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Dear Colleagues,

We are well into the summer and the atmosphere around campus is that of serenity and stillness. The warm, sunny weather and the longer days have had a visible impact on staff and students alike.

In this edition of the newsletter you can catch up on a number of news items. We celebrated with our graduates on their conferring day, which is one of the most significant milestones in their lives. They are now world-ready and prepared to embark upon their future careers, whichever direction it may take them. What a great life-stage to be in!

Some of you may already be preparing and gearing up for the upcoming academic year, but remember to also take time to unwind and spend time with your family and friends.

I wish you all a lovely summer!

Dr Francis Burke
Head of College of Medicine and Health
University College Cork
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Dr Janas Harrington

Study suggests taxing sugar sweetened soft drinks could help fight child obesity epidemic

A study of the soft drink consumption patterns of more than 1000 schoolchildren presented at this year's European Congress on Obesity in Porto, Portugal (17-20 May) shows that overweight and obese children tend to drink more sugar sweetened soft drinks than normal weight children. The authors, led by Dr Janas Harrington, UCC, say that taxing such drinks in combination with other public health measures could help contribute to the fight against the child obesity epidemic.

The obesity epidemic is a public health crisis with the potential to reverse recent favourable trends in life expectancy and undermine the financial viability of health systems. Though the epidemic has many causes, links between the consumption of sugar-sweetened drinks (SSD) and excessive weight gain in children have been observed. Furthermore, excessive consumption is associated with increased prevalence of dental caries. In this new study, the authors aimed to provide evidence of the magnitude of the consumption of SSDs in Ireland and to explore the association between SSD consumption and overweight and obesity.

www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-764747-en.html

Single injection 'could repair damaged hearts' after world-first trial



Pictured above: Professor Noel Caplice, Chair of Cardiovascular Sciences, UCC and John Nolan from New Ross, Wexford, who was a participant in the clinical trial. (Photo: Clare Keogh)

A UCC professor has shown in a trial, the first of its kind in the world, that low dose insulin-like growth factor, injected into the heart to repair damage to the muscle, improves remodelling for heart attack patients.

Professor Noel Caplice, Chair of Cardiovascular Sciences at UCC, and his cardiologist colleagues at Cork University Hospital successfully tested the growth factor in the clinical trial (RESUS-AMI), funded by a €1 million grant under the joint HRB-SFI Translational Research Award programme, of 47 patients who had experienced large attacks.

Around 20% of people who suffer heart attacks have severe ongoing difficulties because of lasting damage to heart muscle even after the best current therapies, often resulting in patients developing long-term heart failure, associated with increased morbidity and mortality.

Patients received two different low dose preparations of insulin-like growth factor or placebo in a randomised double blinded clinical trial, with results showing those who received the higher dose had improved remodelling of their heart muscle in the two-month follow-up after their heart attack, which correlated with other measures of improved heart performance.

The research has been recognised and peer-reviewed by the European Society of Cardiology and the trial was presented for the first time at its Heart Failure 2017 conference in Paris in April 2017.

www.ucc.ie/en/about/uccnews/fullstory-763512-en.html

Fulbright Awardees 2017

Congratulations to Professor Colin Bradley, Head of Department of General Practice, UCC and Dr Sheena McHugh from the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, UCC who have been awarded Fulbright HRB Health Impact Awards to conduct research in the United States. This year the Fulbright Program celebrates 60 years of educational and cultural exchange between Ireland and the US. Since 1957, the Program has provided Irish and European citizens with the opportunity to study, research, or lecture in America, and supported US citizens to do the same in Ireland. The program is now established in over 160 countries globally.

Professor Colin Bradley is Professor of General Practice in the School of Medicine at University College Cork. He has a long standing research interest in improving the prescribing of medicines in general medical practice. Excessive prescribing of opioids for non-cancer pain has emerged as a major problem in the US. As Fulbright-HRB Health Impact Scholar, Professor Bradley will collaborate with colleagues from the University of Oklahoma to undertake research on strategies to improve opioid prescribing by primary care physicians.

