



**Bio:** Dr. Merve Zeden is a Cypriot scientist whose passion for microbiology brought her to Imperial College London for her BSc Microbiology degree. She completed her Master of Research in Bacterial Pathogenesis and Infection and pursued her PhD in the Gründling lab investigating the requirement of the signalling nucleotide c-di-AMP for the growth of *Staphylococcus aureus* at Imperial College London.

Merve moved to Ireland in January 2020, for her postdoctoral research in the O’Gara lab at University of Galway to integrate molecular microbiology with antimicrobial resistance (AMR) research. She is now a Research Ireland Pathway Fellow, an Honorary Research Lecturer, and her research group is investigating the molecular mechanisms of AMR and developing targeted therapeutics for ESKAPE pathogens. In Galway, Merve secured grants from the NUI, HRB and internal funds supporting her work. She was recently awarded a 4-year Research Ireland (SFI-IRC) Pathway Fellowship (<https://www.sfi.ie/research-news/news/rising-research-leaders/>), and she is a collaborator partner on a recent grant awarded by the EU Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance (JPIAMR) on AMR Interventions. (<https://www.jpiamr.eu/projects/purify-amr/>).

The AdvanceHE Aurora Leadership Programme encouraged Merve to establish a Research Staff Network, to support researchers within the University of Galway, and she is the Chair of this Network. She is a research staff representative on College of Science and Engineering Research and Innovation committee, Academic Council, Údarás na hOllscoile and the Irish Research Staff Association. She is an Early Career Editorial board member 2024-26 for the American Society Microbiology flagship journal mBio, and is a Galway representative on the Irish Division of the Microbiology Society.