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Welcome to the latest edition of our CoMH Newsletter

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Pharmacy and Pharmacology



Partnership



First solo exhibition



Teddy Bear Hospital



Research



One-day workshop



14th May 2015

Dear Colleagues,

It is two years, to the day, since the cabinet signed off on the “Establishment of Hospital Groups as a transition to Independent Hospital Trusts Report”. UCC is delighted to be linked to the South/South West Hospital Group.

Recent events in our hospital system, highlighted in the national media, underscore the importance of the need for a functioning organisational structure. Each new hospital group is substantial, sustainable and large enough to provide comprehensive care of the highest quality. The linkage between these groups and their academic partners is a key element in the new structures. We must ensure that this new exciting element is not lost or damaged as the groups become established.

We have never more urgently needed a new culture, a new attitude and a new beginning in the Irish hospital system.

John R Higgins
Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Head College of Medicine and Health



PHARMACY AND PHARMACOLOGY PROGRAMMES AMONGST WORLD'S TOP FIFTY

The School of Pharmacy, and the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, UCC, have been positioned amongst the world's top fifty programmes by QS – publisher of international university rankings.

These results demonstrate how the College of Medicine and Health's culture of collaboration across disciplines, supported through world-class research and reinforced by rigorous academic programme creation, bring about truly excellent standard of teaching and learning to UCC students.

The top fifty ranking comes as the School of Pharmacy embarks on a new integrated five-year Masters in Pharmacy programme, which is commencing in September 2015. Professor Stephen Byrne, Head of School of Pharmacy and Chair in Clinical Pharmacy Practice at UCC, states that "I am delighted to see the influence that Pharmacy and Pharmacology has on a global basis, particularly acknowledging the impact of Pharmacy in the healthcare, industry and research arenas. Being ranked in the top 50 of the QS Rankings by Subject is an honourable recognition of the efforts of staff and collaborators in undertaking ground-breaking research, while delivering innovative research-led teaching to produce highly sought after graduates and postgraduates."



Top photo (l-r): Carol McCarthy, Richard O'Connor and Maria Kelly. Above left (l-r): Professor John Higgins, Head of College of Medicine and Health, UCC; Professor Anita McGuire, VP Research & Innovation, UCC; Dr Michael Murphy, President, UCC; and Professor Stephen Byrne, Head of School of Pharmacy, UCC. Photos: Gerard McCarthy

Pictured above right (l-r): Professor Stephen Byrne and Professor Thomas Walther, Head of Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, UCC. Photo: Christian Waeber

www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-543450-en.html



EGANS HEARING AND UCC EMBARK ON CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP

Egans Hearing and the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, UCC, have formalised their strategic partnership, which will see Egans Hearing acting as a corporate partner of the recently launched MSc in Audiology.

Annemarie Egan, Business Manager of Egans Hearing, believes that their link to UCC's Audiology programme is a natural fit given their company's position in aiding hearing-health in Cork over the past fifty years. "The College of Medicine and Health acts as propeller in addressing national healthcare issues, and because of this, the MSc in Audiology will profoundly alter the way in which hearing-health is delivered in Ireland. Given our proud history of providing hearing solutions in Cork, we see this as a mutually beneficial relationship, and look forward to working together over the coming years."

Professor John Higgins, Head of the College of Medicine and Health, UCC, recognises the value and benefit of Egans Hearing becoming a UCC corporate partner. "Corporate engagement is invaluable as it allows the College of Medicine and Health to work and interact with industry leaders. These relationships are indispensable as they bring both tangible and intangible benefits to our academic programmes, staff and students".

The MSc in Audiology, which was launched in UCC on March 19th, will see UCC acting as the exclusive provider of Irish clinical audiology training. This development represents an exceptional opportunity to develop the profession of audiology bridging the gap between national service needs and service provision.



Top photo (l-r): Mary Egan, Egans Hearing Centre; Annemarie Egan, Egans Hearing Centre; Dr Amr El Refaie; Professor Fiona Gibbon, Head of School of Clinical Therapies, UCC. Pictured above (l-r): Professor Fiona Gibbon, Mary Egan, Annemarie Egan and Professor John Higgins, Head of College of Medicine and Health, UCC. Photos: Emmet Curtin

CUH OPENS AN INTERNATIONAL PROSTATE CANCER CLINICAL TRIAL

Cork University Hospital (CUH) has become the first hospital in Europe to initiate a novel prostate cancer clinical trial and is starting to assign a random tablet to men on the trial.