Dr Sheena McHugh is a Research Fellow at the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, UCC. She is a Fellow on the CARDI Leadership Programme in Ageing Research funded by the Ageing Research and Development Division within the Institute of Public Health in Ireland (IPH). She has a BA in Psychology from UCD, a Master of Science in Health Psychology from University College



London, and she completed the HRB Scholars Programme in Health Services Research at UCC. As a Fulbright-HRB Health Impact Scholar, Dr McHugh will spend six months at the Gillings School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina examining the transferability of implementation strategies between health systems.

Pictured above (l-r): Mr Aaron Barker (another Fulbright HRB Scholar from UCC), Dr Sheena McHugh and Professor Colin Bradley. (Photo: Conor McCabe Photography)

www.fulbright.ie/celebrating-60-years-educational-cultural-exchange-ireland-us



Professor John Cryan Recipient of Research Mentor Award from American Gastroenterology Association

Congratulations to Professor John Cryan, Head of Department of Anatomy & Neuroscience, UCC, who was recently awarded a prestigious Research Mentor Award in Chicago at the annual meeting of the Microbiome & Microbial Diseases in the Gastrointestinal Tract Section of the American Gastroenterology Association.

Pictured above: Professor Cryan (left) with Professor Gene Chang, University of Chicago, Chair of the Section.



Professor Louise Kenny wins Guaranteed Irish Science Hero award

Congratulations to the Director of INFANT (the Irish Centre for Fetal and Neonatal Translational Research), Professor Louise Kenny, who has been named as the Guaranteed Irish Science Hero for 2017. She was selected for the award following a public nomination process and received the award at the INFANT Research Centre. Throughout 2017, Guaranteed Irish will champion six exceptional individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to creating a better Ireland through jobs, community and provenance. Professor Kenny was the third of six Guaranteed Irish Heroes.



Top: Award recipients 2017. **Above left:** Ger Cagney (niece of the late Patricia Power, who presented the Patricia J Power award), Ryan Goulding, Laura Coleman and Samantha Galvin. **Above right:** Mohamad Saab.

School of Nursing & Midwifery Student Awards 2017

The School of Nursing & Midwifery recently held its second annual student awards ceremony in Brookfield Health Sciences Complex, UCC. The ceremony was about recognising the exceptional and talented students that are engaged in various activities within and outside the School.

This year's winners were:

- Postgraduate Student of the Year:
Mohamad Saab
- Undergraduate Student of the Year:
Siobhan Collins
- Award for Contribution to Community Engagement:
Dana Williams
- Award for Outstanding Contribution to Student Life:
Sarah O'Donovan
- Student Leader of the Year:
Donal Fallon
- Award for Outstanding Contribution to Sport:
Ali-Rose Sisk
- Award for Outstanding Contribution to Arts and Entertainment:
Christina Doohan
- Patricia J Power Award for Excellence in Clinical Practice:
Ryan Goulding

Laura Coleman and Samantha Galvin were also shortlisted as worthy candidates for this award.

For more photos please click



Katie Togher Finalist in 'Science for All' Competition

Congratulations to Katie Togher, Honours Neuroscience Graduate of 2013 and current PhD Researcher in the Department of Anatomy & Neuroscience / Obstetrics & Gynaecology / INFANT Centre / APC Microbiome Institute who was recently selected as finalist in the 'Science for All' competition. The Science for all competition is an opportunity for young scientists to share the excitement of their research with the general public in an easily understandable manner, without using jargon. The competition is organised jointly by the College of Science, Engineering and Food Science, and two Science Foundation Ireland funded research centres including the APC Microbiome Institute and the Irish Photonics Integration Centre.

www.ucc.ie/en/anatomy/news/fullstory-762255-en.html



Tony Costello Award 2017

Ms Li Ying Mah and Ms Eva Taaffe, 4th year BDS students from the Dental School and Hospital, recently attended the IDA Annual Conference in Kilkenny to present a poster entitled 'Anatomical Patient Factors that Limit Orthodontic Treatment'. The students were awarded the Tony Costello Memorial Medal, which is an award based on a poster presentation on subjects applicable to general dental practice and is judged on clinical usefulness, academic content, presentation and originality. Li Ying and Eva were supervised by Professor Declan Millett and Dr Patricia McDermott.

