

“I’m a virologist so I am interested in how viruses cause disease. The main virus I work on is RSV, which is a major cause of respiratory infections worldwide. For Breathing Together I head up one of the labs doing experiments on the cells that line the airways. We grow the cells in a very special way and then expose the top layer to the air. This top layer of cells then develop into cells with hair-like extensions called cilia that move in a beating rhythm – just like cells behave in our bodies. We use these specially grown cells to do experiments to see how they respond to viruses and allergens. Breathing Together is a fabulous opportunity to discover why some kids get more sick than others following a virus infection or exposure to allergens like dust mites. The project shows the power of working together in collaboration. Collectively we can do something really big that would never be possible as individual scientists working on our own.”



Ultan, Belfast

