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APC Microbiome Institute Launch



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Audit



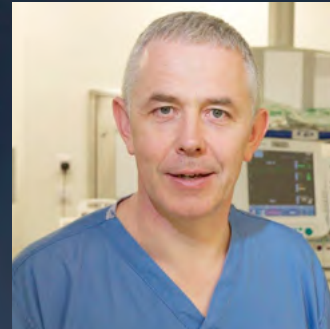
Education Roaming



Scholarship Award



Art Workshop



Congratulations to Professor Fergus Shanahan and all at the APC Microbiome Institute, which was formally launched on 28th August.

The APC Microbiome Institute is built on ambition and an unfaltering commitment to be a world-class leader in human health-related research. APC's success, is in a large part, due to their ability to bring clinicians, clinician-scientists and basic scientists together - sharing ideas, resources and creating dynamic teams.

This Institute is outward looking with an international reputation and an increasing range of academic and commercial partnerships.

I am very proud to congratulate the APC Microbiome Institute on its success and to recognise that it has achieved Research Institute status. A first for the College of Medicine and Health!

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

# ESTABLISHMENT OF APC MICROBIOME INSTITUTE CREATES FIFTY NEW JOBS



The formal launch of the APC Microbiome Institute took place on Friday 28th August 2015, with the announcement of 50 additional hi-tech jobs in Cork. The new jobs have arisen largely from the capacity of APC to attract new industrial partnerships.

Commenting on this achievement, Minister for Agriculture, Food, the Marine and Defence, Mr Simon Coveney TD, said “these 50 jobs come on top of the 90 existing positions in the APC.” Minister Coveney was speaking at the formal launch of the APC Microbiome Institute at University College Cork. He continued “Government policy is directed at funding research and development to create high-tech job opportunities, and APC is to be commended for the fact that it is now providing direct employment for 140 researchers.”

Professor Fergus Shanahan, Director of the APC Microbiome Institute stated that “We now partner with 8 global corporations with a broad footprint in Ireland accounting for in excess of 7,000 jobs. In addition, APC has established partnerships with 9 international companies with no prior relationship with Ireland. The current vision for enterprise policy in Ireland is that research partnerships would encourage multinational companies to locate in Ireland. The APC, founded in 2003, and today designated a national institute, is delighted to be at the vanguard in delivering on this national ambition.” He continued “APC is bringing tangible benefits to society by contributing to our understanding of the importance of microbes in human health and developing our researchers’ talents.”

[www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-596424-en.html](http://www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-596424-en.html)



Pictured above (l-r): Dr Ger O’Callaghan, Chief Operations Officer of the South/South West Hospital Group; Professor Mary Horgan, Dean, School of Medicine, UCC; Mr Gerard Culley, Director of IT Services, UCC; and Mr Mike O’Regan, IT Manager, CUH.

## Roll-out of EDUROAM across South/South West Hospital Group

University College Cork, the Leadership team and the HSE ICT working group of the South/South West Hospital Group, have signalled their intention to roll-out the EDUROAM (education roaming) wireless network across its nine hospitals.

EDUROAM is a secure, world-wide roaming access service developed for the international research and education community which allows students, researchers and staff from participating institutions to obtain internet connectivity across campus by simply opening their laptop or mobile device.

Installation of EDUROAM comes about as a result of the vision of the HSE ICT working group, and continued collaboration between the Hospital Group and UCC. Dr Ger O’Callaghan, Chief Operations Officer of the South/South West Hospital Group, states that the “announcement reflects the diligent work of so many individuals and has been primarily brought-about as a result of cross-organisation collective and collaborative engagement by those within the Group. We now fully expect to deploy EDUROAM in a timely fashion, through direct engagement with each hospital.”

EDUROAM was initially installed in Cork University Hospital in 2014 and Kerry General Hospital in 2015. The benefit of this development is captured by Professor Mary Horgan, Dean of UCC’s School of Medicine who states that: “The rollout of EDUROAM is a very proud moment as it not only captures the collaborative spirit between UCC, our staff, and the South/Southwest Hospital Group as its Academic Partner, but shows how working together unlocks and delivers transformational projects which greatly enhance quality care to patients as well as enhancing services for staff, students’ and researchers.”

## UCC, RCSI, TCD Sign Agreement to Create APPEL



In December 2014 the Irish Minister for Health, with the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI), launched the new 5 year Master of Pharmacy Programme (MPharm) with the goal of helping future pharmacists better meet the changing needs of the healthcare system. The MPharm, provided by each of the three Schools of Pharmacy in Ireland (UCC, RCSI, and TCD), will achieve this outcome in part by integrating experiential learning into all five years of their programmes, permitting a greater level of contextualisation of knowledge over the current model of education and training.