Pictured above: Dr Patricia McDermott, Ms Li Ying Mah, Ms Eva Taaffe, and Professor Declan Millett.



Ciara Sutherland Scotland's Dentist of the Year 2017

Congratulations to Ciara Sutherland, Graduate of Cork University Dental School & Hospital, who has been awarded the title of Scotland's Dentist of the Year 2017. The Award was presented to Ciara at the recent Scottish Dental Awards in Glasgow.

Pictured above: Ciara Sutherland with award sponsor Nick Leca.



ANU Medal

The end of the academic year at the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology is marked by the ANU research meeting. This meeting provides an opportunity for the Department to thank the Consultants and the Doctors in Training for their contribution to the teaching during the year. It also provides a forum for presentations of the best ongoing research projects. The Consultants vote for the best presentation and the winner receives the prestigious ANU medal. Deirdre Hayes-Ryan was the worthy winner this year with her presentation on the 'Cross Sectional Study of Placental Growth Factor (PIGF) in Multiple Pregnancy'.

Pictured above: Professor Patrick O'Shea, President of UCC, Deirdre Hayes-Ryan and Professor John Higgins, Head of Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology.

Achievements of Dr Killian McCarthy



The School of Medicine, UCC recently held a small function to acknowledge the achievements of Dr Killian McCarthy in the 2016 Final Year Examinations. Killian was awarded the Blayney Prize for finishing top of the final year class overall. Killian also obtained the highest marks in both Medicine and Paediatrics and was the recipient of the James M O'Donovan Medical Prize and the RGG Barry Prize in Paediatrics. Professor Mary Horgan, Dean of School of Medicine, was delighted to welcome Killian and staff to the event to mark Killian's achievements and wished Killian well in his future career.

Pictured above: Dr Killian McCarthy, Professor Mary Horgan, Professor Paula O'Leary and School of Medicine staff.

Above left: Dr Killian McCarthy and Professor Mary Horgan.



Regulatory Science Symposium

UCC's School of Pharmacy and the PEARRL EU training network recently jointly organised the first Regulatory Science Symposium which provided attendees with a unique opportunity to discuss regulatory support of innovation in Europe's pharmaceutical industry. The exciting programme included presentations from experts in industry, academia and regulatory bodies from all over Europe on the following topics:

- Regulatory pathways adapting to innovation
- Strategies of regulatory bodies to enhance support for the development of medicines
- Innovation in clinical trials and drug manufacture.

www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-766839-en.html



The ASSERT Centre together with foundation partner Mentice introduce a state-of-the-art training solution for stroke

The ASSERT Centre, UCC recently conducted a new simulation-based training for Mechanical Thrombectomy of acute ischemic stroke, featuring Mentice's high-fidelity endovascular training solution. The program was held in conjunction with ASSERT's foundation partner Mentice and was sponsored by Stryker NV.



The two-day programme utilised a new training solution for thrombectomy based on world-leading endovascular simulation developed and provided by Mentice. The solution offers metrics which objectively measure every step a trainee takes, providing direct guidance and assessment of performance. The Mentice technology delivers a close-to-reality replica of the environment experienced by physicians when performing such procedures.

www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-768030-en.html



World Preeclampsia Day 2017

The INFANT Centre led the awareness campaign in Ireland for #WorldPreeclampsiaDay, joining the Preeclampsia Foundation and BabyCentre in the worldwide campaign. INFANT's mission is to make pregnancy safer and the IMPROVED team, led by Prof Louise Kenny, has recruited almost 1500 volunteers to their study which will develop a test to predict if a woman is likely to develop preeclampsia in her pregnancy.

