

# Independent Scientific Advocacy Group

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - 23 MARCH 2021

## Covid-19 Economics – An International Perspective

This Wednesday, March 24th 2021, from 12.00-1.00pm, ISAG will host its weekly webinar live on Zoom.

Click here to register:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_e59hvOGotSa5bv2QUFY7Eg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_e59hvOGotSa5bv2QUFY7Eg)

Over a year into the Covid-19 pandemic, we will discuss the international economic lessons that have been learned, and the analysis of costs and benefits of public health measures to control Covid-19.

Hosted by **James Merrick**, we will begin with a situation update, followed by presentations from our two invited speakers, **Francesco Grigoli**, Economist with the International Monetary Fund, and **Anna Scherbina**, Professor at Brandeis University. We will conclude with Q&A and a panel discussion. Topics covered will include the comparative economic performance of countries that achieved and maintained suppression of Covid-19, the distributive effects within societies of different Covid-19 control policies, cost-benefit analysis of public health policy and measures, and the mapping of international lessons to Ireland and Europe.

**The Independent Scientific Advocacy Group (ISAG) is offering the group's expertise and experience to work together with the Government and the people to make Ireland the first country in Europe to aim for Zero Covid, and as such we welcome all members of the public, the media and the Oireachtas to attend.**

-ENDS-

## **BACKGROUND DETAILS:**

**ISAG** (Independent Scientific Advocacy Group) is offering the group's expertise and experience to work together with Governments and the people to aim for Zero Covid, meaning zero mystery cases in our shared islands. Founded by Anthony Staines, Gerry Killeen, and Tomás Ryan in June 2020, I.S.A.G. is independent of the government. All of our members are volunteers and they freely commit their time every week to discuss the COVID-19 science that underpins our governments' response strategies. ISAG is a multidisciplinary group of scientists, academics, and researchers who have come together to advocate for a SARS-CoV-2 elimination strategy. I.S.A.G. has published several papers outlining its strategy and recommendations, and you can find them at [www.isagcovid19.org](http://www.isagcovid19.org)

## **FURTHER INFORMATION:**

### **The Great Lockdown: Disseminating the Economic Effects**

**Francesco Grigoli PhD**, International Monetary Fund and Georgetown University

<https://sites.google.com/view/francescogrigoli>

### **Cost-Benefit Analysis of Covid-19 Policies**

**Professor Anna Scherbina**, Brandeis University

<http://people.brandeis.edu/~ascherbina>

**James Merrick PhD**, Webinar Host on behalf of ISAG. Founder of Geal Research, published author in economics, operations research, and engineering journals; holder of graduate degrees from MIT and Stanford University.