

# Impact of COVID-19 on Breast Cancer Patients and services – A mixed method study

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CANCER  
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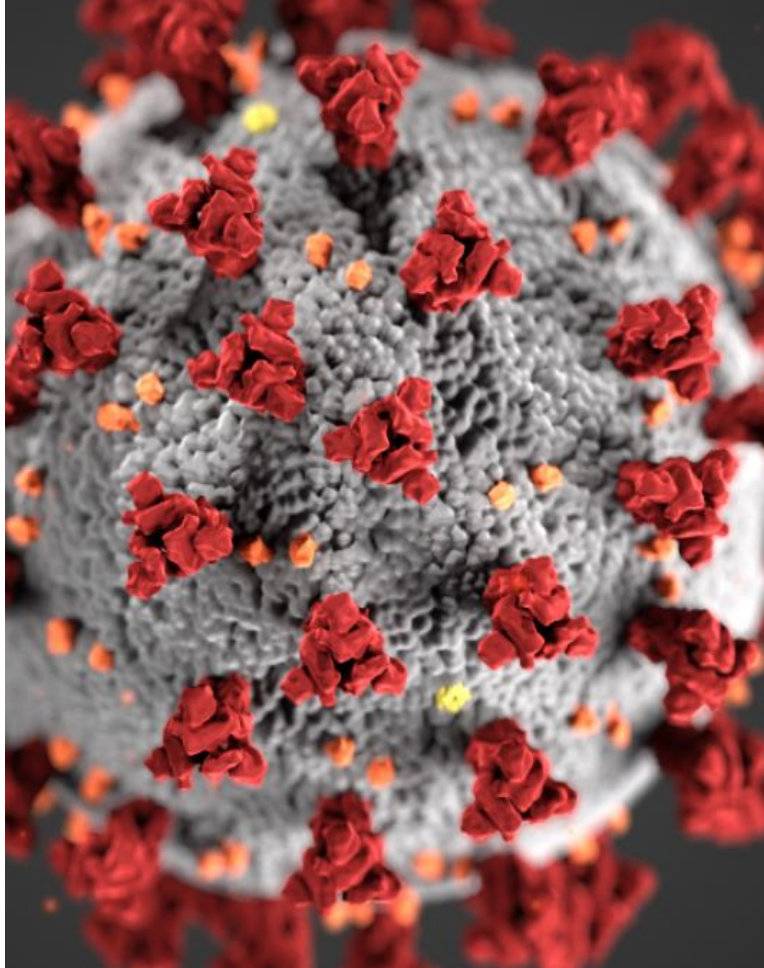


**QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST**



# Known impact of COVID-19 on breast cancer services

- ▶ Screening paused
- ▶ Primary care services more remote
- ▶ Some services changed to private sector
- ▶ Patients' treatment plans changed
- ▶ Shielding of existing cancer patients
- ▶ Pathologically diagnosed cancer numbers fell in NI



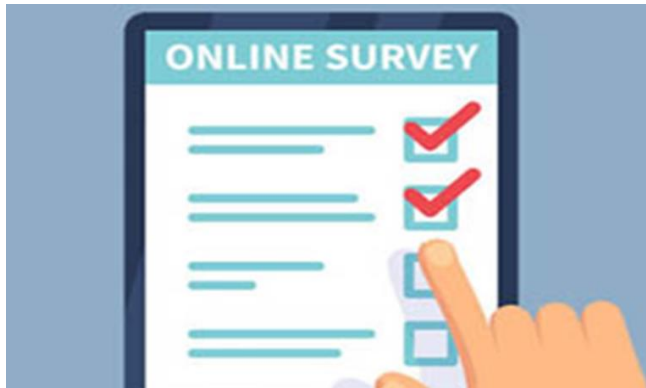
## Aims

- ▶ To document the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on breast cancer patients
- ▶ Make recommendations to improve patient care and outcomes

# Methods



- ▶ Data from patient clinical records



- ▶ Online patient survey



- ▶ Individual interviews

# Objectives - 1

- ▶ Describe routes to diagnosis, stage at presentation, treatments, investigations, molecular markers, and survival for breast cancer patients diagnosed in 2018 (PRE-COVID-19 era) compared to 2020 (COVID-19).
- ▶ Determine demographic differences between PRE-COVID-19 and COVID-19 groups
- ▶ Determine the number of breast cancer patients admitted with COVID-19, their route to diagnosis and outcomes.
- ▶ Measure how investigations and treatments received match NICE guidelines

