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Scholarship



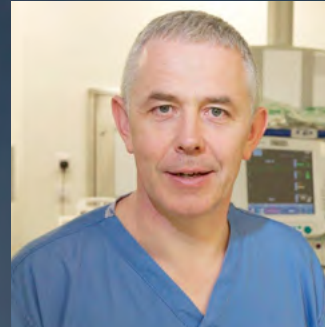
Green Belt



New Biobank Facility



Dr Eanna Clifford



Dear Colleagues,

This is my penultimate Newsletter and I am delighted to see nine wonderful images of all the hospitals in our Hospital Group.

From the Atlantic to the Irish sea, staff of the South/South West Hospital Group demonstrate outstanding dedication and commitment to the population that we serve.

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



Bantry General Hospital

(Photo: Jim McCarthy)



Cork University Hospital

(Photo: Jim McCarthy)



Kilcreene Orthopaedic Hospital

(Photo: Jim McCarthy)



Mallow General Hospital

(Photo: Jim McCarthy)



Mercy University Hospital

(Photo: Jim McCarthy)



South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital

(Photo: Jim McCarthy)



South Tipperary General Hospital

(Photo: Jim McCarthy)



University Hospital Kerry

(Photo: Jim McCarthy)



University Hospital Waterford

(Photo: Jim McCarthy)

Health Innovation Hub Ireland launched by Minister Simon Harris TD



Pictured at the official launch of Health Innovation Hub Ireland (l-r): Professor John R. Higgins, Principal Investigator, Health Innovation Hub Ireland, Dave Shanahan, Chair of National Oversight Group, Health Innovation Hub Ireland, Nicola O'Riordan, UCC, Minister for Health Simon Harris TD, Dr Colman Casey, Director of Health Innovation Hub Ireland and John Murphy, Secretary General, Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation. (Photo: Daragh McSweeney/Provision)

www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-708029-en.html

Mr Simon Harris TD, Minister for Health officially launched Health Innovation Hub Ireland (HIHI) on Monday 26th September 2016 in UCC. Ireland's first national Health Innovation Hub will directly improve treatment and care for patients.

HIHI, a partnership of clinicians, academics, innovators and entrepreneurs from across Ireland, will accelerate healthcare innovation and commercialisation by addressing healthcare challenges and in doing so will create jobs and exports for the country.

HIHI delivers activities at a national level to all academic institutions, healthcare providers and commercial companies. These activities are delivered by the HIHI Consortium of formal collaborators, which include UCC, Cork Institute of Technology, National University of Ireland Galway and Trinity College Dublin, their associated Clinical Research Facilities (Cork, Galway, Dublin) and their Hospital Groups (South/South West, Dublin Midlands and Saolta University Healthcare), with associated Primary Care Centres, Community Health Organisations, Pharmacies and HSE support infrastructures.

HIHI wants to hear from people in industry, healthcare professionals, healthcare workers and entrepreneurs who can demonstrate they have unique applied technologies and solutions ready for further commercial development or have an idea or concept that needs further development in Ireland. It will develop next generation technologies in Ireland for the global marketplace.

GREEN BELT CERTIFICATION CEREMONY

Eight staff members received their Lean Green Belts at the Green Belt Certification Ceremony recently held at the College of Medicine and Health, UCC. Lean training uses a collaborative team approach to simplify processes and to reduce the time they take. Each staff member undertook a project to demonstrate how Lean can make that process more user-friendly. Projects ranged from producing a digital nursing archive recording process to managing the cycle time for research grant applications. Each project resulted in a considerable saving of time and reduced frustration for those involved!



Top: Green Belt Recipients (l-r): Noreen Moynihan, Helen Buckley, Thomas Erlandsson, Máiréad Harding, Anthony Archer, Lorraine Crossan, Mags Arnold and Linda Drummond. (Photo: Emmet Curtin)

Above left: Professor John Higgins, Head of College of Medicine and Health.

Above right: Dr Rónán Ó Dubhghaill, Vice-President for External Relations, UCC and Mr Tom Murphy, Lean Master Black Belt.

