



Issue 33 | July 2019

CoMH eNEWS

Wishing everyone a Super Summer!



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CoMH eNews is intended for circulation among staff and students of the College of Medicine and Health, UCC. Extracts from CoMH eNews should not be published without the permission of the editor.



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Dear Colleagues,

The glorious summer sunshine is here and the Campus is alive with the buzz of students and their families celebrating Summer Conferings with an infectious feel-good factor in the air. I am just off a plane from Vancouver in Canada where I was truly honoured to have been the 2019 recipient of the Distinguished Scientist H. Trendley Dean Memorial Award and the 2019 recipient of the IADR E.W. Borrow Memorial Award. I am absolutely delighted to share with you some of the recent CoMH activities from what has been a most productive and busy period for the College. Thank you to everyone who participated in our online strategy workshops, sharing an impressive

5,000 contributions. I am delighted to say we received a wealth of great ideas and constructive feedback. We are currently evaluating this feedback in relation to UCC's strategic goals and translating them into a new and integrative strategy for the College of Medicine and Health. The next step is to respond to all the feedback with more detailed actions which I will share with you over the coming weeks.

I welcomed the Minister of State for Mental Health and Older people, Jim Daly back to UCC in May where he spoke at the launch event for the HRB Clinical Research Facility's new MSc Clinical Trials online programme. This event coincided with the International Clinical Trials Day and Director Joe Eustace gave a most inspiring talk on the value of the programme to UCC and Dr Frances Shiely, the Programme Director, spoke on the details of the course and the time commitment involved.

I would like to congratulate Professors Catherine Stanton and Ivan Perry on their recent membership of the prestigious Royal Irish Academy (RIA), which is in direct recognition of their tremendous achievements in science.

The School of Nursing and Midwifery, UCC hosted a masterclass titled 'Communicating

with Persons with Severe/Profound Intellectual Disability' in May. This masterclass drew enormous interest with tickets selling out in a matter of days. Well done to the co-presenters Professor Juliet Goldbart, Professor of Developmental Disabilities, Faculty of Health, Psychology and Social Care, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK and Ms. Anne-Marie Martin Lecturer and Programme Leader BSc Nursing (Intellectual Disability), School of Nursing and Midwifery.

Finally, I would like to give a special thanks to Professor Nicole Mueller for her most informative lecture titled 'Adventures in Communication and Cognition'. This is part of our Inaugural Lecture Series for Professional Staff, which highlights the excellent team we have the pleasure of working with in the College of Medicine and Health.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this bumper summer edition of the newsletter!

Professor Helen Whelton

Head of College of Medicine and Health
University College Cork

Helen Whelton received the 2019 IADR Distinguished Scientist H. Trendley Dean Memorial Award and the 2019 IADR E.W. Borrow Memorial Award



The International Association for Dental Research (IADR) announced Helen Whelton, University College Cork, Ireland, as the 2019 recipient of the Distinguished Scientist H. Trendley Dean Memorial Award and the 2019 recipient of the IADR E.W. Borrow Memorial Award. Whelton was recognised at the Opening Ceremonies of the 97th General Session & Exhibition of the IADR, held in conjunction with the 48th Annual Meeting of the American Association for Dental Research (AADR) and the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association for Dental Research (CADR). The IADR/AADR/CADR General Session & Exhibition is held at the Vancouver Convention Centre West Building in Vancouver, BC, Canada from June 19-22, 2019.

Pictured left (l-r): Professor Helen Whelton, Head of College of Medicine and Health, UCC receiving the IADR Distinguished Scientist H. Trendley Dean Memorial Award from Rena D'Souza, University of Utah at the IADR Opening Ceremonies in Vancouver.



