



CoMH eNEWS

Issue 34 | November 2019

College of Medicine and Health, UCC



University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

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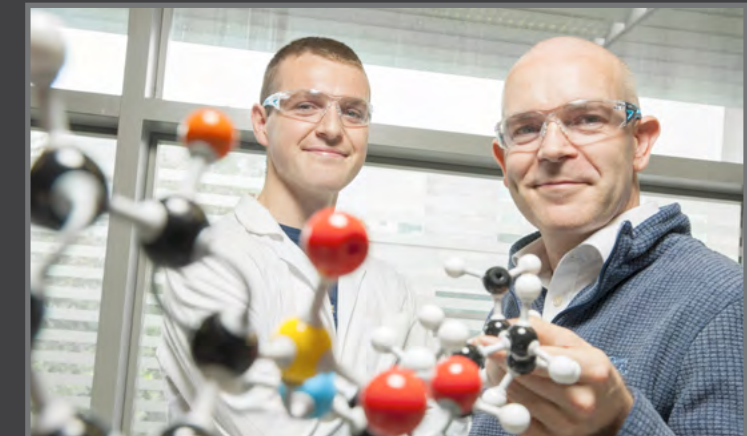
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World's First for ASSERT



Research



Innovation District



Launch



Event



Congratulations





Dear Colleagues,

November has arrived and there is a wonderfully distinct autumnal feel to the UCC campus, a perfect time to reflect on the surge of activity that came with the start of term and the many exciting developments and activities across the College. I am delighted to share with you some of the highlights since September in this bumper packed edition of the College of Medicine and Health Newsletter.

The start of the new term brought with it some particularly exciting events such as the high profile launch of the ASSERT Centre's partnership with Vodafone becoming the first 5G telemedicine and medical robotics training centre in the world. This is a tremendous achievement for all involved who are to be commended for their work in bringing such a significant agreement to fruition. Meanwhile, the work of Dr Tim O'Sullivan's team in developing new molecules which will significantly improve antibiotics' effects against superbugs is another example of the boundary-pushing research being conducted across the College.

The Irish College of General Practitioners 'Quick Reference Guide on Dementia' was launched in September by our good friend and supporter of the College, Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People Jim Daly. Dr Tony Foley and Dr Aisling Jennings of the Department of General Practice developed the guidelines along with Prof Greg Swanwick of TCD. At the launch Mr Pat McLoughlin, CEO of the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland welcomed the introduction of this guide and stated that dementia should be recognised

as a chronic disease, emphasising that every effort needs to be made to care for people suffering with dementia, in or close to their own community. The beginning of the new semester saw fresh faces not only in the student body, but also in the College faculty. Professor Roisin Connolly was appointed as the Professor Gerald O'Sullivan Chair in Cancer Research at UCC, Cork University Hospital and Mercy University Hospital in September. Roisin joins us from the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Centre (SKCCC) at Johns Hopkins, US, where she was an Associate Professor of Oncology and Co-Director of the Developmental Therapeutics Program. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Professor Roisin Connolly and wish her every success in her new role.

Midway through the semester, on Friday October 25th, the CoMH joined forces with our colleagues in CIT and Cork City Council to host an exciting meeting in the Kingsley Hotel with a focus on 'Planning Cork's Innovation District'. We were honoured to have distinguished guests Dennis Lower, CEO of the Cortex Innovation Community in St Louis, Missouri, and Steve Orr, CEO of Northern Ireland's Science Park 'Catalyst Inc.' present to speak on their successes in fostering an eco-system of collaboration. The meeting was attended by over 70 stakeholders, and we were honoured to have An Tánaiste, Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade Mr Simon Coveney TD and Mr Michael Martin TD, Leader of Fianna Fáil and the Lord Mayor of Cork John Sheehan, who gave a welcome address. I presented an overview of the current level of relevant business activity in the region alongside the many entrepreneurship and innovation supports in UCC

and CIT. This overview portrayed a rich ecosystem in our region which is ripe for development using the innovation district model. The plan is to accommodate new businesses alongside established ones in an area where people can live, work and play and which is well served by amenities. The Curraheen development will be seeded by the relocation of a new Cork Dental School and Hospital and construction of a Health Innovation Hub Building which will accommodate up to 25 businesses.

Congratulations to our researchers who have had some impressive success in securing research grants in recent times. Professor Jeannie Jackson and Dr Helen Lynch in the School of Clinical Therapies were successful in their application to the highly competitive Marie Curie Innovative Training Network (ITN) programme, and were awarded €2.2M to co-ordinate the project. I would also like to congratulate Prof Ella Arensman, Dr Birgit Greiner, National Suicide Research Foundation, School of Public Health and colleagues, who were awarded funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 fund for the Mental Health Promotion and Intervention in Occupational Settings (MINDUP) study.

Some other notable successful applicants include INFANT's Dr Keelin O'Donoghue and NPEC's Dr Sarah Meaney, who have been awarded €369,000 through the HRB Investigator Led Programme (ILP) call for the project "Study of the Impact of Dedicated Recurrent Miscarriage Clinics". Dr Fergus McCarthy, who has a joint UCC/HSE appointment and works with INFANT, and who has been awarded over

€300,000 for a HRB Secondary Data Analysis Project (SDAP) for his study "Development and validation of a risk stratification tool for assessment of maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality using data from the National Maternal and Newborn Clinical Management System". I would also like to congratulate Professor Gene Dempsey of INFANT, who was awarded over €300,000 from conect4children to coordinate the Irish arm of the €6,000,000 multi-centre TREOCAPA study which will assess the effectiveness of paracetamol in preterm babies with a patent ductus arteriosus.

There are many research grant applications that although excellent do not make it first time around. We should be encouraged to see this level of success and extend our appreciation not only to those who succeed but especially those who make the effort.