A successful partnership between the three Schools and the providers of this training across the greater pharmacy community will be crucial to achieving this integration of experiential learning. A milestone in building this partnership was reached on the 21st of September 2015 when the three Schools signed a consortium agree-

ment to create the Affiliation for Pharmacy Practice Experiential Learning (APPEL). APPEL will facilitate streamlined, centralised management of the experiential learning placements made available to students by community, hospital, industry, and regulatory pharmacy bodies throughout the state. By providing a single interface to the entire profession and the entire cohort of students nationally, APPEL will be able to provide trainers and preceptors (tutor pharmacists) with consistent communications and uniform training assistance while efficiently assigning students from the three schools to the available training placements.

To coincide with the signing of the agreement, the Consortium has moved to appoint a National Coordinator by January 2016 to oversee the APPEL. The APPEL National Coordinator will be responsible for coordinating the development and administration of the experiential learning programme within the integrated Master of Pharmacy programmes of the three schools. It is a key position that will also require the ability to engage with pharmacists, the pharmaceutical industry, and pharmacy groups in all the major practice areas all across the country.

RCSI Human Resources Department will be accepting applications for the APPEL National Coordinator position up to the 31st of October 2015. Inquiries can be addressed to Mags Browne at [magsbrowne@rcsi.ie](mailto:magsbrowne@rcsi.ie), or to [ops@appel.ie](mailto:ops@appel.ie)

[www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-604732-en.html](http://www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-604732-en.html)

Pictured above (l-r): Professor Stephen Byrne, Head of School of Pharmacy, UCC, Professor Anne Marie Healy, Head of School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, TCD, and Professor Paul Gallagher, Head of School of Pharmacy, RCSI. (Photo: Paul Sharp/SHARPPPIX)

# UCC AND GSK CORPORATE LAUNCH

GSK, one of the world's leading research-based pharmaceutical and healthcare companies, has announced a new corporate partnership with University College Cork (UCC).

The partnership will see GSK and UCC opening up a number of communication channels through which both will seek to share areas of mutual interest with the aim of identifying potential joint projects. These will include GSK sharing their expertise with and learning from members of the College's key research teams including the Demonstrator Health Innovation Hub, and members of the College of Medicine and Health Advisory board.

UCC aims to develop the next generation of leaders in healthcare by inculcating an ambition in its students to conceive, develop and deploy innovative solutions to improve health outcomes. Similarly GSK has pioneered an open innovation model within the Pharma industry and has an extensive external network with which it engages and collaborates.

[www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-556648-en.html](http://www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-556648-en.html)

Pictured above (l-r): Professor John R. Higgins, Head of College of Medicine and Health, UCC, Professor Stephen Byrne, Head of School of Pharmacy, UCC, and Martijn Akveld, Director of Medical Affairs at GSK.

Pictured below (l-r): Professor Stephen Byrne, Head of School of Pharmacy, UCC, Ms Claire Taaffe, Communications Director, GSK, Mr Martijn Akveld, Director of Medical Affairs, GSK, Professor John R. Higgins, Head of College of Medicine and Health, UCC, Ms Helen O'Dwyer, Healthcare Partnership Manager, GSK, and Ms Kate McSweeney, Marketing and Communications Manager, College of Medicine and Health, UCC.

(Photos: Daragh McSweeney/Provision)





Donagh O'Shea and Dr Katie Ryan

## Donagh O'Shea is awarded a scholarship from the Health Research Board

Donagh O'Shea, 2nd year student from the School of Pharmacy, UCC, was successful in obtaining a HRB Summer Studentship. His project is titled "Expanding the clinical application of electroporation in combination with 3D printed scaffolds for the treatment of bone cancer".

Donagh will undertake this project with Dr Katie Ryan at the School of Pharmacy, UCC. Donagh is investigating the formulation design of a novel delivery system to control drug release in conjunction with electroporation as an enhanced therapeutic strategy for bone cancer treatment.

## INTERN OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to UCC medical graduate Dr Murray Connolly, who recently won the 2015 Janssen Gold Medal for Intern of the Year!



## Marion Murphy and Sean Whelan awarded Summer Studentships from the HRB



Marion Murphy, 4th year medical student, and Seán Whelan, 3rd year medical student, were recently awarded Summer Studentships from the Health Research Board to work on projects in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health under the supervision of Dr Sheena Mc Hugh and Professor Patricia Kearney.

Marion is investigating the impact of the timing and quality of antenatal care on health behaviours during pregnancy using data from the Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System in Ireland, in collaboration with the National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre, CUMH. Marion will present her work at the upcoming Society of Social Medicine Conference in Dublin in September 2015 having been awarded a student bursary.

Seán's project is titled 'Diabetes and Cognitive Impairment in the Older Population - Exploring Patterns of Impairment'. He is using data from The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) to investigate the association between type 2 diabetes and cognitive impairment. As part of an active diabetes research group in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, he is investigating how diabetes effects overall cognition in people over 50, as well as looking at specific domains of cognitive functioning - memory, executive function, processing speed etc. Seán has an interest in cognition and neuroscience, and will be undertaking an Intercalated B.Sc in Neuroscience with the Department of Anatomy & Neuroscience in September.



