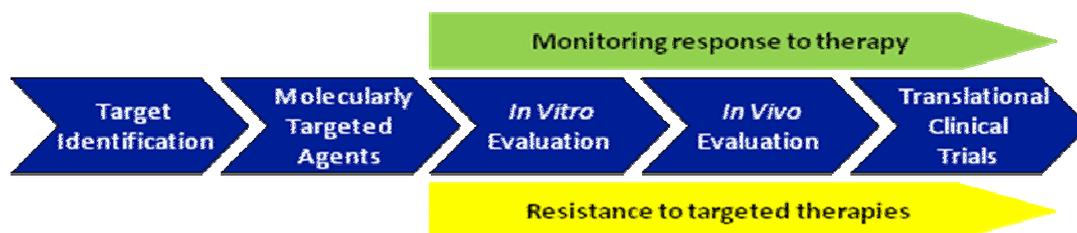


## Expression of Interest Regarding Participation in Upcoming FP7 Cancer-Focused Projects

Molecular Therapeutics for Cancer Ireland (MTCI) is a newly formed Strategic Research Cluster funded by Science Foundation Ireland (5.6 million euro, plus 30% overhead from 2009-2014) and consisting of investigators from Dublin City University, University College Dublin, the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Trinity College Dublin and the Irish Cooperative Oncology Research Group, in association with industry partners ([www.mtci.ie](http://www.mtci.ie)). The primary aim of the consortium is to build on the existing expertise of Irish institutions in order to develop a co-ordinated, integrated cancer drug discovery and development programme in Ireland, as well as foster new collaborations with other European partners in the area of oncology research.

The MTCI research programme focuses on aiding in the development of novel molecularly-targeted therapies for breast cancer and prostate cancer, while also providing a platform approach for research in other cancer types. In particular, MTCI researchers are investigating the molecular basis of resistance to targeted anti-cancer therapies using a range of *in vitro* and *in vivo* model systems, the latter examined via advanced non-invasive imaging systems. In addition, a major theme within MTCI is developing improved approaches for monitoring response to therapy via the use of 'omic-based and other screening approaches, including assessment of miRNA and other molecular entities. Finally, and in association with industry participants, Cluster investigators are engaged in pre-clinical targeted therapy development using a multi-modality translational imaging approach.



The MTCI cluster has access to a wealth of technologies across the 4 main academic partners, affiliated hospitals and associated industrial partners. **Particular strengths exist with respect to cell-based screening via high-content analysis (HCA) approaches, -omic technologies and associated bioinformatics, and pre-clinical models/*in vivo* multi-modality molecular imaging.**

The MTCI cluster is interested in participating in the following F7 call topics:

- HEALTH.2010.2.4.1-2: Structuring translational cancer research between cancer research centres in Europe [Network of Excellence]
- HEALTH.2010.2.4.1-6: Translational research on cancers with poor prognosis [Collaborative Project]
- HEALTH.2010.2.4.1-8: Predicting individual response and resistance to cancer therapy [Collaborative Project]
- HEALTH.2010.2.4.1-9: Optimising the delivery of (chemo)radiotherapy and/or surgery to cancer patients [Collaborative Project]

The MTCI cluster is also interested in participating in the forthcoming *Innovative Medicines Initiative* calls on cancer-focused topics. **MTCI investigators have considerable experience in both participating and leading prior Framework Programme projects**, including running two Marie Curie Industry-Academia Partnership projects in breast cancer and melanoma. Interested proposal co-ordinators whom are preparing for above-mentioned calls should contact Prof. William Gallagher ([william.gallagher@ucd.ie](mailto:william.gallagher@ucd.ie); Tel. +353-1-7166743) for further details on the MTCI cluster and its respective capabilities.