



Issue 31 | December 2018

CoMH eNEWS

College of Medicine and Health, UCC



University College Cork, Ireland
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

Navigate stories

Welcome to our latest
CoMH online newsletter

Research Impact Anthology
Launch: Research for a
Healthier Future

Ten APC researchers
named in Highly Cited
Researchers list 2018

Autumn Conferings:
26th October 2018

Launch of new Asthma
Programme

Launch of Ireland's first
student-led Community
First Responders group

Other news

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Anthology Launch



Achievement



Conferings



Events



Outreach



For info and submissions email: molly.tynan@ucc.ie

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Dear Colleagues,

As the days grow shorter, festive lights are illuminating our Campus, the cities and hospitals we work in. This time of the year creates a special atmosphere of harmony that invites us to reflect on the year and reach out to those who surround us. I hope that a sense of belonging extends to all our staff and students, regardless of how or if they celebrate the holiday season with their families and friends.

We mentioned many important achievements in this newsletter throughout the year, allowing us to honour the great results you produce. A good example has been the launch of the Research Impact Anthology, which highlights how the wider community profits from the research we deliver in CoMH.

Today I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge those, who are not always front and centre in the headlines: Our teaching and our research are only possible because of the staff that delivers the, sometimes invisible, every-day tasks with commitment and dedication. You form the backbone of everything we do and I want to thank you for the good work you have done in 2018.

Many of you participated in the first online-workshop of our initiative "We are CoMH - Working towards a shared vision". You shared valuable ideas, gave honest feedback and discussed how we can achieve our shared vision. We will present the results and validate them in a second online-workshop in early 2019 and I encourage all of you to take part.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Professor Helen Whelton

Head of College of Medicine and Health
University College Cork

A Glance at Professor Helen Whelton's Recent Activities



UCC Staff Awards Ceremony

Professor Whelton attended the UCC Staff Awards Ceremony which was hosted by the President on 4th October. A large cohort of staff from across the College of Medicine and Health were successful at this year's awards which recognises a wide range of achievements by staff at various stages of their careers. Professor Whelton is pictured here collecting an award on behalf of Dr Margaret O'Rourke from UCC President Patrick O'Shea.

Photo: Tomas Tyner



Medical Graduates Association Conference

Professor Whelton delivered the closing address at the MGA Conference 2018 on 3rd November. This Annual Scientific Conference is a multidisciplinary graduate meeting for all medical graduates, staff and friends of University College Cork and is organised by the Medical Graduates Association Committee.



Autumn Conferings

The College of Medicine and Health Conferings took place on 26th October. Here is a photo of Professor Whelton after one of the ceremonies with Anel Wiese, who was conferred with a PhD in Medicine and Health, and UCC President, Patrick O'Shea.

Photo: Ger McCarthy



Photo: Daragh McSweeney/Provision

Research Impact Anthology Launch: Research for a Healthier Future

The College of Medicine and Health launched its new Research Impact Anthology: *Research for a Healthier Future* on Thursday, 25th October in the Brookfield Health Sciences Complex, UCC. Professor Jonathan Sheffield OBE, CEO of the NHS's National Institute for Health Research Clinical Research Network delivered the keynote address at the launch. Professor Sheffield has been a key instigator in the adoption of a national clinical trial framework in the UK. To date, more than 750,000 British patients have been referred onto private clinical trials via the NHS.

The new Research Impact Anthology: *Research for a Healthier Future* examines the scale and impact of the College's research, including the development of the field of 'psychobiotics' (the study of how certain bacteria can benefit the brain); pioneering uses of 'electrochemotherapy' in cancer treatment and nanotechnology in gene therapy; and the development of 'smart antibiotics' to combat antimicrobial resistance.

€28.5 million generated in research income in 2017

UCC creates more **primary degree health and welfare graduates** than any other Irish university

APC Microbiome Ireland is ranked **#1 globally for research** in antimicrobials and probiotics

APC alone has **270** highly skilled employees, **€46.3 million** in leveraged funding and **39** current industry projects

FROM RESEARCH TO BUSINESS: Several companies spun out from the College of Medicine and Health, including Atlantia Food Clinical Trials, 4D Pharma and Artugen Therapeutics

Challenges and opportunities:

Professor Helen Whelton, Head of the College of Medicine and Health, said the Government must ensure that Ireland's health and medical research ecosystem remains as open and attractive as possible to foreign investment, especially in the face of Brexit. This could be achieved, in part, by developing a robust national clinical trial framework.