About the International Association for Dental Research

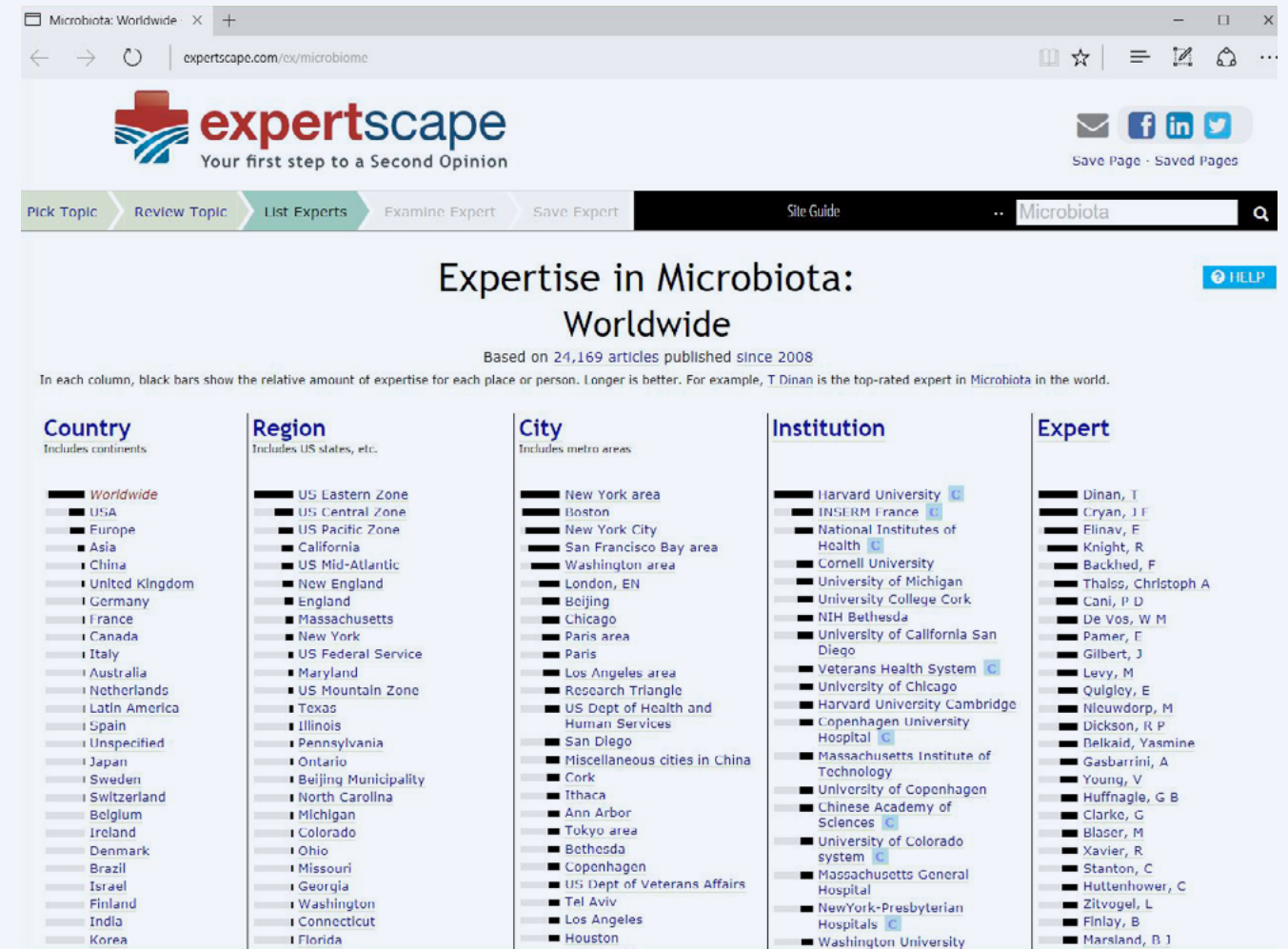
To learn more, visit www.iadr.org

Congratulations to Professor Ted Dinan who is ranked No. 1 globally for Research into the Microbiota



Pictured above (l-r): Ted Dinan, Professor of Psychiatry, UCC and Professor John Cryan, Chair of the Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience, UCC, currently top the list of the world's top-rated experts in microbiota.

Congratulations to Ted Dinan, Professor of Psychiatry and Professor John Cryan, Chair of the Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience who have been recognised on the **Expertscape list** as the world's top-rated experts in microbiota, ranked No. 1 and No. 2, respectively. A further four UCC experts featured in the top 30, including Professor Eamon Quigley, Dr Gerard Clarke, Professor Catherine Stanton and Professor Paul O'Toole, bringing the total to six UCC experts in the top 30 in the world in microbiota.

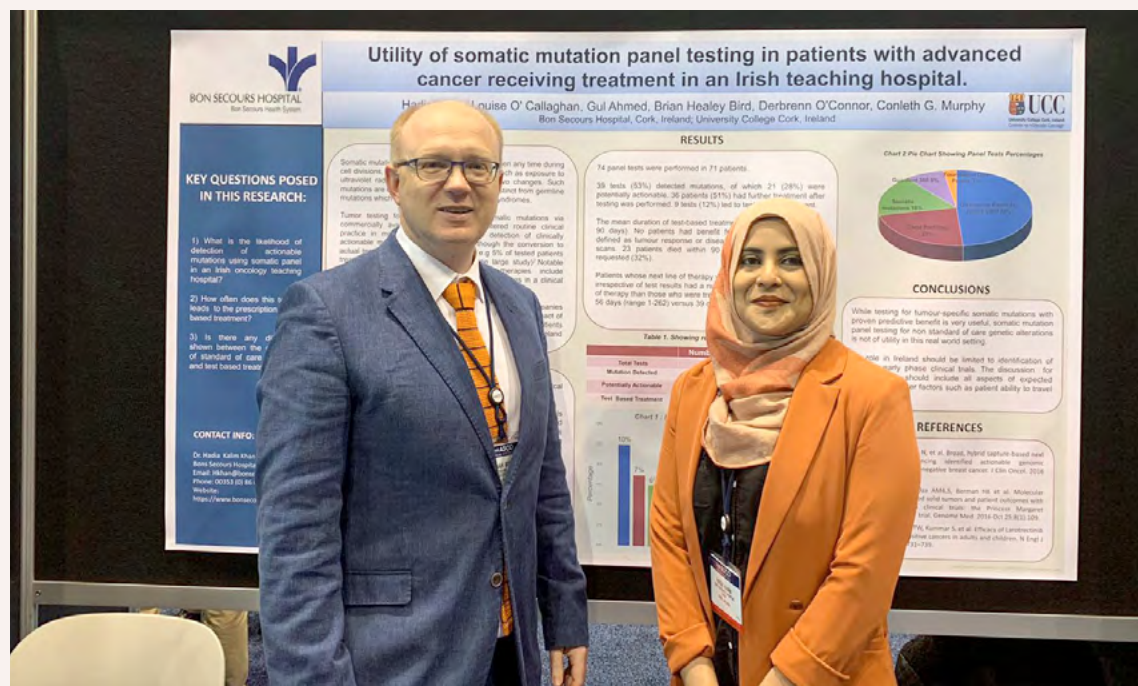


Professor Dinan's current research is funded by Science Foundation Ireland, the Health Research Board and the European Union through FP7. He has published over 400 papers and numerous books on the pharmacology and neurobiology of affective disorders.

