

navigate stories

Welcome to the latest edition of our CoMH Newsletter

1. International Stillbirth Alliance Conference Comes to Ireland
2. European Behavioural Pharmacology Society
3. 10th Annual Diabetes in Primary Care Conference
4. First year UCC Occupational Therapy students exhibition
5. Marc O'Sullivan Wins Best Oral Presentation
6. 2017 Irish Healthcare Awards

Other News



International Stillbirth Alliance Conference



Professor John Cryan



Conference



Jennings Gallery



Presentation Prize



PREPARED



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to my first edition of the College of Medicine & Health's newsletter. Over a month has gone by since I started as Head of College, and I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a bit about myself as well as my vision for the College.

I have spent the last four years as Dean of Dentistry in the University of Leeds. As some of you may already know, this is not my first time joining the College of Medicine & Health at UCC. My previous roles have included Vice Head and Dean of the Graduate School, Professor of Dental Public Health, and Director of the Oral Health Services Research Centre. Thus, taking up this new role as Head of College is a significant milestone for me, not just on a professional, but also on a personal level, as in a way I am returning home. It is my privilege to work with a highly motivated and enthusiastic team that contributes to the friendly and collaborative culture of our College.

UCC has a long tradition of fostering excellence in the life-long goals of education, research and compassionate patient care. During my five-year tenure, my aim is to take an already high-achieving and ambitious College to the next level, bringing it to the forefront as a national and international leader of healthcare education and service provision.

In the months ahead, I will be consulting all members of the College staff on the refreshment of our strategy. I am currently working on putting the infrastructure for staff-wide consultation in place. We will be revisiting both research and academic strategies and planning for the next five years. Although much of our focus will be on the currently planned developments, I want to hear from you regarding new plans. I will be seeking collective ownership in developing and delivering our new strategy.

In addition, I will be seeking researchers input to a forthcoming 'Impact' publication which will relate how our research has impacted health, health policy, well-being or other direct and indirect effects on people's lives. These will be short single paragraph abstracts that tell our impact stories and showcase our successes and achievements at local, national and international

level in a way that is accessible to our staff our funders and to the population we serve. The impact case-studies also allow us to show case areas where inter-disciplinarity and external engagement is flourishing. For many reasons, relating our past contribution and achievements is essential to delivering our future ambition. This publication will be available on our website and selected case-studies will also be compiled in hard copy to distribute as appropriate. For this reason I ask that you give the project the attention it deserves, when invited to contribute.

The high level of collaboration across Colleges and sectors has been brought home to me by numerous events in my first month back. This is a unique selling point for our University, which I will continue to grow and develop as we progress our plans for the development of research for health and wellbeing.

We recently had the Dental Council Visit and the Irish Medical Council are about to visit a selection of our hospital partners to review the undergraduate and post graduate training. As Chief Academic Officer for the South / South West Hospital Group, I look forward to supporting the process. In addition, I was happy to meet the 7-strong International Site Review Panel that came to review the APC Microbiome Institute recently, and stress to them the excellent research being carried out by the APC and the importance of the APC activity to the College of Medicine and Health.

I encourage you to read UCC's Strategic Plan 2017-2022, which outlines significant objectives set for the College. Consider the part you play in achieving these ambitious goals. We all contribute to our success.

I look forward to working with you.

Professor Helen Whelton  
Head of College of Medicine and Health  
University College Cork



## A Glance at Professor Helen Whelton's Recent Activities

### VISIT TO THE MARYMOUNT HOSPICE



Professor Patrick O'Shea, UCC President, and Professor Helen Whelton recently visited the Marymount Hospice to attend a fundraising event which included a brilliant play performed by Aidan Dooley called "Tom Crean Antarctic Explorer". Pictured here (l-r): Sarah McCloskey (CEO Marymount), Professor Patrick O'Shea, Dr Marie Murphy (Consultant in Palliative Medicine), Professor Helen Whelton and Professor Tony O'Brien (Medical Director of Marymount).

### HEALTH INNOVATION WEEK 2017



Photo: Tomas Tyner

Health Innovation Week took place recently. The theme of the day was 'Unlocking the "Digital Thread" in the Health Management Landscape: Opportunities, Challenges and Next Steps'. Professor Helen Whelton stated that "it was exciting to see the extent of the cross-disciplinary focus during the Health Innovation Week". The event was organised by Cork University Business School in collaboration with eHealth Ireland.

### TYNDALL TECHNOLOGY DAYS 2017



The Tyndall Technology Days took place on 25th October 2017. The agenda was packed with a wide variety of themed sessions from Smart Manufacturing, Smart Medtech to Future Communications. Professor Helen Whelton chaired the Smart Medtech session, which included four engaging presentations.

### MGA CONFERENCE & DINNER



Professor Helen Whelton recently attended the Medical Graduates Association (MGA) conference and dinner at UCC. Here she is pictured with Professor Patrick O'Shea, UCC President, and Professor Tony O'Brien, Chair of the MGA.

# UCC UNVEILS MOST AMBITIOUS STRATEGIC PLAN IN ITS HISTORY



UCC has unveiled its €350 million investment plan which will create more than 500 new construction jobs in Cork over the next five years.

At the launch of the new strategic plan, UCC President, Professor Patrick O'Shea, outlined the development goals for UCC which include major capital projects and significant targets in the areas of philanthropy and student recruitment, national and international.

