



# CoMH eNEWS

College of Medicine and Health, UCC



University College Cork, Ireland  
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

Issue 29 | July 2018

Navigate stories

Welcome to our latest  
CoMH online newsletter

Graduations of College  
of Medicine and Health  
Summer Conferings

SFI INFANT Research  
Centre secures funding  
of €570,000

Honorary Doctorate  
Awarded to Professor  
John Cryan

Commissioned painting  
for Dr Bridget Maher  
Memorial Evening

Athena Swan Bronze  
Award for School of  
Pharmacy

Ireland's first integrated  
paediatric academic unit  
opened on 18th June

Other news

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 Extracts from CoMH eNews should not be published without the permission of the editor.



Summer Conferings



INFANT



Honorary Doctorate



Memorial Evening



Awards



PAU Opening





Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the summer edition of the College of Medicine and Health's newsletter.

As you can see from this bumper edition, there is a lot happening in our Schools and Research Centres. Our newsletter is bursting at the seams with awards, achievements and recent events from all across the College. As our student population takes a well-deserved break, our staff have the opportunity to take stock, plan new initiatives, write up research results and plan new grants, these are year round activities but the summer time gives a tremendous opportunity to gain ground!

This June saw the graduation of 180 undergraduate and postgraduate students from across our six schools while May saw the graduation of 200 medical students. Graduation days are the proudest days in the college calendar as students, staff, families and friends join in a celebration of achievement. As a College, we are proud of each and every one of our students and now we are proud of you, as graduates. I hope that you will take this pride and carry it with you as you develop as healthcare professionals.

This issue also highlights a number of significant developments around the College such as the opening of the new Dental Hub in the Dental School and Hospital, the hub is an innovative way of presenting learning spaces and has been well received by our students. The Paediatric Academic Unit located in Cork University Hospital was also opened in June by the Tánaiste Simon Coveney.

These brand new facilities are testament to our desire to expand and advance as a College as well as to the determination and hard work of our staff in realising these projects.

Our larger scale projects which are funded by EIB loans are also gaining traction as the Design brief for the €37M new Dental School and Hospital in Curraheen has been awarded. Discussions on the Clinical Medical School development on the CUH site are also well advanced and it is expected that we will turn the sod on the Health Innovation Hub building in Curraheen before the end of the year.

Our College's ambitious development plans are to be supported by three new Vice Dean roles in the College: Vice Dean for Research & Innovation (FTE 0.2), Vice Dean for Clinical & Strategic Partnerships (FTE 0.2), Vice Dean for Graduate Studies & Inter-professional Learning (FTE 0.4).

These posts will lead a step change in research, partnership and graduate activity within the College. The roles will be filled by internal competition from among the academic staff in the College and the appointments will be for three years. I look forward to working with colleagues in these new roles as we lead the College towards the vision of an Academic Health Centre model with our SSWHG partners. We can look forward to a lot of new beginnings in the academic year ahead as our new Deans of Medicine, Professor Paula O'Leary and Nursing and Midwifery, Professor Josephine Hegarty take up their roles. September also sees the further cementing of our partnership with University Hospital Waterford with the appointment of Dr Peter Neary and

Dr May Clarke as Professors in Colorectal Surgery and Orthopaedics respectively, both take up their posts in September, they will join with our other UCC staff in Waterford in strengthening our academic base.

The new academic year will also see the launch of our crowd sourcing initiative to develop our new strategy in the College. Following a tender process we have commissioned a company called Clever Together [www.cleverttogether.com/web/](http://www.cleverttogether.com/web/) to work with us in engaging all our staff, affiliates and stakeholders to have their say on the future of the College. According to Clever Together "half of the best ideas lie within the 80% of people who normally don't contribute". Through the bespoke web based platform to be developed by Clever Together, we seek to identify the most insightful, valuable and impactful contributions from our stakeholders. We will work with the collective insights that such interactions will bring to develop a well-informed, well supported strategy that is easy to implement. You can expect more on this in September.

Meanwhile, may I wish you all a refreshing and relaxing summer break, I hope you enjoy the super weather, it is 28°C as I write; stay cool, stay safe and wear sunscreen!

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

# A Glance at Professor Helen Whelton's Recent Activities



## Opening of Paediatric Unit

On 18th June, Professor Whelton attended the opening of the first integrated paediatric academic unit in Ireland. The unit was officially opened by Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney, T.D.

**Pictured above (l-r):** Professor Jonathan Hourihane, Department of Paediatrics & Child Health; Professor Anita Maguire; Mr Gerry Dwyer, HSE; UCC President, Professor Patrick O'Shea; An Tánaiste, Simon Coveney T.D.; Mr Tony McNamara, CEO, CUH; Professor Geraldine Boylan, Director of INFANT Centre; Professor Deirdre Murray; and Professor Helen Whelton. Photo by Darragh Kane



## Guest Lecture: Dr Jon Fistein

Dr Jon Fistein, Professor in Clinical Informatics at the Leeds Institute of Health Sciences, came to UCC on 11th June to give a lecture titled 'Enabling the use of routine clinical data for health research, future opportunities and ethical issues'. At Leeds University, Jon is responsible for the Health Informatics teaching portfolio and his research examines the legal, professional and ethical implications of using healthcare data for uses outside the direct care setting. Here is Dr Fistein (centre) pictured with Professor Whelton and Professor Willie Molloy.