In 2017 Professor Dinan and Professor Cryan, together released a book called 'The Psychobiotic Revolution: Mood, Food and the New Science of the Gut-Brain Connection', in which they have painstakingly researched how food impacts psychological well-being.

About Expertscape

Expertscape objectively ranks people and institutions by their expertise in more than 27,000 biomedical topics. The experts listed by Expertscape are those who have demonstrated their expertise and knowledge of a field by writing articles that are published in the medical literature. To learn more, visit: www.expertscape.com



Pictured above (l-r): Dr Brian Bird, School of Medicine UCC and Consultant Oncologist, Bons Secours Hospital Cork and Dr Hadia Khan, Medical SHO, Bons Secours Hospital Cork.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR HADIA KHAN, MEDICAL SHO

Congratulations to Dr Hadia Khan, Medical SHO who recently has been selected to speak at the Annual ASCO (American Society of Clinical Oncology) meeting in Chicago Illinois. Dr Khan submitted her abstract for consideration at the 2019 ASCO Annual Meeting at the McCormick Place Convention Center in Chicago, Illinois. This year, more than 6,200 abstracts were reviewed by the Scientific Program Committee and ASCO leadership and we are delighted that Dr Khan's abstract was selected. Dr Conleth Murphy, Consultant Medical Oncologist was the senior author and the medical oncologist team looked at advanced genetic testing of over 100 patients' cancers.



Dr Elaine Walsh at Department of General Practice Awarded PhD

- **Hugh McGavock Bursary** for best abstract (*PRIMM conference, London*)
- **James McCormick Award** for best research project (*AUDGPI conference, Dublin*)
- **AUDGPI Bursary** for best research presentation (*AUDGPI conference, Dublin*)

Dr Elaine Walsh is a GP and lecturer in the Department of General Practice. She was recently awarded a PhD for her work surrounding the issue of medication error at the interface of primary and secondary care supervised by Dr Laura Sahm in the School of Pharmacy, Professor Patricia Kearney in the School of Public Health and Professor Colin Bradley in the Department of General Practice.

She has developed a novel patient held medication record in collaboration with a commercial provider of GP software. Initial feasibility testing has demonstrated that this device has potential to reduce medication error. This work has received three awards:

The study was published in the British Journal of General Practice in May:

Walsh EK, Sahm LJ, Bradley CP, Dalton K, O'Sullivan K, McCarthy S, Connolly E, Fitzgerald C, Smithson WH, Kerins DM, Byrne D, Kearney PM. The PHARMS (Patient Held Active Record of Medication Status) Study: a mixed methods feasibility study. *BJGP* 2019 DOI:10.3399/bjgp19X702413



Royal Irish Academy honours Catherine Stanton and Ivan Perry

Pictured left (l-r): Professor Ivan Perry, Dean of the School of Public Health, UCC; Professor Anita Maguire, Vice President for Research & Innovation, UCC; Professor John Cryan, Chair of the Department of Anatomy & Neuroscience, UCC; Professor Catherine Stanton, Senior Research Officer, Teagasc and Research Professor, UCC; Professor Peter Kennedy, President of the Royal Irish Academy and Professor Paul Ross, Head of College of Science, Engineering and Food Science (SEFS), UCC.

UCC Professors Catherine Stanton and Ivan Perry have today been admitted as members of the prestigious Royal Irish Academy (RIA), in recognition of their achievements in science.

Professor Kennedy, President of the Royal Irish Academy, welcomed 27 eminent scholars as new members and said that “these individuals have made exceptional contributions in their fields of endeavour. We are delighted to recognise their achievements.”

Ivan Perry is professor of Public Health and dean of the School of Public Health at University College Cork. He is an epidemiologist with an international profile in public health nutrition. Since 2008, he has been principal investigator on the Health Research Board’s Centre for Health and Diet Research—one of Europe’s leading interdisciplinary centres of excellence in public health nutrition.

Catherine Stanton is a senior principal research officer at Teagasc and a research professor at University College Cork. She has published hundreds of research papers on the molecular analysis of food components that impact on human nutrition and health.

She has a h-index of 88 and has been awarded a D.Sc. She is also a founding principal investigator at the APC Microbiome Ireland research institute.

Those elected are entitled to use the designation ‘MRIA’ after their name. Past Members have included Maria Edgeworth, a pioneer of the modern novel and Nobel laureates WB Yeats; Ernest Walton, Erwin Schrödinger and Seamus Heaney.

The Royal Irish Academy (RIA) also announced plans to establish a young academy for Ireland’s top young researchers in the sciences and humanities during the launch of its five-year Strategic Plan today.

Members of the young academy will be selected for their academic excellence and their commitment to public service. Jocelyn Bell Burnell, Hon MRIA, who chaired the RIA Strategic Plan Committee said, “the initiative will create a more diverse Academy and a new advocate for Irish research and scholarship.”