Nearly 76,000 mothers and 500,000 babies worldwide lose their lives to preeclampsia each year. To increase awareness of this life-threatening complication of pregnancy, maternal health organisations around the world joined forces to host the first-ever World Preeclampsia Day on Monday 22nd May 2017. Landmark buildings around the world, including Cork City Hall, UCC and Blackrock Castle Observatory in Cork, were lit up in the colour amber in support of the campaign and to bring attention to the global impact of preeclampsia.

Mental Health Research 'Speed Dating' Event

ENGAGE Interdisciplinary Clinical Mental Health Research Network recently hosted a research 'speed dating' event. The event brought together researchers, and clinicians from multiple disciplines, including nursing, psychology, law, social sciences, general practice, microbiology, pharmacy, epidemiology, economics and dentistry to share their research ideas and stimulate partnerships in a social, high-energy, and interactive way.

Pictured right: Mr Johnny Goodwin (Secretary), Mr Daniel Flynn (Vice-Chair), Dr Audrey Dunn Galvin, Dr Aine Horgan (Chair), Dr Chris McCusker, and Professor Josephine Hegarty. (Photo: Emmet Curtin)





ASSERT Centre hosts the annual Irish Association for Simulation Symposium

The ASSERT Centre at College of Medicine and Health recently held the 2nd annual symposium of the Irish Association for Simulation (IAS). Local IAS Symposium organiser and Centre Manager at ASSERT, Dave Power welcomed a diverse group of attendees from across all domains of healthcare, who share a common interest in using simulation-based education and training to improve patient safety. The symposium was a perfect opportunity for knowledge sharing among healthcare professionals across all disciplines in the exciting field of medical and surgical simulation. The symposium provided a variety of presentations and workshops for the attendees.

www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-763704-en.html



Graduate School BBQ June 2017

The Graduate School Summer BBQ took place on Thursday, 8th June 2017, in the Brookfield Health Sciences Complex, University College Cork. The rain didn't spoil the evening for the postgraduates who had a fun-filled event and an entertaining quiz to finish off a very successful night! The Graduate School said hello to some incoming graduates and goodbye to some of those who were finishing up. A good time was had by all.



Pictured left: Alice Coffey, Gerardina Harnett, Suzanne Denieffe, Claire O’Gorman, Fiona Willis, Nicola Cornally, Dawn Farrell, Lisa Herrity, Michelle Clifford and Ruth Lernihan.

SIA Society: Celebrating Nursing Excellence

The newly established SIA Society recently held its second induction ceremony at Brookfield Health Sciences Complex, UCC. The SIA Honor Society of Nursing and Midwifery Ireland is a prelude Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Honor Society of Nursing and is the first of its kind in Ireland. STTI is a long established global organisation for nursing and midwifery leaders with members in over 90 countries.

The SIA Honor Society of Nursing and Midwifery Ireland involves collaboration between Schools and Departments of Nursing and/or Midwifery in University College Cork, Waterford Institute

of Technology, the Institute of Technology Tralee, as well as the Nursing and Midwifery Planning and Development Unit of the Cork/Kerry region.

Over 54 new members were invited to join the society for the induction ceremony, in a well-attended evening of celebration. The society inducted 38 new charter members, the first five charter student members and seven honorary members. There are over 79 members of the SIA Honor Society of Nursing and Midwifery Ireland to date.

MEDICAL CONFERRINGS

Congratulations to our 216 School of Medicine graduates, who were awarded an Honours Degree of Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, and Bachelor of Obstetrics (MB, BCh, BAO Hons) at this year's Medical Conferings.