## Honorary Conferings

On 8th June, Professor Whelton attended UCC's Honorary Conferings ceremony. Philip King, Martina Cole, Richard Langford, Caitríona Twomey and Peter Murray were all conferred with Honorary Degrees.



## Opening of the New Dental Hub

The 24th April saw the opening of the new Dental Hub in the Dental School and Hospital. Here is Professor Whelton pictured (centre) at the opening with the Head of the Dental School, Dr Christine McCreary, and Professor Paula O'Leary, School of Medicine.



## ROYAL VISIT

Photo by Julien Behal

On 14th June, Professor Whelton was in attendance to meet HRH The Prince of Wales during his visit to UCC.

# Athena Swan Bronze Award for School of Pharmacy



Congratulations to the School of Pharmacy who were awarded an Athena SWAN Bronze Award in acknowledgment of its demonstrated commitment to promote the advancement of STEM careers for women in higher education.

The School of Pharmacy, along with the Schools of Chemistry and Biological Environment and Earth Sciences, are the first recipients of the Departmental/School award in UCC, following the University's institutional award in 2016.

The Athena Swan self-assessment process has provided the School with a structured framework to identify areas of action and implementation. The key action the School will implement over the next 3 years is aimed at supporting the career trajectory of female academics and research staff.

## SFI INFANT Research Centre secures funding of €570,000



**Pictured:** Professor Geraldine Boylan, Director of the INFANT Research Centre.

The INFANT Centre at University College Cork, has been awarded €570,000 by global charitable foundation Wellcome Trust, to develop a smart brain monitoring system for new-borns that may have brain injury. Named 'Delphi', the new system will help to detect the severity of brain damage as soon as possible enabling early intervention and appropriate therapies tailored to each individual baby.

Brain injury at birth, potentially due to lack of oxygen or blood supply to the brain, sepsis and other conditions, can leave newborns with permanent disabilities such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy or learning difficulties. Early detection of neonatal brain injury can be vital to improve outcomes and reduce the impact of the brain damage. While vital signs such as heart rate, respiration, temperature and blood pressure are monitored closely when newborns are in neonatal intensive care (NICU), electrical monitoring (EEG) is not routinely available due to its complexity and the need for expert interpretation.

Geraldine Boylan, INFANT Centre Director and Professor of Neonatal Physiology said, "This award by Wellcome Trust acknowledges the calibre of research capability and global impact of the work that we are doing at INFANT. We are delighted to partner with the Wellcome Trust on this two year research project, which will undoubtedly have enormous impact on newborn brain health research and provide a new and 'smart' way of monitoring the brains of newborns so the earliest and most appropriate treatment can be delivered."



**Pictured (l-r):** Professor Ray Stallings, Director of Research, RCSI; Professor Fergus Shanahan, UCC.

## John J Ryan Distinguished Lecture Award for Professor Fergus Shanahan

Professor Shanahan delivered the John J Ryan Distinguished Lecture at RCSI Research Day 2018 titled 'Translating Microbiome Science'. The John J Ryan Distinguished Lecture award recognises a scientist who has made major contributions to developing innovative biomedical technologies with the potential to have a broad impact on the life sciences.

RCSI's annual Research Day provides scientists with the opportunity to showcase their most recent research findings. The latest advances in biomedical sciences, clinical research, population health

sciences, healthcare delivery and health professions education are just some of the topics featured in studies were presented to more than 300 researchers.

"I am honoured to accept this medal and am delighted to share APC's research in translating microbiome science" said Professor Shanahan. "APC Microbiome Ireland has been a magnet for foreign direct investment, doubling taxpayers' research investment, including nine international companies that would never have had a footprint in Ireland were it not for the existence of the APC."



## Successes at the AUDGPI Conference 2018

Congratulations to Dr Aisling Jennings and Dr Tony Foley, Department of General Practice, who were recently successful at the AUDGPI conference 2018 in Galway. Between them, they scooped the best educational project, best research project and bursary for best presentation.

The Association of University Department of General Practice in Ireland (AUDGPI) aims to support the development of teaching and research within Irish academic general practice and primary care for the benefit of patients, practitioners, educators and researchers in Ireland.



## The Irish Laboratory Awards 2018

Congratulations to Dr Andriy Temko who has won a Collaboration Achievement award from the Irish Laboratory Awards for the collaboration between the INFANT Centre, the Department of Engineering in UCC and the Tyndall National Institute for the newborn baby stethoscope project.



## UCC GEM 2015 Graduate awarded Fullbright U.S. Scholarship

Congratulations to Dr Dennis Hopkinson a UCC GEM 2015 graduate who has been awarded a Fulbright U.S. Scholarship to research and teach at the University of Rwanda College of Medicine and Health Sciences.

The Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program allows college professors and professionals from various fields to perform research and/or teaching at host institutions throughout the world. The award consists of a stipend and provides support for enabling the research and teaching that the award recipient has designed. Dennis' first research project focuses on the care of the medical patient as he or she transitions from presentation at the emergency department to arrival on the medicine ward and his second project looks at antihypertensive medication adherence.

## OT Graduate Awarded UCC Works Award



Erin Hyslop, Occupational Therapy Graduate from the School of Clinical Therapies, has been awarded the UCC Works Highly Commended Recognising Outstanding Award which falls under the UCC Works Employability Star Award.

