



Communications Office

Queen's University Belfast
Belfast
BT7 1NN
Northern Ireland
Tel 028 9097 3091
www.qub.ac.uk/info

Media Release

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For immediate release

Queen's Professor launches Precision Cancer Medicine 'Call to Action' in the European Parliament

Queen's University Belfast's Professor Mark Lawler, Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology, launched a 'Call to Action' for the widespread employment of cancer biomarkers to underpin a precision cancer medicine health strategy for European citizens.

Cancer biomarkers are molecules that are produced by cancer cells and that can be detected in bodily fluids or tissues. They help identify people who have cancer or who are at risk of getting cancer and are also key to the use of personalised approach to treat cancer, based on an individual's specific genomic profile within his/her cancer cells.

Speaking in the European Parliament in Brussels, as part of a European Cancer Patient Coalition (ECPC) event hosted by Member of the European Parliament Marlene Mizzi (S&D, Malta), Professor Lawler said, "It is critical that we use biomarkers to enhance our ability to detect cancer at the earliest possible stage and to employ biomarkers to inform our clinical management of patients following treatment.

"Without access to clinically relevant biomarkers, it will not be possible for Europe to realise the promise of precision medicine and personalised healthcare, thus disadvantaging European cancer patients from receiving the best possible care for their disease.

"Biomarkers can detect cancer earlier, select best treatment options for patients and spare patients the debilitating side effects of treatments that will have no therapeutic benefit. If used appropriately, they can also lead to cost efficiencies and cost savings within health services across Europe."

Professor Lawler highlighted how research at Queen's University Belfast is at the forefront of this precision medicine revolution and is driving a research-enabled comprehensive cancer care agenda, involving patients, academia, health care and industry which he highlighted as a model to be scaled up at European level.

Queen's reputation in this exciting area of healthcare is also reflected in the decision of the European Alliance for Personalised Medicine, the premier European policy organisation to have its inaugural congress in Belfast.

James McElnay, Acting Vice Chancellor and President of Queen's University Belfast commented, "Queen's is playing a central role in embedding precision medicine and personalised health into European health care systems and Professor Lawler's leadership emphasises Queen's international reputation in this critical part of 21st century healthcare.

"Coming on the back of the recent highly successful European Alliance for Personalised Medicine Congress in Belfast, an official EU Presidency event, Professor Lawler's central role in this current initiative that he is launching in the European Parliament emphasises how we at Queen's are driving the international Precision Medicine agenda."

Attachments

- Precision Cancer Medicine Call to Action in the European Parliament.jpg [Precision Cancer Medicine Call to Action in the European Parliament.jpg](#)
- Professor Lawler at European Parliament in Brussels.jpg [Professor Lawler at European Parliament in Brussels.jpg](#)

1. For more information on The European Cancer Patient Coalition (ECPC), please visit <http://www.ecpc.org>
2. For more information on The European Alliance For Personalised Medicine, please visit <https://www.euapm.eu/>
2. Professor Mark Lawler is available for interview. Bids to Sian Devlin.
3. Media Enquiries to Sian Devlin, s.devlin@qub.ac.uk or (+44) 28 9097 5292.