

# Independent Scientific Advocacy Group

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16th Feb 2021

## ISAG Webinar

*Where are SARS-CoV-2 infections originating, and how can we control them?*

Ireland need a new strategy aimed at “*living without COVID*” in the community. We must aggressively suppress SARS-CoV-2 cases to a target of zero, in order to restore relatively normal social and economic activity.

On **Wednesday February 17<sup>th</sup>, 12.00 – 1.00 PM** we will host a webinar that will assess the scientific evidence for the origins of SARS-CoV-2 infections in Ireland. We will survey what is known about how **north/south** and **east/west** human mobility has contributed to infections in Ireland. Then we will summarize genomic analysis of how international travel has seeded Ireland with new SARS-CoV-2 variants, and the risks presented by variants of increased transmissibility and vaccine resistance. Finally, we will consider the practical implementation of an aggressive suppression strategy with a target of zero.

Chaired by Tomás Ryan our panel of **Sam Scarpino**, **Aoife McLysaght**, and **Tony O'Brien** will present an evidence-based discussion of what we know about the origin of SARS-CoV-2 infections in Ireland, and how we can develop a strategy to take control.

**Registration link:** [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_u\\_rtM5r6T6itzgMzvkbElg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_u_rtM5r6T6itzgMzvkbElg)

ISAG is offering the group’s expertise and experience to work together with the Government and the people to make Ireland the first country in Europe to aim for Zero Covid, and as such we welcome all members of the Oireachtas to attend.

**Chair:**

**- Tomás Ryan**

Associate Professor, School of Biochemistry & Immunology and Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience, Trinity College Dublin

<https://www.tcd.ie/Biochemistry/research/ryan/>

@TJRyan\_77

**Speakers:**

**- Sam Scarpino**

Assistant Professor, Network Science Institute, Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

<https://scarpino.github.io/>

@svscarpino

*"How human mobility between Britain and Ireland and across the Irish border has contributed to infections"*

**- Aoife McLysaght**

Professor of Genetics, School of Genetics & Microbiology, Trinity College Dublin

<http://www.gen.tcd.ie/molevol/>

@aoifemcl

*"Risk and analysis of newly evolved SARS-CoV-2 variants"*

**- Tony O'Brian**

Former Director General, Health Service Executive (HSE)

@tweetsnolimit

*"Practical considerations on implementing 'ZeroCovid' strategies"*

At this webinar we will also outline the I.S.A.G. response to this situation, including current analysis of SARS-CoV-2 infection rates in Ireland

**Let this lockdown be our last.**

We can suppress the virus, and keep Ireland at Level 1