This award is given to students who have received four or more UCC Works Awards by their final year in UCC. The awards must be spread over two or more academic years. To date, Erin has received two Student Life Pathway Awards and two Internship Pathway Awards in the

past three years, which commended her voluntary and student ambassador involvement with multiple UCC services including Peer Support, Student Budgeting Service, UCC Plus and the Career Services.

The UCC Works Award is designed to prepare students for the challenges they face in making the transition to work and gives you an opportunity to develop these all round skills that employers value greatly whilst giving providing an opportunity to showcase this achievement to potential employers.

## Congratulations Kate!



The College of Medicine and Health would like to wish our colleague, Kate McSweeney every success in her new role as Director of Communications in Development and Alumni Relations, UCC. Kate has been the driving force behind the development of this newsletter

as well as designing and leading the implementation of the College's Marketing and Communications Strategic Plan. Kate has been very successful communicating the College's mission and achievements both inside and outside UCC. Kate was also instrumental in implementing a strong and consistent visual identity for the College and has worked closely with colleagues in each of our Schools and Research Centres. In her new role, Kate will be responsible for helping Development & Alumni Relations expand its communications and accountability with alumni, donors and the UCC community. Good luck Kate.



# Honorary Doctorate Awarded to Professor John Cryan

Congratulations to Professor John F. Cryan who has been awarded an honorary degree in Pharmaceutical, Biomedical and Veterinary Sciences by the University of Antwerp. Professor Jean-Pierre Timmermans delivered the Laudation at the conferring ceremony.

In total five eminent scientists received honorary doctorates, including Professor Jeffery Sachs, Columbia University, New York and world renowned American economist, Professor Laurajane Smith, Australian National University, Professor Upendra Baxi, University of Warwick and Professor Michael D. Slater, Ohio State University.

The award recognises John's research on the interaction between the brain, the gut and the microbiome and how this relates to stress and immune or psychological disorders.

The ceremony was preceded by Masterclasses led by the honorary doctors. John's Masterclass was titled "Gut Feelings - The Microbiota-Gut-Brain Axis in Physiology and Behaviour".





## Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy Awards Night

On May 22nd 2018, the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy hosted their annual awards and celebration event to mark the end of the academic year and the end of the four-year programme for the class of 2018. Thirty students successfully completed their studies and presented their final research projects in a poster display, which was open for family and friends to come and view. Each student was awarded a certificate of completion of the academic programme. In addition, the department led a celebration of student achievements, to recognise the value that each brings to the profession.

This year, achievements included examples of specialist skills: for example, winning the Macra na Feirme Debating National Title 2016, receiving an ATCL Trinity Guildhall Violin Diploma 2016. Other students contributed to society, for example through volunteering to teach children with coordination difficulties how to cycle in West Cork, teaching English to children ranging from 1-15 years old.

in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, or volunteering for Friendly Call Service, which involves making telephone calls to people in the community who are socially isolated or lonely.

Finally, the best research projects were announced and overall winners awarded the practice placement Mary Coveney award, and the students' nomination for the Susan Ryan Entrepreneurial award. Professor Jeanne Jackson led the events with a celebratory speech and an Irish Blessing to conclude.

**Pictured, back row (l-r):** Sarah Prendergast, Dermot O'Callaghan, Clare O'Sullivan, Alison Butler, Lynn Higginson, Amy Kelly. **Front row (l-r):** Emma O'Riordan, Deirdre O'Connor, Marion Brosnan, Emma O'Leary, Katrina Murphy. Photos by Ger Mac





**Pictured (l-r):** Dr Conan Donnelly, Dr Ronan Quirke, Mairead O'Connor, Dr Shane Knox, Professor Orla Healy, Mr Declan Lonergan, Professor Helen Whelton - Head of College of Medicine and Health, Mr Macartan Hughes, Dr Elsa Droog, Dr Martin Davoren, Dr Anne-Maire O'Flynn. Photo by John Allen

## Adjunct and Adjunct Clinical Appointments

The College recently celebrated its Adjunct and Adjunct Clinical Appointments in the Jennings Gallery, Brookfield Health Sciences Complex UCC.

Adjunct appointments are made to those who make a significant ongoing contribution to University College Cork. The appointment process is rigorous and it is a testament to the recipients' professional achievements that they have been recognised in this way. All of the College's Adjunct and Adjunct Clinical Appointments have contributed, in different ways, to the success of the College.

The College is proud of its linkages to the wider community and indeed depends on external colleagues to deliver excellent healthcare programmes to our students and conduct research to address societal needs.

Congratulations to all the recipients!



Photo by Tony Archer

# School of Nursing and Midwifery Awards Night

The School of Nursing and Midwifery Student Award Ceremony 2018 marked the outstanding achievements of the School's undergraduate and postgraduate students. The celebratory evening highlighted the exceptional work and talent of each student and his or her engagement in various activities within the school, college, clinical practice and the community.