Speaking of effort, I would like to congratulate the seven successful CiSA award teams. It was heartening to hear of their research plans, and I am very grateful to Pfizer, Boston Scientific, Laya Healthcare, and GSK for their support of the College which makes the provision of seed funding for promising research ideas possible.

I hope you all enjoy reading our autumn newsletter and would like to thank all the contributors!

Professor Helen Whelton

Head of College of Medicine and Health University College Cork

ASSERT becomes the world's first 5G telemedicine and medical robotics training centre

The ASSERT Centre (Application of the Science of Simulation to Education, Research and Medical Technology) at UCC has entered into a landmark partnership with Vodafone Ireland, becoming the first 5G telemedicine and medical robotics training centre in the world. The announcement was made by the Táiniste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney TD, at the launch event on Tuesday the 13th of August 2019.

ASSERT enables clinicians, industry and academics across a broad spectrum of healthcare research to design, develop, deploy and trial innovative and disruptive healthcare solutions, in a simulated healthcare environment that deliver real world solutions for healthcare problems in the developed and developing world.

The ASSERT Centre showcases real-time monitoring, telemedicine, and robotic surgery, integrated with wearable Internet of Medical

Things-based devices. This provides a consolidated ecosystem that truly digitizes healthcare to provide personalised, precise, predictive, participatory and timely healthcare that benefits patients, their care-givers, healthcare professionals and healthcare providers.

The ground-breaking 5G announcement is set to revolutionise healthcare delivery across Ireland and the world, with ASSERT in Cork to become a Vodafone 5G global centre of IoMT excellence for healthcare and end-to-end solution development.

Vodafone's new 5G network consists of fully standardised Ericsson 5G, which is being deployed using Ericsson AIR 6488 Radio and Baseband 6639. This game-changing network will support many other new technologies - including artificial intelligence, the internet of things, connected cities and self-driving cars.



Pictured above (l-r): Professor Barry O'Reilly, Director of ASSERT, Clinical Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Anne O'Leary, Chief Executive of Vodafone Ireland; An Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Simon Coveney, TD; Professor Helen Whelton, Head of College of Medicine & Health, UCC. Photo: Naoise Culhane

Breakthrough in the fight against superbugs

New molecules, developed by researchers in UCC, have been shown to dramatically improve the effectiveness of existing antibiotics against several strains of infectious diseases and will help address the growing problem of antimicrobial resistance.

Many bacteria have developed resistance to current antibiotics by producing biofilms which shield the bacteria against the effects of the antibiotic. The significant threat posed by resistant microbes to human health has been highlighted by several international bodies, including the World Health Organisation.

The molecules developed by UCC interfere with the bacteria's native communication system and prevent the microbes from producing the biofilm in the first place. In this way, the antibiotic is able to treat the infection as normal.

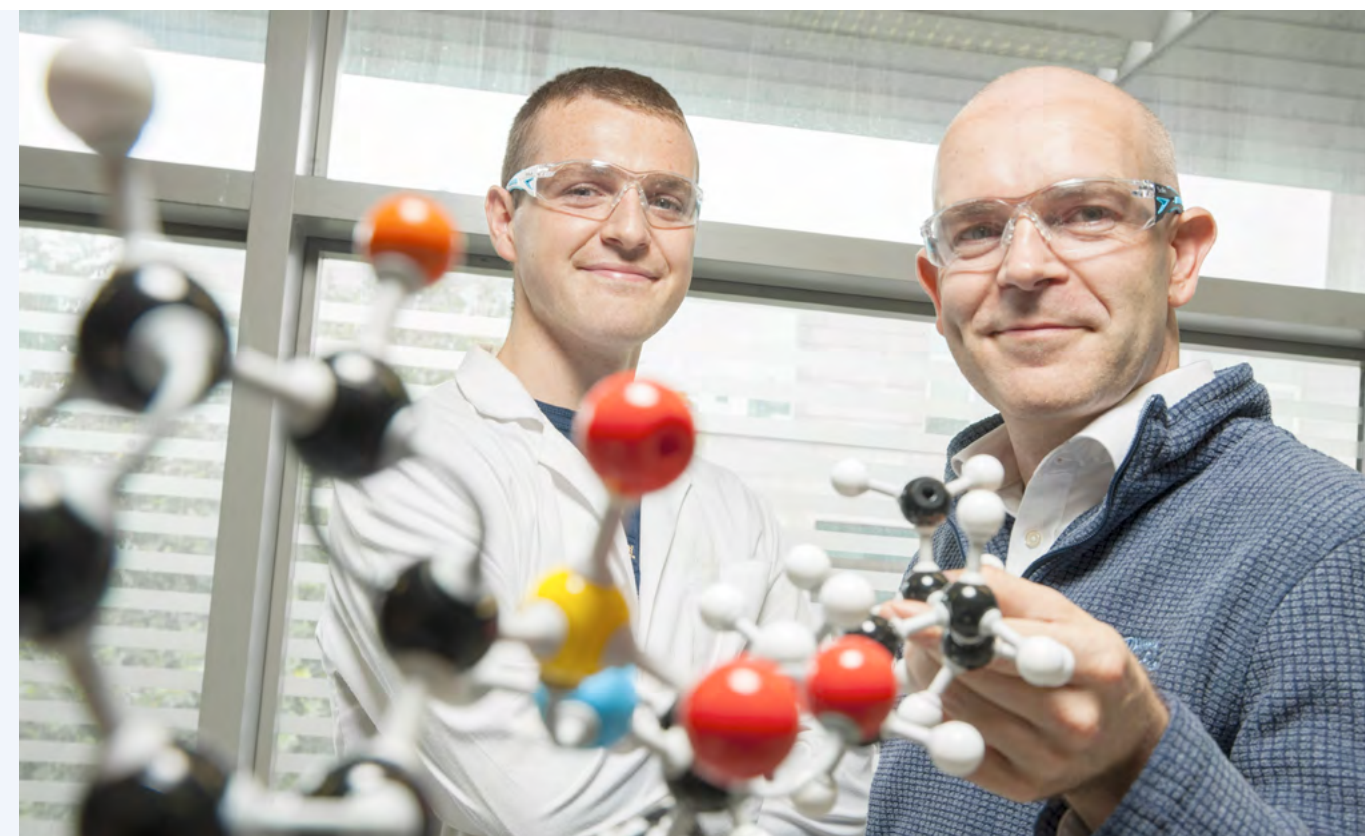
The addition of the new molecules made existing antibiotics 16 times more effective at treating

infection. The study is reported on in global and national media today.