"Ireland is globally renowned as a medical research and pharmaceutical hub. The College of Medicine and Health in particular has been a massive contributor to the growth of Ireland's prestige in these areas, particularly through research centres like APC Microbiome. We are having a direct impact on the quality of life of patients in Ireland and abroad, and creating revenue for the Irish economy in the process.

"We can do more. Brexit, while a challenge, presents new opportunities for Ireland's medical and health research community. Many life sciences companies and researchers are likely to choose to relocate to Ireland, which will soon be the only English-speaking EU member state.

"To incentivise this migration, Ireland must put in place structures and systems responsive to medical and healthcare research needs. This can be achieved, in part, by developing a more robust national clinical trial framework.

"While the Health Research Board and HSE has made initial and important steps towards a more open clinical trial system, the UCC College of Medicine and Health believes that its' expansion must be fast-tracked to include a greater number of conditions and disease research areas. More opportunities for research can create highly skilled jobs and lay the groundwork for new business creation, potentially leading to tens of millions of euros in new revenue for the economy.

"An expanded national clinical trial scheme in Ireland would also act as a revenue earner for our health services. In the UK, where such a system exists, patients voluntarily referred onto trials actually generate more than €7,500 each via payments from life science companies to the NHS. Furthermore, by facilitating large-scale public trials of treatments and drugs, the HSE would also be in a better position to negotiate drug price reductions from pharmaceutical companies involved in the trials, thereby reducing the costs of its medicines budget."

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE ANTHOLOGY](#)



2018 University Staff Awards

Congratulations to all the College of Medicine and Health staff who were successful at this year's University Staff Awards!

STAFF RECOGNITION AWARDS

Name	School/Department/RICU	Award
Dr Margaret O'Rourke	School of Medicine	Enhancing the Student Experience Award

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Name	School/Department/RICU	Award
Professor George Shorten	School of Medicine	Lifetime Contribution for Teaching Excellence
Eoin Gorman	Dept. of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy	President's Award for Excellence in Teaching 2017/18
Dr Aislinn Joy, Elizabeth Barron, Dr Margaret Bermingham, Dr Aoife Fleming, Sophie Gahan and Dr Laura Sahn	School of Medicine and MUH, School of Pharmacy, Instructional Design Team	President's Award for Excellence in Teaching 2017/18

RESEARCH AWARDS

Name	School/Department/RICU	Award
Dr Pauline Scanlan	APC Microbiome Institute	Early-Stage Researcher of the Year
Mary Hough	APC Microbiome Institute	Research Support Person of the Year
Professor Patricia Kearney	School of Public Health	Researcher of the Year
Professor Fergus Shanahan	APC Microbiome Institute	Career Achievement Research Award



Photo: Diane Cusack

INFANT Centre research leads to breakthrough treatment for peanut allergy

The world's largest peanut allergy treatment trial, involving more than 30 Irish children, has found that a new oral treatment can successfully reduce sensitivity to peanuts, and offers a real lifeline to those affected by the most common food allergy and the single cause of most food allergy deaths.

Through his work as Principal Investigator at the INFANT Centre, Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health at University College Cork, Jonathan Hourihane has been leading the revolutionary immunotherapy trial in Ireland, which has shown that more than two thirds (67%) of those on the treatment could tolerate peanuts after the trial. This tolerance gives peanut allergy sufferers real safety, and the

ability to cope with accidental exposure in the community.

The AR101 trial has been ongoing around the world for almost 2 years in total. The double-blind placebo-controlled food challenge saw participants go from allergic reactions, such as immediate vomiting, swelling of the throat, blisters on tongue, stomach pain and other signs of hypersensitivity, after exposure to 1mg of peanut protein, to being able to safely ingest up to 600mg of peanut protein. The AR101 treatment has been developed for daily dosing so that patients continue to take the oral immunotherapy on an ongoing basis to remain desensitised to peanuts. The AR101 immunotherapy will be submitted to the US

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for a Biologics License Application by the end of 2018, and is expected to be fast-tracked on the FDA Breakthrough Therapy Designation for peanut allergic patients from ages 4 to 17 years. Assuming FDA approval, and subsequent approval by the European Medicines Agency in 2019, AR101 could be available to patients around the world by late 2019.