## COLLEGE OF MEDICINE & HEALTH SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (SURE) AWARDS 2015

The College of Medicine and Health invited applications for Summer Undergraduate Research Awards (SURE) from students in health-related disciplines in UCC to support their participation in research during the summer 2015. The purpose of these awards is to foster an interest in research and to give the student an opportunity to become familiar with research techniques. The following students from the College of Medicine and Health were successful in their application:



1. **Paul Ryan,**  
**School of Medicine**

Project title: To assess existing lay-person knowledge on the role and use of an Automated External Defibrillator in amateur sports clubs  
Supervisor: Dr Éanna Falvey

2. **Aoife O'Brien Horgan,**  
**School of Medicine**

Project title: Cork iGEM 2015 - Basehunter  
Supervisors: Dr Paul Young and Dr Tommie McCarthy

3. **Nasir Kanji,**  
**School of Medicine**

Project title: Understanding the role of microRNA in Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy (HIE)  
Supervisor: Dr Gerard O'Keeffe

4. **Julia Marr,**  
**School of Medicine**

Project title: Characterisation of the genetic basis of aberrant salience processes in schizophrenia  
Supervisors: Dr Colm O'Tuathaigh and Professor Ted Dinan

5. **Eimear Treacy,**  
**School of Medicine**

Project title: Epigenetics and the placenta: the effects of stress on the placenta and fetal outcomes.  
Supervisors: Dr Ger O'Keeffe and Professor Louise Kenny

6. **Diana Duarte de Cadogan,**  
**School of Nursing & Midwifery**

Project title: Assessment of Sexuality in Older Adults  
Supervisor: Dr Teresa Wills

7. **Pamela Finn,**  
**School of Nursing & Midwifery**

Project title: Reviewing and analysing undergraduate college student's experiences of depression  
Supervisor: Dr Aine Horgan

8. **Andrea Cheung,**  
**Dental School & Hospital**

Project title: Guidelines for Nursing Home Carers regarding Oral Care for Dependent Elderly  
Supervisor: Professor Finbarr Allen

9. **Kiera Louise Heffernan,**  
**School of Pharmacy**

Project title: Analysis on the use of Quetiapine at 12.5mg dosage in elderly patients  
Supervisors: Dr Laura Sahm and Dr Abina Crean



## VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE WITH SUAS

**Laura Coughlan**, 2nd year student from the Department of Occupational Sciences and Occupational Therapy, UCC, received the highest mark in the class in one of her assignments on a volunteering experience during first year.

Laura tells us a bit about her experience:

As part of our first year Occupational Therapy programme, we were required to volunteer with an organisation of our choice to aid our personal and professional development (OT1004).

I heard about Suas' paired reading programme through my psychology lecturer. It aims to improve the literacy and comprehension levels of primary school children through engaging in the worthwhile occupation of one-to-one reading with a student from third-level education. As soon as I looked into this programme, I knew it was for me. I have always loved working with children and I was encouraged to read from an early age with a big emphasis being placed on its importance. I feel I benefitted greatly from this as I got older. I also felt that this programme was very relevant to the profession of Occupational Therapy, aiming to promote health through engaging in a meaningful or purposeful occupation.

I volunteered with Suas once a week for an hour and I did so for two terms. What I achieved from the experience was more than I could have hoped for or imagined. It was nothing short of enriching. I developed both professional and personal skills through my interactions and responsibilities and also enhanced my communication and performance management skillset.

These transferable skills will help me personally, in my own life, and professionally in my future studies and career as an occupational therapist. I was able to build a rapport with the children, watch them positively and actively engage in the process and most importantly, see a definite improvement in their reading skills over the weeks. This made the whole process of volunteering with Suas all the more worthwhile. I felt I had participated in something really meaningful and that I had made a difference, however small, in the lives of the children I had interacted with.



## Dr Sheena McHugh awarded a fellowship from CARDI

Dr Sheena McHugh, Research Fellow in the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, UCC, has been awarded a fellowship from the Centre for Ageing Research and Development in Ireland (CARDI). In total, four fellowships were awarded across the country and this is the first time a fellowship has been awarded to UCC.

The CARDI leadership programme is aimed at supporting and building capacity in ageing research across the island of Ireland and promoting the development of future leaders. Dr McHugh's programme of research will focus on the development of a falls prevention intervention for older people with diabetes. Her mentors will be Professor Patricia Kearney, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, UCC, and Dr Suzanne Timmons, Centre for Gerontology and Rehabilitation, UCC.

Sheena will also be working with a number of national and international collaborators including the TILDA study (the Irish Longitudinal Study of Ageing), the NICOLA study (Northern Ireland Cohort Longitudinal Study of Ageing) and the Centre for Ageing and Population Health (CAPH), University of Pittsburgh in the US.