UCC SECURES BRONZE ATHENA SWAN AWARD



Professor Caroline Fennell, Senior Vice President Academic and Registrar, UCC

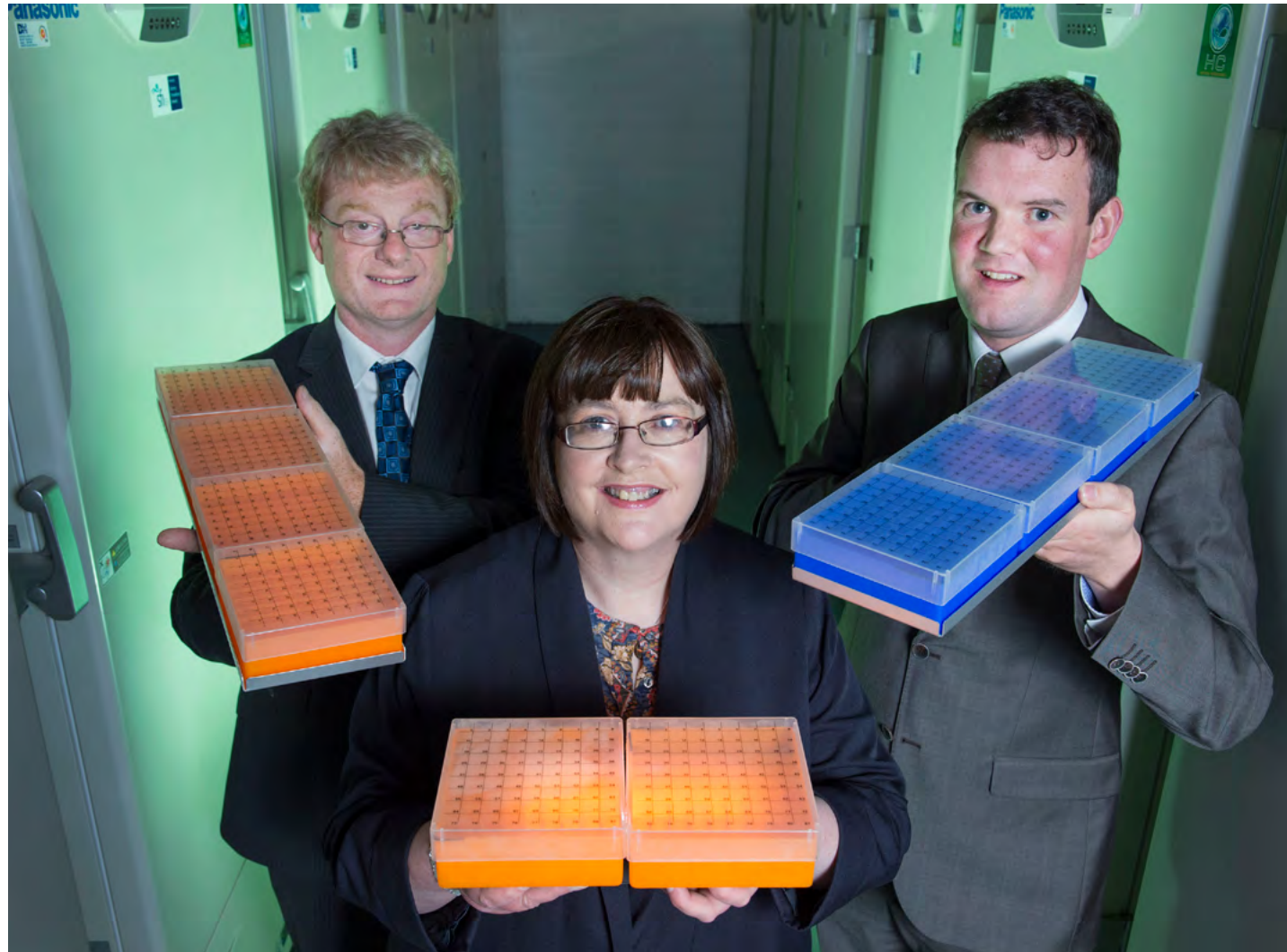
www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-666945-en.html

University College Cork has become the third university in Ireland to receive the Bronze Athena SWAN award, recognising its efforts to promote gender equality in higher education.

Athena SWAN aims to improve the representation of women in higher education, particularly in science, technology, engineering, medicine and mathematics (“STEMM”). The award to UCC recognises that the University has a solid foundation in place to remove barriers to women’s progress in STEMM disciplines.

Led by Professor Caroline Fennell, Senior Vice President Academic and Registrar, a diverse team of UCC staff developed a three-year action plan, which is now being implemented across the university.

The Athena SWAN Charter was established in the United Kingdom in 2005, and is run by the London-based Equality Challenge Unit. With the support of the HEA, it was extended to Ireland in 2015. All seven Irish universities, 14 institutes of technology and the Royal College of Surgeons have committed to the Charter principles.



Professor Joe Eustace Director HRB Clinical Research Facility UCC, Professor Anita Maguire Vice President for Research & Innovation UCC and Kevin Walsh Science Foundation Ireland. (Photo: Gerard McCarthy)

www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-684453-en.html

UCC BANKS ON BIOBANK

University College Cork and the INFANT Centre have opened a new Biobank facility which will enable the improved curation and protection of human biological samples.