The clinical trial is called ENZARAD and is open to men with localised prostate cancer at high risk for recurrence and who are deemed suitable for external beam radiotherapy. This applies only to men with high grade cancers, which have a tendency to recur in the years following radiation and standard hormonal therapy.

Patients participating in this study will be randomly assigned to receive a new tablet form of hormonal therapy called Enzalutamide in addition to external radiation therapy and injection forms of hormonal therapy at CUH. In recent clinical trials Enzalutamide has proven successful in prolonging survival rates and delaying the time for chemotherapy in men with advanced tumours.

Dr Paul Kelly, Consultant Radiation Oncologist at Cork University Hospital, who is leading the study locally, is very hopeful of the potential of this new drug. "We have a high incidence of high-grade prostate cancers in this region and hopefully this drug will help us cure more patients with these aggressive cancers. As a clinician it is important to be able to offer patients what you believe is the best treatment available. Patients who participate in clinical trials receive the highest standards of care and from a national standpoint result in significant cost savings as expensive novel treatments are provided free of charge. Enzalutamide does not have chemotherapy-type side effects and it is also in tablet form so the patients can take it at home."

www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-542835-en.html



Cork University Hospital

INFANT CENTRE AT UCC AND IBM ANNOUNCE 'LEANBH'



Pictured (l-r): Dr Anthony Morrissey, Centre Manager of INFANT; Professor Louise Kenny, Professor of Obstetrics, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist and Director of INFANT; Taoiseach, Enda Kenny; IBM's Dr Robert McCarthy; and Professor Mark Ferguson of Science Foundation Ireland.

INFANT Centre at UCC and IBM has announced 'LEANBH', a pilot research project providing remote healthcare monitoring to expectant mothers to improve the detection and treatment of hypertension and pre-eclampsia during pregnancy.

Speaking in Washington, DC, at an event hosted by Science Foundation Ireland to celebrate scientific collaboration between Ireland and the United States as part of the St Patrick's Day Festival, An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD, said, "I congratulate both IBM and the Infant Research Centre for collaborating on LEANBH. The project demonstrates the value of collaboration between industry and academia. LEANBH has the potential to have a global impact on the medical care offered to expectant mothers."

Pre-eclampsia is a pregnancy complication that affects approximately 5% of all pregnancies. Hypertension, one indicator of pre-eclampsia, is more common in all expectant mothers.

The vision for LEANBH is to manage hypertension and pre-eclampsia care in a patient's home using remote monitoring of the medical data of the at-risk expectant mothers. It aims to reduce the number of unnecessary follow-on hospital visits, lowering the additional stress and cost of visits to the patients and on the healthcare system.

www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-540117-en.html

UCC interdisciplinary research team conducts Department of Health commissioned project



An interdisciplinary research team based at UCC conducted a Department of Health commissioned project titled 'A systematic literature review to support a framework for the development of standards for clinical practice guidance'.

The team comprised of Professor Josephine Hegarty, Professor Eileen Savage, Dr Nicola Cornally, Dr Kathleen McLoughlin, Dr Serena Fitzgerald (all School of Nursing and Midwifery), Professor Stephen Byrne (School of Pharmacy), Dr Pat Henn (School of Medicine) and Maura Flynn (The Library), UCC, supported by the expert guidance of Professor Gordon H. Guyatt, McMaster University, Canada.

Patient safety and quality assurance is a priority across all areas of the Irish healthcare system. The broad aim of the project was to complete a systematic literature review to support a framework for the development of standards for clinical practice guidance, of varying complexity and scope. Within the review the team sought to address thirteen individual review questions relevant to guidance development, implementation and evaluation.

