



Special EU Programmes Body
Foras Um Chláir Speisialta An AE
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BREATH

BREATH eZine

Welcome to the first edition of the BREATH project eZine.

The BREATH team would like to welcome you to the first edition of the BREATH project eZine and introduce you to the projects and its latest developments.

What is the BREATH project?

The BREATH Project was awarded €7.7 million under the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme supported by the Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB)

This pioneering cross-border research project was designed to better understand and alleviate the impact of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Ireland (North and South) and South West Scotland have some of the highest rates of COPD in the world. The **BREATH (Border and REgions Airways Training Hub)** project is a new research training network across these affected regions.

The BREATH project signifies a strong cross-border partnership between the Smooth Muscle Research Centre in Dundalk Institute of Technology (DkIT) who are the lead partners, and their partners in the School of Pharmacy and School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences in Queen's University Belfast (QUB) and the Institute of Biomedical & Environmental Health Research in the University of Western Scotland (UWS).

The BREATH team will establish a world-class cluster of researchers, involving collaborations between scientists and clinicians, that will help address the causes, treatment and potential prevention of COPD.

The BREATH Launch:

The BREATH project had its official launch in November 2017 in the Ballymascanlon House Hotel in Dundalk, Co. Louth.



Pictured at the BREATH Launch:

Back Row: L - R: Dr. Mark Hollywood (DkIT), Dr. Gerard Sergeant (DkIT), Mr. Clifford Kelly (DkIT), Dr. Micheal Mulvey (DkIT President), Prof. Lorcan McGarvey (QUB), Prof. Noel McHale (DkIT), Dr. Gary Litherland (UWS) and Prof. John Lockhart (UWS)

Front Row: L - R: Dr. Keith Thornbury (DkIT), Prof. Lorraine Martin (QUB), Ms. Gina McIntyre (SEUPB), Dr. Fionnuala Lundy (QUB), Dr. Anne Crilly (UWS) and Dr. Edel Healy (DkIT)

The launch event accommodated a variety of specialist speakers from across the programme region with an opening address by one of the QUB Principal Investigators, Prof Lorraine Martin. This was followed by addresses by Dr. Michael Mulvey, President of DkIT and Gina McIntyre, the chief executive of the funding body SEUPB,

Over 100 delegates attended the launch and the event commenced with a networking buffet in the hotel where delegates and invited speakers got the opportunity to interact and network across their respective fields of expertise.

Project Updates

The majority of the PhDs and Post-Doctoral researchers are recruited and in position at their respective institutions and have made novel discoveries already.

The project committees are all in place and meet several times throughout the year.

The BREATH project website and social media accounts have been established and it is hoped that an effective social media presence will enhance the projects visibility.

The e-newsletter link will be produced on a bi-annual basis and distributed via email and twitter for all BREATH followers and registered interests.

Selected Events and News Items

Many on the BREATH team submitted abstracts of novel research to the upcoming