The main pillars of the plan include:

- **Curriculum development - implement an academic strategy to deliver an outstanding, student-centred teaching and learning experience with a renewed, responsive and research led curriculum at its core**
- **Student numbers - increase student numbers by 2,000, from 21,000 to 23,000**
- **Increase the number of international students from 3,300 to 4,400**
- **Expand campus space by 20%**
- **Extend the income earned from philanthropy by €100 million**

To access the Strategic Plan 2017-2022, please click

For further information, please click



## UCC Study Questions Validity of HPAT-Ireland as Selection Tool



A study of 290 medical students from UCC carried out by UCC researchers highlights the lack of connection between the students' performance in the Health Professions Admissions Test (HPAT-Ireland) and their self-reported empathy levels.

Since 2009, the Irish medical school application process ranks applicants on the basis of their points achieved at leaving certificate as well as performance in the Health Professions Admissions Test (HPAT-Ireland), which shares a similar structure to the Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT), used in Australia and New Zealand. HPAT-Ireland was introduced with the intention of broadening the access to medical school, increasing emphasis on non-academic attributes, and bringing the Irish medical schools' curriculum policy closer to international norms.

The study, published in the British Medical Journal Open (BMJO) was conducted at UCC. The results of this study, which took place during the academic year 2014/2015, found no clear link between scores on the selection test (HPAT-Ireland) and scores on a psychometric measure of medical students' empathy levels, which questions the validity of the HPAT-Ireland test as a selection tool. The study was conducted by Dr Donnchadh O'Sullivan, Dr Joseph Moran, Dr Paul Corcoran, Dr Siun O'Flynn, Dr Colm O Tuathaigh and Dr Aoife O'Sullivan.

[www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/ucc-study-questions-validity-of-hpat-ireland-as-selection-tool.html](http://www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/ucc-study-questions-validity-of-hpat-ireland-as-selection-tool.html)

## UCC Research Breakthrough Could Improve Breathing in Neuromuscular Disease



**Pictured above:** Professor Ken O'Halloran, Professor of Physiology, UCC, (left) with the first author on the research study, David Burns, PhD trainee. Our study is the first step on a journey towards translating novel findings in pre-clinical models to effective therapies for patients.

[www.ucc.ie/en/about/uccnews/ucc-research-breakthrough-could-improve-breathing-in-neuromuscular-disease.html](http://www.ucc.ie/en/about/uccnews/ucc-research-breakthrough-could-improve-breathing-in-neuromuscular-disease.html)

Research from the Department of Physiology, UCC, has revealed a compensatory phenomenon supporting breathing in a pre-clinical model of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), a fatal genetic disease affecting approximately 1 in every 3500 men. This new discovery offers potential for the development of interventional strategies in DMD patients.

DMD is characterised by the absence of dystrophin, a pivotal protein essential for healthy muscle structure and function, with patients exhibiting profound respiratory muscle weakness culminating in respiratory failure and shortened life span.

Lead Investigators David Burns and Professor Ken O'Halloran from the Department of Physiology, UCC explored mechanisms of nervous system control of breathing in an established dystrophin-deficient mouse model of the disease. The UCC team discovered enhanced activity in the motor nerve supplying the diaphragm muscle, the major muscle of breathing. This intrinsic physiological mechanism of neural compensation for muscle weakness offers a therapeutic target for the preservation of respiratory capacity in DMD, and potentially other neuromuscular diseases.

The comprehensive study was a multi-institutional collaboration between UCC as the lead institution, and teams at the University of Calgary and Trinity College Dublin.



# New MSc in Nursing and Healthcare Quality Improvement programme



The MSc in Nursing and Healthcare Quality Improvement programme is a new online degree which had its first intake of students this September. Delivered over two years by the School of Nursing and Midwifery, this exciting, contemporary degree allows a flexible mode of learning while continuing to work. The programme will enable practitioners to take leadership roles in an increasingly complex healthcare environment with an emphasis on quality improvement in nursing and healthcare.

**Pictured left:** Dr Elaine Lehane, Mr Damien Drohan, Dr Vera Mc Carthy, Dr Alice Coffey, Professor Eileen Savage, Dr Nicola Cornally, Dr Teresa Wills, Dr Brendan Noonan, and Ms Donna O'Doibhlin.



## RTÉ Brainstorm - School of Medicine Contribution

Dr Pat Henn, Dr Colm O Tuathaigh and Dr Simon Smith from the School of Medicine, UCC recently contributed to RTE's Brainstorm series.

RTÉ Brainstorm is where the academic and research community contribute to public debate, reflect on what's happening in the world around us and communicate fresh thinking on a broad range of issues.

Dr Henn, Dr O Tuathaigh and Dr Smith conducted research showing the extent to which hearing loss can lead to problems at doctors' clinics and hospital casualty departments and miscommunication between the patient and the healthcare professional. The publication, titled 'Age-Related Hearing Loss and Communication Breakdown in the Clinical Setting', was published in the JAMA Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery.