AWARD	STUDENT	DEGREE
Undergraduate Student of the Year 2018	<b>Mark Harman</b>	2nd Year BSc Mental Health Nursing
Postgraduate Student of the Year 2018	<b>Anju Menon</b>	MSc in Nursing Studies
Student Leader of the Year 2018	<b>Simone O'Connor</b>	4th Year BSc General Nursing
Award for Outstanding Contribution to Student Life	<b>Niamh Hogan</b>	4th Year BSc Integrated and General Nursing
Award for Recognition in Sport	<b>Fiona O'Keeffe</b>	3rd Year BSc Integrated and General Nursing
Award for Recognition in the Arts and Entertainment	<b>Cliodhna Walsh</b>	3rd Year BSc Mental Health Nursing
Community Engagement/Activist Award	<b>Audrey Griffin</b>	3rd Year BSc Mental Health Nursing
Patricia J. Power Excellence in Clinical Practice Award	<b>Audrey Griffin</b> Shortlisted: <b>Emma Harkin</b> <b>Kayleigh Hehir</b>	3rd Year BSc Mental Health Nursing 4th Year BSc General Nursing 2nd Year BSc General Nursing
Keady Clifford Excellence in Children's Nursing 2018	<b>Jenny Rea</b>	Recent Graduate of the BSc Integrated and General Nursing programme



Photos by FLUKEy Photography

# Success at UCC Society Awards

The Medical Student Societies at UCC saw great success at this year's UCC Society Awards.

The following awards were distributed:

SOCIETY AWARD WINNERS	
Best Financial Management	Friends of MSF (Medicine Sans Frontier)
Best Charitable Society	Friends of MSF
Best Academic Society	Medical Society
Best Overall Society	Friends of MSF
Best Mental Health Event	Medical Society
Best Community Engagement	Medical Society
STAR AWARD WINNERS	
Noel Brennan	Medical Society
Pádraig Gardiner	Surgeon Noonan and Medical Society
BENE MERENTI WINNERS	
Bailey Crowley	Friends of MSF
Sarah Cavallari	Medical Society

Congratulations to all recipients!

# SimWars 2018

Congratulations to the members of the UCC Emergency Society for their success at the Emergency Medicine Study Society Ireland (EMSSI) SimWars 2018.

SimWars Ireland is the only intervarsity competition for healthcare students with a special interest in Emergency Medicine, aiming to increase the practice of simulation education among students. This year 18 teams from all 6 medical colleges of the Republic of Ireland competed at NUIG. The UCC contingent trained hard with the support of 20+ Interns, NCHDs, Nurses, and Consultants from Cork University Hospital, Mercy University Hospital, UCC School of Medicine, and ASSERT. Known widely as the “UCC Rebel Alliance”, UCC Emergency Care Society were delighted to be crowned SimWars18 Champions this year!

Congratulations to Team STEMina’s Anthony Yan, Eoin Jones, Tommy Kirkham, Nikoleta Tellios, and Andrew Namespetra.





# Medical Conferrings

25th May 2018



Congratulations to our 198 School of Medicine graduates, who were awarded an Honours Degree of Bachelor of Medicine at this year's Medical Conferrings. Professor Fergus Shanahan, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Medicine at UCC and Director of the APC Microbiome Institute, UCC, delivered the conferring address.



**Top left:** Sarah Kelleher, Mags Carey, Kate O'Donoghue, Aisling Hegarty, and Caoilfhionn Collins. **Bottom left:** Colm O'Rian and Amy Edwards. **Top right:** Professor John O'Halloran, VP Teaching & Learning, UCC and David O'Halloran. **Centre right:** Joan O'Meara and Michael O'Meara. **Bottom right:** Amanda Louis, Bernadine Louis and Cynthia Louis

Photos by Gerard McCarthy



# Summer Conferrings

## 15th June 2018

Congratulations to our most recent graduates from the College of Medicine and Health who recently graduated at UCC's Summer Conferrings. The conferring addresses were delivered by Bridie O'Sullivan, Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery for the South/South West Hospitals Group and Dr Mary Murphy, senior Lecturer in Regenerative Medicine and a Principal Investigator in Orthobiologics at the Regenerative Medicine Institute (REMEDI) at the National University of Ireland (NUI) Galway.



**Top left:** Dr Colin Hawkes who was conferred with a PhD (Medicine and Health) pictured with his family. **Top right:** BSC (Hons) Nursing Studies graduates Chidilim Odisigo, Chinenyenwa Odisigo and Julian Lokosu. **Far left:** Matthew James, James, Sarah, Lucy and Ruth McCullagh, who was conferred with a PhD (Medicine and Health). **Centre right:** Dr Tony Foley who was conferred with a PhD (Medicine and Health) pictured with his family. **Bottom right:** BSC (Hons) Occupational Therapy graduate Emma O'Leary, pictured with her father.

Photos by Gerard McCarthy



## Ireland's first integrated paediatric academic unit opens



Photo by Darragh Kane

The first integrated paediatric academic unit in Ireland was officially opened on Monday 18th June by Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney, T.D. Following a multi-million euro investment by University College Cork, Science Foundation Ireland and a generous philanthropic donation, the new unit is located in an exceptional tri-location between Cork University Hospital, Cork University Maternity Hospital and University College Cork.

The first of its kind in Ireland, the new paediatric academic unit focuses on improving health outcomes for children, from infancy through to adolescence through teaching, research and innovation. Home to more than 60 staff, including clinical and academic leaders, scientists, nursing staff and PhD researchers; the academic teams tackle clinical problems such as newborn brain injury, infant seizures, allergy, eczema, sleep, and explore

ways of enhancing the long-term wellbeing and development of children.

