



Governing Authority Election 2025: Candidate Profile – Professorial cohort



Professor Gary Donohoe
School of Psychology

Candidate Biographical Details / Sonraí Beathaisnéise an Iarrthóra

After studying psychology at University College Dublin, I trained as a clinical psychologist at Trinity College Dublin, where I later completed a PhD in psychiatric genetics. I worked as a lecturer and associate professor in the School of Medicine at Trinity from 2006 until 2013, when I moved to the University of Galway as an established professor in the School of Psychology.

In addition to other undergraduate and postgraduate teaching responsibilities, I established the MSc in Clinical Neuroscience in 2016. I led a HRB-funded Collaborative Doctoral Program from 2018-2023 with colleagues in RCSI, UCD and the University of Galway. Within the School of Psychology I served as director of research from 2013-2023. In 2015, I founded NICOG, the Center for Neuroimaging, Cognition and Genetics with colleagues from Science and Medicine.

My research focuses on understanding the causes of major mental health disorders and developing novel therapeutic programs for treating these. I have authored/co-authored over 300 peer-reviewed articles. In 2016, I received a European Research Council fellowship award for my work on immune function in schizophrenia. In 2020, I received a HRB Research Leaders Award focused on youth mental health. I was elected to the Royal Irish Academy in 2022.

Candidate Statement / Ráiteas an Iarrthóra

Dear colleagues,

As a committed supporter of the University's mission to foster academic excellence, research and innovation, and societal impact, I believe I can contribute meaningfully to its continued growth and success as part of the governing authority.

With a clinical and academic background in psychology and neuroscience, I bring a diverse set of skills and experiences that align with the strategic goals of the University. My professional journey has equipped me with strong leadership abilities, strategic thinking, and an

understanding of how governance, financial oversight, and institutional development impact the day-to-day business of teaching and research at the university.

As a College of Arts based researcher who has strong collaborative ties with colleagues in the Colleges of both Science and Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, I have gained valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities facing the university in an increasingly complex and competitive environment. I am particularly interested in fostering research excellence and innovation and in addressing the barriers to these. I am committed to supporting initiatives that drive diversity, inclusion, sustainability, and the global reputation of the University.

The University's focus on building a thriving academic community capable of impacting society at a local, national and international level resonates with my own values. As a member of the Governing Authority, I would be committed to ensuring our university remains responsive to the evolving needs of its students, staff, and the wider community while also fostering a culture of collaboration, transparency, and accountability.

I am confident that my skills, enthusiasm, and commitment to research and education make me a strong candidate for this important role. I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the University's future direction.

Thank you.

Candidate Outline of Relevant Competencies / Cur síos an Iarrthóra ar Inniúlachtaí Ábhartha

My competencies in management & governance, strategic planning, financial and sectoral experience, teaching and research are evidenced as follows:

Management, Organizational & Governance experience

- School of Psychology's director of research & School Executive member for 10 years.
- Associate/full professorships held at leading institutions, with responsibilities for managing teaching and research activities.
- Managed multi-institutional and international research collaborations, including partnerships within large-scale research consortia (e.g. ENIGMA).
- Held commissions of trust, including associate editorships (e.g. Psychology and Psychotherapy: Theory Research & Practice) and grant reviews for prestigious funders like Wellcome, ERC etc.

Strategic Planning experience

- 20 years experience securing and managing large-scale research grants, and overseeing interdisciplinary teams and research infrastructure.
- Founding director of the Center for Neuroimaging and Cognitive Genomics (NICOG), establishing strategic research priorities/collaborations in neuroscience and mental health.

Financial Experience

- Lead investigator for grants exceeding €6.2M and co-principal investigator for an additional €17.4M.



- Financial oversight and budgetary management for large-scale research programs such as the HRB Collaborative doctoral award (€1.5M), the ERC Starting grant (€1.5M) and the HRB Research Leader's Award (€1.5M)

Sectoral Experience

- Extensive expertise in the health and academic sectors in mental health and neuroscience, focusing on psychosis and youth mental health.
- Adjunct Professorship in Psychiatry, indicating strong connections across psychology and medical disciplines.
- Research Leadership in developing mental health service improvements and youth mental health in Ireland.

Teaching and Learning

- Established Professor of Psychology, delivering high-impact teaching and mentoring within the university.
- Founded the MSc in Clinical Neuroscience, taken by over 120 students from around the world.
- Supervised 15 doctoral and numerous postgraduate students.

Research and Innovation

- Published over 300 peer-reviewed articles, many in high-impact journals such as Nature, Science, and Nature Genetics.
- Pioneered research in immune response and schizophrenia.
- Led Innovations in developing mental health interventions.