The research was spearheaded by Dr Tim O'Sullivan who is based in the Schools of Pharmacy and Chemistry at UCC. His team of Conor Horgan, an Irish Research Council funded postgraduate researcher, and Dr Pavan Kumar, a Marie Sklodowska-Curie postdoctoral fellow, created the new molecules. The discovery grew out of an international collaboration with Dr Pol Huedo and microbiologists at the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

Individual bacteria often communicate with one another in a colony by producing so-called signal molecules. Different strains use different signal molecules to communicate with each other, similar to the various languages spoken by humans.

Dr O'Sullivan said that the team had analysed the native signal molecules and then



made molecular mimics which “effectively end up confusing the bacteria and prevent them from launching their standard resistance countermeasures.”

“As more microbes develop resistance to current antibiotics, and relatively few new antibiotics are coming to market, we need to identify new ways of dealing with resistant infections. The approach outlined in our work has significant potential”, he added.

Dr Pol Huedo commented that the findings “validate the strategy of interfering with bacterial communication to combat

difficult-to-treat infections caused by resistant organisms.”

Research is currently on-going within the team on further improving their new molecules and identifying additional strains of bacteria as potential targets.

The study was published in the journal *Future Medicinal Chemistry*.

Pictured above: Conor Horgan, postgraduate researcher, and Dr Tim O'Sullivan, Schools of Pharmacy and Chemistry who spearheaded the UCC research. Photo: Daragh McSweeney/Provision



Nursing faculty and students from University of Detroit Mercy and Mary Immaculate College visit the School of Nursing and Midwifery

The School of Nursing and Midwifery were delighted to host a visit from nursing faculty and students from University of Detroit Mercy and colleagues from Mary Immaculate College, Limerick on the 21st of June.

The visit highlighted how similar the challenges and opportunities are for nursing both in Ireland and the US and the School hopes to continue to develop these kinds of conversations and connections in the future.

The School would like to thank Margaret McKiernan and Corina Naughton for their hard work organising and facilitating this visit.

Pictured above left: Cepta Kennedy International Office UL, Andrea Kwasky University of Detroit Mercy, Professor Josephine Hegarty, Professor Corina Naughton UCC, and Nursing faculty and students from University of Detroit Mercy USA.



Dr Roisin Connolly appointed Professor Gerald O'Sullivan Chair of Cancer Research at UCC

Professor Roisin Connolly was appointed as the Professor Gerald O'Sullivan Chair in Cancer Research at UCC and Cork University Hospital in September. Roisin joins the university from the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center (SKCCC) at Johns Hopkins, US, where she was an Associate Professor of Oncology and Co-Director of the Developmental Therapeutics Program. She graduated with a 1st class honors medical degree from Trinity College, Dublin in 2001 and completed medical oncology fellowship training in both Ireland and at Johns Hopkins. She joined the Breast and Ovarian Cancer Program faculty at Hopkins in 2011.

Professor Connolly has expertise in the development of biomarkers of response to anti-cancer therapies, and the design and conduct of clinical trials that test investigational new drugs in the treatment of patients with both early- and late-stage cancers.

She has led numerous multicenter clinical trials in collaboration with the Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program (CTEP) at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the Translational Breast Cancer Research Consortium (TBCRC), and the Eastern Co-operative Oncology Group (ECOG)-ACRIN in the US. Professor Connolly is Study Chair for the international phase III ECOG-ACRIN study (E2112) investigating the epigenetic agent entinostat in combination with hormonal therapy in patients with metastatic breast cancer. She recently received the prestigious ECOG-ACRIN Young Investigator Award 2019 for excellence in clinical investigation.

Professor Connolly is recognised internationally as a clinical/translational researcher in the field of targeted therapeutics and epigenetics. The College staff wish Roisin a warm welcome to the university.

New Quick Reference Guide on Dementia Launched



Pictured above (l-r): Mr Fintan Foy Chief Executive Officer of the Irish College of General Practitioners; Mr Jim Daly, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Health with responsibility for Mental Health and Older People; Dr Tony Foley, Lecturer, Department of General Practice, UCC.

The Irish College of General Practitioners Quick Reference Guide on Dementia was launched on the 10th of September by the Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People Jim Daly. At the launch Mr Pat McLoughlin, CEO of the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland welcomed the launch of the guide and stated that dementia should be recognized as a chronic disease. He emphasised that every effort needs to be made to care for people suffering with dementia, in or close to their own community.

The guide was written by Dr Tony Foley and Dr Aisling Jennings of the Department of General Practice, along with Professor Greg Swanwick of TCD and Tallaght University Hospital. The document aims to provide an overview of current guidelines and clinical evidence in the management of dementia in general practice and to explore the key areas around dementia diagnosis, disclosure, management, and support of patients and their families.

Click [HERE](#) to access the Guide.

School of Clinical Therapies awarded €2.2M to coordinate H2020 Marie Curie Innovative Training Network



Professor Jeannie Jackson and Dr Helen Lynch from the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy in the School of Clinical Therapies were successful in their application to the highly-competitive Marie Curie Innovative Training Network (ITN) programme. The ITN supports competitively selected joint research training and/or doctoral programmes, implemented by partnerships of universities, research institutions, research infrastructures, businesses, SMEs, and other socio-economic actors from different countries across Europe and beyond.