“The development of clinical research infrastructure and research studies for children and infants is absolutely vital and will result in better outcomes for Irish children. Recruitment and retention of patients to clinical studies here in Cork leads the way in Europe. We are incredibly grateful to the Irish families who participate in our research and would like to take this opportunity to thank them sincerely for their dedication and support.” said Geraldine Boylan, Co-Founder and Director of the INFANT Research Centre and UCC Professor of Neonatal Physiology. “We would also like to sincerely acknowledge the support of the College of Medicine & Health, UCC Central Research Support Services for all of their assistance and ongoing support, and our colleagues in the Clinical Research Facility-Cork.”

## Graduate School Summer BBQ

The CoMH Postgraduate Student Committee held their annual Summer BBQ in Brookfield on the 7th June. Students enjoyed fantastic food and had an opportunity to mingle with their fellow Doctoral colleagues from around the College of Medicine and Health. The weather did not disappoint and the sunshine was much appreciated as the event could be held outside this year.



# NPEC Study Day

The National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre (NPEC) recently hosted its annual Study Day in the Limerick Strand Hotel. The theme of the NPEC Study Day 2018 was *Neonatal Care in Ireland*. The morning session consisted of presentations on the Very Low Birth Weight Infants Audit, Mid-Trimester Prolonged Rupture of Membranes Audit, Periviability, Therapeutic Hypothermia Audit and the Maternal & Newborn Clinical Management System. The morning session showcased the collaborative approach that has evolved within the Irish maternity services to translate clinical audit data and epidemiological evidence into improved maternity care for families in Ireland.

The NPEC were delighted to welcome Professor Neil Marlow, Professor of Neonatal Medicine at University College London as the keynote speaker. Professor Marlow presented information on “*What makes the difference for the extremely preterm baby?*”. This was followed by a panel discussion in which representatives discussed “*Perinatal Networks in Ireland - Is a different model required?*”

Presentations are available on the NPEC website  
[www.ucc.ie/en/npec/npecstudyday2018/](http://www.ucc.ie/en/npec/npecstudyday2018/)

#### SAVE THE DATE:

The NPEC Study day takes place on January 18th 2019.

**Pictured above (l-r):** Professor Richard Greene, Professor John Murphy, Ms Orla Sheehan, Dr Brendan Murphy, Dr Anne Twomey, Professor Chris Fitzpatrick and Dr Gerry Burke. **Pictured below (l-r):** Dr Peter McKenna, Ms Anne O’Sullivan, Professor Neil Marlow, Dr Sandyha Babu and Dr Alan Finan.





Photos by Tomas Tyner

## Dr Bridget Maher Memorial Evening

Family, friends and colleagues gathered in the Jennings Gallery on Friday, 27th April to remember the late Dr Bridget Maher. Bridget's Medical School classmates commissioned a painting by Artist, Nigel Cox in her memory, which is now on permanent display in the Jennings Gallery.

## Opening of the new Dental Hub



**Pictured above:** Dental Hub logo winner, Sinéad McKenna & Professor Patrick O'Shea at the opening of the new Dental Hub.

The new 'Dental Hub' was officially opened on the 24th April 2018 by Professor Patrick O'Shea, President of UCC and Dr Christine McCreary, Dean of the Dental School and Hospital. It marks a progression in the student experience and it will be a space for approximately 250 undergraduate dentistry students including; Dental Hygiene, Dental Nursing and Bachelor in Dental Surgery. The School ran a competition for a new logo for the Dental Hub and BDS IV Student Sinéad McKenna produced the winning design which is displayed on plaques entering the Dental Hub.

In the reconfigured space students can now learn through peer interaction, utilisation of IT and participation in seminars and lectures. The new space also provides an important quiet and reflective area for students as well as fulfilling an important socialisation and refreshment function. The project was supported by funding from the UCC Students Union & Teaching and Learning Spaces initiative of the Vice-President for Teaching and Learning and Cork University Dental School and Hospital.



## SOP PhD student Elaine Enright awarded Fulbright Scholarship

Elaine was one of the 37 recipients of the Fulbright Irish Awardees for 2018-2019. Recipients were recently presented with Awards at a Ceremony in the U.S. Ambassadors Residence, Phoenix Park.

Students, academics and professionals from 13 HEIs in Ireland and Europe will go to 33 leading U.S. institutions to study and collaborate with experts in their fields. This year's Fulbright recipients are from diverse disciplines spanning science, languages, technology, medicine, literature and the

arts. Ms Elaine Enright is a pharmacist having completed a Bpharm at UCC and an Mpharm at RCSI. Currently Elaine is an IRC PhD Scholar based at the APC Microbiome Institute, UCC. Her PhD research investigates the influence of gutbacteria (the microbiota) upon oral drug delivery and efficacy. As a Fullbright Student Awardee to Purdue University, Indiana, Elaine will investigate the impact of gut microbial bile acid metabolites on the solubility and absorption of oral dosage formulations. Elaine is supervised by Dr Cormac Gahan and Dr Susan Joyce.

