

NOTRE DAME GLOBAL
KYLEMORE



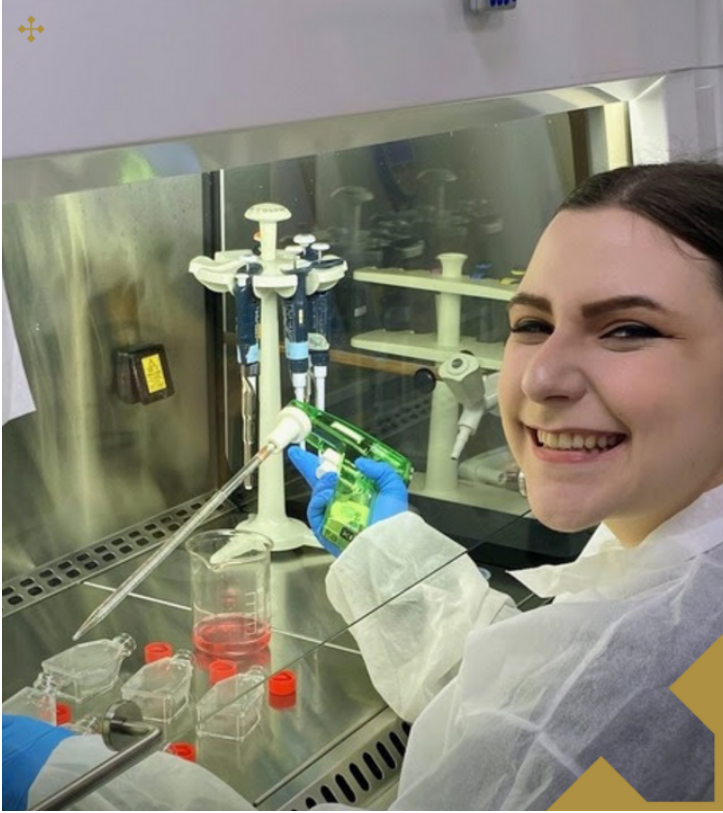
Happy
Thanksgiving

from Notre Dame Kylemore

STUDENT



FOCUS



Student Ambassador

Jessica Stewart

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME | KYLEMORE



Jessica Stewart, ND '27, is a Notre Dame Biology major and Global Health minor from Canton, Ohio. She is currently studying abroad at the University of Galway, and is participating in the research module. As part of the module, Jessica is working with Dr. Corrado Santocanale to study DNA replication, focusing on the mechanisms that regulate replication initiation and progression, and how replication stress threatens genome stability, especially in cancer. The lab emphasizes the role of Cell Division Cycle 7 (CDC7) kinase and how CDC7 activity controls origin firing, fork processing, and the replication stress response. Jessica investigates how specific gene knockouts influence cellular responses to CDC7 inhibition, using cell and tissue culture cultures characterized by cell viability assays, flow cytometry, and western blotting.

FACULTY

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Dr. Judith Stapleton

Visiting Scholar at Notre Dame Kylemore
Fall 2025 Master of Fine Arts: Art Residency
NEH Fellow, Keough Naughton Institute for
Irish Studies

Can you talk a bit about yourself and your work here at Kylemore?

Of course! I'm an art historian focusing on nineteenth- and early twentieth century Irish and British art. My research looks at the intersection of art and politics in Ireland before the Easter Rising with an emphasis on questions of identity, historicism, and artistic exchange. It's a particular delight to be at Kylemore Abbey because much of my work examines the importance of the West of Ireland in Irish art. This area has long been a source of inspiration for visual artists, because of its natural beauty, but also due to the rich heritage of the area. Many artists felt that by coming to the West they might discover new directions for Irish visual production far from the corrupting influences of

Empire and urban modern life. Studying how these ideas manifest in visual imaginaries of the West is endlessly fascinating. But what's more exciting is seeing new cohorts of artists coming to Kylemore today and working through these same questions in their own practice.

What has been the most meaningful part of your time here?

Speaking with and learning from the artists! There's a really enriching program at Kylemore that involves walks around Connemara, talks from local artists, and guided tours of archeological sites in the area. It's a real inspiration to see these visits and the environment around us filter into the artists' work. Doing crits with the artists, you can see how these new ideas merge with their existing practice and interests. It's amazing to see how each artist responds and I'm endlessly inspired by their work.

What's your favorite spot in Kylemore Abbey?

It's hard to pick! The Victorian gardens are spectacular, as are the stone carvings and stained glass in James Fuller's neo-Gothic Church, which is something of a masterpiece in miniature. But nothing quite beats the view of Pollacappul Lough from the hills above the Abbey. On a clear day from the Sacred Heart Statue, you can see out to ocean across Ballinakill Harbour. I also love exploring the estate in the rain, especially the wooded waterfalls near the lake.