P4Play will be the first trans-European Occupational Science PhD programme in the study of play occupation and play deprivation, and their impact on the health and wellbeing of children.

P4Play is a partnership between four Departments of Occupational Science/Therapy in Ireland, Sweden, Scotland and Switzerland along with fifteen partner organisations including industry, policy advisors, NGO advocacy groups and designers of play materials. The network advocates for the rights of the child to play and their goal is to

improve the capacity to translate play knowledge into solutions for play provision and socio-spatial inclusion in Europe.

P4Play will train 8 excellent early stage researchers (ESRs) from all over Europe to translate and implement innovative and entrepreneurial play solutions to health and wellbeing of diverse children, families, and communities.



Pictured above: Professor Jeannie Jackson, Head of the School of Clinical Therapies and Dr Helen Lynch, Director of the Occupational Science and Therapy Graduate Studies programme.



CiSA Research Award Winners

CiSA is an exciting new seed funding scheme for new research collaborations between College of Medicine and Health (CoMH) staff in the member Schools (Clinical Therapies, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing and Midwifery, Pharmacy and Public Health) and all healthcare aligned staff in affiliated clinical institutions and other care organisations affiliated to the South South-West Hospital Group (SSWHG), and the Bons Secours Hospital, Cork. Thanks to the generous philanthropic support of the College of Medicine and Health industry partners including Pfizer, Laya Healthcare, GSK, and Boston Scientific, the College was able to offer awards of up to €10,000 to support projects from October 2019 to September 2020. The funding is to be used to inspire innovation, enhance research, encourage inter-disciplinary working. These awards provide seed funding, with a view to providing funding at a critical time in early research, and positioning them to apply for larger research grants in the future. The programme will run annually from now on with an aim to turn the launch event into a College-wide conference.



Pictured left: Professor Helen Whelton giving an address at the launch ceremony.

Congratulations to the successful teams:

Dr Margaret Curtin, Dr Claire Hayes, Dr Maria O'Shea and Dr Olga Buckley – *Qualitative Evaluation of a Paediatric Haematology Oncology Outreach Service at Mercy University Hospital.*

Dr Mark G. Rae and Dr Suzanne Timmons – *How does cerebrospinal fluid from Alzheimer's disease patients affect human cortical forebrain cerebroid form and function?*

Mr Chris CH Lim, Mr Michael Ita, Dr Noel Fanning, Dr André Toulouse – *Characterisation of serum and cerebrospinal fluid biomarkers of angiographic cerebral vasospasm (ACV) and delayed cerebral ischemia (DCI) in aneurysmal subarachnoid haemorrhage.*

Dr Frances Shiely and Dr Eva Long – *The challenges of recruitment to a randomised trial registry – what information matters to the patient?*

Dr Helen Kelly, Dr Mary O'Dwyer, Professor Nicole Muller and Dr Shinann Buckley O'Sullivan – *Optimising the role of Speech and Language Therapists in Emergency Departments in the integrated care of older people who are frail: Development of a Study Protocol.*

Ms. Laura Gleeson, Professor Stephen Byrne and Dr Daniel Mullane – *Improving Patient Safety Culture in Maternity Care Services within the SSWHG.*

Dr Martina Hayes and Professor Barry Plant – *Oral Health in Adults with Cystic Fibrosis.*



Photo 1 (l-r): Dr Paul Duffy, Global Supply Vice President of Small Molecule Operations Pfizer; Ms Maria O’Shea, SoN&M; Professor Helen Whelton, Head of the College of Medicine and Health; Ms Claire Hayes, SoN&M and Mr Joe Devlin, Director of Process Development, Boston Scientific. (Missing is Dr Olga Buckley, Paediatric Oncology/Haematology CNS, Mercy University Hospital).

Photo 2 (l-r): Dr Michael Clarkson, Vice Dean of Research and Innovation in CoMH; Dr Paul Duffy; Dr Suzanne Timmons, Geriatrician, Mercy University Hospital; Dr Mark G. Rae, Department of Physiology; Professor Helen Whelton and Mr Joe Devlin.

Photo 3 (l-r): Dr Michael Clarkson; Dr Paul Duffy; Mr Michael Ita, Research Registrar in Neurosurgery, CUH; Dr André Toulouse, Lecturer, Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience, Professor Helen Whelton and Mr Joe Devlin. (Missing are Mr Chris CH Lim, Consultant Neurosurgeon, CUH and Dr Noel Fanning, Consultant Neuro Radiologist, CUH).

Photo 4 (l-r): Dr Michael Clarkson; Dr Paul Duffy; Ms Niamh O’Shea, HRB CRF-C and HRB TMRN PhD scholar (on behalf of Dr Frances Shiely, SoPH and HRB-CFF-C Director of Education, and Dr Eva long, Nephrologist, CUH), Professor Helen Whelton and Mr Joe Devlin.

Photo 5 (l-r): Dr Michael Clarkson; Dr Paul Duffy; Dr Shinann Buckley O’Sullivan, Cork Kerry Community Healthcare, UHK and KIDS & CAMHS Kerry; Dr Helen Kelly, SoCT; Professor Nicole Muller; Head of SoCT; Professor Helen Whelton and Mr Joe Devlin.

Photo 6 (l-r): Dr Michael Clarkson; Dr Paul Duffy; Dr Martina Hayes, Dr Mairead Harding, Professor Declan Millet, Consultant In Orthodontics, Dental School & Hospital; Professor Helen Whelton and Mr Joe Devlin.