The review and its findings can be accessed online through the Department of Health's website at: <http://health.gov.ie/patient-safety/ncec/clinical-practice-guidance/>



Dr Denis O'Mahony

Dr Denis O'Mahony, Senior Lecturer and Consultant Geriatrician in the Department of Medicine at UCC, has received news that OPERAM, of which he is a Co-Principle Investigator, will be the beneficiary of a €3.735 million grant from the European Commission.

OPERAM, which will be funded under the Horizon 2020 grant programme, in addition to €2.9 million of supplementary funding from the Swiss Government, will focus on addressing the pharmacotherapy optimisation needs of older patients with multi-morbid illnesses

aimed at reducing re-hospitalisation, composite health care and prescription costs in this rapidly growing sector of the European population. The centre piece of OPERAM will be a Randomised Control Test, which aims to test the clinical and economic effectiveness of a new medication optimisation software intervention in elderly hospitalised patients in four academic teaching hospitals (University Hospital Berne, Cork University Hospital, Utecht University Medical Centre and Saint Luc University Hospital Brussels).

OPERAM is closely linked to outcomes of the SENATOR project, which is based on the STOPP/START prescribing criteria, invented and developed by Dr O'Mahony and his research team at UCC (Dr O'Mahony is the Co-ordinator of the EU FP7 programme-funded SENATOR project). The SENATOR software engine individually examines the clinical status of older people with multi-morbidity and polypharmacy with a view to optimising the individual patient's drug and non-drug therapy. The OPERAM clinical trial will also involve a prescribing software intervention

for older people with multi-morbidity, which will be based on the second version of the STOPP/START criteria, published recently.

Dr O'Mahony also recently addressed the European Summit on Innovation for Active and Healthy Ageing in Brussels (March 9-10), attended by over 1500 delegates. Speaking in the 'Research & Innovation for Active and Healthy Ageing: from concept to reality, from local to global' seminar, Dr O'Mahony's lecture was entitled 'Healthy Ageing & Technological Innovation in Geriatric Practice.' He also participated as a member of a panel discussion around the question 'How can Europe do better in scaling up innovation faster on Active and Healthy Ageing' as part of the seminar.

In addition to this, Dr O'Mahony recently gave a keynote lecture titled 'Inappropriate Prescribing in Older people: Why it Matters & How to Prevent It' at the International Association of Gerontology & Geriatrics (European Region) congress in Dublin. The meeting was attended by 3,000 delegates.



DENTAL SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP

The Dental School and Hospital, UCC, recently held a Clinical Governance Education Day for all their staff. The event took place at Bru Columbanus, where a full day of presentations and workshops relating to “Better Safer Healthcare” were held.

The day started with an introduction from the Head of School, Professor Martin Kinirons, followed by a review from Dr McCreary of the Dental School and Hospital’s current situation in relation to major clinical governance issues. The morning session continued by a thought provoking presentation from the President of the Dental Council, Dr Eamon Croke, followed by an interactive session from Dr Kevin Stewart, who is currently Clinical Director of the Clinical Effectiveness and Evaluation Unit at the Royal College of Physicians in England, where he also leads the College’s National Clinical Audit work.

In the afternoon, presentations were held by Mr Edward Murphy, CUH Lead for the Sustainable Healthcare and Living Project and Dr Fergus Heffernan. Dr Heffernan’s presentation was titled ‘Creating Resilience in Tough Challenging Times’, a presentation which engaged and enthralled everyone in the room.

The feedback from the day was overwhelmingly positive. The next Dental School and Hospital Governance Workshop is planned to be held this autumn 2015.



Pictured above left: (l-r): Dr Catherine Gallagher, Specialist Oral Lecturer/Surgeon; Dr Kevin Stewart, Clinical Director of the Clinical Effectiveness & Evaluation Unit at the Royal College of Physicians in London; Dr Christine McCreary, Senior Lecturer and Consultant in Oral Medicine, Cork University Dental School and Hospital; Dr Eamon Croke, Irish Dental Council President; Professor Martin Kinirons, Head of Cork Dental School and Hospital; Siobhan Lynch, Manager, Cork University Dental School and Hospital; and Mary Moloney, Director of Nursing. Above right: (l-r): Irene O’Byrne Maguire, Clinical Risk Adviser, States Claims Agency, Mary Moloney and Siobhan Lynch.



