BIO – ANNE MOLLOY

Anne Molloy, PhD., is a Fellow of Trinity College Dublin, Ireland and Emeritus Professor in the Discipline of Clinical Medicine, School of Medicine. She is Director of the Vitamin Research Laboratory in TCD and has over 30 years' experience in researching the molecular, nutritional and genomic factors that influence folate, vitamin B12 and related micronutrient function within the body. Her primary interest is in understanding the role of folic acid in prevention of neural tube defects and other adverse pregnancy outcomes, and the contribution of low vitamin B12 status to these defects. In this research, her laboratory received major US National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding and she continues to collaborate with investigators in the NIH Eunice Shriver National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI). A specific aspect of her work is to determine what blood folate concentrations would provide optimal protection against NTDs for women entering pregnancy. This work led to collaboration with the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC), culminating in a publication in British Medical Journal (2014) on "Population red blood cell folate concentrations for prevention of neural tube defects: Bayesian model". The work was awarded the Charles C Shepard Science Award: (CDC/ATSDR Publication Awards 2015) and was seminal to the World Health Organisation's (WHO) new *Guidelines for optimal folate status in women of childbearing age for prevention of neural tube defects*. She served on multiple expert advisory panels and guideline development committees for the WHO and most recently on the Micronutrient Forum Consultation on "Advancing neural tube defect prevention in low and middle-income countries through Improved folate status in women of reproductive age", for which she contributed a review on "Should vitamin B12 status be considered in assessing risk of neural tube defects" (Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences 2018)

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