For more information see:

[www.cardi.ie/news/%E2%82%AC2millionboostforleadershipinageingresearch](http://www.cardi.ie/news/%E2%82%AC2millionboostforleadershipinageingresearch)

# School of Pharmacy team receives award for their study on the use of art-based teaching strategies



Pictured (l-r): Dr Katie Ryan, Dr Suzanne McCarthy, Dr Eileen O'Leary and Dr Christian Waeber

A dynamic group of interdisciplinary experts from the School of Pharmacy, UCC were awarded first prize in the poster presentation at The European Conference on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning that took place at UCC in June 2015.

A collaborative effort between Dr Eileen O'Leary (Pharmaceutical Chemistry), Dr Katie Ryan (Pharmaceutics), Dr Suzanne McCarthy (Pharmacy Practice) and Dr Christian Waeber (Pharmacology) has embedded art-based teaching strategies in the Pharmacy Curriculum. The curriculum of students in Colleges of Science and Medicine understandably emphasizes science, technology and other quantitative disciplines. However, various studies of the impact of using visual arts as a pedagogical tool in medical education suggest that such training improves both observational and empathic skills in medical students.

There were however no such studies in Pharmacy education, despite the fact that pharmacists often are the patients' first point of contact with the healthcare system. Over the last 3 years, the group have used the VTS (Visual Thinking Strategy) methodology, a College of Medicine and Health initiative introduced by Siobhan Murphy, then Director of the Jennings Gallery. They introduced a series of sessions to the Pharmacy Curriculum in which they used visual arts and poetry as substrates for interpretation and discussion in order to (a) improve the students' observation skills, (b) disrupt their expectation that problems only have a single 'right answer', and (c) teach them to work as a team, integrating prior and peer knowledge to interpret the content of the painting, photograph or poem.

This work will be continued into the MPharm Programme and used to develop and enhance the professional and personal competencies of pharmacy students.



## SFI-HRB-Wellcome Trust Science Seed Award

Dr Dervla O'Malley, Department of Physiology and APC Microbiome Institute, has been awarded an SFI-HRB-Wellcome Trust Science Seed Award. The funding will support a post-doctoral researcher to carry out a project titled 'Electrophysiological investigations on the molecular mechanisms underlying gut-to-brain signalling evoked by colonic microbiota'. They will develop a novel electrophysiological technique of recording intact vagal nerves while stimulating the colonic mucosa with probiotics.



Ali-Rose's father, Patrick Sisk and Ali-Rose with her 1st place World Championship trophy and her new World Record medal.

## 2nd Year Nursing Student Wins First Place at the World Championship Single Lifts

Congratulations to Ali-Rose Sisk, 3rd Year student from the School of Nursing & Midwifery, UCC, who recently came first in the World Championship Single Lifts and recorded a new World Record.

The competition was held in Telford, England on the 12th of June 2015. Ali-Rose is part of the UCC powerlifting club and travelled over with the Irish team. She won the all Ireland's in February and set a new Irish record qualifying her to compete for Ireland. Ali-Rose applied for a sports scholarship for this academic year and will continue to be training with Ireland and UCC.



## Niamh Burke awarded Tavistock Trust for Aphasia University Student Prize

Congratulations to Niamh Burke from the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, UCC who has recently been awarded the Tavistock Trust for Aphasia University Student Prize. In 1988, Robin Tavistock suffered a stroke and as a result, acquired aphasia. He founded the Tavistock Trust for Aphasia in 1992. The University Student Prize is awarded for excellent work relating to aphasia and aims to raise the profile of aphasia amongst future Speech and Language Therapists.

Niamh Burke tells us a bit about her project:

I am a future Speech and Language Therapist and, this summer, I got an email from my lecturer, Dr Helen Kelly, informing me I had been awarded the Tavistock Trust for Aphasia University Student Prize for a literature review on the topic of conversation repair in aphasia.

“To effectively communicate, we must realise that we are all different in the way we perceive the world and use this understanding as a guide to our communication with others.” Imagine you’ve had a stroke. As a result of this stroke, you now suffer from aphasia. What happens when you go home? What happens when you try to have a conversation with your loved one and you just can’t find the words? What happens when conversation breaks down completely?

Aphasia can hinder a person’s ability to hold a conversation and researchers in the field of aphasia have investigated how best to repair breakdowns in aphasic conversation.

My aim in conducting this literature review was to investigate the impact of conversation repair. I found that the act of repair can be debilitating and there may be alternatives to repair. Training of conversational partners is one such alternative.

I hope that further research will consider both familiar and unfamiliar conversation partners and compare them during interactions with a person with aphasia. This could change and improve the way conversation partners are currently trained.

# “Exploring Parkinson’s with Art” Workshop



On Tuesday 28th July 2015, 22 People with Parkinson’s and some of their family members participated in an “Exploring Parkinson’s with Art” workshop in the Glucksman Gallery, UCC. This workshop, organised by Professor Aideen Sullivan, Dr Shane Hegarty and Dr Gerard O’Keeffe, was a satellite event for the forthcoming Parkinson’s Community Meeting and Art Exhibition, which will be held this September in the Glucksman Gallery.