Photo 7 (l-r): Dr Michael Clarkson; Dr Paul Duffy; Ms Laura Gleeson, SoP; Professor Stephen Byrne, Head of SoP and founder of the anti-coagulation clinic in CUH; Professor Helen Whelton and Mr Joe Devlin. (Missing is Dr Daniel Mullane – Consultant Anaesthetist, Mallow General Hospital).

Plans Commence for Innovation District in Cork

Friday the 25th of October was an exciting day for the future of innovation in Cork as key stakeholders from University College Cork, Cork Institute of Technology and Cork City Council hosted a meeting for the planning of Cork's first innovation district.

Members from the research, business and education sectors were invited to the Kingsley Hotel to contribute to a roundtable discussion on the development of an innovation district at a UCC owned site in Curraheen. This innovation district on the periphery of Cork city would provide an environment for business, innovation, living and culture to interact. It would also provide an opportunity for large-scale businesses to engage with start-ups.

Barry O'Connor, President at Cork Institute of Technology, commented on the development, "The Innovation District has real potential for cross institutional input that will benefit the Cork and Munster regions across health; research; business and entrepreneurship, which in turn will boost our local and national economy."

Following a welcome address from the Lord Mayor of Cork John Sheehan, those attending the meeting were addressed by Dennis Lower, President and CEO of Cortex Innovation Community in the U.S., and Steve Orr, Chief Executive Officer of Catalyst Inc located in Northern Ireland. Both speakers presented on their success in fostering an eco-system of collaboration resulting in commercial benefit at their innovation communities.

Professor Helen Whelton, Head of the College of Medicine and Health at University College Cork, also presented some insights into the proposed capital development plans for the Cork Dental School and Hospital and Innovation Health Building, also to be located on the



Curraheen site. Of this plan Professor Whelton said, "The relocation of the Cork Dental School and Hospital to a 55-acre site in Curraheen is intended to act as a catalyst for the development of the Innovation District, a home for start-ups creating a networking environment."

The event concluded with a brainstorming session wherein attendees collaborated to generate ideas for the implementation of Cork's innovation district, which were shared and recorded for future use. These will provide the foundation for the next steps in this exciting new district.

Pictured above (l-r): Mr Denis Lower, CEO of Cortex Innovation Community; Professor Patrick O'Shea, President of UCC; Mr Steve Orr, CEO of Catalyst Inc; Mr Simon Coveney TD, An Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade; Professor Helen Whelton, Head of the College of Medicine and Health UCC; Dr Barry O'Connor, President of CIT; Professor Anita Maguire, Vice President for Research & Innovation UCC; Mr Micheál Martin TD, Leader of Fianna Fáil; Mr Fearghal Reidy, Director of Strategic & Economic Development Cork City Council; Professor John Higgins, Head of Obstetrics & Gynaecology UCC.



UCC Graduate Dr Sinead Flanagan crowned Rose of Tralee 2019

Graduate of the School of Medicine Dr Sinead Flanagan has been crowned the Rose of Tralee 2019. Dr Flanagan grew up in Mungret, Co. Limerick, and qualified as a physiotherapist in the University of Limerick before commencing her studies in UCC. She was awarded the Dr H. H. Stewart Medical Scholarship in 2016 and graduated from UCC last May. 'The Limerick Rose' currently works as a junior doctor in Mallow and hopes to have a career specialising in infectious diseases.

The staff of the College of Medicine and Health wish to congratulate Dr Flanagan on this prestigious achievement.



Dr Siobhan Murphy at the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland Intern Study Day

Dr Siobhan Murphy recently won a medal for her Platform / Case Presentation (Medicine): 'The "peanut fear" - overcoming a child's anxiety of immunotherapy' at the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland (RAMI) Intern Study Day which was held in the Mater Hospital Dublin in Spring. Siobhan is a 2018 UCC graduate of Medicine and was an Intern in the South Intern Network in 2018/2019.

Pictured above (l-r): Professor Liam Plant, South Intern Network Coordinator, Dr Siobhan Murphy, prize winner, and Ms Geraldine McNamee, South Intern Network Administrator.



Pictured above (l-r): Isobel Cuddigan, Gillian O’Keeffe, Fiona Hogan and Kate Flahive.

National Health Fusion Team Challenge

Four students from the College of Medicine and Health recently represented UCC at the National Health Fusion Team Challenge competition in the University of Limerick. This is an interprofessional competition for healthcare students whereby students work collaboratively on a patient case over several weeks and present their patient management plan at the competition. Our team was comprised of Pharmacy student Fiona Hogan, Nursing student Kate Flahive, Medicine student Gillian O’Keeffe, and Speech and Language student Isobel Cuddigan.

The students delivered a very comprehensive management plan, showcasing skills of teamwork, communication and interprofessional collaboration. The team was mentored by Dr Aoife Fleming, Lecturer in Clinical Pharmacy, School of Pharmacy UCC and supported by all departments in the College.



Pharmacy Education Research Group Learning and Teaching Workshop

On the 29th May, the Pharmacy Education Research Group at the School of Pharmacy hosted a learning and teaching workshop focusing on feedback and comparative judgement. These well-attended workshops were delivered by experts in the area, Dr Naomi Winstone from The Surrey Assessment and Learning Lab, University of Surrey, and Dr Jill Barber from the University of Manchester.

Pictured above (l-r): Members of the Pharmacy Education Research Group and the guest speakers; Dr Aoife Fleming, Dr Teresa Barbosa, Dr Naomi Winstone, Dr Suzanne McCarthy, Dr Jill Barber, Mr Kieran Dalton.