This industry-sponsored research and clinical trial has resulted in the publication of Professor Hourihane's co-authored paper in the world's leading medical journal, The New England Journal of Medicine, which can be accessed here: www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1812856

Ten APC researchers named in Highly Cited Researchers list 2018



Pictured above, front row (l-r): Professor Catherine Stanton, Teagasc, Professor Elke Arendt, UCC, Dr Orla O’Sullivan, Teagasc. **Back row (l-r):** Professor Paul Ross, UCC, Dr Paul Cotter, Teagasc, Professor John Cryan, UCC and Professor Colin Hill, UCC. Photo: Tomas Tyner

Ten APC Microbiome Institute Principal Investigators, Professor Elke Arendt, Dr Paul Cotter, Professor John Cryan, Professor Ted Dinan, Professor Ger Fitzgerald, Professor Colin Hill, Dr Orla O’Sullivan, Professor Paul O’Toole, Professor Paul Ross and Professor Catherine Stanton, who feature in the “Highly Cited Researchers” list 2018.

This annual list identifies scientists whose research publications, and the extent to which they have been cited by other scientists globally, place them among the top 1% most cited in their subject field. The ten APC Microbiome Ireland researchers are based in University College Cork and Teagasc and work in the areas of food, microbiome and health. Five of the APC researchers are in the new Cross-Field category which identifies researchers with substantial influence across several research fields during the last decade. Four of the 10 APC researchers were also included in the 2017 list.



Autumn Conferrings: 26th October 2018

Congratulations to our most recent graduates from the College of Medicine and Health who graduated at UCC's Autumn Conferrings. The conferring address was delivered by Professor Patricia Kearney, School of Public Health.



Top left: Hazel O'Donovan, Martina O'Connor, Raymy O'Flynn, and Shannyn Sheehan who all graduated with a Bachelor of Pharmacy (BPharm Hons).

Top right: Dr Amanda Lavan, who was conferred with a PhD (Medicine and Health), pictured with her supervisor Professor Denis O'Mahony.

Bottom left: David Burns who was conferred with a PhD (Medicine and Health) pictured with Aoife Buckley.

Centre right: Rehman Ali Khan who graduated with a MCh in Surgical Science, pictured with Zarmina Babar and Mikael Ali Khan.



Bottom right: Thomas Minkov Toronto (far left) who graduated with a Bachelor (Hons) of Dental Surgery.

Photos: Ger McCarthy

First cohort of MSc Human Anatomy graduates

Congratulations to the first graduates of the new MSc in Human Anatomy who were conferred with their Master Degrees in UCC on 26th October. This first taught MSc in Human Anatomy in the Republic of Ireland was developed by Dr Siobhain O'Mahony and Dr Joy Balta, Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience, UCC.

The taught MSc in Human Anatomy is designed to reinforce and advance the anatomical knowledge and dissection skills of the participants. Core modules cover anatomical sciences such as gross anatomy, neuroanatomy and human embryology. The MSc programme has a large cadaver-based dissection component which provides participants with a unique and exceptional opportunity to develop their dissection and anatomical knowledge on human material.



Pictured above (l-r): Dr Siobhain O'Mahony - Course Director, Ms Roisin O'Mahony, Ms Audrey Dempsey, Dr Joy Balta and Mr Eoin O'Sullivan (Mr. Elias Abdullah and Ms Sarah Idris in absentia).
Photo: Bereniece Riedewald



Professor Boylan wins Conference Ambassador of the Year

Fáilte Ireland has honoured 83 of its leading Conference Ambassadors at an award ceremony which acknowledged that these Ambassadors alone had delivered a collective total of almost 68,000 international delegates, worth €105m, to regions across the country between 2015 and 2017. Nominees from the College of Medicine and Health included: Dr Dominic Hegarty, Professor Geraldine Boylan, Dr Keelin O'Donoghue, Dr Niall Hyland and Dr Ger Clarke.

Professor Geraldine Boylan, a professor of Neonatal Physiology and Director of the INFANT Research Centre, was given special recognition on the night for her significant contribution to international conferencing in Ireland, taking home the Conference Ambassador of the Year Award. In 2015, Professor Boylan won her bid to host the 9th International Conference on Brain Monitoring and Neuroprotection in the Newborn in Cork. Having hosted a successful conference, Geraldine won it again for 2017, this time bringing the delegates to her home county of Kerry.