To read the RTÉ Brainstorm article, please click



**Pictured above:** Dr Pat Henn, Dr Simon Smith and Dr Colm O Tuathaigh





## UCC AWARDS

# Teaching & Learning, Staff Recognition and Research

UCC held its annual Award Ceremony on the 5th October 2017 in the Aula Maxima, honouring staff for their outstanding contributions to the University. The Awards Ceremony celebrated winners from three separate award schemes, including Teaching & Learning, Staff Recognition and Research. The College of Medicine & Health was well represented among the winners, with the following staff members being presented with an award:

- **Teaching & Learning Award:** Dr Jackelina Pando-Kelly, Department of Paediatrics & Child Health
- **Leadership Award:** Dr Birgit Greiner, School of Public Health
- **Research Communicator of the Year Award:** Professor John Cryan, Department of Anatomy & Neuroscience / APC Microbiome Institute
- **Research Supervisor of the Year Award:** Professor Josephine Hegarty, School of Nursing and Midwifery
- **Research Team of the Year Award:** GENOVATE, ISS-21, College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences, College of Business and Law, College of Medicine and Health, Equality Committee, UCC Research Support Services.



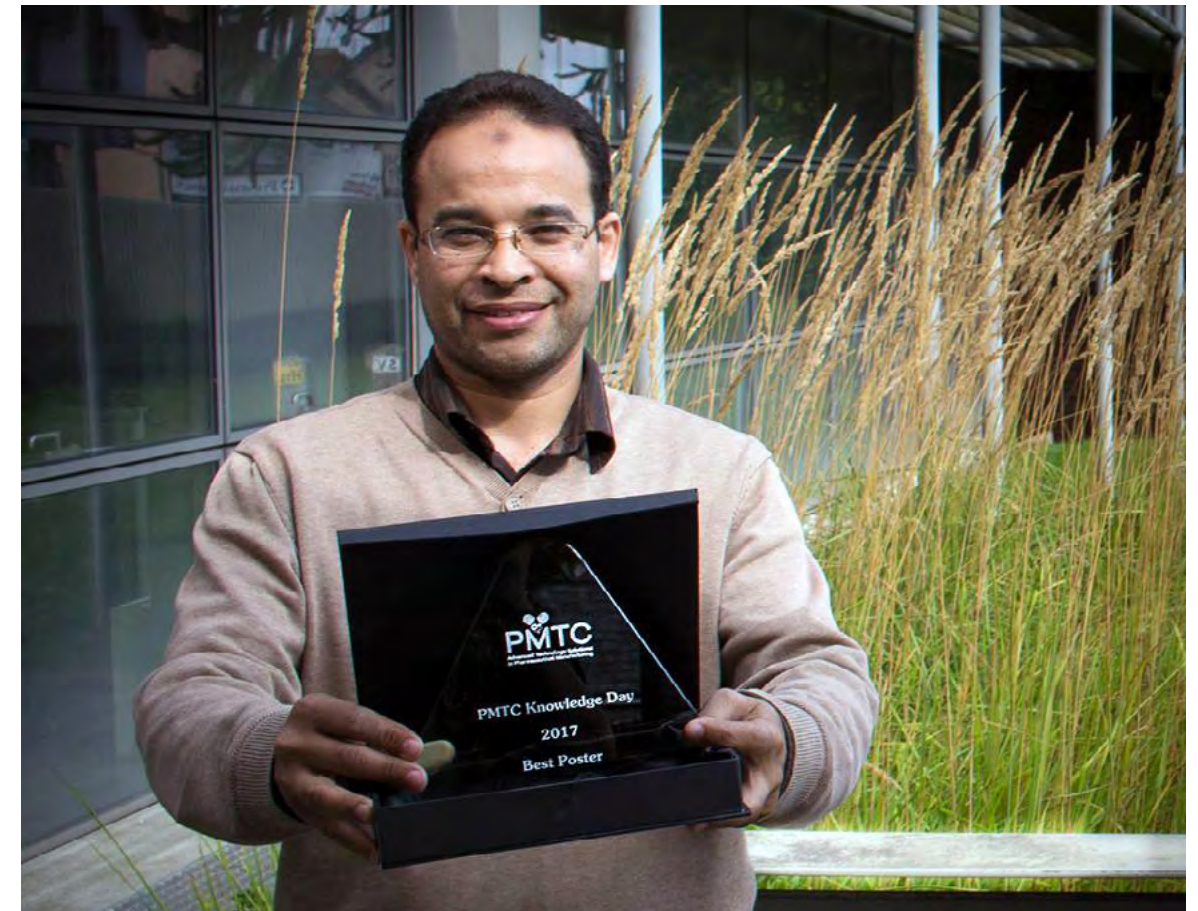
**Pictured top:** UCC Awards Group. **Above:** Receiving their awards from Professor Patrick O'Shea, President, UCC are (left) Jackelina Pando Kelly and (right) Josephine Hegarty.

## Dr Birgit Greiner Recipient of UCC Leadership Award



Congratulations to Dr Birgit Greiner from the School of Public Health, UCC, a recipient of the UCC Leadership Award. Birgit is an exceptional member of staff and demonstrates outstanding leadership and integrity in every aspect of her work. Birgit has built and articulated her academic teaching vision through the development of the MSc in Occupational Health, now accessible internationally as an online programme. This programme is a perfect example of Birgit's ability to collaborate with colleagues, bringing together a cross disciplinary academic team (Law, Psychology, Health Promotion, Epidemiology, HR, and Medicine) as well as external Industry leaders such as the HSA to share and support her vision for the programme.

