



Rory Johnson is Associate Professor at University College Dublin, where he leads the Laboratory for Genomics of Long Noncoding RNAs (GOLD Lab). His research goal is to understand the roles of long noncoding RNAs (lncRNAs) in cancer and to harness them as therapeutic targets. To achieve this, his team develops genome editing and bioinformatic tools to identify and characterise disease-driving lncRNAs at scale. This approach recently produced the first catalogue of somatically mutated cancer driver lncRNAs.

He holds an MSc in Physics from Imperial College London and completed a Wellcome Trust PhD at the University of Leeds on microRNAs in neurodegenerative disease (2007). After postdoctoral work at the Genome Institute of Singapore, he received Spain's Ramón y Cajal fellowship to join Roderic Guigó's group at the Centre for Genomic Regulation, Barcelona. There, as part of the GENCODE consortium, he contributed to the systematic annotation of the human lncRNA gene catalogue and developed CRISPR-based and computational tools for lncRNA functional discovery.

He founded the GOLD Lab in 2016. The group, now comprising 15 experimental and computational biologists, actively collaborates with international consortia including Genomics England and FANTOM.