This new facility will help centres like INFANT to biobank samples and data for future needs, and meet the critical need for supported storage resources. The INFANT Centre, working within Cork University Maternity Hospital and other biobanking researchers throughout the world, has developed a burgeoning and rapidly expanding collection of samples relevant to mothers and babies. The biobank facility will allow the INFANT Centre to expand its holdings and to surpass existing international best practice guidelines. Critically, this expansion will position UCC and INFANT to the forefront of biobanking internationally.

UCC and DeafHear Announce Partnership

UCC's Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences and DeafHear have announced the establishment of a partnership which will see DeafHear supporting UCC's MSc Audiology programme.

DeafHear has been providing specialist services and support for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people and their families since 1964, whilst continuously advocating for equal access and opportunities for those affected by hearing difficulties. At the announcement DeafHear, CEO Mark Byrne stated that "we are delighted to announce our new relationship with UCC's College of Medicine and Health. It displays our commitment to operate as a vibrant and relevant organisation who works with, and advocates for those who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. UCC's Department of Speech and Hearing Science has taken the lead in addressing the educational audiological deficit that exists nationally, and I am confident, due to our mutual interest, that we can look forward to working together over the coming years."

With the generosity and vision of our philanthropic and corporate supporters we will expand the frontier of healthcare education and make our families and communities and country healthier. Like DeafHear, you too can join us, believe in us, invest in us and give us the opportunity to take even bigger steps forward, to execute our vision and create futures. If you would like to hear more about the range of opportunities available, please contact Eimear Keohane, Head of Development, eimear.keohane@ucc.ie or 021 420 5666.

Pictured top: 'Searching for ladybugs' as Grace Collins and Mr Mark Byrne, CEO DeafHear mark the announcement of a new partnership.

Pictured left (l-r): Professor Jeanne Jackson, Head of School of Clinical Therapies, Professor John Higgins, Head of College of Medicine and Health, Ms Patricia Hassett, Practice Education Coordinator in Audiology, Ms Eimear Keohane, Head of Development College of Medicine and Health, Mr Mark Byrne, CEO DeafHear, and Dr Siobhan Laoide-Kemp, Lecturer in Audiology. (Photos: Darragh Kane)

www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-686495-en.html



Dr Keelin O'Donoghue to Lead Implementation of National Standards for Bereavement Care

The Minister for Health, Mr Simon Harris TD, recently launched the HSE National Standards for Bereavement Care following Pregnancy Loss and Perinatal Death. These new standards clearly define the care parents and families can expect to receive following a pregnancy loss or perinatal death. The standards will be implemented and applied across the health service in all appropriate hospitals and settings.

Dr Keelin O'Donoghue, Consultant Obstetrician at Cork University Maternity Hospital and Principal Investigator in University College Corks INFANT Research Centre, explained; "The publication of these standards marks another significant step forward for the health services and is a direct expression of our commitment to compassionate care for patients. All Maternity Hospitals/Units will now establish or develop further Bereavement Specialist Teams to assist and support parents, families and professionals dealing with pregnancy loss."

www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-677574-en.html



Mr Tony O'Brien, Director General HSE, Minister for Health, Mr Simon Harris TD and Dr Keelin O'Donoghue. (Photo: Dr Daniel Nuzum)



Fluoride and Caring for Children's Teeth Study (FACCT) Training Day



HSE dentists and dental nurses from Cork, Kerry and Dublin recently attended a training day in the Oral Health Services Research Centre, UCC, in preparation for the second phase of fieldwork for the Fluoride and Caring for Children's Teeth Study (FACCT).

The aim of the Health Research Board funded FACCT programme is to evaluate the impact and outcome of the change in policy on water fluoridation (2007) and on the use of fluoride toothpaste (2002) on tooth decay and white marks on teeth in Irish children.

In 2013/14, the study initially involved the clinical oral examination of two age groups based on whether their front teeth were formed prior to (age 12, born 2001) or after (age 5, born 2008) the reduced level of fluoride in water. The children who participated in the study when they were aged 5 will now be re-examined for tooth decay and white marks on teeth at age 8.

A second 3-day intensive FACCT training session took place in early September to complete the training of the HSE dental staff conducting the follow up fieldwork. CPD points were awarded for the Training Day.





SCHOOL OF PHARMACY WELCOMES ITS FIRST INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL STUDENTS



Pictured above: Poula Haleem, Mohamed Yehia, Mohamed Kabil and Merna Ramsis from the Future University of Egypt. (Photo: Tomas Tyner)

A UCC Clinical Pharmacy Summer School, organised in association with Future University in Egypt (FUE), took place this August in the School of Pharmacy, UCC. UCC and FUE have an existing cooperation agreement whereby UCC supports the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Pharmaceutical Industries, FUE in the delivery of an enhanced Pharmacy degree programme by FUE in Cairo.

