed Ufficiale dell'Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana (OMRI) by the President of the Italian Republic. The OMRI is one of Italy's highest national honours, recognising distinguished contributions to science, culture, public service and society. The honour recognises her scientific achievements and her contribution to promoting Italian scientific excellence internationally.

Abstract: "Carbon Nano-Onions as Smart Nanocarriers for Targeted and Controlled Drug Delivery".

Carbon nano-onions (CNOs) are multi-layered fullerenes composed of concentric sp^2 -hybridized carbon shells. They are emerging as versatile nanocarriers for targeted drug delivery due to their small size, high surface area, tunable surface chemistry, and biocompatibility. We have developed a reliable method for synthesizing pure, monodisperse CNOs and engineering their surfaces with receptor-targeting and imaging units. These modified CNOs display high photostability in aqueous media and selective uptake by cancer cells with minimal cytotoxicity. To achieve tumor-specific delivery, we employed supramolecular functionalization with a hyaluronic acid-phospholipid (HA-DMPE) conjugate, enabling selective recognition of CD44-overexpressing cancer cells. HA-DMPE-CNOs showed enhanced uptake and viability in CD44+ human breast cancer cells compared to CD44- ovarian cancer cells, while zebrafish studies confirmed strong biocompatibility in vivo. In parallel, boron nitride-doped CNOs functionalized with HA-DMPE enabled pH- triggered release of doxorubicin (DOX). This platform achieved superior uptake and anticancer activity in multiple breast cancer cell lines (MDA-MB-231, MDA-MB-468, MCF-7) compared to free DOX and Caelyx®, while significantly reducing cardiotoxicity in AC16 cardiomyocytes. Additionally, gemcitabine-loaded HA-CNOs demonstrated potent cytotoxic effects against pancreatic adenocarcinoma cells. Folic acid-modified CNOs (FA-CNOs) were engineered for receptor-mediated targeting of folate receptor-positive cancer cells, enabling efficient DOX loading and controlled release. Comprehensive spectroscopic, microscopic, and thermal analyses confirmed successful



surface modification and drug incorporation. In vitro assays demonstrated that FA-CNOs significantly improve cellular uptake and drug delivery relative to non-targeted controls. These studies establish CNO-based nanocarriers as safe, customizable, and effective platforms for targeted cancer therapy, underscoring their promise in advancing nanomedicine.



Keynote 2: Clinical Prof. Richard Turkington (School of Medicine, Dentistry & Biomedical Science, Queen University Belfast, UK). <https://pure.qub.ac.uk/en/persons/richard-turkington/>.

Richard Turkington is a Professor of Medical Oncology at the Centre for Public Health, Queen's University Belfast, and a Consultant at the Northern Ireland Cancer Centre, with a clinical and research interest in oesophago-gastric and pancreatic cancer. Having graduated in medicine from Queen's University Belfast, he began specialty training in Medical Oncology and was awarded a Cancer Research UK Bobby Moore Clinical

Research Fellowship to pursue a PhD in novel drug target discovery in colorectal cancer under the supervision of Professor Patrick Johnston. Following completion of his PhD, he was appointed as an Academic Clinical Lecturer in the field of oesophago-gastric cancer and became a Visiting Research Fellow at the Hutchison/MRC Cancer Unit, University of Cambridge, under the supervision of Professor Rebecca Fitzgerald. His work has been published in high-impact journals, and he has received the American Society of Clinical Oncology Merit Award. His principal research interests include oesophago-gastric and pancreatic cancer, as well as the analysis of genomic datasets for the discovery of biomarkers for early detection, treatment response, and biological insights into premalignant disease and cancer. These discoveries are being translated into clinical advances through the implementation of biomarker-led clinical trials. As part of the upper gastrointestinal cancer team at Queen's University Belfast, he seeks to transform the care of patients with oesophago-gastric and pancreatic cancer through the integration of laboratory discoveries, translational science and clinical research. **Abstract:** ***"From Biomarker to Bedside: Precision Medicine in Drug Development"***.

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Keynote 3: Prof. Sharon Haughey, Dean of Education (School of Pharmacy, Queens University Belfast, UK).
<https://pure.qub.ac.uk/en/persons/sharon-haughey/>

Professor Sharon Haughey qualified as a pharmacist in 1999 and began her career in Dublin, progressing to the role of Pharmacist Store Manager. In 2001, she joined the School of Pharmacy at Queen's University Belfast (QUB) as a part-time Teaching Fellow while continuing to practise as a community pharmacist with Boots. Following completion of her PhD, Sharon served as Director of Education (Pharmacy) from 2014-2021, providing strategic leadership during a period of considerable change within the profession and its educational requirements. She continues to teach and lead curriculum development in pharmacy law, ethics, and professional decision-making. Her scholarly interests focus on interprofessional education and simulation-based learning. As a Faculty InterSim Champion within the KN Cheung SK Chin InterSim Centre, Sharon supports the integration of simulation across healthcare education programmes. Innovation in teaching, learning, and assessment has been a defining feature of Sharon's work, contributing to the delivery of a modern MPharm programme and recognised within her Advance HE Principal Fellowship. In 2026, she was appointed Associate Dean of Education in the QUB Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Sciences, where her current priorities include the development of micro-credentials, flexible learning opportunities, and educational innovation across the Faculty.

Abstract: “From Mechanism to Medicine: Bridging Pharmacological Theory and Clinical Practice Through Simulation”. How do we help students move from knowing how medicines work to making decisions about their use with real patients? As healthcare becomes increasingly complex, educators face the challenge of delivering transformative learning experiences that develop not only knowledge, but also confidence, clinical reasoning and professional capability. This keynote explores how simulation and immersive learning can bridge the gap between pharmacological theory and clinical practice. Students frequently learn mechanisms of action, pharmacokinetics and adverse effects as discrete concepts, yet struggle to apply that knowledge when faced with authentic clinical problems. Through high-fidelity simulation, interprofessional scenarios and student and patient-partnered curriculum design, learners can experience the realities of patient care in a safe and supportive environment where science becomes practice. This presentation will demonstrate how simulation enables learners to develop clinical judgement, collaborate across professional boundaries and appreciate the impact of medication-related decisions on patient outcomes. The session will illustrate how relatively small but intentional educational innovations can create meaningful learning experiences that extend beyond graduation and prepare students to thrive in an evolving healthcare landscape.