However most notable is Birgit's ability to foster motivation within her team. At a time of strained resources, Birgit has encouraged her team to find efficiencies and a willingness to achieve whilst always being the first to lead in this regard. The everyday consistent integrity and inspiration which Birgit shows to everyone she comes in contact with, her unwavering personal approach has fostered a positive and supportive culture of the highest achievable standards, never diluted by other potentially mitigating factors.



## Dr Waleed Faisal

Congratulations to Dr Waleed Faisal, Postdoctoral Researcher in UCC's School of Pharmacy, who was recently awarded Best Poster Prize at the 3rd annual Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Technology Centre (PMT) Knowledge Day in Limerick. His poster was titled 'Software to support formulation development detailed basic decision tools to aid formulation scientists identify appropriate tableting approaches based on drug substance properties'.



## PREPARED Shortlisted for 2017 Irish Healthcare Awards

The PREPARED (Primary Care Education, Pathways and Research of Dementia) project, coordinated by the Department of General Practice, UCC has been shortlisted for the 2017 Irish Healthcare Awards in the category of Best Educational Project (GP/Pharmacy). The winners will be announced at a gala dinner taking place on 16th November 2017 at the Mansion House in Dublin.

PREPARED is a national primary care initiative which focuses on the development, delivery and evaluation of a dementia educational programme for GPs and primary care clinicians. The initiative is led by Dr Tony Foley, Department of General Practice, UCC and funded by the Health Service Executive and The Atlantic Philanthropies as part of Ireland's National Dementia Strategy Implementation Programme.

[www.irishhealthcareawards.ie/iha2017/shortlist-2017](http://www.irishhealthcareawards.ie/iha2017/shortlist-2017)

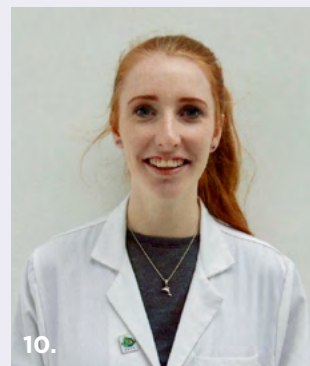
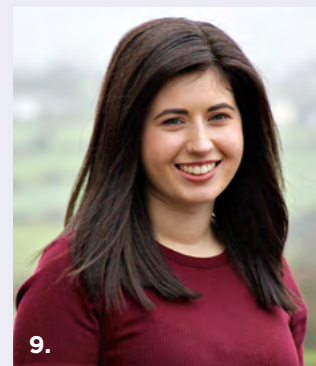
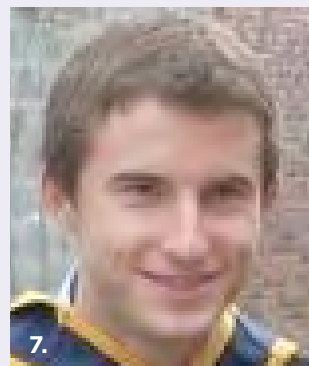
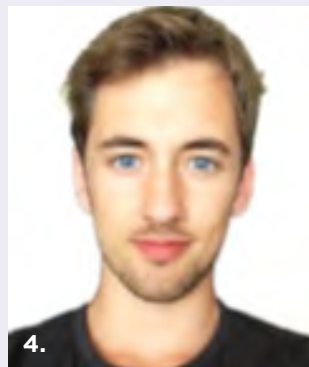
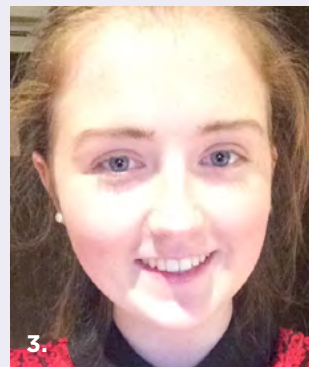


**Pictured above:** The PREPARED team; Dr Aisling Jennings, Ms Katherine Thackeray, Ms Siobhan Boyle, and Dr Tony Foley.



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 2017. 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:

# SURE AWARDS 2017



1. **Marcia Domingos**  
**Dental School & Hospital**  
Project Title: Improving the Dental Professional's Impact on Eating Disorder Management  
Supervisor: Professor Anthony Roberts
2. **Dermot O'Callaghan**  
**School of Clinical Therapies**  
Project Title: An Exploratory Pilot Study: What is the potential for occupational balance for asylum seekers living in Direct Provision based on the physical environment?  
Supervisor: Ms Yvonne Pennisi
3. **Antonia Harold-Barry**  
**School of Public Health**  
Project Title: What's on your child's plate? Food portion sizes and the proportion of different food groups eaten by children on the island of Ireland  
Supervisor: Dr Janas Harrington
4. **Eoin Roche**  
**School of Medicine**  
Project Title: Remote home/in clinic blood pressure readings in the Cork University Maternity Hospital (CUMH) LEANBH population  
Supervisor: Professor Louise Kenny
5. **Louise Kelly**  
**School of Medicine**  
Project Title: Does Diabetic Ketoacidosis at Diagnosis of Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus Predict Poor Long-Term Glycaemic Control  
Supervisor: Dr Antoinette Tuthill
6. **Michael McInerney**  
**School of Medicine**  
Project Title: Patient Experience of an Augmented Prescribed Exercise Programme in Mercy University Hospital  
Supervisor: Dr Suzanne Timmons
7. **Michael O'Meara**  
**School of Medicine**  
Project Title: An untargeted metabolomic approach for determining biomarkers involved in pre-eclampsia from dried blood spot samples from the IMPROVED Study: A Prospective Study  
Supervisor: Dr Shirish Yakkundi
8. **Sumitha Grace Pandiaraja**  
**School of Medicine**  
Project Title: Moonshine: Biosensors for antibiotics and methanol  
Supervisor: Dr Mark Tagney
9. **Simone O'Connor**  
**School of Nursing & Midwifery**  
Project Title: Research on Teaching of Evidence Based Practice to Health Care Professionals and Healthcare Professional Students in Ireland  
Supervisor: Dr Elaine Lehane
10. **Ellen Byrne**  
**School of Pharmacy**  
Project Title: Development of a biosensor system to detect levels of bacterial LuxS  
Supervisor: Dr Cormac Gahan