Roman Stilling selected for 65th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting

Congratulations to UCC postdoctoral fellow Roman M. Stilling, who has been selected for the 65th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting scheduled to take place 28 June to 3 July 2015 in Lindau, Germany. Only the 650 most qualified young scientists can be given the opportunity to participate in this annual meeting.

Roman graduated with a B.Sc. in Biosciences from the University of Münster in 2008 and was admitted to join the prestigious International Max Planck Research School for Neurosciences in Göttingen, where he graduated with a M.Sc.-equivalent degree in 2009.

During his Ph.D. at the University of Göttingen, Germany (2009-2013), Roman was interested in the molecular mechanisms of learning and memory and could show that stimulus-dependent epigenetic regulation of neuronal gene expression is critical for long-term memory formation. He was furthermore involved in uncovering neurobiological mechanisms of cognitive decline in the aging brain.

Roman joined UCC as a postdoctoral fellow in August 2013 under supervision of Professor Ted Dinan & Professor John Cryan. His research in the Dept. of Anatomy and Neuroscience and the Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre focuses on dynamic regulation of gene expression by epigenetic mechanisms in the mammalian brain. In his current project he investigates how microbes in the gut influence the brain's epigenetic landscape during neuronal development and social behaviour as part of the "Microbe-Gut-Brain Axis". He is also interested in the evolutionary origins of this connection.



Roman Stilling



Helen Nwokoye

Congratulations to Helen Nwokoye, who recently graduated with a Masters in Teaching & Learning. Helen is a Radiographer at the Cork Dental School & Hospital, UCC.

Pictured above (l-r): Dr Eleanor O'Sullivan, Ms Helen Nwokoye, Dr Catherine Sweeney, Dr Orla Barry and Dr Marian McCarthy



MSc Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Congratulations to the graduates of the MSc in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, who graduated at the UCC Spring Conferring.

Above: Graduates of the MSc in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. Photo: Tony Archer



Catherine Neary appointed Camogie Association President

Congratulations to Ms Catherine Neary, Head of Human Resources, University Hospital Waterford, on her installation as Camogie Association President. The installation recently took place at the association's Annual Congress in Croke Park. Catherine will hold this prestigious position for a period of 3 years.



Pictured above: Anna Beth Seow (left) and Aisling Whitaker

Anna Beth Seow and Aisling Whitaker BDS V

Congratulations to Anna Beth Seow and Aisling Whitaker, BDS V students from the Dental School and Hospital, UCC, who came 1st and 2nd in the Ivoclar Vivadent Composite Competition.

The task for the competition was to create an anterior restoration case report considering form, function and aesthetics using IPS Empress Direct. All students had to clearly assess, document and photograph the before and after oral condition. Entrants should also present a treatment plan reflecting patients' and their own expectations, explaining limitations, proposed outcome and maintenance procedures.

1st place went to Anna Beth Seow, who was supervised by Dr Maire Brennan and Dr Graham Quilligan. The prize included an all-expenses paid trip to the International Centre for Dental Education (ICDE), Schaan, Liechtenstein for a full hands-on Confidence with Composites course with a dedicated team of international trainers.

2nd place went to Aisling Whitaker, who was supervised by Dr Martin Holohan. The prize included an all-expenses paid enrolment onto the national Confidence with Composites course based at the UK ICDE with an experienced trainer.

GORDON WATSON AWARD EVENING

The Gordon Watson Award Evening, an award ceremony for training interns, co-hosted by Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) and UCC, was recently held at the Elva Theatre, HSE/RCSI Education Centre. The Award is named after Mr Gordon Watson, a retired Consultant Surgeon and former RCSI council member, for his outstanding contribution to University Hospital Waterford and its patients.

This year, 8 interns were shortlisted to present their cases across a variety of topics including Cavitary Pulmonary Metastases, Metastatic basal cell carcinoma and Paraneoplastic Syndrome.

The panel of adjudicators included Professor Arnold Hill, RCSI, Professor Mary Horgan, UCC, Professor Riona Mulcahy, RCSI, and Professor Simon Cross, RCSI. The panel had a difficult time choosing the winning presentations given the excellent standard, but chose 2 for special commendation.