Facilitated by Gráinne Ní Chuirrín, an experienced Art Therapist, participants used a mixture of oils, watercolours and other media to explore and express their experiences of being diagnosed and living with Parkinson’s. Encouraged by the supportive and easy-going environment created in the light-filled and tranquil Glucksman River Room, the participants produced a wonderful array of artworks, despite the majority of them claiming no previous artistic experience.



These works will form an important part of the Parkinson’s Community art exhibition to be held in the Glucksman Gallery from 7-12th September 2015. The feedback on the event was extremely positive, with participants saying that they found the session calming, pleasurable and insightful. The overall feeling was of everyone supporting and teaching each other in a relaxed and fun atmosphere.



1. The workshop group with the organisers.
2. Participating in the workshop.
3. Mr Ted Horgan, Chair of the Cork branch of the Parkinson’s Association of Ireland and Professor Aideen Sullivan.
4. (l-r): Dr Gerard O’Keeffe, Dr Shane Hegarty and Professor Aideen Sullivan.

Both the art workshop and meeting are funded by the Irish Research Council’s “New Foundations Award” through the BRAIN-TALK project, which aims to connect researchers, clinicians and people with Parkinson’s disease to create an active Parkinson’s community in Ireland ([www.ucc.ie/en/braintalk/](http://www.ucc.ie/en/braintalk/)).

# Anu Research Day

The Anu Research Day, organised by the Anu Research Centre, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, UCC, recently took place in the Main Quad, UCC. The theme of the day was renewing links across the department and the surrounding region.

Trainees were invited to submit an abstract and give a presentation of their research that was undertaken either in a full-time research post or while employed in a clinical post in a hospital within the region. The presentation session was chaired by Professor Amanada Cotter from University Hospital Limerick. The Annual Anu Medal was awarded to Dr Siti Khadijah Ismail for best presentation.

After the trainee presentations, Mr J.P. Quinn, Head of Visitors' Centre, UCC, gave a George Boole Tour to the participants of the Anu Research Day. The day was concluded with dinner at the Lewis Glucksman Gallery in UCC.

A special thank you to Ipsen Pharmaceuticals Ireland, who provided assistance on the day.



Pictured left (l-r): Dr Maryanne Man-Yan Siu, Professor John R Higgins, Professor Amanda Cotter, Dr Orfhlaith O'Sullivan and Dr Siti Khadijah Ismail





## CPD AT THE DENTAL SCHOOL & HOSPITAL

The Dental School & Hospital, UCC, have released their CPD Programme for September - November 2015.

For further information, please click on the link below:

[www.ucc.ie/en/dentalschool/cpd/](http://www.ucc.ie/en/dentalschool/cpd/)



## ONLINE CERT IN HEALTH PROTECTION

The postgraduate certificate in Health Protection, offered by the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, UCC is a part-time course that runs on-line over six months. This programme provides an opportunity for healthcare professionals, of all backgrounds, to develop their knowledge of infection prevention and control and health protection.

The programme is delivered through a flexible, online format which can fit around a working schedule. It emphasises the use of evidence based healthcare and practice that will enable participants to work in infection prevention and control. Completion of the course will equip students with the knowledge to co-ordinate and manage infection prevention, control and health protection services on a global scale.

This programme also allows for students to progress to a Diploma and Masters in Public Health from UCC.

The closing date for the January 2016 intake is 27th November 2015.

For further information on the programme, please visit:

[www.ucc.ie/en/epid/postgrad/pgcerthponline/](http://www.ucc.ie/en/epid/postgrad/pgcerthponline/)

## NORTHERN IRELAND AUDIT OF DEMENTIA CARE IN ACUTE HOSPITALS



Pictured at the launch of the 'Northern Ireland Audit of Dementia Care in Acute Hospitals' Report in Belfast (l-r): Ms Emma O' Shea, UCC; Ms Eleanor Ross, Public Health Agency, NI; Dr Suzanne Timmons, UCC; Mr Seamus McErlean, Health & Social Care Board, NI.

The first Northern Ireland Audit of Dementia Care in Acute Hospitals has recently been published. The audit was led by Dr Suzanne Timmons, Senior Lecturer, Centre for Gerontology and Rehabilitation, UCC, and coordinated by Ms Emma O' Shea, Centre for Gerontology and Rehabilitation.

The audit took place in all 12 acute hospitals in Northern Ireland to obtain a baseline picture of the quality of care from admission through to discharge. This is an important area for development given the evidence to suggest that hospital admission is distressing and disorientating for a person with dementia, and is associated with a decline in cognitive ability and functioning.

The Northern Ireland Health Minister, Simon Hamilton, welcomed the findings of the audit, saying "Dementia has a huge impact on families and on society as a whole and there are currently 20,000 people living with dementia in Northern Ireland. The recommendations from this audit highlight the importance of understanding the care needs of patients with dementia when they are admitted to an acute hospital ward. This information will shape the implementation of the regional dementia strategy, in particular the actions relating to hospital care."