Where are you off to next?

I'll be deeply sad to leave Kylemore, but I'm also excited to return to my work as a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies. I'm currently finishing a book project on Irish modernism at the turn of the twentieth century as well as researching and writing a few other projects. An exhibition I co-curated, *Homecoming: Walter Osborne's Portraits of Dublin*, is also currently on view at the Raclin Murphy Museum of Art on campus, so I'm looking forward to going back and spending time with some favorite Osborne paintings before

they are shipped back to Ireland in December. I hope to bring some of the energy of working with artists at the Kylemore residency back with me!

IN THE NEWS

This past week, we celebrated our [Fall 2025 Artists in Residence](#) with ENCOUNTERS, an exhibition of the work they created during their time with us.





“What can I say that could possibly convey the creative, communal, and spiritual fulfillment I experienced returning to ND Kylemore? It feels like home for the soul. What a privilege to share such an incredible experience with so many talented artists. I can genuinely say that each and every one of them has made their mark on my life.”
- Amanda Elizabeth Joseph, Fall 2025 Artist in Residence

RESEARCH

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University of Galway Faculty Spotlight:

Dr. Michael O'Dwyer

Professor of Hematology

Scientific Director of Cancer Centre



Dr. O'Dwyer has been an active researcher in blood cancers in Galway since 2002 and Professor of Hematology since 2006. Prior to coming to Galway, he worked at Oregon Health & Sciences University, Portland Oregon, where he was involved in the early development of imatinib (Gleevec), the first tyrosine kinase inhibitor, with Brian Druker. In 2024, he took up the role of Scientific Director of the University of Galway Cancer Centre.

His research is focused primarily on (1) how aberrant glycosylation (especially sialylation) can influence cellular adhesion, trafficking and immune evasion in multiple myeloma (MM), (2) the role of glycoimmune checkpoints in cancer, and (3) use and modification of natural killer (NK) cells as cell therapy for cancer. His work on glycosylation has implicated interactions between selectins, siglecs and their ligands in disease progression, drug resistance and immune evasion in MM. These findings have provided new insights into the role of glycosylation in the progression of MM with potential for new therapeutic strategies to overcome treatment resistance. In 2015, his interest in NK cells led to the formation of a spin out company, ONK Therapeutics, which he led as CSO for several years prior. At ONK, Dr. O'Dwyer worked on the development of gene edited CAR-NK cells for the treatment of MM and other cancers. He has a strong interest in translational research and have conceived and conducted several successful academic investigator-initiated studies. In a recent collaboration with the IFM, he established an important role for sialylation as a risk factor risk of MRD resurgence, inferior PFS and OS in Daratumumab treated patients in a large, randomised trial (the CASSIOPEIA study). Their data suggest that sialylation has the potential to negatively affect the response to immunotherapies, including potentially CAR-T. Dr. O'Dwyer recently secured funding from the International Myeloma Society to develop sialidase armed CAR-NK cells, capable of eradicating MRD, leading to durable responses in patients with MM.

In regards to the Biseach Initiative, Dr. O' Dwyer said the following:

"In terms of my own research, the Biseach Initiative has enabled me to connect with researchers at Notre Dame who have complementary expertise to my own, and with whom I can collaborate to develop more impactful research. As a result of the Biseach initiative I initially met Herman Sintim and then he introduced me to his colleagues Mariko Marimoto and Prakash Nallathamby, who have expertise in chemical biology/glycobiology and drug delivery, respectively. Working together we plan targeted delivery of a sialyltransferase inhibitor to MM cells as a novel form of glyco-immune checkpoint inhibitor."

"The Biseach initiative has been a very positive development and has fostered collaboration between investigators based in Galway and our counterparts in South Bend. I am aware of several active collaborations

as well nascent collaborations, which would not have happened but for the initiative. Both institutions have excellent researchers but individually we are smaller players on the wider cancer research scene. Working together we can take advantage of the specific strengths in each institution and develop greater critical mass. I look forward to growing links and outputs in the future.”

Dr. O'Dwyer will be presenting his research at Notre Dame for Harper Cancer Day on March 23rd, 2026

Check Out Upcoming Programming from ND Kylemore!



Reclaiming Your Creative Voice

A 5-Day Visual Journaling & Intuitive Art Journey with Art Therapist Liz Rackard

Dates: February 15-20, 2026
Applications Close: January 15, 2026





Self-Guided Writers Residency

*This independent residency is
designed for writers seeking dedicated
time and freedom to write.*

Dates: March 30 - April 3, 2026

Applications Close:
December 13, 2025



*Deadline:
Thursday, February 12!*

*Instructor-led Writing
Program with Author
Dionne Irving Bremyer*

April 12 – 17, 2026

APPLY AT [KYLEMORE.ND.EDU](https://kylemore.nd.edu)



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