Congratulations to overall winner Dr Siobhan Carey, who gave a presentation on 'Cavitary Pulmonary Metastases - a rare finding', and Dr Fergal McGlynn, who was highly commended on his presentation 'A disk in time saves nine'.



Pictured above (l-r): Professor Arnold Hill, Dr Siobhan Carey, Mr Gordon Watson and Professor Mary Horgan



Pictured above (l-r): Dr Fergal McGlynn, Professor Mary Horgan and Professor Arnold Hill

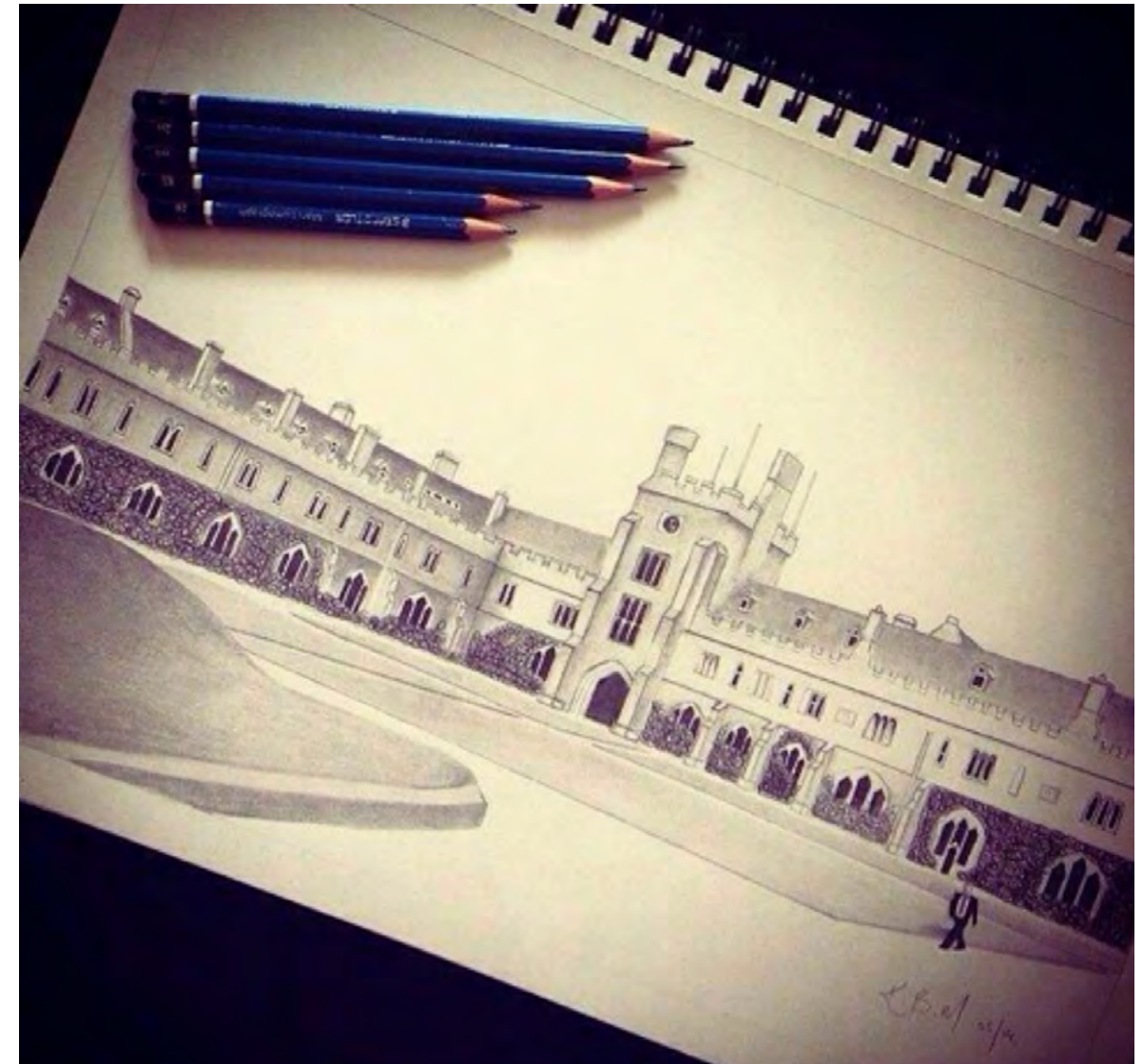
Róisín Phelan BDS II

Congratulations to Róisín Phelan, BDS II Student from the Dental School and Hospital, UCC, who received her 1st award for assisting the Cork Ladies Gaelic Football team retain their All Ireland title in extraordinary fashion last September in Dublin. Roisin burst onto the Cork scene last season and played a major role in Cork's continuing success last year. She was awarded the Tesco Home grown "Player of the Month" in June 2014 for her display for Cork in the National league Final - which Cork won. She was part of the UCC team who were narrowly beaten in the O Connor Cup semi-final hosted by CIT recently.

<http://sport.ucc.ie/sports-star-awards-night/>



Róisín is in the front row third in from right



Kaumal Baig BDS III

Kaumal Baig, BDS III student from the Dental School and Hospital, UCC, is also a talented artist and created this drawing of UCC. Her official Facebook page and the time lapse of drawing the Quad can be accessed here:

<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=566690143433797&set=vb.429948257107987&type=2&theater>

Sarah Jameel

Well done to Sarah Jameel, 1st year student from the Dental School and Hospital, UCC, who recently founded the initiative 'Food Beyond Borders', a storytelling platform connecting people and places through food culture. 'Food Beyond Borders' was also recognised by Jamie Oliver and the Food Revolution, who tweeted about Sarah's initiative. For further information, please visit:

www.foodbeyondborders.org/



Food Revolution

@FoodRev

Check out @foodbeyondB, storytelling platform connecting people & places through food culture!

foodbeyondborders.org



Kay Rin Ong BDS V

Congratulations to Kay Rin Ong, BDS V student from the Dental School and Hospital, UCC, who was awarded a prestigious Bene Merenti Award for her outstanding contribution to the UCC Table Tennis Club at the recent Clubs and Societies Ball.



MSc Audiology Open Day