Dr Colette Finn elected to the Cork City Council

Congratulations to Dr Colette Finn on her recent election to the Cork City Council. Colette will no doubt apply the same dedication and professionalism she displays as a Researcher in the School of Nursing and Midwifery here in University College Cork. Having studied Economics to Doctoral level after a 30-year career in the Hospital Laboratory Service her experience, expertise and effectiveness speaks for itself.

www.greenparty.ie/people/colette-finn/

Dr Colette Finn, City Councillor for the Green Party



Funding Success from HRB Emerging Investigators Award Scheme

Dr Linda O'Keeffe, a Research Fellow at the University of Bristol and alumnus of the School of Public Health and HRB Structured Population and Health-services Research Education (SPHeRE) Programme was recently successful in winning funding totalling €699,546 from the HRB Emerging Investigators Award Scheme for an exciting four-year programme of research on sex differences in cardiovascular risk across life course transitions (The SCaRLeT Project). The work brings together a team of researchers from UCC (Professor Patricia Kearney, Dr Tony Fitzgerald and Dr Darren Dahly), University of Oxford and University of Bristol and will involve the use of advanced epidemiological methods in several world-leading cohort studies. Linda will be officially joining us in UCC in August and is very much looking forward to returning to her alma mater to take up this new post!

Launch of the MSc Clinical Trials Programme



Pictured above (l-r): Dr Frances Shiely, Director of Education HRB CRF-C, Minister Jim Daly, Professor Joe Eustace, Director of HRB CRF-C and Professor Helen Whelton, Head CoMH.

Minister of State for Mental Health and Older people Jim Daly launched the HRB Clinical Research Facility's MSc Clinical Trials Programme in UCC on May 20th 2019, to coincide with International Clinical Trials Day. Professor Whelton and Professor Joe Eustace gave inspiring talks on the value of the programme to UCC. Dr Frances Shiely, the Programme Director, spoke on the details of the course and the time commitment involved.

About MSc Clinical Trials

The Masters in Clinical Trials is designed to give a competitive advantage for those wishing to pursue a career in clinical trials in the pharmaceutical, medical device or academic sectors. It is the first such course in Ireland providing a pathway for progression from Postgraduate Certificate Clinical Trials, to Postgraduate Diploma Clinical Trials and ultimately a MSc Clinical trials, and the only course designed and paced for the working professional. There are three 10-week semesters. Each 10-week block has eight teaching weeks in total, with one

week in the middle and end to catch up and complete work. Physicians, nurses, managers, scientists, health scientists, researchers and workers in the allied health professions are encouraged to apply.

Director of the Programme, Dr Frances Shiely commented, "The rapid development of the clinical trial environment in Ireland over the last 10 years has exposed substantial limitations in the prevalent knowledgebase and the numbers of clinical and support staff with the necessary expertise in the design and conduct of clinical trials. The MSc Clinical Trials programme will remedy this deficit and provide the essential knowledge and skills required to design, conduct and analyse trials. It is targeted at potential clinical trial investigators, staff and the wider healthcare audience."

Registration is now open at www.ucc.ie/en/cku17/

To seek further information, please email clinicaltrials@ucc.ie

MAGGIE MAY'S DAY



Pictured above (l-r): Pauline O'Grady Noonan (Community Health Development Worker, Travellers of North Cork), Conor Nelligan (Cork County Council Heritage Officer), Kathleen McDonagh (Travellers of North Cork) with Maggie May McDonagh, Nicola Bessell (Dept. of Speech and Hearing Sciences, School of Clinical Therapies, CoMH, UCC), Rachel Burke (Executive Librarian, Cork County Library). Photo taken at the Fermoy branch of the Cork County Library, May 2018.

In May 2018 *Maggie May's Day* was launched at the Fermoy Library, County Cork. *Maggie May's Day* is a children's book that tells the story of Maggie May, a young Traveller child, in her own words. Maggie May lives with a foot in both the settled community and the Traveller community. The book shows her getting up, going to school, visiting her two nannies, playing with her dogs and dreaming about travelling in the summer time. The book also includes some words from Cant, the unique language of the Travelling community.

Maggie May's Day is the result of collaboration between the Travellers of North Cork, the McDonagh family, community health development worker Pauline O'Grady-Noonan (TNC), linguist Dr Nicola Bessell (Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, UCC), Rachel Burke (Executive Librarian, Cork County Library) and artist Jim Mellis. Funding was provided by Cork County Council, UCC Plus and the Travellers of North Cork. Copies of the book are now in county pre-schools and national schools. In secondary schools, some teachers are using the book as part of literacy development, and at third level, *Maggie May's Day* is used as part of the equality and inclusion training offered by UCC's Professional Master of Education. In 2019 the Travellers of North Cork nominated Maggie May herself for a Traveller Pride award, much to everyone's delight. Maggie May is now in Junior Infants at a national school that has copies of her book in the classroom. We hope this helps Maggie May and her classmates feel that her story and her way of life is a valuable part of the world we live in. A PDF version of *Maggie May's Day* is available at www.corkcoco.ie/sites/default/files/2018-06/Maggie%20May%20Ebook.pdf



The School of Nursing and Midwifery hosts masterclass ‘Communicating with Persons with Severe/Profound Intellectual Disability’

Pictured (l-r): Professor Anne-Marie Martin, Professor Juliet Goldbart and Professor Josephine Hegarty.