International Summer School Participants Enjoy Academic and Cultural Experiences at the School of Pharmacy

UCC School of Pharmacy hosted its fourth International Summer School, an integral element of the ongoing collaboration between UCC School of Pharmacy and Future University in Egypt (FUE). A novel element of the Summer School in August 2019 was the combination of topics taught – for the first time ever, students learned about Advanced Topics in both Clinical Pharmacy and Industrial Pharmacy from staff of UCC School of Pharmacy. In previous years, the International Summer School focused on either Clinical Pharmacy (2016, 2017) or Industrial Pharmacy (2018). The Advanced Topics Summer School delivered in 2019 was an intensive period of teaching and learning delivered through active teaching methods, including workshops, tutorials, practical laboratory sessions, and contextualised by experiential learning visits to the Biopharma Training Centre, Abbvie Cork, the Mercy University Hospital, Cork University Hospital and Boots Ireland.

Eighteen students from FUE, along with two FUE staff members attended the International Summer School, which was led by Dr Maria Donovan from UCC School of Pharmacy. While the academic schedule was very full, there was also some time to enjoy cultural experiences in Cork, including tours of UCC, Cork City, Spike Island, Titanic Experience and an evening of Irish culture at Céilí Cois Locha.

The 4th International Summer School has now drawn to a close, but was a very successful and enjoyable experience for students and staff alike.



Pictured above: Students and staff from FUE, with staff of UCC School of Pharmacy, celebrating all students having successfully completed the Summer School at the Parchment Ceremony.

Pictured left: Mr Kieran Dalton hosting an active learning workshop on the pharmaceutical management of cardiovascular conditions in UCC School of Pharmacy.

Joint Annual Scientific Meeting of Society for Social Medicine and the International Epidemiology Association European Congress



The Joint Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society for Social Medicine & Population Health (the UK and Ireland's leading population health conference) and the International Epidemiology Association European Congress took place from 4th to the 6th of September.

The conference was organised and hosted by the School of Public Health in UCC. Over 300 delegates from all over the world were in attendance, ranging from senior academics to postgraduate students. Topics covered included epidemiology, health services research, psychology, public health and social sciences.



Keynote lectures were delivered by Professor Kenneth Rothman of Boston University, Professor Margaret Whitehead of the University of Liverpool, and Professor Valerie Beral of the University of Oxford. A poster display covering topical issues such as hypertension in pregnancy, the economic impact of diabetes, and the relationship between BMI and adult physical functionality provided plentiful material for discussion and debate during the downtime between lectures.

Pictured top left: Professor Hazel Inskip, Lord Mayor Cllr John Sheehan, Professor Patricia Kearney, Professor Ivan Perry and School Manager Declan Whelan Curtin at the welcome reception. **Top right:** Professor Hazel Inskip and Interventions and Stakeholders' perspectives rapid fire presentation winner Emmy Racine from the School of Public Health. **Bottom left:** Professor Ken Rothman delivering his keynote lecture. **Bottom right:** Professor Helen Whelton speaking at the opening ceremony.



**Ali Rose Sisk:
masters student,
registered nurse,
and developer of
innovative time-
saving software
for nurses**

1. The software you developed saves nurses time on paperwork and allows them to reallocate it on the floor in their ward. Could you explain how it works?

The research suggests we as nurses spend approximately 4 hours per 12-hour shift conducting documentation. As a practicing nurse, I can assure you that some days documentation can take up to eight hours per shift. We are often staying behind after our nursing handover to night/day staff in order to finish our documentation.

My prototype software 'SafeCare' reduces documentation time by 60% and this has been validated in a nursing home unit. It does this by simply removing the need to transcribe information and streamlining data. It provides a user-friendly platform which shows non-compliances and compliances using a simple traffic light system (red=non-compliance, green=compliance).

The aim of the software is to reduce documentation time for nurses whilst simultaneously increasing quality of care and patient contact time. The software has two unique functions that do not exist on the international market to date.

2. You also created a student workshop on dementia communications as part of your master's degree. What kind of activities did students complete as part of this workshop and what do you hope they took away from it?

As part of my Masters degree I co-developed a 'Dementia communication workshop for undergraduate nursing

students based on the VERA framework of dementia communication'. This project was led by my supervisor Professor Corina Naughton who is a Professor of Older Adult Nursing. We delivered a 1.5-hour workshop whereby students learned about the VERA framework which stands for Validation, Emotion, Reassurance and Activity. In the workshop we explored two broad concepts within dementia care 'reality reorientation' and 'validation'. The workshop was dynamic and comprised of information giving, role play and group feedback. The aim of our intervention was to allow students to identify more patient-centered opportunities while on clinical placement and to give students more confidence when working with this particular patient group. Feedback from students was very positive.

3. Do you have any advice for current nursing students who hope to pursue a postgraduate degree?

Do not be deterred by people telling you that you need more clinical experience before you go back to education. By pursuing my educational pathway I was able to contribute so much more in my clinical setting and it also increase my confidence through competence.

4. What were the most important skills you gained while completing your degrees in the College of Nursing and Midwifery?

Ask for help. Absolutely everyone within the school is willing to help you and has some contribution to make to

your knowledge or project. Everyone genuinely wants to see you do well. Other skills I learned are to help students when they are on placement. It doesn't matter if you are a first year undergraduate or an ANP. Give the new student a smile in the morning, point them to the staff room, show them the where the crash trolley is. Actions speak so much louder than words and a smile in the morning can change your day, the wards are tough enough.

5. You mentioned that after six years at UCC, you're continuing your studies at the University of London soon. Looking back, what are some of your favourite memories of your time here?

I absolutely loved my time as an undergraduate here. I really enjoyed our class group and the DARE module. I am still best friends with the friends I made on the very first day here in Brookfield and we still discuss the DARE module. It was undoubtedly the best learning module within the whole course.

6. What plans do you have for your career?

I am going to complete my 3-year PhD within the University of London and hopefully gain some teaching experience. After that I would love to return home to Cork and research further the area of dementia care whilst working within the clinical setting.



