

## Sligo Ladies Gaelic Football Association and AbbVie Announce Three-Year Partnership

- Corporate sponsorship reflects AbbVie's commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion (ED&I) in the community
- AbbVie has been sponsoring the Sligo GAA Senior Men's, U-21 and Junior Football teams since 2016
- New partnership means both the ladies and men's football teams in Sligo will now be sponsored by the same company for the first time
- AbbVie is the only multinational pharmaceutical company supporting an inter-county GAA team in either code

Sligo Ladies Gaelic Football Association (LGFA) and biopharmaceutical company AbbVie announced a three-year sponsorship at the company's facility on the Manorhamilton Road, Sligo today.

The arrangement will see the AbbVie logo appear on the Senior ladies' football team jerseys until the end of the 2022. The new 2020 season Sligo LGFA jersey will be revealed in advance of the team's Division 3 Round 5 fixture against Longford on March 8<sup>th</sup> next.

The partnership provides the Sligo LGFA with much needed funding to help develop and grow the ladies game throughout the county.

AbbVie also sponsors of the Sligo men's county GAA Senior, U-21 and Junior football team jerseys.

This new sporting partnership further underscores the biopharma company's support of local communities and sports organisations, whilst demonstrating a firm commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion (ED&I) practices, both inside and outside of the organisation.

AbbVie's support of wellbeing, mental health initiatives and female employee development has also helped the company secure an Ibec KeepWell award and recognition as a Great Place to Work for Women by the Great Place to Work Institute.

AbbVie's new partnership with the Sligo LGFA also means that it is now the only multinational pharmaceutical company in Ireland to support an inter-county team in either code regardless of gender.

AbbVie has two plants in Sligo, one in Ballytivnan and the other at Manorhamilton Road. Many of the company's 400-plus employees are currently involved in GAA and the LGFA or have previously played the sport at various levels.

Commenting on the sponsorship, **Columba McGarvey, Site Director AbbVie Ballytivnan, Sligo said:** "We are delighted to be extending our existing sporting partnership to include the Sligo Ladies LGFA senior football team. AbbVie has been a strong supporter of the men's teams for the past four years and this new partnership is a natural progression for our company, particularly as many of our female employees are involved in the sport."

**Darren Egan, Site Director AbbVie Manorhamilton Road, Sligo** added: “Embracing equality, diversity and inclusion is fundamental to AbbVie and we hope that our support of Sligo LGFA will help to showcase and foster the incredible sporting talent that exists across the county.”

**Chairperson of Sligo LGFA, Raymond Carden** thanked AbbVie for their support and said:

"As chairperson of Sligo LGFA I am delighted that AbbVie, a company with a significant presence in Sligo and across the Northwest, will sponsor the Sligo senior ladies team for the next three years. I am confident that the relationship with AbbVie will benefit the development of ladies football in Sligo and, as a county board, we are striving to increase participation at all levels in the county."

**Sligo Senior Ladies Manager, Miceál Bohan** also welcomed the new partnership with AbbVie: "This is a fantastic partnership and provides us with an exciting platform to better promote ladies football in Sligo. In recent years, the excellent work of the Ladies Gaelic Football Association has seen a huge increase in the coverage given to our game and with the partnership of our new sponsors, Sligo LGFA is confident that we can continue to grow in the years to come."

Ends...

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**About AbbVie**

Founded in 2013, AbbVie is a global, research-driven biopharmaceutical company committed to developing innovative advanced therapies for some of the world’s most complex and critical conditions. It employs more than 700 employees at five manufacturing and commercial sites across Ireland. The

company's commercial headquarters is based in Dublin as is a separate international manufacturing and engineering services centre. AbbVie has two manufacturing plants in Sligo and one in Cork.

The company's mission is to use its expertise, dedicated people and unique approach to innovation to markedly improve treatments across four primary therapeutic areas: immunology, oncology, virology and neuroscience. In more than 75 countries, AbbVie employees are working every day to advance health solutions for people around the world. For more information about AbbVie, please visit us at [www.abbvie.com](http://www.abbvie.com). Follow @abbvie on Twitter, Facebook or LinkedIn.

#### **About Sligo LGFA**

Sligo LGFA has been facilitating the provision of football to the female population of Sligo since 1993. There are currently 19 active clubs located throughout the county. Sligo LGFA runs competitions within the county to cater for u10/u12/u14/u16/Minors/Junior/Intermediate/Senior and 'mothers and others' teams. Sligo LGFA also has county teams competing at u14/u16/Minor and Intermediate level.

During 2019, Sligo Intermediate team reached the 2019 National League Final and for the past three years Sligo reached the TG4 All-Ireland semi-finals.

The team can compete in the following:

- Connacht colleges winter league
- LIDL National League Division 3
- Connacht Intermediate Championship
- TG4 All Ireland Intermediate Championship

There has never been a more exciting time in Ladies Gaelic Football than now. It is the fastest-growing sport in the country, last September's TG4 All-Ireland finals attracted a record breaking **56,114** attendance to Croke Park, a world record for a standalone female sporting event last year.