An Open Day for the recently launched MSc Audiology took place in Brookfield Health Sciences Complex, UCC on Saturday 18th April 2015. Dr Amr El Refaie, Programme Coordinator and Senior Lecturer, held an exciting talk about this new Masters programme, which trains individuals to become clinical audiologists. Applications are now open for the September 2015 intake.

For further information on the programme, please visit: www.ucc.ie/en/ckx51/

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in the School of Nursing and Midwifery



The School of Nursing and Midwifery, UCC have been leaders within the University in developing Continuing Professional Education for nurses, midwives and allied health professionals. A CPD is a stand-alone flexible accredited module, relevant to specific subjects and clinical areas. CPD modules can be used to build learning for higher qualifications. The School of Nursing and Midwifery offers a wide array of modules to nurses, midwives and allied health professionals under the themes of:

- Acute and Chronic Care of Physical Health Problems
- Health & Well-being of Population Groups
- Professional & Practice Development
- End of Life Care.

The CPD modules offer the flexibility to combine further study with today's hectic lifestyle. The delivery of the modules varies from day release and evening classes to online/blended learning, utilising the state of the art facilities at the Brookfield Health Sciences Complex. The CPD modules improve your clinical practice, benefit patient care and enhance career progression.

To see what CPD modules are available, please visit:

www.ucc.ie/en/nursingmidwifery/courses/cpd/

The College of Medicine and Health is going Lean



Staff members from the College of Medicine and Health, who participated in the Green Belt training programme. Pictured (l-r): Thomas Erlandsson, Joan McDermott, Mary Wade, Anne-Marie Leahy, Mairead Harding, Mary Ward, Lorraine Crossan, Rose Walsh, Jane O'Neil, Linda Drummond, Tony Archer, Mags Arnold and Damien Morris.

The College of Medicine and Health, UCC is embarking on an initiative to use the concept and principles of Lean Management to improve its administrative processes. The Lean concept was first developed by Toyota, but it is now being used in the public and private sectors around the world to improve service, quality, efficiency, staff morale and internal communication and cooperation. Lean is a philosophy of work focusing on two principles, continuous improvement and respect for people.