The School of Nursing and Midwifery, UCC hosted a masterclass titled ‘Communicating with Persons with Severe/Profound Intellectual Disability’ in May. This masterclass drew enormous interest with tickets selling out in a matter of days. More than 220 people attended from a variety of fields including health, social care, education and policy development.

The masterclass was co-presented by Professor Juliet Goldbart, Professor of Developmental Disabilities, Faculty of Health, Psychology and Social Care, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK and Ms. Anne-Marie Martin Lecturer and Programme Leader BSc Nursing (Intellectual Disability), School of Nursing and Midwifery.

Juliet and Anne-Marie explored the development of

communication skills and how people with severe/profound intellectual disability are likely to communicate. The importance of supporting comprehension and understanding was discussed and strategies to support communication and interaction were proposed.

Juliet and Anne-Marie work to unravel the challenges experienced by both people with severe/profound intellectual disability and those they interact with when communicating. We need to understand the nature of these interactions to inform how we can facilitate, support and encourage communication and interaction with people with this ability. This will enable people with severe/profound intellectual disability and those in their lives to nurture their relationships and engage with each other; something we often take for granted.

Blood Cancer Network Ireland Symposium

24th May 2019

The Blood Cancer Network Ireland's (BCNI) 2019 annual symposium was held in **University College Cork on 24th May**. The title of the symposium was **"Blood Cancers: Advances in therapeutic strategies and enhanced patient registration to improve outcomes"**, with local organisers Professor Mary Cahill and Dr Frances Drummond, Cancer Research @ UCC.

BCNI is a national clinical research network that benefits blood cancer patients in Ireland. BCNI offers early-stage clinical trials to blood cancer patients, offering the opportunity to test new, potentially life-saving treatments and drugs. BCNI has also established a biobank and blood cancer registry, which will further knowledge and expertise in the field of blood cancer research and ultimately improve patient outcomes. BCNI is funded by the Irish Cancer Society and Science Foundation Ireland. www.bloodcancers.ie/bloodcancers/aboutbcni/

This symposium brought together national and international researchers, clinical and industry staff in the fields of cancer drug discovery, cancer registration and haematological malignancies giving them the opportunity to hear about the latest research and hottest topics in blood cancer research from international experts and to present their own work in this area.

The scientific focus was on **Immunotherapy, Targeted therapies, Blood Cancer Registration and PROMS Measures**. The symposium also included a **public session** on "Advances in blood cancer research" directed towards patients and their families at the end of the symposium.



Pictured above: Professor Mary Cahill at the BCNI.

ASSERT CENTRE REPRESENTATIVES ATTEND IMI – PAIN CARE CONSORTIUM MEETING



Professor Barry O'Reilly and Paula Hick from the ASSERT Centre, UCC, attended the IMI – Pain Care consortium meeting, titled “Improving the care of patients suffering from acute or chronic pain”- an EU international initiative on pain, in Berlin on the 19th-20th of March.

The IMI-PainCare Consortium is composed of 40 participants from 14 countries; 6 are EFPIA members (European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations) with strong traditions in pain research and development, 23 are internationally renowned academic and clinical institutions, 5 are specialist SMEs with cutting-edge technologies, 3 are patient organisations and 3 are professional pain/anesthesia societies.

IMI-PainCare comprises three sub-projects:

PROMPT: Providing standardized patient-reported outcome measures for improving pain treatment.

BioPain: Improving translatability of functional biomarkers in pain pathways.

TRIPP: Improving translation in chronic pelvic pain. These three sub-projects address distinct aspects and scientific challenges. Bringing them together into one project creates the opportunity for valuable cross-fertilization. Expected outcomes: Provide a deeper understanding of the pathological conditions which lead to pelvic pain Deep phenotyping of women with these two CPP-syndromes will be performed. Existing pre-clinical models will be assessed and then refined in line with the clinical phenotypes aiming for better mechanistic and predictive validity.

This project has received funding of over €23 million from the Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 Joint Undertaking under grant agreement No [777500]. This Joint Undertaking receives support from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and EFPIA.

Please visit:

www.imi-paincare.eu

www.imi.europa.eu

for more information on the IMI-PainCare project.



Down Syndrome Research Forum



On the 29th of March 2019, the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences UCC hosted a research forum on “Exploring best practice in speech, language and communication for people with Down syndrome and their families”. This sold-out event was the first of its kind to be hosted in UCC and was supported by the Health Research Board’s Conference and Event Sponsorship Scheme awarded to Dr Ciara O’Toole and Dr Pauline Frizelle. The purpose of this conference was to increase awareness among researchers, practitioners, individuals and families about the current evidence base for best practice in speech and language therapy for children with Down syndrome and to engage in collaborative practice to build future research in Ireland. The motivation was to share findings from an HRB-funded Cochrane Fellowship awarded to Dr Ciara O’Toole, that looked at parent-mediated interventions for preschool children with Down syndrome, as well as a number of Irish-based projects between the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at UCC and Down Syndrome Ireland (DSI). We also shared best practice

in international research from our leading experts in the field of disability research including Dr Gerald Mahoney from Case Western University in Cleveland, and Rebecca Baxter from University College London/Let’s Go UK among others. A highlight of the event was a talk by Cathal Griffin of DSI-Kerry/Fexco who talked about his experiences of speech and language therapy as a person with Down syndrome.

