**Ross Cagan, Biography**

Dr. Cagan received his Ph.D. from Princeton University. After a postdoctoral fellowship at UCLA, he achieved the rank of Professor at Washington University School of Medicine (1993-2007), then at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (2007-2020). He is currently Regius Professor of Precision Medicine, Scientific Director of the Wolfson Wohl Cancer Research Centre, Director of the McNab Centre for Cancer Innovation at University of Glasgow, Academic Lead of the UKRI Strength in Places Living Laboratory, and a Wohl Fellow of the Royal Society. He was co-Founder and board member of the biotechnology company Medros Inc. and is currently Board member and Scientific Advisor for the Drosophila company Vivan.

Dr. Cagan is an expert in utilizing Drosophila to explore epithelial biology. Trained as a geneticist and developmental biology, in recent years Dr. Cagan has focused on translational science. He is a pioneer in the use of Drosophila to identify therapeutic leads for cancer (breast, lung, thyroid, colorectal), and inherited genetic diseases (RASopathy, TAUopathy). Taking advantage of a century of powerful genetic tools, his laboratory has developed complex, multigenic disease ‘avatar’ models designed to model aspects of the whole-body complexity of specific patients. Using similar approaches, his team helped validate the first FDA-approved chemotherapeutic for Medullary Thyroid Carcinoma. Working with the chemist Arvin Dar and colleagues, his laboratory has developed a  ‘chemical evolution’ platform that combines genetics with medicinal and computational chemistry to build novel lead compounds that emphasize rational polypharmacology. Leveraging these new technologies, Dr. Cagan led the Center for Personalized Cancer Therapeutics team that developed a personalized fly-to-bedside, open label clinical trial for thyroid and colorectal cancer patients. His current efforts include guiding integration of new technologies to identify treatments for RAS-dependent disease, including working with Lee Cronin and colleagues on a novel ‘chemputer’ to rapidly evolve chemical tools and lead therapeutic compounds. Finally, as Academic Lead of the Living Laboratory, Dr. Cagan works with a team on a large-scale effort to improve healthcare and the biotechnology ecosystem in Scotland.

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