## Marc O'Sullivan Wins Best Oral Presentation

Congratulations to Marc O'Sullivan, PhD Student in the INFANT Centre, who won Best Oral Presentation Prize at the 10th International Conference on Brain Monitoring and Neuroprotection in the Newborn in Killarney. The title of Marc's presentation was 'Downstream mRNA targets in Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy'.



## Professor John Cryan becomes First Irish President of European Behavioural Pharmacology Society

Professor John Cryan, Head of Department of Anatomy & Neuroscience and Principal Investigator in the APC Microbiome Institute has been selected to be the new President of European Behavioural Pharmacology Society (EBPS) at its biennial meeting recently held in Heraklion, Crete.

EBPS is an international society at the crossroads of pharmacology, experimental psychology, psychiatry, and neuroscience. Professor Cryan is the first Irish President of the society since its inception over 30 years ago.



## Professor Kenny won the award for Women in Technology at the Women Mean Business Awards

Congratulations to Professor Louise Kenny, INFANT Centre, who is the recipient of the WMB (Women Mean Business) Women in Technology Award 2017 for her work as founding Director of Metabolomic Diagnostics, a medical diagnostics company. Working with UCC, the company is developing a breakthrough technology to provide predictive diagnosis of pre-eclampsia in early pregnancy. This technology has the potential to revolutionise prenatal care globally and save lives. In addition, it will dramatically reduce overall healthcare costs around the world.

Professor Kenny was presented with the award at the 11th annual WMB Conference & Awards in Dublin, an event which recognises the achievements of businesswomen and entrepreneurs across Ireland.



## Mr Lloyd Philpott Wins First Prize for Poster Presentation

Mr Lloyd Philpott, Lecturer, School of Nursing and Midwifery, recently won first prize at the International Network for Doctoral Education in Nursing (INDEN) Conference for his poster presentation titled 'Stress in Fathers in the Perinatal Period: A Systematic Review'. The conference took place at Trinity College Dublin and featured noted educators from around the globe. INDEN is a non-profit professional association whose mission is to advance quality doctoral nursing education globally.

**Pictured above:** Lloyd receiving his prize from INDEN President, Professor Sonja McIlfatrick.



**Pictured left:** Richard L Angelo MD (Orthopaedic Surgeon, Seattle, USA), Professor Richard Satava (Surgery, University of Washington, USA), Professor James Harty (Orthopaedic Surgeon, CUH) and Professor Stephen Cusack (Acting Dean, School of Medicine, UCC).

## 1st UCC PhD by Prior Published Work

Congratulations to Dr Richard L Angelo MD, who has successfully defended his PhD thesis 'Proficiency-Based Progression Training: Quality Assured Preparation for the Practice of Surgery'.

Dr Angelo is the first candidate at UCC to complete and then defend his PhD by Prior Published Work. He is a pioneer of arthroscopic surgery and is a past President of the Arthroscopy Association of North America. In a series of studies, he developed, validated, and then used a proficiency based progression approach to training surgical skills (pioneered by Professor Anthony Gallagher, ASSERT, UCC).

[www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/1st-ucc-phd-by-prior-published-work-.html](http://www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/1st-ucc-phd-by-prior-published-work-.html)



## MEDICAL BOOK AWARD WINNER

Congratulations to Dr Seamus O'Mahony, Consultant Gastroenterologist at Cork University Hospital, who recently won the Medical Book Award at the annual British Medical Association Book Awards. His book is titled 'The Way We Die Now', published by Head of Zeus in May 2016.

'The Way We Die Now' describes the experience of death and dying in acute hospitals, where most deaths occur. Nearly all of the literature on the subject comes from the palliative care (hospice). Today it is likely that we will die in a busy hospital in the care of strangers. Seamus O'Mahony describes how difficult it is to tell the truth to patients and to their relatives, who may want to believe that the inevitable can be prevented or delayed.

# International Stillbirth Alliance Conference Comes to Ireland



**Pictured above:** Dr Keelin O'Donoghue, Chair ISA Cork, Ms Claire Storey, Co-Chair ISA Board and Professor Vicky Flenady, Co-Chair ISA Scientific Advisory Committee. (Photo: Gerard McCarthy)

The International Stillbirth Alliance Conference 2017 (ISA 2017) was for the first time ever held in Ireland this September. Organised in UCC, the conference took place over two days from 22nd to 24th September, and saw around 380 delegates coming from all corners of the world, including Africa, Asia, Australia/Oceania, Europe, North America and South America. The organising committee consists of members from the Pregnancy Loss Research Group based within the Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, UCC and Cork University Maternity Hospital.

