



TEAM

Dr Muriel Grenon
Dr Sarah Carroll
Shannon Stubbs
Dr Jennifer DeWitt
Megan Depinna
Dr Kristin Anderson
Dr Talia Arcari
Sarah-Beth Bradley
Dr Silke Kleefeld
Janic Schulte

Let's not forget all involved in the management & delivery of outreach activities: local and national volunteer coordinators, Community partners, academic collaborators and the team of Cell Explorers scientist facilitators.

IMPACT STORIES

Widening participation in STEM with Science outreach

University of Galway

Too many young people, especially from underrepresented communities, feel that science is not for them. Our team combines education research, social science, and pedagogy to change how young people experience science. We create inclusive, hands-on activities and bring them directly into communities through school workshops or science clubs. The aim is to spark curiosity, build confidence, and challenge stereotypes about who can be a scientist. These activities are delivered as part of the Cell Explorers programme by university students and staff, trained at acting as relatable science role models.

Our interdisciplinary team is one of our biggest strengths, spanning molecular genetics, social science, youth work, and education research and including members at all careers stages. Together, we integrate research evidence in outreach, ensuring it is both scientifically rigorous and socially inclusive. We work at three interconnected levels: 1. Research innovation - we create, test and research new outreach approaches, 2. local delivery - we implement findings locally with a team of Cell Explorers volunteers, and 3. Scale up - best practices are expanded through a growing network of 13 teams across 10 institutions in Ireland and South Africa. Collaboration is at the heart of everything we do: we co-design activities at all stages with teachers, youth workers, and community organisations to ensure lasting impact. For example, we co-created a youth worker training programme together to extend our reach even further.

Since 2020, we have reached over 24,000 young people. For half of the young people we meet in school setting, it is their first time meeting a scientist. After taking part, 51% feel more confident doing science and one in four became more interested in STEM careers. This is not just about fun experiences; it is about real change to make young people see that science is also for them. Since our creation in 2012, we have also trained over 2,000 Cell Explorers scientists in science communication, equipping them with valuable skills for their futures.

"By researching best practices in science outreach and applying them through the Cell Explorers programme, our work contributes to widen participation in STEM and inspire young people to see science as relevant, inclusive, and attainable"

Do you want to know more about our story? [Click here](#)