## School of Pharmacy – ISPOR Student Chapter

Given the increased popularity and growth in the field of Health Economics and Outcomes Research, postgraduate students in the School of Pharmacy have established an ISPOR (International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research) student chapter for UCC. The ISPOR student chapter aim is to promote all aspects of Health Economics and Outcomes Research at postgraduate level (and undergraduate level if there is interest) within UCC. From meeting every six weeks for journal club to organising guest speakers as voted by the chapter, the first speaker being Rachel Elliot, Professor of Health Economics, Manchester Centre for Health Economics in April 2018.



**Pictured (l-r):** Professor Stephen Byrne (Faculty Advisor), Mr Cian O'Mahony (ISPOR student Vice-President), Ms Heather Eames (Secretary), Mr Gary O'Brien (ISPOR student President).



**Pictured left:** Jana Özvegyi (centre) with her supervisors, Dr Abina Crean and Dr Laura Sahm.

## Keeping it International at the School of Pharmacy

One of the many challenges of medication adherence is the fact that many people suffer with swallowing difficulties. A master's student from the University of Basel, Jana Özvegyi, recently spent six months at the School of Pharmacy.

From January-June 2018, Jana was supervised by Drs Abina Crean and Laura Sahm, Senior Lecturers in the School. Her thesis titled "Validation of the English translation of the Swallowing Difficulties with Medication Intake and Coping Strategies (SWAMECO) questionnaire for use in a community pharmacy setting in Ireland" is part of an ongoing collaboration between Basel and Cork, which will see another Masters student join in 2019.



Photo by Tony Archer

## Retirement of Bridie McCarthy

After 16 years as lecturer with the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Bridie McCarthy is retiring. A valued member of the School of Nursing and Midwifery since 2002, when Bridie took up the appointment as a College lecturer. She already had a wealth of experience including general medical and surgical nursing, perioperative nursing (general, plastic and orthopaedic surgery), neurosurgical nursing, neonatal intensive care nursing and worked in a drug and alcohol addiction treatment unit. Bridie also worked as a staff nurse, a clinical nurse manager and a nurse tutor prior to coming into UCC.

Bridie lectured on and administered programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate level and was the first Director of Practice Education. Bridie also supervised research at undergraduate, masters and PhD level and served at national level on the NMBI in relation to preceptorship. More recently, she has been on the documentation working group with the South/South West Hospital Group.

The College of Medicine and Health wishes Bridie the very best in her retirement. Congratulations to Bridie on reaching this wonderful milestone. We wish you health and happiness in for the future and many years to come.

## Masters in Dental Public Health

Applications are invited for this 12-month Taught Master's degree programme, commencing September 2018. The course is designed to facilitate health professionals in current employment with contact teaching hours Thursday evenings and Friday all day. The curriculum prepares experienced health professionals to assume leadership roles as members of multidisciplinary teams and to be able to develop, implement and evaluate programmes which have an impact on the health of the population.



### MASTERS DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH CKX01

Applications are invited for the Masters in Dental Public Health (MDPH) which will commence in **September 2018**. Apply online via PAC ([www.pac.ie/ucc](http://www.pac.ie/ucc))

#### Further Information

Dr Mairead Harding

Oral Health Services Research Centre  
Dental School and Hospital  
University College Cork

[m.harding@ucc.ie](mailto:m.harding@ucc.ie)

[www.ucc.ie/en/ckx01](http://www.ucc.ie/en/ckx01)

## MSc in Human Anatomy

The 12 month full-time MSc in Human Anatomy is uniquely designed to provide advanced training in clinically applied human anatomy. While different pedagogies are used as part of this programme, cadaveric dissection is a crucial component of the course situated at the state of art FLAME laboratory. This programme will enhance the application profile of graduates furthering their career paths in anatomical sciences including teaching and technical positions as well as within academic /allied health settings.



### MSc HUMAN ANATOMY CKX52

Applications are invited for the MSc in Human Anatomy which will commence in **September 2018**. Apply online via PAC ([www.pac.ie/ucc](http://www.pac.ie/ucc))

#### Further Information

Dr Siobhain O'Mahony  
Dr Joy Balta

Department of Anatomy & Neuroscience  
University College Cork

[mscanatomy@ucc.ie](mailto:mscanatomy@ucc.ie)

[www.ucc.ie/en/ckx52](http://www.ucc.ie/en/ckx52)

## Masters in Health Professions' Education

The Masters in Health Professions' Education will commence in September 2018, comprising a fully online Postgraduate Certificate, and a blended learning Postgraduate Diploma and Masters.



### MASTERS HEALTH PROFESSIONS' EDUCATION CKU16

Applications are invited for the Masters in Health Professions' Education (MHPE) which will commence in **September 2018**.

Apply online via PAC ([www.pac.ie/ucc](http://www.pac.ie/ucc))

#### Further Information

Dr Catherine Sweeney  
[cpdschoolofmedicine@ucc.ie](mailto:cpdschoolofmedicine@ucc.ie)

[www.ucc.ie/en/cku16](http://www.ucc.ie/en/cku16)

## MSc in Dementia

A flexible, practical, interdisciplinary programme covering key topics in cognitive disorders and dementia. The MSc in Dementia provides healthcare professionals with the skills to expertly care for a person with dementia from diagnosis to end-of-life.



### POSTGRADUATE STUDIES IN DEMENTIA CKX21/CKU05

Applications are invited for the MSc in Dementia and the Postgraduate Certificate in Dementia which will commence in **September 2018**.

