

BREATH Project

Thank you for subscribing to the BREATH Project eZine. The objective of this publication is to keep interested parties informed about the Project's progress and opportunities to engage with us.

More detailed information can be found on the BREATH website
www.breath-copd.org

Almac Discovery joins BREATH



Almac Discovery is a biotech company based in the Precision Medicine Centre at Queen's University Belfast and is supported by the Almac Group of companies. A primary focus of Almac Discovery is targeting the Deubiquitinating enzyme class (DUBs).

In 2020, Almac Discovery partnered with the BREATH consortium to focus on identifying roles for DUBs in airway disease using a CRISPR-based screening approach. This research is being led by Dr. Richard Wilkinson (BREATH Research Fellow) and Dr. Ian Lobb (Genome Editing Technical Leader). Both Dr. Wilkinson (pictured left) and Dr. Lobb (pictured right) have an extensive background in molecular biology

and have utilised established and novel genome editing technologies to explore biological pathways underpinning a variety of disease types.

To read more about the BREATH-Almac Discovery programme please click [here](#).

Stephen Carson Interview televised on Croí Uladh le John Toal Series

In August 2020, QUB PhD student Stephen Carson had the opportunity to be interviewed for the BBC Northern Ireland TV series, 'Croí Uladh le John Toal' . As part of the interview with John, Stephen discussed the basis of genetic disease using Alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, a condition prevalent in Gaelic populations, as an example. This condition can be a risk factor for the development of early onset COPD however the most severe forms of the deficiency can be treated with a replacement therapy.



Stephen then gave John a tour of the laboratory and was able to show him some of the equipment and techniques used in our lab when carrying out research.

Preparing for this interview and being recorded for TV provided Stephen with a unique opportunity to further develop his personal communication skills and allowed Stephen to avail of some media training. He also enjoyed the experience of conducting the interview and explaining the work that we carry out as part of the BREATH project in Irish as opposed to English. Importantly, this interview gave BREATH the opportunity to engage with a national audience, to offer an overview of COPD and to help highlight the importance of research in the development of our understanding of the disease.



The interview was televised as part of the Croí Uladh le John Toal series on 12th April 2021.

To view the full programme please click [here](#).

SRAITH NUA
Croí Uladh
le John Toal

Dé Luain 12 Aibreán
Monday 12th April

Big Mountain
NORTHERN IRELAND SCREEN
High Language Broadcast Fund
An Ciste Craoltóireachta Gaelige
BBC GAEILGE

Moffat Academy (P7) awarded BREATH Certificate of Excellence



Primary 7 at Moffat Academy has been achieved an Excellence award for their successful completion of a set challenge linked with an important lung health programme rolling out across South West Scotland, Ireland and Northern Ireland. University of the West of Scotland (UWS) academics and PhD students have been visiting schools in Dumfries & Galloway and Ayrshire & Arran to raise awareness amongst both secondary and primary children of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), a deadly lung disorder which is the world's third biggest killer and is particularly prevalent in South West Scotland.

Full article available [here](#).

Pause for BREATH

On the evening of 13th May, Prof Keith Thornbury delivered a public lecture by Zoom under the auspices of the DKIT's School of Health and Science's **One Health Seminar** series entitled 'Pause for BREATH: the

fight against COPD'. In it, Keith gave an overview of the pathophysiology and symptoms COPD and highlighted the extent of the problem both globally and within Ireland. He then explained the BREATH mission and took the opportunity to present some of the research being carried out on airway smooth muscle by the Smooth Muscle Research Centre in DKIT. The lecture ended with Keith taking questions from the audience who had clearly been paying keen attention!



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