BlOmarkers to diagnose Pneumonia



A group of researchers from University College Dublin. Mzuzu University. **Oueen's University Belfast, University of** Galway, and the Malawi **Ministry of Health are** working on identifying new biomarkers to diagnose pneumonia - the number one infectious killer among children under the age of five - more than HIV, tuberculosis, Zika, Ebola and malaria combined.

The project, BlOmarkers TO diagnose PnEumonia 2, follows on from the original BIOTOPE project, funded by the Gates Foundation.

It focuses on the management of childhood pneumonia in Sub-Saharan Africa, BIOTOPF uses an existing database and biobank with cellular networks and smartphone technology to develop models for understanding the severity of pneumonia cases using machine learning. It also develops inexpensive point-ofcare tests to reduce the overprescription of antibiotics that can lead to antimicrobial resistance. **BIOTOPE** will aid clinicians not just working in Malawi and in other developing countries, but also with those working in highincome countries where antibiotic resistance is a growing problem.