The cooperation agreement, which was signed in 2014, was considered a first step leading to an improved international standing of FUE's pharmacy degree program, particularly in the areas of clinical pharmacy and pharmacy practice. As an extension of this cooperation agreement, and with a view to further enhancing internationalisation activities at both universities, the School of Pharmacy (UCC) designed an intensive two-week summer school in Clinical Pharmacy. Twenty undergraduate pharmacy students from FUE travelled to UCC to partake in this programme. The Summer School, which is delivered by academic staff in the School of Pharmacy, will provide specialist lectures and training in Clinical Pharmacy.

www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-677521-en.html

EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO IRELAND VISITS UCC

The Egyptian Ambassador to Ireland, Ms Soha Gendi, recently visited UCC. She was greeted by Professor Caroline Fennell, Senior Vice-President Academic and Registrar, in the President's Office. She also met with staff from the School of Pharmacy and visited the student group from Future University in Egypt (FUE), who attended the School of Pharmacy's summer school.

Pictured left: Ms Soha Gendi, Egyptian Ambassador to Ireland, and Professor Stephen Byrne, Head of School of Pharmacy, UCC. (Photo: Tomas Tyner)



EANNA CLIFFORD



(Photo: Gerard McCarthy)

Dr Eanna Clifford, graduate of the School of Medicine, UCC, is one of the University's Quercus Scholars for 2015/2016. The Quercus Talented Students' Programme aims to support and promote excellence in academia, sport, creative and performing arts, active citizenship and innovation/entrepreneurship for both prospective undergraduate students and students already registered in UCC. Eanna was awarded the Academic Scholarship.

Eanna tells us a bit about himself:

1. WHERE ARE YOU FROM AND WHAT ARE YOU STUDYING?

I'm from Whitechurch in Cork, and graduated as a physiotherapist in 2011. Whilst in college, I had been toying with the idea of studying medicine, but having been a bit squeamish all my life, I wasn't sure if it was really for me. I had always wanted to work in healthcare, given that my Grandfather was ill during my teens, and we were very close. When I started going into hospital as a physiotherapist, I was exposed to the hospital environment for the first time, and got my first real taste of hospital medicine. I decided then to return to college to study medicine, and UCC was an easy choice, given its excellent reputation for education and its links to some of the best hospitals in the country.

2. WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE THING ABOUT YOUR COURSE?

With Graduate Entry to Medicine, the hospital exposure starts early on in year 1, which is fantastic, as you can immediately see in practice what you're learning in college. I was lucky too in that our class was very tight, and the graduate and undergraduate entry students were great friends, something which has stood to us in what has been a challenging first few months in the working world. Medicine can be quite an intensive course, and the long hours spent in the library and hospital together means you make some great and lasting friendships.

3. WHERE DO YOU SEE YOUR DEGREE TAKING YOU IN THE FUTURE?

Having graduated in May 2016, I'm currently working in renal medicine in CUH, and will move into the Maternity Hospital in CUMH in October to be the Gynaecology intern. At this point in time, my primary area of interest is Obstetrics and Gynaecology, so I hope to pursue further training in this area in the coming years. My girlfriend is from Toronto, Canada, and is also a Graduate Entry to Medicine student, so it remains to be seen whether my postgraduate training will be in Ireland or abroad.

4. PARTING WORDS?

I'm a firm believer in the words 'What's for you won't pass you.' When I was preparing to write the entrance exam for graduate medicine, a friend introduced me to this idea, and I have to think that there's some truth in it. I didn't initially intend to study medicine, but I couldn't be happier the way things have turned out. I would never change the way the I've ended up where I am. At the end of the day, we only regret the chances we didn't take, so if I were to have one parting bit of advice, it would be to not be afraid to take chances. If there's something you want to do, take a chance and go for it. You'll regret it if you don't!



IRISH STREET MEDICINE SYMPOSIUM 2016

A national conference on Health and Homelessness recently took place in University College Cork. Minister for Housing Simon Coveny T.D. and Lord Mayor of Cork Cllr. Des Cahill were in attendance at the second Irish Street Medicine Symposium - "Working together - Learning from each other." The symposium captured the complex health challenges endured by Ireland's growing homeless population. The meeting's focus was on the issues faced by health care professionals, hostel and outreach staff and ancillary services as they seek to work together to overcome the many challenges involved in ensuring homeless and marginalised populations have access to appropriate health and social care services. The symposium allowed those working on the front-line to share information about the different services available and to highlight innovative care solutions that have been developed across services such as addiction, mental health primary and secondary care.

The Symposium was organised by the Cork Adult Homeless Integrated Service, Health Service Executive Social Inclusion with UCC's Department of General Practice and Partnership for Health Equity.