The Northern Ireland Audit of Dementia Care follows the publication of the first Irish National Audit of Dementia in Acute Hospitals (2014), both of which were funded by the Atlantic Philanthropies.

The combined audits identify universal challenges to dementia care in busy acute hospitals, and opportunities to improve upon current care practices.



## 1st International Spirituality in Healthcare Conference

Elizabeth Weathers, Postdoctoral Researcher in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, is a member of the Spirituality Interest Group (SIG) at Trinity College Dublin. The SIG held the 1st International Spirituality in Healthcare Conference on Thursday 25th June in the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin. Elizabeth was a delegate at the conference and delivered an oral presentation on her PhD research to a full room. She also Co-chaired a plenary session, judged the poster presentations, and provided harp entertainment during the morning break – all of this before lunch!



## Digitisation of Radiography

Digital Radiology went live throughout the Dental School & Hospital, UCC on Thursday 2nd July 2015. This digitisation enables the School to deliver more comprehensive and modern training for dental students and will enhance patient care.

All radiology images are now captured and stored digitally and the images are enhanced for viewing. The images are immediately available for chair side viewing in all areas of the hospital and will also improve research methods for postgraduate students.

The benefit of this is that images can now be accessed electronically without having to recall patients' notes. The Dental School & Hospital continues to look at further ways of using computerisation to enhance the radiology services and referral methods.

## BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY



Above: Pat with Bronwyn Kavanagh-Smith, now 15, who was one of the first children to benefit from Straight Ahead at the age of 12. (Photo: Paul Sherwood)

There is no shortage of people willing to criticise the Irish health system and its well-publicised failings, but very few are prepared to put their shoulder to the wheel and do something to make things better for patients.

However, UCC graduate and orthopaedic surgeon Dr Pat Kiely – who hails from a Cork medical dynasty – is doing just that, by changing the lives of children with serious spinal deformities who would otherwise have to wait for surgery.

The charity Straight Ahead, which he set up with a number of colleagues at the end of 2011, performs major orthopaedic operations for children on HSE waiting lists and in urgent need of surgery. These children have either progressive spinal deformity, neuromuscular conditions or orthopaedic conditions that deteriorate the longer they are forced to wait.

The Cork-born surgeon and his colleagues give their time and expertise voluntarily. Since its foundation, Straight Ahead has completed 46 surgeries and has a target of over fifty operations for 2015 alone.

“For some kids, waiting for orthopaedic surgery is not an option because their condition deteriorates as they grow. There’s no way that a small charity can look after all the cases on the waiting lists, but at least we are doing something about it, instead of just criticising the situation,” says Pat. “It’s such rewarding and uplifting work to be involved in; we love what we do, it’s a privilege. And the results are so tangible when you see somebody who could not walk, walking, or somebody with a curved spine standing straight.”

[www.ucc.ie/en/alumni/mag/fullstory-550879-en.html](http://www.ucc.ie/en/alumni/mag/fullstory-550879-en.html)

## Intern Induction Day at the School of Medicine

The School of Medicine, UCC, recently hosted the Intern South Network Induction Day. Over 130 new doctors attended, with graduates from UCC, other Irish Medical Schools and overseas in attendance. These new doctors will rotate through multiple hospitals in Cork City and the surrounding area.

Dr Paula O’Leary, who has taken over the role of Intern Network South Coordinator from Professor Carl Vaughan, welcomed the new doctors and gave them words of advice on embracing their new role. Geraldine McNamee, the administrator of the Intern South Network, guided them through the necessary paperwork that they will need to start in practice.

The interns then attended workshops on procedural skills lead by Dr Rob Gaffney, the National Early Warning Score led by Dr Dorothy Breen and Dr Siun O’Flynn, and “Safe Prescribing” lead by Dr Paul Gallagher. Dr Liam Healy talked them through the “Common Calls” that an intern might expect to experience, and facilitated a Q&A session with 6 of last year’s graduates on “A Day in the Life of an Intern”.





## CUMH LAUNCHES COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE FOR EXPECTANT PARENTS



Cork University Maternity Hospital has recently launched a new guide for expectant parents attending preparation for birth and parenthood education classes at the hospital.

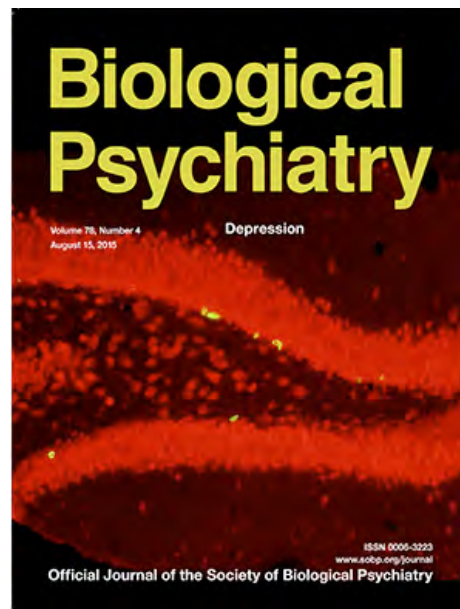
This new pregnant-friendly guide includes all the information given to women and their partners while attending classes during a two week period prior to giving birth at the hospital. The guide includes information on pregnancy, labour, birth and parenthood as well as referencing numerous online reliable sources of information. CUMH offers an extensive birth and parenthood education programme for pregnant women and their partners with tailored classes available to first-time parents, teenagers and young adults, parents expecting multiple births, and for parents with specific needs.