Ireland has one of the highest incidences of Down syndrome in the world, and although the ability of children with Down syndrome varies widely, all have significant difficulty with speech and/or language skills. It was, therefore important to showcase the research that is happening in UCC and build further collaborations so that we are leading the way in evidence-based practice for this population. There was great interest from both people with Down syndrome and their families and practitioners across Ireland in the event. Some of the feedback indicated that they would like this to be an annual event, and parents valued the chance to sit amongst practitioners and get up-to-date information on this area.

School of Nursing and Midwifery hosted a Workshop on Hospital Associated Decline: Eat, Walk, Engage

Professor Corina Naughton (Professor in Clinical Nursing in Older Person HealthCare) and the gerontological nursing Team in the School of Nursing and Midwifery (SoNM) recently hosted a workshop on the Prevention and Management of Hospital Associated Decline (HAD) in frail older people. The workshop is part of a series of events organised through the SAge21 (Supported Ageing in 21st Century) SoNM research cluster.

Hospital Associated Decline is defined as the onset of a new disability not present at admission. In addition to the presenting complaint and underlying co-morbidities, the hospitalisation process itself contributes to functional decline affecting up to 40% of older people admitted in acute care.

Over 120 nurses, allied health professionals and doctors from diverse care settings attended the workshop to consider the translation of evidence-based interventions into front line services.

Professor Alison Mudge from the Royal Brisbane Hospital, Australia presented on a pragmatic intervention and RCT trial (CHERISH study) to reduce the impact of HAD in acute care. The intervention optimised nutrition, mobilisation and cognitive engagement in older patients



during hospitalisation. The trial has shown a significant reduction in delirium and other adverse events. During the workshop, participants discussed the transferability of this intervention to an Irish health care setting.

Fiona Byrne (Senior Dietician, CUH) provided an update on the implementation of the New HSE Guidelines on Nutrition and Hydration in Acute Hospitals. Fiona outlined the evidence on enhanced protein and calorie intake in older adults living with frailty.

Professor Roman Romero-Ortuno (St James & Trinity College Dublin) and Peter Hartley (PhD student, Cambridge) described the heterogeneity in functional trajectories of older adults admitted to acute care hospitals.

Pictured above: Professor Josephine Hegarty; Professor Roman Romero-Ortuno; Professor Corina Naughton; Peter Hartley; Professor Alison Mudge; Fiona Byrne.

DEVELOPING AND EVALUATING COMPLEX PRIMARY CARE INTERVENTIONS; A 2-DAY TRAINING COURSE

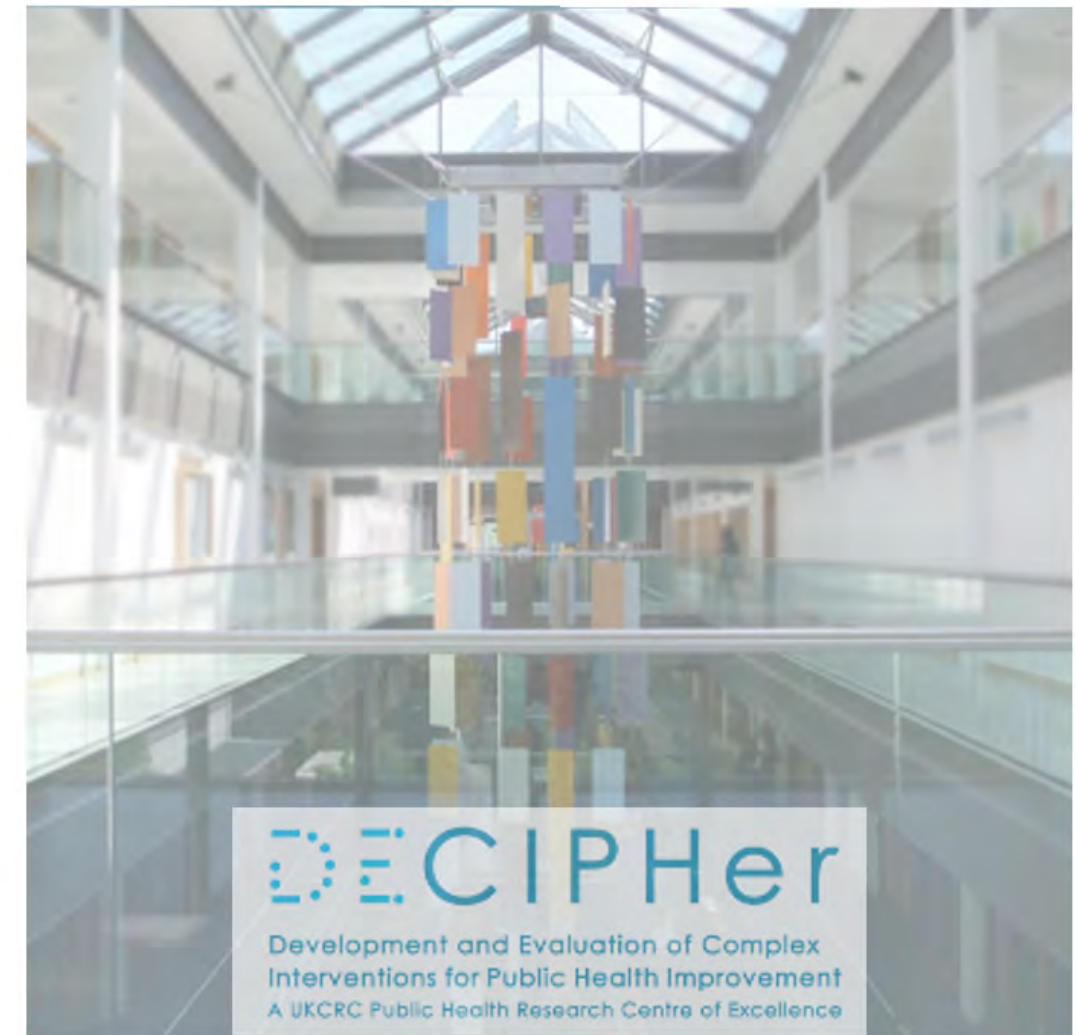
The ESPRIT (Evidence to Support Prevention Implementation and Translation) Research Group based in the School of Public Health are delighted to be hosting a 2-day introductory training course 'Developing and Evaluating Complex Primary Care Interventions' on the **4th and 5th of November 2019**. The course will be delivered by DECIPHer (Development and Evaluation of Complex Interventions for Public Health Improvement) who are experts in the development and evaluation of multi-level, complex public health interventions. The course will provide attendees with a working knowledge of; the key theories, frameworks and methodologies used to design and evaluate complex multi-level interventions (e.g. socio-ecological theory); intervention development processes and developing intervention logic models; how to involve key stakeholders in intervention development; process evaluation and; feasibility and pilot studies. The course is suitable for researchers, practitioners and students. Registration and further details will be announced in September 2019. The event is funded by the HRB Primary Care Clinical Trials Network Ireland and the HRB Trials Methodology Research Network. More information is available from Fiona Riordan (fiona.riordan@ucc.ie) or Niamh McGrath (niamh.mcgrath@ucc.ie).