Pictured (l-r): Dr Fiona O'Reilly, Lord Mayor of Cork Cllr. Des Cahill, Dr Anna Marie Naughton, Minister for Housing Simon Coveny TD, and Professor Colin Bradley. (Photos: Diane Cusack)

Dementia Education in Primary Care – the PREPARED project



The UCC PREPARED team: Dr Aisling Jennings, Ms Katherine Thackeray, Ms Siobhan Boyle, and Dr Tony Foley.

The PREPARED project is a primary care focused national research and education initiative coordinated by Dr Tony Foley, Department of General Practice, UCC, collaborating with the ICGP and with the Dementia Elevator Programme, School of Nursing and Human Sciences at DCU. The overall aims of the PREPARED project are to develop, deliver and evaluate dementia training and education interventions for primary care clinicians.

PREPARED has published a clinical web resource called dementiatheways.ie which is specifically designed for GPs and primary care health professionals, and which includes clinical care pathways, educational resources, a comprehensive compendium of information leaflets and guidance, and a database of community based clinical services and supports available for patients with dementia across Ireland.

Over the summer, the PREPARED project commenced the roll out of accredited dementia workshops to GPs in parts of Cork, Waterford and Greater Dublin. These workshops are facilitated by local GPs with an interest in dementia. During 2016 and 2017, the PREPARED project will be developing and delivering further dementia workshops and education packages for GPs and primary care teams, and is delighted to be working with colleagues in the HSE National Dementia Office and with other partners in contributing to increased awareness and knowledge of dementia care.

The PREPARED project team are particularly keen to hear from GPs and primary care team members who would like more information about the PREPARED project, or would like to be involved in our education and training initiatives. The team contact details are:

Dr Tony Foley, Lecturer in the Department of General Practice and GP in Kinsale: tonyfoley@ucc.ie

Ms Katherine Thackeray, Dementia Project Manager (021 4205557): katherine.thackeray@ucc.ie

Ms Siobhan Boyle, Research Support Officer (021 4205596): siobhan.boyle@ucc.ie

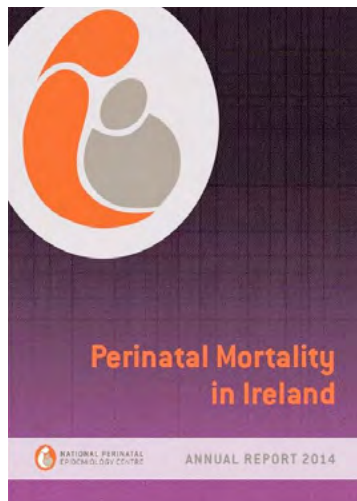
Dr Aisling Jennings, GP Researcher/PhD candidate (021 4205597): aisling.jennings@ucc.ie

For further information, please visit:

www.dementiatheways.ie

www.ucc.ie/en/gp/research

National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre releases the Perinatal Mortality in Ireland Annual Report 2014 and the Severe Maternal Morbidity in Ireland Annual Report 2014



Perinatal Mortality in Ireland Annual Report 2014

The Perinatal Mortality in Ireland Annual Report 2014 is the fourth report of the national clinical audit on perinatal mortality in Ireland using the NPEC data collection tool and classification system. Anonymised data were reported by the 20 Irish maternity units on a total of 504 perinatal deaths occurring in 2014 arising from 67,663 births of at least 500g birthweight or at least 24 weeks' gestation. Stillbirths, early neonatal and late neonatal deaths accounted for 330 (65.5%), 141 (28.0%) and 33 (6.5%) of the 504 deaths, respectively. The perinatal mortality rate was 7.0 deaths per 1,000 births; corrected for congenital malformation, the rate was 4.7 per 1,000 births; the stillbirth rate was 4.9 per 1,000 births; and, the early neonatal death rate was 2.1 per 1,000 live births.



