

Prof Ross Cagan

Regius Professor of Precision Medicine - University of Glasgow

Dr. Cagan is a globally recognized leader in using the fruit fly *Drosophila* to model human disease and develop new therapies. After receiving his Ph.D. from Princeton and postdoctoral training at UCLA, he joined the faculty at Washington University School of Medicine, rising to Professor. He later moved to Mount Sinai before being appointed Regius Professor of Precision Medicine at the University of Glasgow in 2020.

He has established three biotechnology companies and, recently, the McNab Centre for Cancer Innovation. A pioneer in fly models of cancer and genetic diseases, Dr. Cagan helped develop a platform combining fly genetics with chemistry to evolve drug leads, validating the first FDA-approved drug for a rare thyroid cancer. His N-of-1 fly-to-bedside clinical trial yielded a novel treatment for Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma, which his team is following up on. More broadly, his work focuses on developing treatments for RAS-driven cancers while also helping guide Scotland's biotechnology ecosystem via his role as Academic Lead of the UKRI Living Laboratory.

“Through an experimental fly-to-bedside clinical trial in NYC, my team successfully treated a patient with advanced ACC. We are building on this experience to determine which other ACC patients are likely to benefit from this treatment: for example, we have established a growing set of new fly and mammalian ACC preclinical and have new candidate therapeutics.”