School of
Public Health



ESPRIT
Evidence to Support Prevention
Implementation & Translation



Health Research Board
TMRN
Trials Methodology Research Network



HEALTH RESEARCH BOARD
Primary Care CTNI
CLINICAL TRIALS NETWORK IRELAND

News from the Medical Graduates Association



The Raymond Shanahan Prize

Applications are invited for The Raymond Shanahan Prize. This prize is awarded biennially on the basis of a submission of original observations or published research paper in a topic related to cardiovascular disease. The applicant must be the first author of the work. Eligible candidates are post-registration non-consultant hospital doctors and their equivalent in G.P. Trainee Schemes. Eligibility is confined to graduates of University College Cork Medical School and graduates from other medical schools training in the University's teaching hospitals or training schemes. Applicants should submit 3 copies of the work to be considered, with a letter from the Head of the Department where the work was carried out, indicating the applicant is the primary author. The work may consist of a published (or in press) paper, a case study/presentation / observation written up as for publication, or a research work/observation. The work done, or the published paper must be within 2 calendar years of the advertised award. The closing date for applications is **June 29th, 2019**.

The prize shall be awarded at the UCC Medical Graduates Association Annual Scientific Meeting, and shall consist of a script and honorarium, currently valued at c. €600. Informal enquiries may be made to Professor Catherine Keohane **Catherine.keohane@ucc.ie**

Applications may be submitted by email to Medical Graduates Association **mga@ucc.ie** or by post (3 copies) to Lisa MacSharry, Medical Graduates Association Office, 2nd Floor, School of Medicine, Brookfield Health Science Complex, College Road, Cork.



In other news:

The MGA November 16th Annual Scientific Meeting registration page is now live. Delegates can register using the following link:
<https://conference.ucc.ie/mga/annual-conference-2019/Site/Register>

Congratulations to our most recent graduates from the College of Medicine and Health who graduated at UCC's; Medical Conferrings on May 31st, Dental Conferrings on June 21st and the 2019 Summer Conferrings!



Pictured above (l-r): Shani Fernando, Graduate 2019 and Professor Paula O'Leary, Dean of Medicine.

Top right (l-r): Rachel Hyland, Melissa Walsh, Dr John Mac Sharry, Dr Helen Hynes, Professor Katy Keohane.

Right (l-r): Professor Katy Keohane, Mr Charlie Marks, Professor Helen Whelton, Head of College of Medicine and Health.



Medical Conferrings 2019

The College of Medicine and Health, University College Cork, Medical Conferrings 2019 took place today in University College Cork on Friday, May 31st in two ceremonies celebrating a very special milestone in the education of the new graduates lives. It was a day filled with celebration for them and their loved ones with the great sense of achievement that comes with conferring and was a most memorable occasion.

Pictured above (l-r): RTÉ's Miriam O'Callaghan, John O'Halloran, Deputy President, Registrar, Clara May McGurk, Professor Helen Whelton, Head of College of Medicine and Health, UCC.

UCC International Medical Pre Graduation Dinner, May 2019

Congratulations to the Medicine Class of 2019 on your examination results. Well wishes from all at the International Office.

A celebratory dinner was held to mark the occasion for our International medicine students which took place on Thursday 30th May 2019. It was a very special evening for students, staff and family and we wish you all the best for the future.



Dental Conferrings 2019

Pictured top left: Dental Conferrings 2019 with guest speaker Professor Edwin Scher.