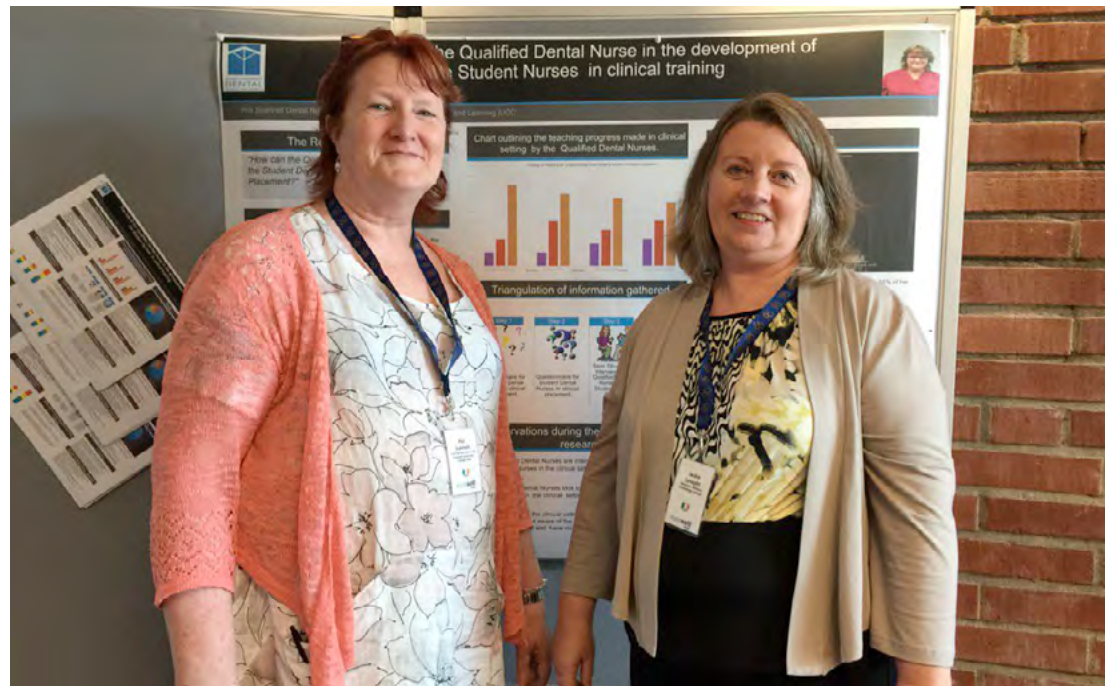
(Photos: Gerard McCarthy)

College of Medicine and Health Summer Conferrings

Congratulations to our most recent graduates from the College of Medicine and Health, who recently graduated at UCC's Summer Conferrings.



(Photos: Gerard McCarthy)



Phil Scannell visits Lund University in Sweden

Ms Phil Scannell from Cork University Dental School & Hospital recently visited Lund University in Sweden to present at the Euro SoTL Conference 2017. Phil presented a poster highlighting the role of qualified dental nurses in the clinical training of student dental nurses' development. Phil was awarded the College of Medicine & Health's travel bursary for support staff to attend this conference.

Pictured above: Ms Phil Scannell MATLHE, Ms Jackie Lysaght MATLHE

School of Nursing and Midwifery Team Head to Iceland to work on COMMUNE project

Dr Aine Horgan, Ms Fionnuala Manning, Ms Moira O Donovan and Mr Rory Doody from UCC's School of Nursing and Midwifery Mental Health team spent a week in Iceland in May 2017 working on a European funded project (COMMUNE) to co-produce mental health nursing education with people who have lived experience of mental distress. The team worked in partnership with nurse academics and those with lived experience from Finland, Iceland, Dublin, Norway, the Netherlands and Australia to develop the module and plan for the second phase of the research. After five days of intense work, the team headed off to see the powerful forces of nature Iceland has to offer.

Pictured above: Dr Aine Horgan, Ms Fionnuala Manning, Ms Moira O Donovan and Mr Rory Doody



HOPE Exchange

Six international participants of the HOPE (European Hospital and Healthcare Federation) Exchange Programme recently visited the College of Medicine and Health, UCC and the South/South West Hospital Group (SSWHG).