The aim of the conference was to challenge healthcare professionals to constantly strive for excellence in stillbirth awareness, research and bereavement care. The conference programme included a mixture of plenary and concurrent sessions from invited speakers and selected presentations from conference abstracts. The programme was designed to meet the individual and professional needs of every delegate, and to form strong ties between the international stillbirth alliance community. The conference was also attended by bereaved parents, some of whom shared their experience of stillbirth care.

[www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/international-stillbirth-alliance-conference-comes-to-ireland.html](http://www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/international-stillbirth-alliance-conference-comes-to-ireland.html)



# 10th Annual Diabetes in Primary Care Conference



The 10th annual Diabetes in Primary Care Conference was recently held in Cork. The conference is a collaboration between Diabetes in General Practice (DiGP), the HSE, UCC and the Irish Practice Nurse Association (IPNA). The 2107 conference theme was 'The Heroism of Incremental Care'. The aim of the conference is for participants to acquire skills and knowledge that can be used in improving the care that they provide to patients with diabetes.

**Pictured above:** Diabetes conference speakers; Dr Aileen Burton, Nurse Lecturer, UCC; Dr Maeve Durkan, Endocrinologist, Bon Secours, Cork; Dr Finbarr Corkery, Founder member of DiGP, GP and Conference Chairperson; and Dr Kieran Walsh, GP with a special interest in diabetes, County Down.

[www.ucc.ie/en/gp/news/10th-annual-diabetes-in-primary-care-conference.html](http://www.ucc.ie/en/gp/news/10th-annual-diabetes-in-primary-care-conference.html)



## Be Well @ UCC

Be Well @ UCC is a shared calendar which tells you what free, health promoting events are going on around UCC. It is the new 'one-stop-shop' for all health and wellbeing events in UCC for staff and students.

To access the calendar, please click

## Health Matters Day 2017

UCC recently celebrated Health Matters Day, an event which comprises an array of activities all over UCC campus to promote positive health and wellbeing. From mindfulness to chair yoga, the programme included numerous classes, workshops, health talks and information stands, which sought to inform staff and students about the work of UCC Health Matters.

Health Matters Day demonstrates the full spectrum of health and health related activities available to staff and students of UCC, and highlights the benefit of educating and informing those who work and study within the university in making positive and affirming choices in physical and mental wellbeing.





**Pictured above:** Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology staff welcome members of the organising committee of Fetal Growth 2017

## NPEC Partners International Conferences

The NPEC (National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre) were delighted to partner two international conferences this September. The Fetal Growth Conference in conjunction with Perinatal Institute UK was held in Fota Island Resort. Delegates from 26 different countries travelled to attend the event. Dr Paul Corcoran (NPEC Perinatal Epidemiologist) presented as key note speaker on 'Fetal growth restriction among stillbirths and its antenatal detection in Ireland: a national clinical audit'.

The NPEC also partnered the International Stillbirth Alliance conference held in UCC on the 22nd to 24th of September. Dr Sarah Meaney (NPEC Research Officer) and Dr Paul Corcoran (NPEC Perinatal Epidemiologist) were instrumental to the organisation of the conference. Professor Richard Greene, Director of NPEC Director presented on 'The role of perinatal audit and confidential enquiries'. His key message was the re-iteration of the NPEC recommendation for the establishment of a confidential enquiry for stillbirth and neonatal death in Ireland.

# 1997 BDS Class Reunion



UCC BDS Class of 1997 recently gathered in Hayfield Manor, Cork for their 20 Year Reunion. 18 of the 35 classmates made the journey back to their Alma Mater, UCC. The black-tie event was organised by Dr Paul O'Dwyer, Class Representative and former Auditor of the UCC Dental Society (1997).

This Reunion drew over half the class who shared stories and long forgotten anecdotes of their time at University Dental School and Hospital. The classmates present on the night, and those who could not attend, also organised a special donation to the Irish Cancer Society in honour of their late class mate, Dr Clodagh Shannon (née Howe) who sadly passed away in 2015. The high attendance on the night underlines the close-knit nature of this class.

(Photo: Emmet Curtin)



## ALUMNUS OF THE WEEK

# Dr Patrick Cotter, Advanced Nurse Practitioner

Patrick Cotter is an Advanced Nurse Practitioner at the Emergency Department, Cork University Hospital and Lecturer in the Postgraduate Diploma in Emergency Nursing at UCC. He has worked and taught in Emergency Nursing since the late 1990's and was central to the development of the first Advanced Nursing Practice post in the Cork/Kerry region. Patrick talks to us about how his student days at UCC shaped his career.

### 1. Course/subjects studied in University College Cork?

HDip in Emergency Nursing, BSc Nursing studies, MSc Nursing Studies, Post Grad Cert - Nurse Prescribing of Medicinal Products, Doctor of Nursing degree.

### 2. Best memory of UCC?

There are many great memories including friendships, healthy discussions and debates to put the world of healthcare and nursing to right and shared desperation at exam time. I have shared my academic journey of learning and growth with special and generous groups of students, clinicians, educators, researchers, mentors, experts, patients and overall good people. They have enlightened my journey and my time at UCC has been all the richer for the people that I have met along the way.