[www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-573144-en.html](http://www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-573144-en.html)

Pictured above left: Cathy O'Sullivan, Midwife Teacher, CUMH. (Photo: Irish Examiner)

Pictured above right (l-r): Olive Long, Acting Director of Midwifery, CUMH; Cathy O'Sullivan, Midwife Teacher, CUMH; and Margaret Murphy, Lecturer, School of Nursing and Midwifery, UCC.

Pictured below (l-r): Mum-to-be, Ciara Murphy; Cathy O'Sullivan, Midwife Teacher, CUMH; and Mum-to-be, Noelle Hogan.



## O'LEARY AND CRYAN LABORATORIES' RESEARCH FEATURED ON COVER OF LEADING INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL



Research led by Dr Olivia O'Leary is featured on the cover page of a leading international journal in psychiatry. The cover of the August 2015 issue of Biological Psychiatry shows an image of neurons in the hippocampus area of the brain of mice that grow up without any microbiota (germ-free mice). The research was conducted in the Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience and the APC Microbiome Institute in UCC. Dr O'Leary, Professor John Cryan and colleagues demonstrated that the microbiota can influence the activity of resident neural stem cells in an area of the brain called the hippocampus. The production of new neurons from these cells occurs throughout life through a process called adult hippocampal neurogenesis. Since previous research by Dr O'Leary and other scientists suggest that adult hippocampal neurogenesis is an important process that contributes to learning & memory, age-related cognitive decline, and the response to stress and antidepressant drugs, these findings suggest that all of these brain functions are likely affected by manipulating the microbiota, particularly during early life.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.biopsych.2014.12.023>



## LIATH SHEEHAN

Ms Liath Sheehan, recent Occupational Therapy graduate and current Master's student of the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy (OSOT), UCC, was last year hired as an Occupational Therapist (OT) in UCC's Disability Services. Liath is the first OT to be hired as part of Student Services at UCC. With the support of the OSOT Department, she has helped to create an OT Service at UCC for college students and raise awareness of OT on campus. Liath has also contributed to Health and Wellness events at UCC. She works with students one on one as well as with groups doing various workshops across campus, including themes such as mindfulness, lifestyle balance, and study skills.

The Disability Services at UCC will also be starting a DCD/ Dyspraxia assessment clinic, which will be based in Brookfield Health Sciences Complex, UCC, and developing a programme with the Students Union to deliver workshops to all students in UCC.

For more information, please visit [www.ucc.ie/en/dss/current/mh/supports/](http://www.ucc.ie/en/dss/current/mh/supports/) or contact Liath at [Liath.sheehan@ucc.ie](mailto:Liath.sheehan@ucc.ie)



Staff and students at the Graduate School BBQ



## GRADUATE SCHOOL - BBQ

The annual end of year BBQ, hosted by the Graduate School of the College of Medicine and Health, UCC, took place at Brookfield Health Sciences Complex on Friday 3rd July 2015. The BBQ was for all postgraduate research students registered in the College of Medicine and Health (PhD, Professional Doctorate, MSc by Research) and their Supervisors. The event provided an invaluable opportunity for the participants to meet other doctoral/MSc students.



## 3D PRINTING; REINTRODUCING PATHOLOGY SPECIMENS FOR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION



Dr Amr Mahmoud (left) and Dr Michael Bennett

Throughout history doctors and medical students have learnt about human diseases directly from examining dissected tissues or preserved organs in pathology museums. However, the availability of this valuable teaching material has disappeared both internationally and in Ireland, particularly since the introduction of the human tissue act in 2008. Drs Amr Mahmoud and Michael Bennett from the Dept. of Pathology, UCC, have recently published an article on a novel teaching methodology, entitled '3D Printing of Anatomic Pathology Specimens for Undergraduate Education' in the Archives of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, the journal of the College of American Pathologists.

They used the innovative approach of 3D printing technology to generate 3D printed models of pathology specimens. The aim is to utilise them for teaching pathology entities to undergraduate medical, dental, and biomedical students, which might potentially replace preserved specimens in pathology museums. 3D printed models were successfully generated from pathology specimens including cancer resection specimens. On assessing students' feedback, students reported that the models successfully depicted the pathological features and anatomical relations of pathological lesions to adjacent normal structures. The outcome of the research was presented to a worldwide audience of pathologists at the annual meeting of the United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology meeting in Boston, USA, March 2015, with great success.

