

Professional Biography of Professor Dolores Cahill

Professor Dolores Cahill received her Honours degree in Molecular Genetics from Trinity College Dublin (1989) and her PhD in Immunology & Biotechnology from Dublin City University (1994). She was awarded an EU 'Human Capital and Mobility' Post-doctoral Fellow, Technical University, Munich, Germany (1994-1995). Prof. Cahill became group leader of the Protein Technology Group in the Max-Planck-Institute of Molecular Genetics, Berlin, Germany (1996-2003). She obtained an Associate Professor position, Department of Clinical Pharmacology/Director of Proteomics Core, RCSI, Dublin (2000-2005). Since 2005 - present, she is Professor of Translational Science at UCD School of Medicine. Prof. Cahill is internationally recognised for her biomedical research, publications and patent record is in life sciences, biotechnology and in personalised healthcare and biomarkers (PHB), proteomics, biotechnology, high content protein and antibody arrays, and their biomedical, diagnostic and clinical applications. Applications of the research she has developed are in the academic and commercial/clinical sectors and include characterisation of antibodies specificity (including therapeutic antibodies), biomarker discovery/validation, diagnostics, assay development, protein-interaction studies, proteomics, large scale/systems biology research & validating Ovarian Cancer biomarker panels in a diagnostic clinical trial.

In 1997, Prof. Cahill co-founded a biotechnology company, Protagen AG (www.protagen.de) in Dortmund to commercialise the high content protein and antibody array technology. Protagen AG is a spin-out from the Max-Planck-Institute She co-founded this company with co-founders Prof. Helmut Meyer (Bochum/Dortmund) and Prof. Joachim Klose (Berlin), and the areas of this company are proteomics, mass spectrometry, biotechnology and two-dimensional gel electrophoresis. More recently Protagen AG had developed peptide therapeutics. With the other co-founders, Prof. Cahill was involved in all stages of Protagen's development from 1997 - 2003, including patenting high content protein and antibody array technology, managing 5 patents through the PCT granting process, exclusively licensing the patents to Protagen AG from the Max-Planck Society, writing the business plan, securing venture and enterprise funding, commercialisation strategy, building company collaborations in Germany and internationally, hiring a full-time CEO, etc. On returning to Ireland full-time in 2003, she remains fully supportive of Protagen and is a shareholder. Protagen AG currently has 55 employees. Protagen Protein Services spun out of Protagen AG and has over 100 employees and is in sites in Dortmund and Heilbronn, Germany (<https://www.protagenproteinservices.com/>). In 2010, Prof. Cahill founded the Irish Biomarker Network, which aims to bring together the many aspects required to deliver rapid developments in personalised healthcare, biomarkers and translational medicine to patients facilitating strategic coherence within this industry and engagement with clinicians, industry, academics, patients, government stakeholders, funding agencies and regulatory authorities, both nationally and internationally. A further recent example, in April 2013, Prof. Cahill was Keynote Speaker and Chair of a conference, 'The Business of Biomarkers', Copenhagen. This was a strategic meeting of Denmark Universities' Technology Transfer Offices as part of the Danish collaboration, "Det Nationale Netværk for Teknologioverførsel" (DNNT) to discuss challenges and solutions of commercialization in the health sector from regulation to investment. It included Danish University, TTO, government officials, funding agencies & industry.

Prof. Cahill is involved in Scientific and Research Strategy and Policy Development and Evaluation for over 10 years. She is a member of the EU Innovative Medicines Initiative

(IMI) Science Committee (2017-2019). In 2018, she was elected by the IMI SC to be Vice Chair of the IMI Scientific Committee (2019-2020).

From 2005 to 2014, she was a Member of the Irish Government's Advisory Science Council (ASC) (www.sciencecouncil.ie), appointed by the Irish Government Minister. In this voluntary role, she was involved in the development of the Irish Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation (2006 – 2013). She Chaired the ASC Task Force on the Irish Government Policy document 'Towards a Framework for Researcher Careers' & as a Task Force member in ASC Policy Reports on 'Promoting Enterprise-Higher Education Relationships' (2009) and the 'Sustainability of Research Centres' (2012).

She is a member of International Science Advisory and Review Boards, including as Chair or Observer of European Commission Calls in: the Innovative Medicines Initiative; FP7 Health, FP7 Health- Innovation, FP7 Infrastructure, FP7 Energy & Smartcities, BMBF/DLR in Germany (2003-present); BBSRC in the UK UK: Genes & Developmental Biology Grant Evaluation Committee (GDB) and their Strategic Reviews (2005, 2007 & 2011); Vinnova in Sweden (2009-present), IWT in Belgium (2011). She is a Science Advisory Board of Human Protein Atlas, (2002-2018), ProNova Research Excellent Institute, Sweden (2007-2018) & Complexinc, Switzerland (2010-). She was awarded the Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS) Award for her research & its significance. Other award recipients were Prof. J. Craig Venter & Nobel Prize winner, Prof. Robert Huber.

In the Strategy, Policy and Global engagement area, from October 2013 to end September 2014, Prof. Cahill was seconded as National Expert in Policy to the European Commission Research and Innovation (HORIZON2020) (DG RTD) Directorate, with special emphasis on International Cooperation for Strategy and Policy coordination, with Asia and European Free Trade Area and enlargement countries, Russia & the Pacific. This secondment was supported by UCD, the School of Medicine and Medical Sciences and the Irish government. This role involved international policy coordination and development in Research and Innovation, including with respect to Horizon2020. She was responsible for international cooperation aspects with South Korea and she was a backup for ASEAN and China. She was the Thematic Correspondent for Health and involved in Strategy Development within the unit. She worked on Framework Conditions and Commercialisation aspects, for example on the International Cooperation Dialogue, within this region.