



# Finola Cliffe

## Hooke Bio

Limerick native Finola is the Chief Operations Officer and co-founder of Hooke Bio Ltd based in Shannon, Co. Clare. Hooke Bio have developed Mera, a Microphysiological system that not only has the ability to radically alter preclinical drug development by allowing drug developers to bring new medicines to market faster, but it can also do this in an ethical manner. Mera will identify safe, effective drugs at the preclinical stage of drug discovery, without the need for animal testing overall, leading to more effective treatments, fewer drug failures and better prediction of disease onset.

Finola completed her PhD in Biotechnology at the University of Limerick in 2010. After several years working in R&D and in commercialisation at the University of Galway and with Monaghan Biosciences, Finola seized the opportunity to work with serial entrepreneur Prof. Mark Davies at UL. Hooke Bio was subsequently spun-out of UL in 2017.

With the support of Enterprise Ireland, the Western Development Commission, Irrus Investments and Boole Investment Syndicate, Hooke Bio has become an established SME with 12 staff members and is aiming to triple in size within the next 3 years. Hooke Bio have been recipients of the 'One-to-Watch Award' at Enterprise Ireland's Big Idea's Showcase and also won gold at the National Start-up MedTech Awards. Finola has raised over €12.4m in funding and investment for the company to-date and has most recently secured funding through the highly competitive European Innovation Council Accelerator funding programme. Finola aims to bring the revolutionary Mera product to market by the end of 2025, primarily focussing on the US market.

[www.hookebio.com](http://www.hookebio.com)