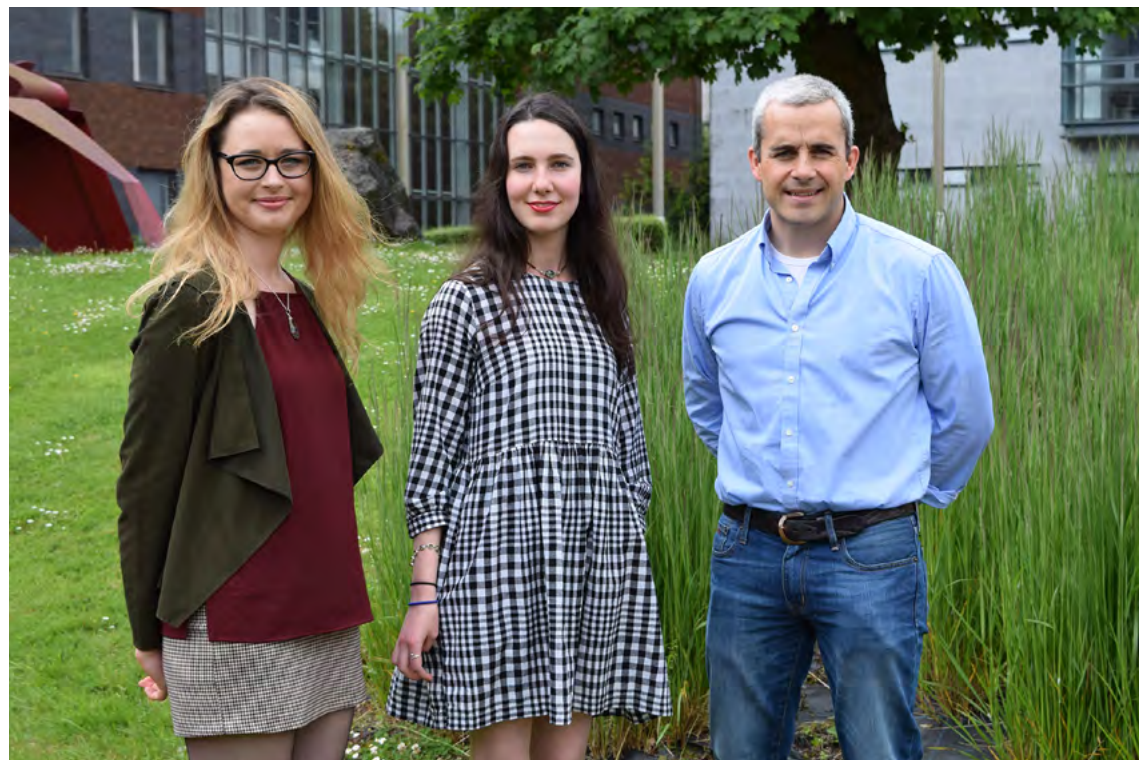
Severe Maternal Morbidity in Ireland Annual Report 2014

The Severe Maternal Morbidity in Ireland Annual Report 2014 is the third report from the national audit of severe maternal morbidity (SMM) in Ireland. It reports on 365 cases of SMM that occurred in 18 of the 19 Irish maternity units in 2014. It also reports on findings from the first national audit of critical care in obstetrics in Ireland. Fifteen of the 19 Irish maternity units contributed to the Critical Care in Obstetric Audit in 2014, including two large tertiary referral maternity units and thirteen smaller maternity units.

The reports are available to download from the NPEC website at:

www.ucc.ie/en/npec/publications/

Follow NPEC on twitter @NPEC_UCC



Pictured (l-r): Shannon Quilty, Grace O'Mahony, and Dr Ken Nally.

Shannon Quilty and Grace O'Mahony

Shannon Quilty, 4th year Biochemistry, UCC recently received a Wellcome Trust Biomedical Vacation Scholarship, and Grace O'Mahony, 4th year Biomedical Science, UCC & CIT received a HRB Summer Studentship Award to spend 8 weeks during the past summer in the research group of Dr Ken Nally, School of Biochemistry and Cell Biology and APC Microbiome Institute, investigating the differential expression of select immuno-regulatory genes in Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) and Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). Ongoing research in Dr Nally's group is focused on gaining a deeper understanding into the pathophysiological mechanisms underpinning IBS and IBD with the goal of identifying new therapeutic strategies for these conditions.



KERRY HEALTH RESEARCH SEMINAR

Pictured (l-r): Ms Maria Godley, General Manager UHK, Dr Claire O'Brien, Consultant Cardiologist UHK, Dr Colman Casey, Director of HIHI, and Dr Siobhán Mc Sweeney, Head of Research ITT.

Dr Colman Casey, Director of Health Innovation Hub Ireland (HIHI), recently attended the Health Research Seminar in Tralee (ITT), organised by the Research Office of Institute of Technology Tralee in association with the Research Advisory Committee at University Hospital Kerry (UHK). Numerous engaging presentations were given on the day, with Dr Casey delivering an excellent keynote address.



ANU RESEARCH MEDAL

Dr Tamara Kalisse is the recipient of this year's Anu annual research medal for her presentation entitled 'The anatomy of caesarean section in a single maternity unit'. The medal was awarded to her by Professor John R. Higgins, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Head of College of Medicine and Health, at a recent Anu research meeting.

