

## RCSI School of Pharmacy – Clement Archer PhD Scholarship

**PhD title:** Medicines optimisation for patients living with cancer and receiving palliative care

Medicines optimisation for cancer patients receiving palliative care is a major challenge to improving quality of life and an under-researched area. At diagnosis, cancer patients often have existing comorbidities necessitating use of multiple medications (polypharmacy). Optimising medication regimens requires clinicians to consider whether each medication is appropriate in relation to patients' treatment goals and life expectancy.

Targeted action is needed to improve medicines management in patients living with cancer, particularly in end-of-life settings. There is currently limited research on how to do this in clinical practice. This mixed-methods project will seek to investigate prescribing practices for patients living with cancer and receiving palliative care, and develop a strategy for medicines optimisation in this cohort of patients. The successful candidate will gain skills in both quantitative and qualitative research methods, which are widely used in health services research.

The PhD project will run in parallel with a research project that is being funded by the Irish Cancer Society and the All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care.

### Supervisors

Dr. Cathal Cadogan (RCSI School of Pharmacy)

Prof. Kathleen Bennett (Division of Population Health Science, RCSI)

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