Launch of new Asthma Programme



The School of Pharmacy, UCC, and the Department of Physiotherapy in University Hospital Kerry, has launched an online Asthma Management programme to keep physiotherapists, pharmacists and all healthcare professionals updated on evolving treatments and strategies.

The course aims to provide healthcare professionals with tools to empower patients to manage their own conditions. GlaxoSmithKline has funded the online continuing professional development (CPD) course, featuring novel, flexible learning software.

“There are 470,000 people with asthma in Ireland, said Sarah O’Connor, CEO of the Asthma Society of Ireland. “We have the fourth highest prevalence of asthma in the world. We want to eliminate asthma deaths and we believe that pharmacists can play a key role in achieving that. This CPD course is only one step in the journey of working with pharmacists and healthcare professionals, but it is a very important one.”

The asthma course was developed by a collaboration between UCC, University Hospital Kerry, the Asthma Society of Ireland and Health Innovation Hub Ireland.

Pictured above (l-r): Jon Barbour, Head of Medical Affairs – GSK Ireland; Professor Helen Whelton, Head of College of Medicine and Health, UCC; Professor Stephen Byrne, Head of Pharmacy, UCC; Sarah O’Connor, CEO – The Asthma Society of Ireland; Dr Tanya Mulcahy, National Manager – Health Innovation Hub Ireland. Photo: Ger McCarthy

APC to lead probiotic research for mothers and babies



Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine Michael Creed TD, recently launched Microbe Mom at the APC Microbiome Institute, UCC. The new collaboration between academia and industry aims to generate health solutions for mothers and infants in Ireland. At the launch, Minister Creed said that this therapeutic research collaboration will “further solidify Cork’s reputation as a hub of excellent research.”

The research investment of €3.4 million was funded by Science Foundation Ireland, through the SFI Spokes programme and Alimentary Health Group led by APC Microbiome Ireland. Microbe Mom will investigate the most likely methods of transfer of bifidobacteria strains from mother to baby; the impact of the mother’s diet and health on her gut bacteria and what bacteria she transfers to her baby at birth; and the impact of specific probiotic supplements on the mother’s health.

Professor Mark Ferguson, Director General of Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government of Ireland said, “SFI is delighted to support this new research programme, which brings together excellent researchers, clinicians and Irish SME Alimentary Health Group, to drive discovery in the transfer of bacteria from women to their babies. This project demonstrates the important scientific advances and potential for new products that are being led by SFI Research Centres working with their partners in both academia and industry.”

Microbe Mom is a four-way collaboration between Alimentary Health Group, APC Microbiome Ireland, the UCD Perinatal Research Centre and the National Institute of Biotechnology Research and Training.



Matheson WMB Female Entrepreneur Award

Congratulations to Andrea Doolan, Co-Founder and CEO of Atlantia Food Clinical Trials and APC Microbiome Ireland Alumnus who was awarded the Matheson Female Entrepreneur of the Year 2018 at Women Mean Business (WMB). Nominations across WMB's six Award Categories for 2018 covered a diverse range of industries - manufacturing; pharma; medical; marketing; education; financial; technology; social; recruitment; childcare, homecare to name just a few.



INFANT Biobanking Manager wins NSAI Award

Emma Snapes, INFANT's Biobanking Manager received the National Standards Authority of Ireland award at the NSAI Annual Standards Forum in Dublin. The award was in recognition of Emma's exceptional dedication to standards development. Emma is the Irish academic representative and International Expert to ISO TC276 for Biotechnology and was instrumental in the development of ISO 20387 (2018): EN, the first dedicated biobanking standard. Emma is continuing her work with ISO TC276 and is currently working on a technical report that will accompany the biobanking standard to help interpret the requirements for each unique set up.



NUI Dr HH Stewart Medical Scholarship Awards 2018

Many students from across the College of Medicine and Health were successful at the NUI Dr Henry Hutchinson Stewart Medical Scholarships and Prizes 2018. Congratulations to all!