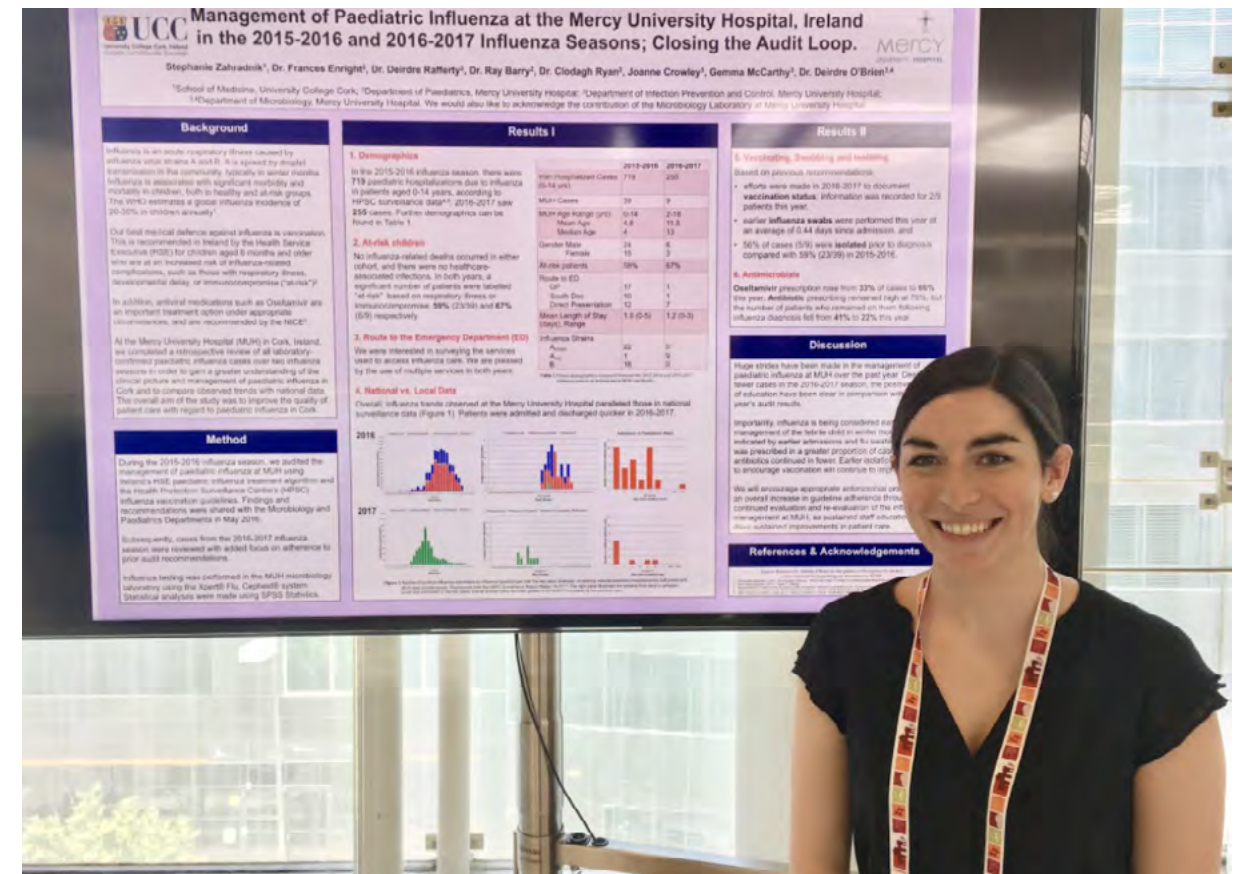
The group's visit involved meetings across the hospitals in the SSWHG and the schedule was designed to give insights into different clinical settings. This included visits to Cork University Hospital, University Hospital Waterford, South Tipperary General Hospital, South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital, and Cork University Maternity Hospital. The group also met with the Health Information and Quality Authority.

The visitors also spent a day touring the College of Medicine and Health's facilities in the Watson Building, Brookfield Health Sciences Complex and the Western Gateway Building, including the ASSERT Centre, the Clinical Skills Simulation Resource Centre in the School of Nursing & Midwifery, the Boston Scientific Library and the FLAME laboratory within the Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience. In the afternoon, the group also had the opportunity to visit UCC's main campus, where they were brought on an engaging tour of the history of UCC.