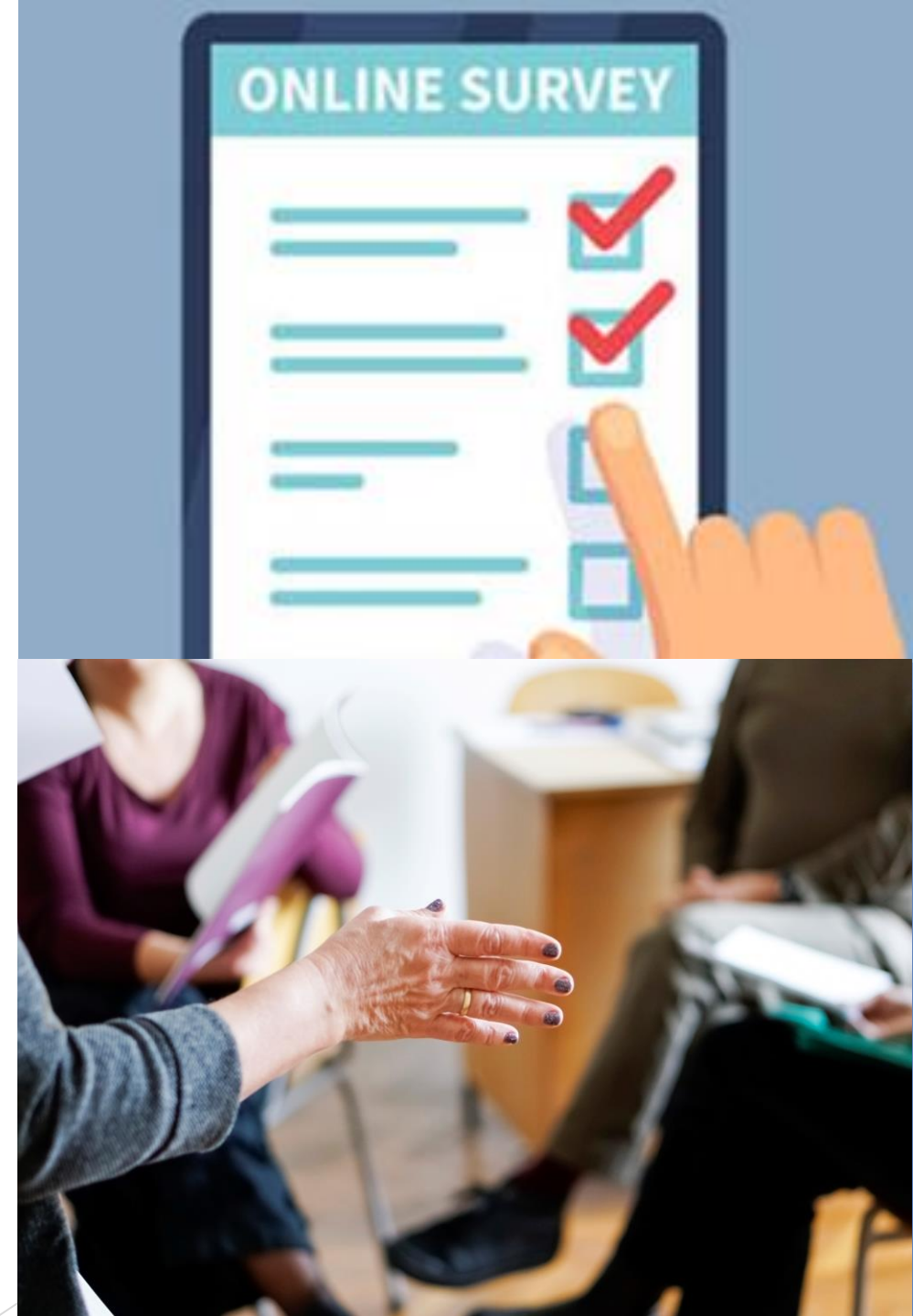
## Objectives - 2

Document psychosocial impact of COVID-19 pandemic on:

- ▶ NI breast cancer patients (male and female)
- ▶ Newly diagnosed and existing cases

via

- ▶ Cross-sectional online survey (open internationally)
- ▶ In-depth interviews (lived experiences)



# Meet the Team



QUB/NICR	HSCT	PPI
Professor Anna Gavin	Ms Lynn Darragh	Miss Ann McBrien
Mrs Sinead Hawkins	Miss Helen Mathers	Ms Imelda Hinds
Mr Gareth Irwin	Mr Brendan McFall	Ms Laura Cosgrove
Dr Lynne Lohfeld	Ms Siobahn O'Neill	Ms Caroline Masterson
Ms Helen Mitchell	Ms Katherine McCrea	
Dr Charlene McShane		
Dr Jamie Roebuck		
Ms Paula Darragh		

Quantitative  
component





# What do we want to know?

Will age at diagnosis increase due to

- i) Aging of population?
- ii) Loss of screen detected cancers?

Will stage at diagnosis increase with less early stage I and more late stage IV?

Will proportion of patients presenting as emergency change?

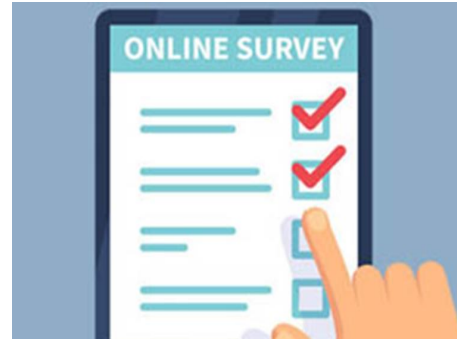
How have treatment schedules changed?

How has COVID-19 affected different socioeconomic groups?

# Mixed Methods component

Dr Charlene McShane & Dr Lynne Lohfeld

# Survey



- ▶ We have developed a survey for breast cancer patients, including validated tools (EQ-5D-5L & WHOQOL-BREF) which will begin collection in July. We are seeking responses from people of any gender who;
  - ▶ were diagnosed with breast cancer when over 18 years old.
  - ▶ have primary, secondary or recurrent breast cancer, or are in remission from breast cancer.

# In-depth interviews - What do we hope to find out?



What is the 'lived experience' of a breast cancer diagnosis and treatment and how has that changed since the COVID-19 pandemic?

Specifically, what is the 'lived experience' of being a man in NI with breast cancer, and how has it changed since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic?

What are the key unmet needs of men and women in NI with breast cancer, and how would you like them met?