Biochemistry

1st Prize
Lindsay Tetrault

Clinical Radiology

2nd Prize
Katie Liston

General Practice

2nd Prize
Elaine O'Connell

Medical Microbiology

3rd Prize
Daen Gunter

Medicine

1st Prize
Alexandra Brickley

Ophthalmology

1st Prize
Edward Patrick Ahern

Pharmacology

2nd Prize
Jiahong Cedric Chua

3rd Prize
Wen Wei Chionh

Physiology

1st Prize
Cathriona Murphy

Public Health

2nd Prize
Anne Marie Lanigan

Surgery

3rd Prize
Katie O'Donoghue

Dentistry

1st Prize
Nickhalas Chun Khye Tan

2nd Prize
Cathy O'Rourke

Midwifery

1st Prize
Claire Cronin

Nursing

3rd Prize
Sarah Ann Twomey

Children's Nursing

1st Prize
Bronagh Nevin

Occupational Therapy

1st Prize
Ciara Walsh

Pharmacy

2nd Prize
Laura Bernard



Photos: Donagh Glavin

School of Medicine Awards Ceremony

The annual School of Medicine Prize-Giving Ceremony recently took place in Brookfield Health Sciences Complex. The Dean of the School, Professor Paula O’Leary welcomed the large number of prize-winners, their families and friends to the Ceremony and emphasized how proud the School is of the achievements of the medical students receiving prizes at the event. In total, 27 students received prizes at the ceremony and Professor O’Leary also acknowledged the successes of the Quercus Talented Students and those who received Dr Henry Hutchinson prizes within the School of Medicine.

Pictured above from left to right:

1. Joe Jordan (r), recipient of the Dr Fionnuala Quigley Medal
2. Siofra McDonagh (r), joint winner of The Archer Gold Medal in Psychiatry
3. Dane Gunter (r), recipient of the Dr B. Foley Medal in Microbiology
4. Praveena Senthoooryogan (r), recipient of the Dr Jim Doran Prize in Emergency Medicine
5. Lorna Kelly (r), recipient of the Dr Derek McCoy Medal.



Above: Community First Responders, Jala and Harmeet, pictured on their first call-out with their bicycles which were donated by Cillian Read of the Bike Shed.

Launch of Ireland's first student-led Community First Responders group

The team behind Ireland's first student-led Community First Responder (CFR) group have gone live as a dedicated asset under the National Ambulance Service's (NAS) 999/112 emergency call system, which will see them respond with a defibrillator to cardiac arrest emergencies by bicycle. Scheme co-ordinator Daragh Mathews, an emergency medicine trainee at Cork University Hospital (CUH), said a large team of people has put a lot of work over the last two years into getting the group off the ground.

UCC's Emergency Care Society's CFR group has student volunteers ranging in age from 18 to 30 who are drawn from health care disciplines, including medicine, nursing, and occupational therapy, on its rota. These volunteers are tasked to respond on their bikes to emergency cardiac arrest calls within 1km of the university's main campus, from the Mardyke and Dennehy's Cross in the west, to the Lough in the south and St Fin Barre's Cathedral in the east. Dr Mathews said they are one of a handful of CFR groups covering a mainly urban area and all those involved hope it will be seen as a way of UCC students "giving back to the community" around the university.

The group are initially available 24 hours a day, Thursday to Sunday, with two volunteers on-call each shift — 9am to 5pm, and 5pm to 9am. The UCC Emergency Care Society soon hopes to operate 24/7 according to Kathryn Lesko, Chair.