The College of Medicine and Health is the first college within UCC that has made significant progress in introducing Lean to its work processes, through nominating and funding its own staff to complete the Green Belt training, which is the third level of the Lean Philosophy. These staff members are due to graduate with a Green Belt later this summer.



Pictured above (l-r): Inez Bailey (NALA) Minister Kathleen Lynch, Professor Michael Wolf (Northwestern University, Chicago, USA), Brian Longstreet (Managing Director, MSD Ireland)



Pictured above left: Professor Michael Wolf and Dr Laura J Sahn. Right: Some of the attendees of the Workshop



Confusing people less; Health Literacy

Minister Kathleen Lynch launched the new national Crystal Clear Awards programme for Pharmacy and General Practice 26th March 2015 in Dublin.

This initiative is a collaboration between the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA), MSD, the Irish Pharmacy Union (IPU) and the Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP) and Healthy Ireland.

Following the launch, Professor Michael Wolf, Northwestern University, Chicago, USA, and Dr Laura Sahn, School of Pharmacy, UCC facilitated a one-day workshop as part of the new module, Health Literacy for Health and Social Care settings (MH5001), for the College of Medicine and Health on the 28th March 2015. This 5 credit module will be running again in 2016.

Further information on the Crystal Clear Awards programme available at: www.nala.ie/crystalclear

COPING WITH CANCER



Dr Margaret O'Rourke

A cancer diagnosis can be life altering and shattering for patients and loved-ones alike. The disease can cause physical, emotional and behavioural changes that can be frightening, frustrating and traumatic. Everyone has their own unique way of dealing with this diagnosis and the many emotions that accompany it. Advances in psychological science and cancer care have demonstrated how Psychology can help “improve everyday life” and provide strategies for improving how each individual copes.

Clinical Psychologist and Vice President of The Psychological Society of Ireland, Dr Margaret O'Rourke, recently gave a free public talk hosted by the Irish Cancer Society and Psychology Society at UCC. In her talk, Dr O'Rourke described the trauma and psychological impact of a cancer diagnosis, the challenges and the ways in which people cope. Psychological research has shown how a cancer diagnosis can bring up a wide range of feelings that people are not used to dealing with. Feelings can become more intense if basic, factual and personalised information is not made available from the outset. Psychological research confirms that patients who are resourced with information and support have less stress and tend to cope better.

In her talk, Dr Margaret O'Rourke outlined seven tips to help if you have been diagnosed with cancer:

1. Get the Facts: As much basic, useful, personal information as you can deal with - this will help you retain a sense of control.
2. Maintain honest two-way communication with your doctor and healthcare team. This helps them get to know your needs and wishes and helps you to anticipate and plan.
3. Maintain a healthy lifestyle, as much as you can: This builds resilience and helps maintain and even improve mood and energy levels.
4. Let family and friends help you when energy is low or you are feeling stressed.
5. Develop your coping skills: Remember feelings are not the same as facts. Discover what works for you in the new circumstances, use your usual coping, but also try new ways.
6. Take Five: Be practical and think about what will best help you look after your Body, Mind, Behaviour, Context and Spirit. Be gentle with yourself.
7. Focus on the Present Moment - Remember the power of NOW, take things one step at a time.

(Text: Sophie Hammond)



SURGEON NOONAN SOCIETY RAISES €120,000

On Thursday April 16th, 4th year students from the Surgeon Noonan Society celebrated the end of their academic term by announcing that they had surpassed their fundraising goals for 2014/2015.

Throughout the year, students have been working to raise money for medical equipment and financial support for seven hospitals in Africa, with members of the society “out and about” in Cork during the Jazz festival, St Patrick’s Festival, Flag-days amongst others, in order to further the legacy of the late Dr Tom Noonan.



Anne Murray, Public Relations Officer of the society, states that the connection between Surgeon Noonan and the people of Cork over the past thirty-seven years, has delivered real results to the partner medical establishments in Africa. “100% of the money raised goes directly into the partner institutions, with students covering their own costs in order to insure that the maximum benefit from fundraising activities can be brought about.”