Professor Chris Lynch awarded Senior Doctorate at Cardiff University

Professor Chris Lynch, Professor & Consultant in Restorative Dentistry, University Dental School & Hospital, Cork, was awarded a Senior Doctorate at Cardiff University in July 2019.

The title of Professor Lynch's thesis was: "*Evolving milieu and challenges in contemporary clinical dental education*". The award was based on assessment of a submission of a portfolio of published works along with a thesis.

Professor Alastair Sloan, Dean of the Cardiff Dental School said: "I would like to congratulate Chris on his outstanding achievement. A Senior Doctorate is the highest achievable academic qualification. Chris is the third-ever recipient of a Senior Doctorate in Dentistry at Cardiff University. Chris' submission was assessed by a panel of international experts who felt he demonstrated a sustained and significant contribution of international significance to his field. Chris was a senior member of Faculty at the School of Dentistry at Cardiff until his return to Ireland in 2017".

Professor Lynch is a Visiting Professor at Cardiff University. In addition, he serves as Editor-in-Chief of *Journal of Dentistry*. Professor Lynch is also Vice Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

Pictured left: Professor Chris Lynch being congratulated by Professor Colin Riordan, Vice Chancellor, Cardiff University.

Breaking Through: Research to Transform Cancer Treatments Conference 5th and 6th September



Images (l-r): Professor Roisin Connolly speaking at the conference; UCC President Patrick O'Shea speaking at the conference celebratory dinner; The conference audience in Devere Hall; Professor Helen Whelton giving the welcome address at the conference.

The Breaking Through: Research to Transform Cancer Treatments Conference run by Breakthrough Cancer Research took place in Devere Hall on campus on the 5th and 6th of September.

Professor Helen Whelton gave the welcome address at the two-day conference. The conference highlighted the latest findings in translational cancer research and brought together researchers and clinicians across a variety of malignancies. International experts spoke about their research speciality and how that area impacts patients, where the biggest developments have come and what they expect will transform treatment in the next decade. The talks were crafted for a lay

audience and offered a chance to hear from experts on topics such as immunotherapies (Dr Timothy Yap, MD Anderson Cancer Center, USA) chemo-resistance (Kay Macleod, University of Chicago, USA) and survivorship (Eila Watson, Oxford Brookes University). The International speakers were joined by local experts and clinicians and the session was facilitated by Dr Mark Tangney.

In her address, Professor Whelton said "We are now developing clear, focused research themes for our future work, and we have the sense of purpose needed to build on the foundations laid by Professor Gerry O'Sullivan who was such a force for change and innovation in cancer research in this city and beyond."

Speaking about the conference, Orla Dolan, CEO of Breakthrough said: "It has always been a priority of Breakthrough and the research we fund to keep the patient at the forefront of our minds and our goals. Organising this conference, we knew the importance of involving the public and offering them the opportunity to be kept up to date of where we are with cancer research at present, what changes we have made, and where we hope to go."

Breakthrough is an Irish cancer charity focused on research and education and is particularly focused on cancers with a poor prognosis, such as ovarian, malignant melanoma, pancreatic and oesophageal. Breakthrough

facilitate excellence in research by bringing scientists and clinicians together to collaborate with the aim of discovering and developing new effective treatments and cures for patients in Ireland, Europe and Internationally. Breakthrough Cancer Research is leading the way with funding research into cancers with poor prognosis, having already progressed seven treatments from the laboratory to clinical trial. The organisation works closely with multiple hospitals in Cork to ensure its research is responding to the unmet needs of patients with cancers that do not respond to conventional therapies.

For more information about Breakthrough, click [HERE](#).



The Irish Society of Dentistry for Children held its Annual Scientific Meeting during the summer. Each year, the conference is themed around a different topic regarding paediatric dentistry, and this year's theme was 'Trauma - What's new and what should I do?' Cork University Dental School and Hospital (CUDSH) was well represented in the O'Mullane Prize by 4th year students Lauren Chandler, Rosie Donnellan, Brigitte Hudy-Yuffa, and Rachel O'Donoughue and Paediatric Senior House Officer Dr Cal McCarthy.

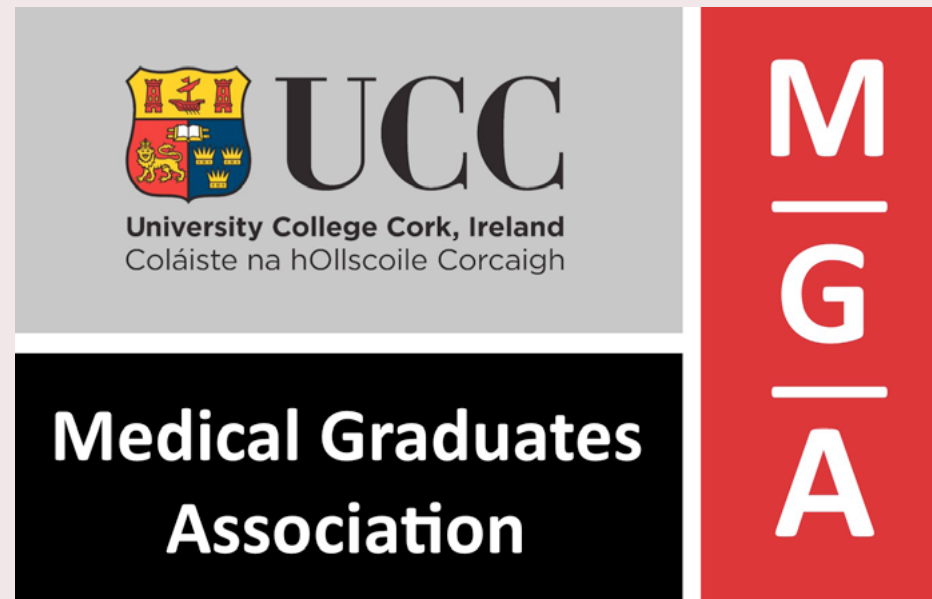
The students presented a comprehensive evidence-based appraisal of the efficacy of Silver Diamine Fluoride compared to conventional restorative techniques for management of caries in the primary dentition. Dr McCarthy's presentation outlined the combined use of micro-abrasion and infiltration with a low viscosity resin to improve the appearance of white opacities on incisors. The Society was joined by a group of internationally renowned experts in the field, including Professor Helen Rodd from the University of Sheffield, Dr Kate Kenny from the University of Leeds, and Dr Eva Lauridsen from the Resource Centre for Rare Oral Diseases in Copenhagen.