Knitting for Neonates

This year, UCC's General Practice Society and UCC's Knitting Society collaborated for the first time to create a project called Knitting for Neonates. UCC students and members of the Cork community gathered to knit garments such as hats, blankets, and cardigans which were donated to the new-borns at Cork University Maternity Hospital. 40+ items were donated. This small but lovely project supported interests in medicine, the arts, charity and community. Knitting for Neonates will be continued this year - any interested knitters are encouraged to contact UCC's General Practice or Knitting Societies for more information!

Knitting Society: Knitting@uccsocieties.ie

General Practice: Gp@ucc.ie



Pictured above (l-r): Daisy, Naz and Julia.



Pictured above (l-r): Martha, Will, Naz, Julia, Julie, Joann, Jaina and Daisy.



HOW FAT CAUSES CANCER

How Fat Causes

CANCER



“How Fat Causes Cancer” is a campaign launched by Breakthrough Cancer Research, which is highlighting research-based information about the link between fat and cancer. With over 36,000 people diagnosed with cancer each year in Ireland, the campaign is aiming to help people make informed choices for themselves and their families.

Being overweight and inactive accounts for up to a third of worldwide cases of colon, kidney, oesophageal, breast and endometrial cancer according to the International Agency for Research on Cancer, World Health Organisation, 2013. A large proportion of cancers are entirely preventable by appropriate food, nutrition, physical activity and body fat according to the World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF).

Dr Aoife Ryan, Dietitian and Lecturer in Nutritional Sciences in University College Cork and Principal Investigator with Breakthrough Cancer Research states, “A large percentage of cancers are now known to be caused by overweight, obesity and inactivity. Carrying excess weight

increases the risk of over 10 different types of cancer. The risk is particularly high in people who carry excess weight on their abdomen (belly). The fat present here is called visceral fat. It surrounds our gut and is highly metabolically active. It produces several hormones and growth factors which we know are linked with cancer development.”

“The good news is that visceral fat responds to exercise and diet, with benefits ranging from lower blood pressure to more favourable cholesterol levels. Even a 10% weight loss can immediately decrease the hormone levels from visceral fat. It takes a short time for visceral fat to be reduced by simple diet and lifestyle changes”, adds Dr Ryan.

To support the campaign, Breakthrough Cancer Research have also created a video about How Fat Causes Cancer.

To view the video, please
For further information, please



School of Nursing and Midwifery Research Bi-annual Away Day

The School of Nursing and Midwifery recently organised a successful bi-annual research day, which was attended by the School's Doctoral and MSc students as well as their supervisors. The day provided students and supervisors with the opportunity to network, share their research ideas, and seek feedback.

www.ucc.ie/en/nursingmidwifery/news/fullstory-665603-en.html



NOBEL BIOCARE COLLABORATION

Nobel Biocare recently visited the Dental School, UCC marking a commitment to collaborate in training and education for our dental students. Nobel Biocare produce innovative implant-based dental restorations – from single-tooth to fully edentulous indications.

Above: Nobel Biocare on their recent visit to Dental School & Hospital. Pictured (l-r): Dr Catherine Gallagher, Mr Ciaran Likely, Ms Seema Bhardwaj, Mr John O'Sullivan, Professor Anthony Roberts.

STOPP/START leads to reduction in adverse drug reactions among elderly patients



A Health Research Board funded study has shown how a simple intervention can substantially reduce adverse drug reactions and make significant savings to patient and exchequer medication costs.

STOPP/START (Screening Tool of Older Persons Prescriptions (STOPP) and Screening Tool to Alert to the Right Treatment (START)) was devised and validated in University College Cork for the purpose of detection of common instances of inappropriate prescribing in older people.

The findings, which were published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society study, involved 732 patients in Cork University Hospital and showed that the adverse drug reaction (ADR) rate dropped from 24% in the control group to 12.5% in the intervention group. The trial also saw a significantly lower cost of medication amongst those patients who received the intervention. The study was a single-blind cluster, randomised controlled clinical trial of unselected older patients hospitalised over a 13-month period. From a consecutive sample of 1042 patients aged over 65 years, 732 were enrolled on the trial with 372 receiving standard care and 360 receiving the STOPP/START intervention.

The STOPP/START criteria were first published in 2008 by a research group led by Dr Denis O'Mahony, Department of Medicine, University College Cork.

www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-666680-en.html



FIONNUALA CROWLEY

In June, Fionnuala Crowley, a third year Direct Entry Medical student at University College Cork, volunteered with Open Mind Projects in Nong Khai District Hospital, on the border between Thailand and Laos. In the mornings she observed the clinical aspects of the Thai Health system. The afternoons and evenings were spent teaching English to staff in various departments of the hospital. On her departure she had taught English to over a dozen doctors of various specialities, lab technicians, hospital pharmacy staff, emergency medicine personnel as well as the nursing staff of the labour ward, general practice clinic, emergency room, operating room and nursing students from Udon Thani University. English is such a universal language that it is needed for patient interaction in the hospital on a daily basis - not just with western patients but patients from neighbouring South East Asian countries who are unable to speak Thai but have broken English. As a result of this, all of the staff were more than eager to learn how to take a history in English, explaining diagnoses, breaking bad news etc. Fionnuala was exposed to some once in a life time rare clinical cases and the staff benefitted hugely from learning role plays specific to their occupation/speciality. It was the first time a medical student from Open Mind projects was permitted to volunteer in the hospital.