However, two memories stand out for me: Walking out following my Doctoral viva voce, what a feeling! The honour of making a commencement speech at two graduations from the Colleges of Medicine and Health and Science, Engineering and Food Science. That was really special!

### 3. How has your time at UCC helped you to get to where you are now?

Apart from the qualifications that I have gained to enable me to practice it has left me with a sense of possibility. It has taught me not to accept the status quo but strive to create new and better realities for those that we care for, work with and teach. My time at UCC has helped me realise that knowledge, learning and development is what makes us grow as individuals, professionals and as a community. What we don't know we must discover through ex-

perience, shared expertise and developing new knowledge and understanding. My time at UCC has helped me realise that perfection in healthcare is a pursuit fuelled by knowledge and experience, not a destination in and of itself. This realisation has sustained me on the more arduous and challenging parts of my nursing journey.

### 4. What is your advice to current UCC students?

Exploit and enjoy the opportunities all around you at UCC: academic, social and personal.

# Dr Margaret Bermingham Visits Canada



**Pictured above:** Dr Margaret Bermingham with Professor Ross Tsuyuki, Director, EPICORE Centre, Dr Yazid Al Hamarneh, EPICORE Centre and staff of Co-Op Pharmacy, Rocky Mountain House, Alberta.

Dr Margaret Bermingham, Lecturer in Clinical Pharmacy in UCC's School of Pharmacy, recently travelled to the Epidemiology Coordinating and Research (EPICORE) Centre at the University of Alberta, Canada. The EPICORE Centre coordinates a large number of single and multicentre trials, in particular in the area of community pharmacy research. Margaret received a College of Medicine and Health Travel Bursary in order to undertake the visit.

The trip involved meetings with the international team of multidisciplinary researchers working with the EPICORE Centre and visits to some of the community pharmacies where research studies are being conducted. Margaret also met with clinical pharmacy educators based in the University's Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. During her trip, Margaret spent time with pharmacists working in the Alberta Health Services Mazankowski Alberta Heart Institute and observed the expanded role for clinical pharmacists both in community pharmacy and hospital pharmacy practice in Alberta.

## INFANT Centre Announces Collaboration with the HRB Mother & Baby Network



**Pictured above:** PARROT Team

The INFANT Centre, UCC has announced its collaboration with the HRB Mother & Baby Network to investigate the benefits of an additional diagnostic blood test to improve the outcomes of pregnant women with suspected pre-eclampsia.

The PARROT Ireland research programme aims to more effectively diagnose pregnant women when it is suspected they may have pre term pre-eclampsia so that their care may be managed more efficiently. Diagnosing mothers earlier would have an impact on their medical outcomes and also upon hospital resources, reducing unnecessary admissions.

This all-island study will invite 4,000 pregnant women over two years in seven centres around Ireland, including Cork University Maternity Hospital, the National Maternity Hospital, Coombe Women & Infants University Hospital, the Rotunda Maternity Hospital, University Hospital Galway, University Maternity Hospital Limerick and the Royal Jubilee Maternity Service Hospital in Belfast.

Evidence from the PARROT Ireland study may inform national guidelines on the management of suspected pre-eclampsia and contribute to better care and management of pregnant women.

[www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/infant-centre-announces-collaboration-with-the-hrb-mother--baby-network-.html](http://www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/infant-centre-announces-collaboration-with-the-hrb-mother--baby-network-.html)

## INFANT Centre Hosts Researchers from the Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute in Northern Tanzania

The INFANT Centre recently hosted researchers from the Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute. The visitors included Professor Blandina Mmbaga, Clinical Research Director of Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute, a Consultant Paediatrician in the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC) and Senior Lecturer in the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College, Dr Gileard Masenga, Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Executive Director of the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre and Executive Secretary of the Good Samaritan Foundation, and Dr Baine, Paediatric Resident at KCMC.

The aim of the collaboration between INFANT Centre and KCMC is to facilitate knowledge exchange for clinicians, engineers and scientists who will gain first-hand practical experience of the challenges of translating cutting edge devices and diagnostics into low fidelity clinical arenas and jointly build capacity. The collaboration will develop robust, well-designed collaborative trials in geographical areas and patient populations where the need for innovation is greatest. It will enable the innovations to be fit for purpose when in use in areas of great clinical need. Ultimately, the partnership will result in the development and deployment of bed-side and cot-side innovations to improve outcomes for mothers and babies.



**Pictured above:** Professor Geraldine Boylan, Dr Annette Baine, Dr Eoghan McKernan (INFANT's EU Programme Manager), UCC President, Professor Patrick O'Shea, Dr Gileard Masenga, and Professor Blandina Mmbaga. (Photo: Gerard McCarthy)



## School of Nursing & Midwifery Hosts Colleagues from Norway



**Pictured above:** Dr Egge, Ms Despriée and Ms Nordhagen pictured with UCC staff following their presentation on the Norwegian Healthcare System and the Role of the Public Health Nurse.