Pictured bottom left: Dr Christine McCreary, Cork University Dental School and Hospital, Professor Edwin Scher, UCC President Patrick O'Shea, Professor Helen Whelton, Head of College of Medicine and Health, UCC.



Summer Conferrings 2019

1. SEFS held their traditional Procession through the Quad for PhDs before the conferring ceremony. PhDs graduands from the College of Medicine and Health participated in this spectacle which is reserved for PhD students.
2. Professor Josephine Hegarty, Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery, UCC President Patrick O'Shea and Geraldine McCarthy, Emeritus Professor at UCC and Chair of the South/South West Hospital Group. Professor McCarthy delivered the Conferring address.
3. Aislinn Cotter BSc Hons, Public Health from Macroom.
4. Kate Logan with Tegan O'Riordan BSc Hons, Speech & Language Therapy from Killarney.
5. Richard Rajeev with Sherin Sebastian and Devassy Lali BSc Hons, Nursing Studies from India.

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH Inaugural Teaching & Learning Showcase

In response to the successful launch of the College Research Anthology report, Professor Anthony Roberts suggested an equivalent celebratory event for teaching and learning.

Professor Helen Whelton approved the event and a working group was set up.

Chair- Anthony Roberts with; Mags Arnold, Liam Fanning, Christie Godsmark, Colette Hand, Martina Hayes, Aine Horgan, Suzanne McCarthy, Claudia Moynihan, Noreen Moynihan, Mairin O'Mahony, Ciara O'Toole and Michelle Syron.

On the 19th June Dr Francis M Burke – Vice Dean of Academic Affairs welcomed Professor Phil Race to give his keynote – “Towards assessment as learning”. This truly interactive session had us up and moving in the first few minutes. The keynote address allowed all present to re-evaluate their assessment methodology and feedback. The chance for reflection on practice is something we instil in our students but the opportunity to do it for ourselves in the busy academic year is rare.

Following on from the keynote Schools were invited to present 10-minute

sessions on innovative teaching and learning in their area. Topics included; an entrepreneurial workshop for pharmacy students, “Death Week” tackling death and dying in occupational therapy; how to assess professionalism; student-led clinics and an MOU between supervisor and student in postgraduate programmes. A poster hall containing 28 submissions allowed further sharing of novel ideas and research, teaching and learning.

The breaks between sessions were one of the best parts of the day, where ideas were shared, programmes were being changed, links were forged and general fun was had.

Over the course of the event, over 100 staff attended one or more sessions.

A big thank you to everyone who took part in what will become a fixture in the College calendar.

See you all next year.

Pictured centre left: Dr Francis M Burke, Vice Dean, Academic Affairs and Professor Phil Race, Keynote Speaker.



Mental Health at Work features greatly in Public Health – Get PSYCHED

PSYCHED stands for: **P**ositive **S**upport **Y**ou **H**ave **E**very **D**ay



As part of Public Health, positive mental health in the workplace is gaining attention through initiatives such as the National Workplace Wellbeing Day on the 12th of April. Dr Birgit Greiner from the School of Public Health is a member of the steering group of **PSYCHED**, an interagency initiative supported by the HSE, Cork County & City Council, community workplace partners and UCC with the aim to promote better mental health in workplaces, to grow understanding and to reduce stigma towards mental illness.

Dr Greiner is the academic director of the MSc in Occupational Health, a part-time programme, delivered on campus and, also, wholly online. One of the core features of this course is capacity building in positive mental health promotion and management of psychosocial work factors that can lead to serious job stress, burnout, mental health problems and stress-related physical ill-health, if not properly managed. Dr Greiner conducted international research in this area for the last 30 years and built a strong evidence base for mental health promotion and protection by creating healthy workplaces.

In the context of mental health, healthy workplaces are those that provide a safe, secure and supportive working environment with opportunities

for social interaction and connection and a culture, where mental health-supporting behaviours are encouraged. Staff feel able to ask for and receive help during times of poor mental health. Health and wellbeing are pro-actively promoted before problems start. Workplaces that support mental health have systems in place to identify, assess and address working conditions that trigger or aggravate poor mental health, e.g. they ensure physical and psychological safety, offer achievable job tasks with clear roles and jobs that provide opportunities for learning and development as well as feedback and appreciation for work achievements. The scientific evidence has now been emerging underpinning that healthy workplaces have many benefits including a motivated, engaged and productive workforce, with reduced sickness and absenteeism.

Workplace mental health promotion featured in the Cork Lifelong Learning Festival on 8th April 2019 with facilitation of an interactive half-day PSYCHED workshop by Dr Greiner on creating sustainable solutions in the promotion of workplace mental health and wellbeing with a turnout of 60 life-long learners, some of them professionals responsible for workplace health promotion, (HR managers, occupational health nurses, doctors or health promotion officers), others being interested in the topic from a workers' perspective.

On 8th May 2019, the PSYCHED initiative celebrated the achievements of award-winning organisations from the Cork area during the annual PSYCHED awards celebrations with representation of the Deputy Lord Mayor of Cork.

More detailed information about PSYCHED can be found at:

<https://corkhealthycities.com/psyched-2/>

www.ucc.ie/en/publichealth/programmes/postgraduate/mscinoccupationalhealth/

Pictured above left: Dr Birgit Greiner facilitating a workshop on workplace mental health promotion at the Cork Lifelong Learning Festival, 8th April 2019.