EAACI Allergy Clinical Research Fellowship



Dr Margriet Faber

Dr Margriet Faber, a Research Fellow from the University of Antwerp, Belgium, is this year visiting the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, UCC for a period of three months. Dr Faber is recipient of a scholarship from the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI), which is the first ever such award for studies in Ireland. Dr Faber is working as part of the Department's team on the skin/eczema aspects on the BASELINE birth cohort 5 year follow up study, and learning the clinical aspects of food allergy. The Department of Paediatrics and Child Health is delighted to welcome Dr Faber to their team and wishes to thank her for her contribution to the BASELINE study.

Professor Jonathan Hourihane, Head of Department of Paediatrics and Child Health states "We are delighted to host Margriet in UCC and hope that she enjoys her time in Cork. She is already a big hit with the children in the BASELINE study, as we complete the 5 year follow up. Her project will tell us how the allergy profile of the group has changed since they were 2 years old, while she also tracks these two outcomes against the neonatal skin barrier dysfunction that we found to be so predictive of allergies. Hopefully other European allergists and dermatologists will follow in her footsteps!"

Dr Faber states "I am very grateful to professor Hourihane and his team and to the EAACI, for giving me the opportunity to obtain clinical and scientific experience in an abroad allergy center of excellence. I'm very impressed by the enormous set-up of the BASELINE study and really enjoy working on this project. So far, the work on the BASELINE project together with the clinical experiences have been very interesting and there are still 2 more months left...! In the end, I hope to bring a lot of allergy knowledge back to Belgium and I'm sure that my stay in Cork will bring me one step closer to become an allergologist!"

DENTAL OUTREACH 2016 Kathmandu, Nepal

Dental Outreach is a volunteer programme that dental students take part in the summer after their fourth year at UCC. This year, the Outreach programme was carried out in Kathmandu, Nepal. In 2015, this area of Nepal was hit by a devastating earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8. Hundreds of public healthcare facilities were damaged in a country whose public healthcare infrastructure was already limited. Nepal has a total of 1400 dentists to serve a population of 28 million people.

The students tell us a bit about their experience:

“We set out to Kathmandu in July 2016 where we began visiting villages, orphanages and schools to provide free dental screening and treatment for those with little access to the dentist. With the help of Kantipur Dental and General Hospital, we were able to travel to remote areas to provide oral hygiene instruction and provide treatment for hundreds of children and adults. For us, it was an insightful view into how dentistry works in this part of the world.

During our time there, we will never forget how the people of Nepal made us feel so warmly welcome in their country. With an amazingly rich culture, history (and cuisine of course!), there was so much to see and learn about a different way of life – memories that will remain with us forever.

As a final note, we would like to thank those who so generously donated to us during our fundraising efforts, especially Cork Dental School & Hospital for all their support!”



4th Year Students – Bachelor in Dental Surgery who travelled:

- Clodagh Scanlan
- Niamh O’Mahony
- Samantha Michael
- Mairéad Hennigan
- Paul Hanlon
- Krystell Chiu
- Jane O’Regan
- Laura Shepherd
- Nadine Smith
- Ozma Khushbakth
- Danièle Ryan
- Jill O’Driscoll
- Kaumal Baig



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

7 Jul 2016	Corporate Partners' Advisory Board Breakfast Meeting, Brookfield Health Sciences Complex, UCC
16 Aug 2016	Meeting with Incoming UCC President, Western Gateway Building, UCC
19 Aug 2016	Clinic in South Tipperary General Hospital, Clonmel
25 Aug 2016	Welcome address to College of Medicine and Health mature students, Brookfield Health Sciences Complex, UCC
1 Sep 2016	Green Belt Certification Ceremony, Watson Building, UCC
2 Sep 2016	Meeting with new Director of National Cancer Registry Ireland, Professor Kerri Clough Gore
2 Sep 2016	Welcome address to incoming GEM students
8 Sep 2016	Clinic and theatre in Bantry Hospital
9 Sep 2016	Meeting with Deputy Micheál Martin TD
21 Sep 2016	Launch of MSc Healthcare Leadership, Clarion, Cork
26 Sep 2016	Launch of Health Innovation Hub Ireland, Western Gateway Building, UCC