Apply online via PAC ([www.pac.ie/ucc](http://www.pac.ie/ucc))

#### Further Information

Dr Suzanne Timmons [s.timmons@ucc.ie](mailto:s.timmons@ucc.ie)      Ms Lorraine Crossan [l.crossan@ucc.ie](mailto:l.crossan@ucc.ie)

Centre for Gerontology and Rehabilitation  
University College Cork

[www.ucc.ie/en/ckx21](http://www.ucc.ie/en/ckx21)

[www.ucc.ie/en/cku05](http://www.ucc.ie/en/cku05)

## MSc in Diagnostic Radiography

The new MSc in Diagnostic Radiography has recently opened on the postgraduate applications centre (PAC course code: CKX26). This programme offers an accelerated route for graduates from any health science or science related discipline to gain a recognised qualification in Diagnostic Radiography while preparing graduates for success in a competitive jobs market.



### MSc DIAGNOSTIC RADIOGRAPHY CKX26

Applications are invited for the MSc in Diagnostic Radiography which will commence in **September 2018**.

Apply online via PAC ([www.pac.ie/ucc](http://www.pac.ie/ucc))

#### Further Information

Ms Niamh Moore

School of Clinical Therapies  
University College Cork

[niamh.moore@ucc.ie](mailto:niamh.moore@ucc.ie)

[www.ucc.ie/en/ckx26](http://www.ucc.ie/en/ckx26)

## Abstract of Distinction Award for Dr Éilis O'Reilly

Dr Éilis O'Reilly's (School of Public Health) abstract **Pre-diagnostic Plasma Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids and the Risk of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (EJ O'Reilly et al.)**, was chosen for a platform presentation, and was among 24 selected as 2018 Abstracts of Distinction from the 3000+ submissions, at the 70th American Academy of Neurology Annual Meeting held in Los Angeles.

Dr Éilis O'Reilly joined School of Public Health last year from Harvard University where she obtained her joint doctorate in nutrition and epidemiology methods and served as junior faculty, proctor, and member of the board of freshman advisors.

Among her areas of interest are methodological issues in epidemiology and neuroepidemiology, and her publications on the association between diet and environmental exposures and neurological outcomes are widely cited. Funded by an NIH-R01, Dr O'Reilly established a consortium of 10 international cohorts to investigate the epidemiology of motor neuron disease. In December, she was awarded €270,000 funding from the EPA, with co-PIs Dr Claire Buckley and Dr Stig Hellebust, to evaluate the available data on air quality and health outcomes in Ireland and to assess the feasibility of linking these data domains.



# HeadStart – School of Nursing and Midwifery



The Catherine McAuley School of Nursing and Midwifery annually opens its doors to 40 Transition Year and 5th Year Secondary School Students interested in Nursing and Midwifery.

HeadStart for Nursing and Midwifery is a programme organised by the School of Nursing and Midwifery. The 27th of April 2018 saw forty transition year / 5th year school pupils from a number of schools in the region visit the School of Nursing and Midwifery. Staff and students of the School of Nursing and Midwifery were on hand to rotate school pupils through a number of teaching stations, including clinical skills. This gave insight into the five BSc Programmes on offer in UCC, namely: BSc (Hons) Nursing (General); BSc (Hons) Nursing (Children's/Integrated); BSc (Hons) Nursing (Intellectual Disability); BSc (Hons) Nursing (Midwifery); and BSc (Hons) Nursing (Mental Health).

Photo by Tony Archer



## BOOK LAUNCH B-BEST START book for parents

The B-BEST START LifeMatters for Mums, Dads and New Born Babies handbook by author Dr Margaret O'Rourke, was launched on Friday, 11th May.

The B-BEST START Programme is part of the Infant Centre's NeoView Programme, which aims to improve the outcomes of babies in the neonatal unit (NNU) by empowering parents to build their own health, well-being and resilience so that they can be active, informed and emotionally engaged with their new born babies, infants and children.

Speaking at the event, Dr O'Rourke noted that the book helps to empower parents, "Babies need their mums and

dads, and the programme is about making them central to their baby's care. Babies can't wait: the first 1000 days of their lives are absolutely critical for their future development, and this book helps parents to cope and do the best for their babies."

The handbook offers an opportunity to make a difference to the next generation: the first three years of life (or first 1000 days) are critical to long-term outcomes, as the brain is rapidly developing and building its architecture. Early experiences on the developing brain are hugely important, particularly the relationship and caregiving from parents.



## ADVERSE HEALTH IMPACTS FACED BY PEOPLE BEREAVED BY SUICIDE

Family members bereaved by suicide have elevated levels of depression, anxiety and stress, and are at increased risk of adverse physical health conditions, said Professor Ella Arensman, after the publication of new NSRF-UCC research.

"This research underlines the importance of increasing awareness among health and mental health professionals to prioritise assessment and early identification of mental health and physical health problems among people bereaved by suicide."

The new research, conducted by the National Suicide Research Foundation (NSRF) and the School of Public Health, UCC, comprised a systematic review of 24 studies worldwide and in-depth interviews with 18 family members bereaved by suicide in Ireland.