Environment, Health and Wellbeing Conference 2018

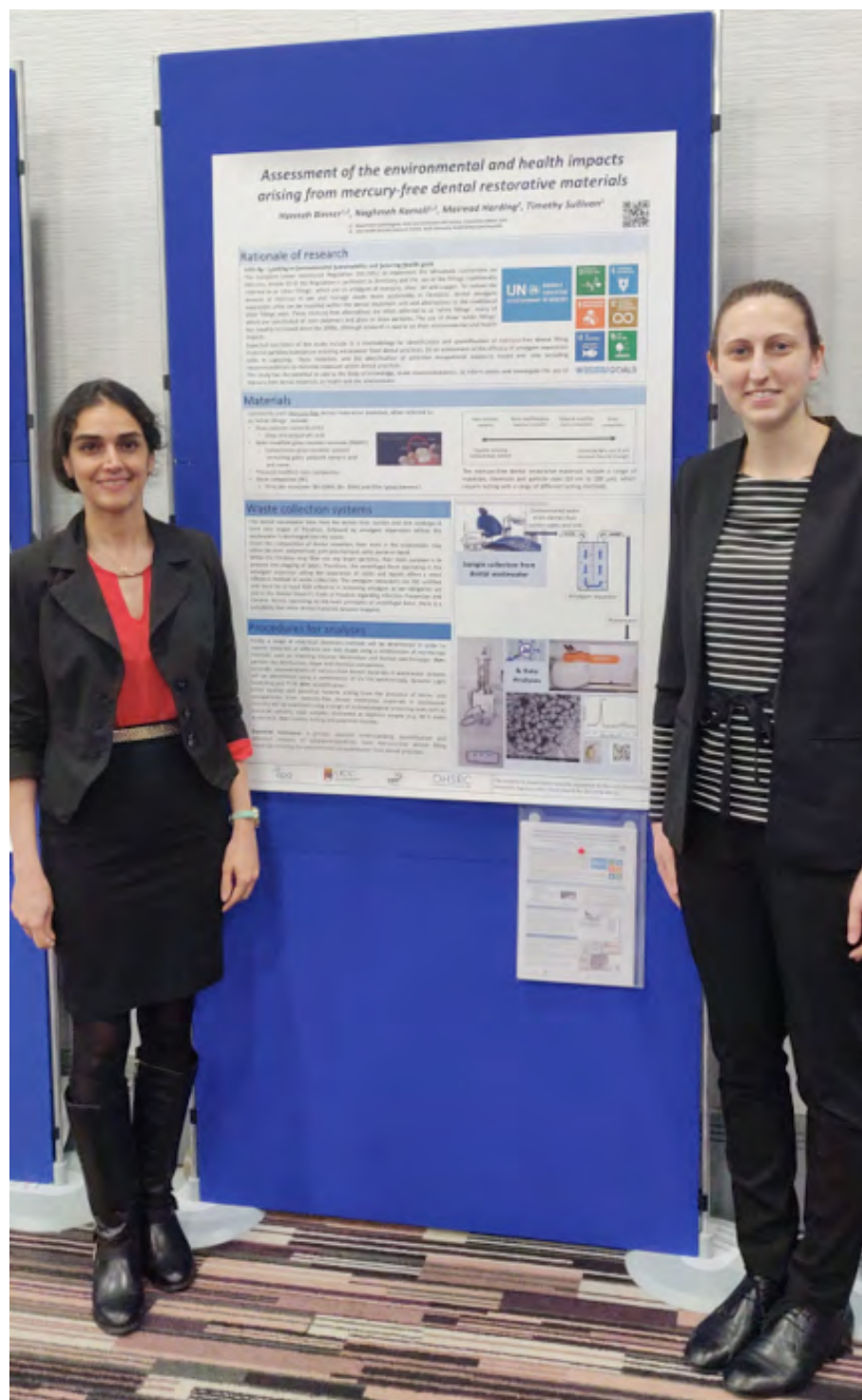
Dr Naghmeh Kamali and Hannah Binner from UCC presented their research on the environmental and health impacts arising from mercury-free dental restorative materials at the Environment, Health and Wellbeing Conference 2018. The conference is organised by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Health Services Executive (HSE) to provide a platform for researchers to connect and share knowledge on current environmental and health research. This year's focus was on 'Knowledge & Data' and highlighted the need for open access and good quality data on a national level to aid further research and knowledge.

The presented study examines the environmental impacts of mercury-free dental materials by using analytical chemistry methods to identify particles and substances of these being present in the wastewater exiting the dental chair and assessing the efficacy of amalgam separators to capture not only dental amalgam, but also mercury-free dental materials. The health impacts are examined through identification of potential exposure routes and risks within dental practices in form of an occupational health risk assessment. Studies like these highlighted the need for more and better quality 'knowledge and data' to further improve human health and quality of life.

The research is undertaken in collaboration between the Oral Health Services Research Centre (OHSRC), the School of BEES (Biological, Earth and Environmental Science) in University College Cork (UCC), the Cork University Dental School and Hospital (CUDSH) and the Environmental Research Institute (ERI). Dr Mairead Harding (OHSRC) and Dr Timothy Sullivan (School of BEES, UCC) are the project's supervisors.

Further information on the research project can be found here:

www.ucc.ie/en/ohsrc/research/epaproject/



Above (l-r): Dr Naghmeh Kamali (UCC and OHSRC) and Hannah Binner (School of BEES, UCC and OHSRC).

Report Launch by the National DBT Project Office

The National DBT Project Office, a joint programme of the HSE, National Office for Suicide Prevention and the National Suicide Research Foundation, based in the School of Public Health, UCC, has launched their five year report on the effectiveness of Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) in Ireland.