More information on the methodology is available online through their published article. [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26230598](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26230598)



# NEW HORIZONS

## Translational Medical Research Conference

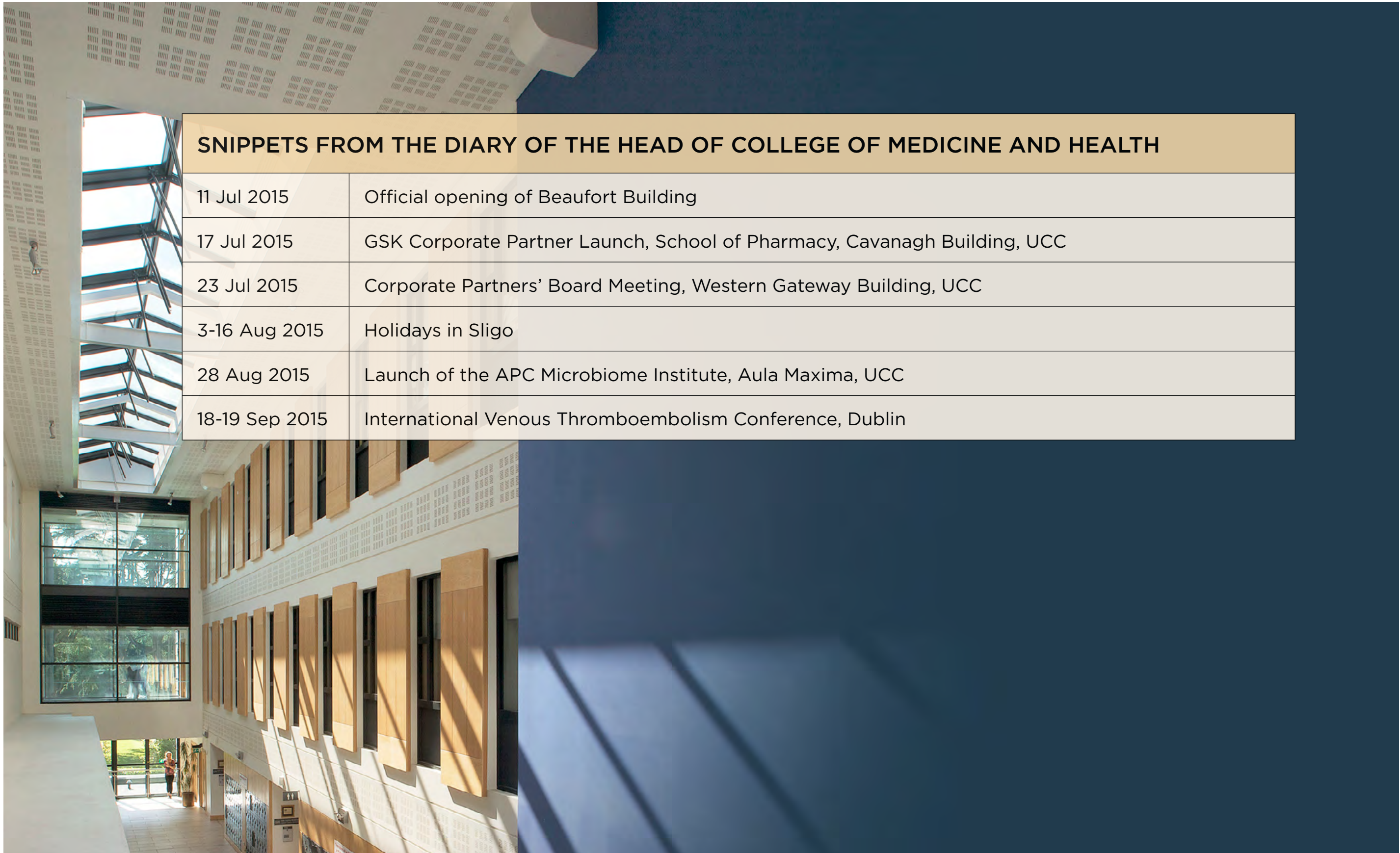
The New Horizons Research Conference, organised by the School of Medicine Research Committee, UCC, is taking place on:

**Thursday 10th December 2015 in the Western Gateway Building, UCC.**

The Conference will highlight the diverse range of translational research in UCC and will include plenary sessions with short oral and poster presentations.

Free Registration will be available on the day.

For more information, please visit: [www.ucc.ie/en/medical/events/](http://www.ucc.ie/en/medical/events/)



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

11 Jul 2015	Official opening of Beaufort Building
17 Jul 2015	GSK Corporate Partner Launch, School of Pharmacy, Cavanagh Building, UCC
23 Jul 2015	Corporate Partners' Board Meeting, Western Gateway Building, UCC
3-16 Aug 2015	Holidays in Sligo
28 Aug 2015	Launch of the APC Microbiome Institute, Aula Maxima, UCC
18-19 Sep 2015	International Venous Thromboembolism Conference, Dublin