The Society was also honoured to be joined on the day by Professors Denis O'Mullane and Tim Holland, who were both members of the organising committee for the first meeting of the Society, which was held in CUDSH 48 years ago. Dr Jenny Parry & Dr Siobhan Lucey were also present to fly the flag for CUDSH.

THE IRISH SOCIETY OF DENTISTRY FOR CHILDREN ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Pictured above (l-r): Dr Jennifer Parry, Consultant Senior Lecturer in Paediatric Dentistry, CUDSH; 4th year dental students Ms Lauren Chandler, Ms Rosie Donnellan, Ms Brigitte Hudy-Yuffa, and Ms Rachel O' Donoughue; Dr Siobhán Lucey, Specialist Lecturer in Paediatric Dentistry, CUDSH; Dr Cal McCarthy, Senior House Officer in Paediatric Dentistry 2018/19, CUDSH; Professor Denis O'Mullane, Emeritus Professor, UCC; Professor Tim Holland. Photo credit: Dr Rona Leith

News from the Medical Graduates Association



Medical Graduates Association Annual Scientific Conference November 16th, 2019

The Medical Graduates Association Annual Scientific Conference will be held in Brookfield Health Sciences Complex G.04 on November 16th, 2019. The Annual Scientific Conference is a multidisciplinary graduate meeting for all medical graduates, staff, and friends of University College Cork organised by the Medical Graduates Association Committee.

A full programme of the speakers and events on the day can be found [HERE](#).

To register, click [HERE](#).



Surgeon Noonan Society Awarded Charity Champions of the Year

The Surgeon Noonan Society were recently awarded Charity Champions of the year at the USI Student Achievement Awards 2019. This award recognises charitable efforts organised by a USI member organisation, student, society or other group and is given to individuals, organisations, or societies which have demonstrated a year-round commitment to fundraising, volunteerism, and outreach. Surgeon Noonan is a registered charity run voluntarily by 4th year medical students. Each year, the society aims to raise over €100,000 for underfunded rural hospitals in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The award comes on the back of many other achievements by the society during the year, including Board of Irish College Societies Best Society (Charity/Civic) 2019 and Best Individual 2019 (David Synnott), UCC Best Society 2019 and Person of the Year (David Synnott), and Board of Irish College Societies Best Promotional Video 2019 (Marathon Noonan).

First Year Occupational Therapy Students 'Wonder' Exhibition at the Jennings Gallery



Each year, the first year Occupational Therapy students have the experience of 'doing' creative activities in module OT1005 Creative Occupations and Health, designed and led by Dr Eithne Hunt, with a designated theme for the students to explore, reflecting the philosophy and content of the year one curriculum. The theme for this year's creative activity sessions and resulting exhibition was "Wonder". The word wonder can mean two things: to experience amazement and to be curious. In their creative sessions, the students were encouraged to reflect on how they experience and cultivate both amazement and curiosity in their lives, aiming to create stronger connections between themselves and the world around them. A picture and words from Dr Christopher Willard, Psychologist and Educational Consultant and Faculty Member at Harvard Medical School, were used as a prompt for the students' reflection and creation: "Look around

you with the fresh eyes and mind of a child, even if it's a place you know well. Keep looking until you discover something you hadn't noticed before. What else might you not be seeing in your life?"

The exhibition was opened on Tuesday 17th September 2019 by Professor Fiona Kearney of the Glucksman Gallery, UCC. Professor Kearney noted how the students' work "embraced a multitude of ideas and approaches to the theme of Wonder. From keen observations of natural phenomena, to joyful memories, wild voyages and colourful investigations" with each artist exploring our world "from a position of both curiosity and amazement".

At the opening, Occupational Therapy student Emer Fenlon read the piece she wrote to accompany her textiles exhibit "One Small Step", stating that "this piece represents the steps I have taken, the decisions

I made that have brought me to UCC and my journey into occupational therapy". Chloe Racine shared her piece on her exhibit "Our Hands; Structured to Heal" reflecting that "in regard to our education thus far, there is one particular thing that I am in awe of, something I think of with the wonder of a child. As part of our study of anatomy in semester one, we learnt about the intricate components of our hands. This includes everything from bones, muscles and tendons to blood vessels and nerves. It is because of this ingenious engineering that we can hold, touch, feel, and most importantly, create. Everything that we do, we do with the miracle of our hands. I included a quote in my piece that resonated with me; "You have two hands, one to help yourself and one to help others". I find the fact that as future therapists we will use our hands to help and to heal to be inspiring. The power of our hands and the good we can do with them is what truly amazes me".

Dr Willard sent a message to the students for their exhibition opening, wishing them "a very successful fun-filled career as you begin this meaningful journey of helping others. My wish for you is to find balance in this work, bringing mindfulness and compassion to all you do."

Above left: An example of the students' work. Print pieces were crafted with the help of Cork Printmakers, who provided the students with access to technical support, equipment and materials over a six-week period. **Top left:** Karyn O'Brien (left) and Mary Fitzgerald. **Below:** Occupational Therapy students. **Above right:** Dr Eithne Hunt, lecturer (left) and Professor Fiona Kearney, Director of the Glucksman Gallery.