Focusing on the implementation, evaluation and research outcomes of DBT in Ireland, The National Dialectical Behaviour Therapy Project, Report 2013-2018 provides an overview of results as well as links to 12 peer reviewed papers in which the findings are presented in more detail. The report highlights that significant improvements were found for both adult and adolescent community mental health service users, with significant reductions in self-harming behaviours, emergency department visits, hospital admissions and bed nights used. A significant increase in use of skills to regulate emotions was also observed for both adults and adolescents.



Pictured above, front (l-r): Dr Mary Kells, HSE, Daniel Flynn, HSE, Dr Mary Joyce, National DBT Project. **Back (L-R):** Conall Wrigley, Aoife Hayes, Conall Gillespie, Edel Gallagher, Louise Dunne, Justina Hurley, (National DBT Project Team), Eileen Williamson (NSRF/School of Public Health), Professor Ella Arensman (NSRF/School of Public Health), Sonia Greaney (Expert by Experience).

www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/connecting-for-life/publications/national-dialectical-behaviour-therapy-dbt-report.html



Three grants for research into poor prognosis cancers awarded

The Health Research Board (HRB) has announced €3.2 million for 14 new projects supporting research amongst medical charities. The 14 research projects will address the research needs of specific patient populations and were awarded through the HRB and Medical Research Charities Group (MRCG) Joint Funding Scheme. Three of the 14 projects were co-funded by Breakthrough Cancer Research and specifically looked to impact the survival of patients with poor prognosis cancers.

Congratulations to two researchers from Cancer Research @ UCC, Dr Patrick Forde and Dr Sharon McKenna, who were awarded grants from this scheme:

- Combining electrochemotherapy with a Toll Like receptor agonist for the treatment of lung cancer - Dr Patrick Forde, University College Cork.
- Evaluation of the role of MxA and ISGylation in chemosensitivity in oesophageal cancer - Dr Sharon McKenna, University College Cork.

Commenting on the awards, Dr Darrin Morrissey, Chief Executive at the HRB said, 'There some very impressive ideas among these new research awards. The ingenuity of the research, as well as the impact that it will have on people's lives demonstrates why it is so important to build a health research culture at the heart of our health services'.



Recent workshops at the ASSERT Centre

The ASSERT Centre facilitated the Gynaecological Surgical Workshop on 12th October in association with National Doctors Training and Planning, HSE and the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, RCPI. This workshop provided participants with hands on simulation training to ensure the highest level of training for Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. The workshop was organised in association with National Doctors Training and Planning, HSE and the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, RCPI.



The inaugural International Vascular Course was held in the ASSERT Centre, UCC, on the 1st & 2nd of November. Organised by Mr Brian J. Manning and Mr Greg Fulton, Vascular Surgeons at Cork University Hospital and facilitated by a team of expert faculty, this course was aimed at vascular surgical trainees and practising vascular surgeons who want to their skills in open dissection as well as endovascular procedures. Participants gained hands-on experience with open surgical dissection and reconstruction procedures on cadavers in our state-of-the-art purpose built facility. The ASSERT facilities allowed for real time and post-procedure feedback from expert faculty. The course focuses on endovascular procedures - Aortic and peripheral interventions ranging from basic to more challenging cases on Mentice Simulators.

Seminar: Professor Mike Drummond

On Wednesday 21st November 2018, the UCC ISPOR chapter, School of Pharmacy, UCC, welcomed Mike Drummond, Professor of Health Economics and former Director of the Centre for Health Economics at the University of York, to the Blackstone LaunchPad, UCC. Professor Drummond presented a Lunchtime seminar entitled: 'Has Health Economics Made a Difference in Decisions About Health Technologies'.



Doctoral Travel Bursaries 2018/19: Open for applications!

The Graduate School in the College of Medicine and Health is inviting applications for up to 10 awards of Travel Bursaries for students currently registered for a doctoral degree (PhD/ MD/ Doctorate) in the College of Medicine and Health.

The purpose of these awards is twofold:

- To facilitate students who wish to present their work at an international conference.
- To facilitate the training of students who wish to acquire skills that are essential for their academic development, but which they cannot otherwise receive in UCC.

Applicants can apply for up to €1,000 in financial support that may be used towards the cost of travel, accommodation and registration fees for international conferences or relevant training courses that are due to take place between 1st October 2018 and 30th September 2019.



Application guidelines, selection criteria and the application form can be found at this link:

www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/schools/gradschool/doctoraltravelbursaries/

The closing date for receipt of completed application forms is **Friday, 15th February 2019**.