Dr Hilde Egge, Ms Åshild Wik Despriée and Ms Live Nordhagen from Diakonova University, Oslo, Norway visited UCC in September 2017 – just a few months after Mr Lloyd Philpott from UCC’s School of Nursing and Midwifery visited Diakonova University. There is an established relationship between the School and academic staff at Diakonova University. The aims of the recent trip to UCC were to further explore areas of collaboration, to discuss public health nursing curriculum, and to strengthen the relationship between the two institutions.

The visit included a tour of UCC and the School of Nursing & Midwifery, meetings with staff members from across the School, as well as presentations to the postgraduate Public Health Nursing students and the staff at UCC. The academic staff from Diakonova also visited a primary care centre where they met with Public Health Nurses.

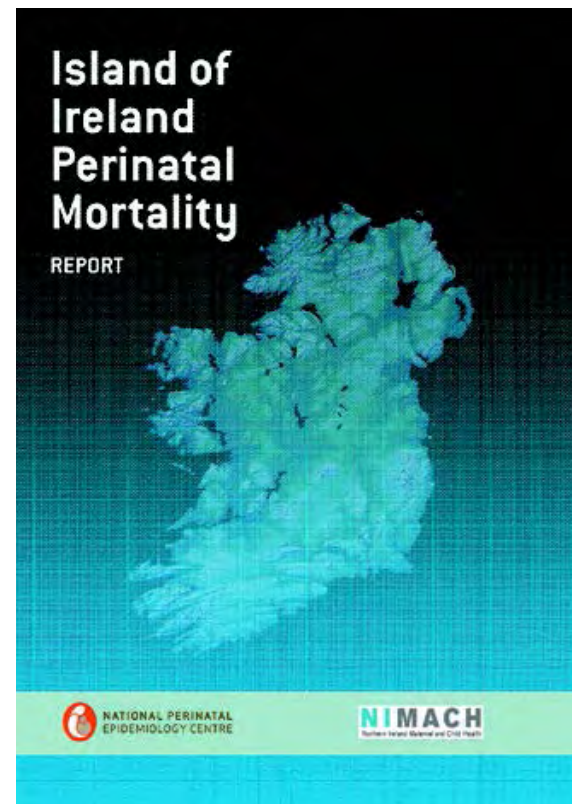
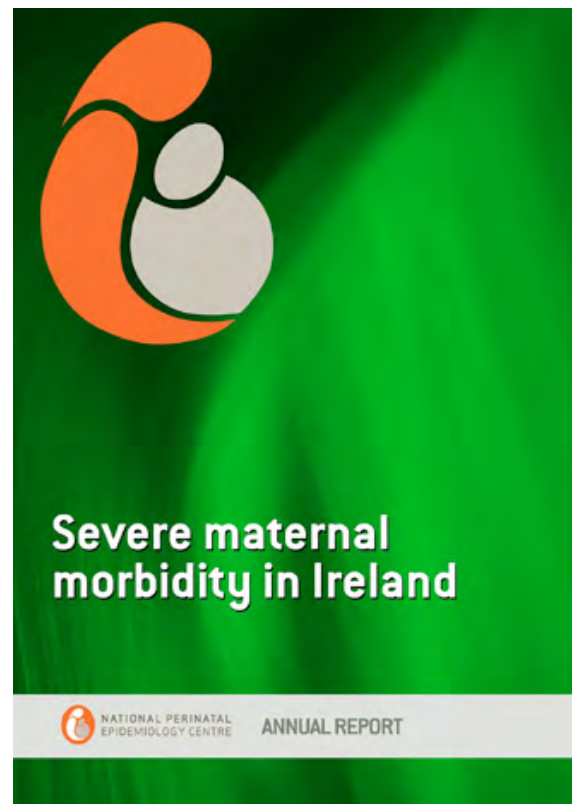


# NPEC Reports

The National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre in collaboration with Northern Ireland Maternal and Child Health office publishes: Island of Ireland Perinatal Mortality Report 2014 and 2015. This is the first report on perinatal mortality occurring across the Island of Ireland. Comparative data is included on perinatal deaths in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland arising from live births and stillbirths that occurred in the combined years 2014 and 2015 with a gestational age of 24 weeks or more.

The NPEC also publishes the fourth report from the national audit of severe maternal morbidity (SMM) in Ireland. It reports on 381 cases of SMM that occurred in 18 of the 19 Irish maternity units in 2015. 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 2015, including two large tertiary referral maternity units and thirteen smaller maternity units. In 2015, the eighteen participating maternity units reported that 381 women experienced SMM, as defined in this audit, constituting a rate of 6.35 per 1,000 maternities.

The NPEC Study Day takes place on 19th January 2018 in the Limerick Strand Hotel. For further information, please visit [www.ucc.ie/en/npec/](http://www.ucc.ie/en/npec/)





# Orderly Rhythm

“Orderly Rhythm”, an exhibition of prints and weaves by first year UCC Occupational Therapy students is currently on display in the Jennings Gallery. Coinciding with the centennial celebrations of the Occupational Therapy profession, exhibition curator and UCC Occupational Therapy Lecturer Dr Eithne Hunt says that “there is a long history of the use of art, craft and creative activities in Occupational Therapy, going back to the foundation of the profession in 1917”. The works are the outcome of an on-going collaboration between the students, Cork Printmakers and textile artist Frances Leach, as part of an undergraduate module entitled Creative Occupations and Health.

**Images:** Guests enjoying the opening night.  
(Photos: Emmet Curtin)