This summer will see thirty students travelling to one of seven hospitals in the continent as part of their fourth year elective module. The “Cheque to Africa,” which is spread between three hospitals in Malawi, Tanzania and two in Zambia, will bring about a lasting impact within those communities. The members of the society are to be commended for their leadership, benevolence and application in their tremendous achievement over the past academic year.





UCC Neuroscientists visit local primary schools for Brain Awareness Week

In association with Brain Awareness Week (16 - 22 March 2015), Dr Aideen Sullivan, Dr Yvonne Nolan, Dr Cara Hueston and Dr Caitriona Long-Smith from the Department of Anatomy & Neuroscience, visited local primary schools to engage children in fun lessons and activities in order to learn about the brain.

Children in Junior Infants in Glasheen Boys School, and in Junior and Senior Infants in Saint Finbarre's National School learned about the five senses and the functions of the brain by participating in games of optical illusions, taste discrimination, touch discrimination, reaction times and brain charades. They also carried out experiments to reinforce how important it is to protect our brains!

Brain Awareness Week is the global campaign to increase public awareness of the progress and benefits of brain research.

www.dana.org/BAW/



Visit from Professor Sarhan

Professor Ebada Sarhan, President of the Future University of Egypt, Cairo recently visited University College Cork. Here he is pictured with Professor Martin Kinirons, Head of Dental School and Hospital, UCC.



Medical Students operate Teddy Bear Hospital for local national school pupils

Students from UCC's Medical Society (MedSoc) recently held their annual Teddy Bear Hospital, which aims to limit children's apprehension surrounding visiting the doctor, a term known as "white-coat anxiety."

The hospital, which operated over two days in partnership with three primary schools, was based within a clinical setting at the College of Medicine and Health, UCC. Pupils worked with medical students to diagnose and treat their teddy bear patients with commonly used medical instruments and medical style procedures based on what they could experience during a visit to their GP.

This year's Teddy Bear Hospital featured pupils from St. John the Baptist-Midleton, Scoil Mhuire Barrion, Mayfield and St. Catherine's national school Model Farm Road.

www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-542046-en.html

Photos: Gerard McCarthy





Life Class – Dr Conleth Murphy

Life Class is Dr Conleth Murphy’s first solo exhibition at the Jennings Gallery, Brookfield Health Science Complex, UCC.

The images in this exhibition are a combination of mixed art and traditional life drawings selected from his evening art classes. In the mixed art selection, Conleth merges his medical and artistic sides in a tongue-in-cheek fashion: perspex eyes through which one can visualise the retina, X-rays peeking through portraits and pop-art images of a scalp cooler designed to prevent chemotherapy-induced hair loss.

www.ucc.ie/en/jennings-gallery/fullstory-532407-en.html

Photo 1. Dr Conleth Murphy and his daughter Juliet. **Photo 2.** Professor John Higgins and Dr Conleth Murphy. **Photo 3.** Dr Bridget Maher, Dr Tony O’Brien, Professor Mary Horgan and Dr Richard Flynn. **Photo 4.** Dr Frank Van Pelt, Dr Bridget Maher and Dr Patrick Henn. **Photo 5.** Dr Conleth Murphy and his wife Maeve. **Photo 6.** Tom Villiers and Aileen Burke.

Photos: Brian Loughheed



SNIPPETS FROM THE DIARY OF THE HEAD OF COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH

24 Mar 2015	Specialty Meeting in Neuro-Surgery, Brookfield Health Sciences Complex.
26 Mar 2015	Egans Launch, Brookfield Health Sciences Complex.
26 Mar 2015	Health Innovation Hub Away-Day, The Celtic Ross, Rosscarbery.
30 Mar 2015	Ian O’Sullivan and Eimear Murphy - BT Young Scientist Competition, President’s Office.
22 April 2015	Seventh Meeting of Strategic Advisory Group on the Implementation of Hospital Groups, Dublin.
29 April 2015	Celebration of ‘Pharmacy and Pharmacology amongst World’s top 50 in the QS Rankings’ at the School of Pharmacy, Cavanagh Building, UCC.