Maeve O'Connell visits Uppsala University in Sweden

Maeve O'Connell is a PhD student at the INFANT Centre, practising Midwife and part-time University Lecturer at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, UCC. She recently received funding from the EU COST programme as part of COST Action IS1405 Building Intrapartum Research Through Health – an interdisciplinary whole system approach to understanding and contextualising physiological labour and birth (BIRTH). This funding will allow Maeve to travel to visit Professor Inggerd Hildingsson at Uppsala University in Sweden to lead a project entitled 'A salutogenic approach to fear of childbirth' in September 2017. This Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) will explore a salutogenic approach to supporting pregnant women with fear of childbirth. The visit will inform Maeve's doctoral thesis which is the first investigation of fear of childbirth in an Irish context and will facilitate the discussion of further collaboration on future projects.



Stephanie Zahradnik

Stephanie Zahradnik, UCC medical student, recently presented a poster at the ESPIC (European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases) in Madrid. This is the largest paediatric ID meeting in Europe. Stephanie's poster was entitled 'Management of Paediatric Influenza at the Mercy University Hospital, Ireland in the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 Influenza Seasons; Closing the Audit Loop.'



Dr Joseph McVeigh



Mr Aidan O'Shea

Dr Joseph McVeigh and Mr Aidan O'Shea join the School of Clinical Therapies

Two new staff members, Dr Joseph McVeigh and Mr Aidan O'Shea, have recently joined the School of Clinical Therapies, UCC.

Dr Joseph McVeigh is the Head of the new Physiotherapy programme at UCC. Joseph obtained a BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy from Ulster University in 1992, after which he worked in the NHS, specialising in the rehabilitation of long-term musculoskeletal conditions. He subsequently obtained one of the first physiotherapy lecturer-practitioner positions in Northern Ireland in 1999, which was a joint role between Ulster University and the Royal Group of Hospitals, Belfast. In 2003 Joseph obtained a full time post as a Lecturer in Physiotherapy at Ulster University and has been Course Director of the undergraduate BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy and the MSc Sport and Exercise Medicine programmes. He has been awarded a Fellowship (2013) and Senior Fellowship (2016) of the Higher Education Academy and has acted as External Examiner for the BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy programme at St George's University of London and is currently External Examiner for the MSc (pre-registration) Physiotherapy programme at Manchester Metropolitan University.

Mr Aidan O'Shea is the Practice Education Co-ordinator for the new Physiotherapy programme. Aidan obtained a BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy from the University of Limerick in 2008. He then worked in several different clinical and community-based environments which has built his clinical experience. Aidan has also worked as a staff grade physiotherapist in Cork University Hospital where he completed clinical rotations in cardiorespiratory, neurology and musculoskeletal physiotherapy practice. At this stage Aidan started to develop an interest in physiotherapy student clinical education, an interest which he has continued to develop throughout his career to date.

The School of Clinical Therapies are delighted to welcome both Joseph and Aidan to their team.

Teddy Bear Hospital 2017

Students from the School of Medicine recently organised the annual Teddy Bear Hospital at UCC. The initiative is a community outreach activity that aims to reduce the fear that many children have when they visit the doctor. This year primary school children worked with medical students to diagnose and treat their teddy bear patients with commonly used medical instruments and medical style procedures. The procedures used within the hospital are based on what children typically experience during a visit to their family doctor.



(Photos: Gerard McCarthy)

‘Perceptions’

by Usna Keating

‘Perceptions’, an exhibition by Cork native and UCC graduate Usna Keating is currently on display in the Jennings Gallery, Brookfield Health Sciences Complex, UCC.

The artworks incorporate themes of wildlife, fantasy and the psychological with inspiration drawn from Usna’s favourite artists – Salvador Dali, William Blake and Harry Clarke. The wildlife drawings on display follow an observational, scientific-based approach to drawing, which Usna developed during his studies in UCC. Using ink, graphite and aquarelle pencils, these drawings are truly thought provoking.

‘Perceptions’ is on display until the 24th of August in the Jennings Gallery.



(Photos: Gerard McCarthy)