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Queen's leads bowel cancer breakthrough

BY MAURICE FITZMAURICE

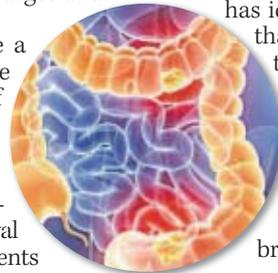
RESEARCHERS at Queen's have made a massive breakthrough in the fight against cancer.

The team behind the discovery describe it as a "ground-breaking therapeutic process that can target and kill bowel cancer cells".

The treatment will be a key tool in tackling the most aggressive form of the illness which conventional treatments have little or no impact on.

The revolutionary technique "may improve survival rates for bowel cancer patients globally".

Dr Nicholas Forsythe, who led the research along with Professor Sandra Van Schaeybroeck and the late Professor Patrick Johnston, said: "This research focused on an aggressive subgroup of colon



TARGET Bowel cancer cells

cancers known as 'BRAF mutants'. These cancers are not only extremely aggressive but they do not respond well to conventional cancer treatments.

"Unfortunately this means patients diagnosed with a BRAF mutant cancer have a very poor prognosis. Our research has identified a cellular process that can be exploited in order to kill these cancer cells.

"Essentially, we can take advantage of the aggressive biology of these cancers and use it against them."

Professor Van Schaeybroeck, added: "This research is good news for bowel cancer patients as further clinical trials investigating

the effect of such agents could improve the survival outcome of patients in Northern Ireland and beyond."

irish@mgn.co.uk

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RESEARCH Dr
Forsythe and Prof
Van Schaeybroeck in
Belfast yesterday