Of family members bereaved by suicide, 24%, 18% and 27% had elevated levels of depression, anxiety and stress, respectively, a new study has shown. They also experienced other psychological problems including panic attacks, suicidal thoughts, intrusive images, nightmares and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Ailbhe Spillane, who conducted the research, said: "Since we now know the main physical and mental health problems experienced after suicide bereavement, we need to prioritise high-quality support services, without restricting such services because of financial constraints."

**Pictured above (l-r):** Professor Ella Arensman, Chief Scientist at the National Suicide Research Foundation (NSRF) and Ailbhe Spillane, who conducted the new NSRF-UCC research. Photo by Michael McSweeney/Provision



## UCC HealthVine reaches over 1,000 followers

The School of Pharmacy operate an online initiative titled “UCC HealthVine” across a number of social media platforms including Facebook. Its goal is to enhance how students can engage with their peers and the wider community to spread public health messages. This is done primarily using social media but we have also hosted a number of “live” events. Dr Suzanne McCarthy from the School of Pharmacy and Mr Keith O’Hourihane, Superintendent Pharmacist, Pharmacy First Plus first considered the idea of students using social media to promote public health in 2016; since then the UCC HealthVine team has grown and four of our pharmacy students, Bridget O’Flynn, Aoife Fogarty, Máire O’Connell and Emer Lynch, who have worked tirelessly to develop UCC HealthVine and its presence online.

Campaigns that UCC HealthVine have developed include mental health (#mindyourmates), sexual health and healthy eating. We recently held a ‘pop-up’ point-of-care testing event whereby staff and students availed of HbA1c and lipid testing, blood pressure, weight and lung function testing.



**Pictured (l-r):** Mr Sean Ritshard, Nurse Manager, Switzerland; Ms Ann Kanto Ronakanen, Rehabilitation Coordinator, Finland; Dr Grzegorz Piotrowski, Consultant Cardiologist, Poland; Lord Mayor Cllr. Tony Fitzgerald; Ms Guilla Nordstrom, Director Patients Advisory Board, Sweden; and Ms Jasmin Hribar, Healthcare Manager, Austria.

## South/South West Hospital Group hosts healthcare professionals as part of the HOPE Exchange

As part of the HOPE Exchange programme, members of the Hope Group were joined by the Lord Mayor Cllr. Tony Fitzgerald on his recent visit to the South/South West Hospital Group and University College Cork.

The HOPE Exchange Programme promotes the exchange of healthcare knowledge and expertise within the European Union. The programme allows participants an opportunity to share learning and experiences with healthcare professionals in their host country.

## New Anatomy Collaboration between UCC and CIT



**Pictured (l-r):** Dr Andreea Factor, lecturer, Department of Anatomy and Neurosciences UCC, Dr Hugh O'Donnell, lecturer, Department of Mechanical, Biomedical & Manufacturing Engineering CIT, Professor Ger Kelly, Head of Department of Mechanical, Biomedical & Manufacturing Engineering CIT and Professor John Cryan, Head of Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience UCC.

Professor John Cryan, Head of Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience UCC and Professor Ger Kelly, Head of Department of Mechanical, Biomedical & Manufacturing Engineering, Cork Institute of Technology have recently announced the commencement of a collaboration on one of CIT's flagship degree programmes, the Bachelor of Engineering (BEng Hons) (Level 8) Biomedical Engineering.

This exciting collaboration will see the Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience UCC deliver modules on the "Anatomy of Human Biomechanics" to CIT Biomedical Engineering students who will specialise in the design of next generation medical devices. The Cork Institute of Technology students will also attend practical sessions in the Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience's state of the art 'FLAME' human anatomy laboratory facilities. The Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience looks forward to welcoming the first CIT Biomedical Engineering students to this exciting new venture.



## Doctoral Travel Bursary Awards

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 [www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/schools/gradschool/doctoraltravelbursaries/](http://www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/schools/gradschool/doctoraltravelbursaries/)

The closing date for receipt of completed application forms is: **Friday, 21st September 2018.**



## Dr Michael Hyland

### A pioneer of Geriatric Medicine in Ireland; 1934–2018

including geriatricians Dr Jimmy Williams at the West Middlesex Hospital and Professor Gordon Mills at the Central Middlesex Hospital. It was in this latter hospital that he met his wife Rosaleen – they married in 1969.

When appointed as consultant geriatrician at St. Finbarr's Hospital in Cork in 1969, Michael was only the second specialist geriatrician in the Republic of Ireland, the other being Dr Jack Flanagan in St. James's Hospital, Dublin. With characteristic energy, efficiency and geniality, Michael set up the new specialist service in Cork, supported by Professor Denis O'Sullivan who was simultaneously developing a highly modernized UCC Department of Clinical Medicine at St. Finbarr's. Professor O'Sullivan understood the need for specialised geriatric medicine in Cork and quickly capitalised on Michael's talent as a skilled clinician and teacher. Within 7 years, Michael had established a thriving department, encompassing all the elements of a thoroughly modern geriatric medicine service, including Ireland's very first purpose-built older persons' rehabilitation unit, which opened in 1976. The acute geriatric medicine unit transferred to the new Cork Regional Hospital when it opened in 1978 and the department advanced steadily, ably assisted by Michael's first specialist colleague, Cillian Twomey, appointed in 1979.

Over the following two decades until his retirement from clinical practice, Michael was at the forefront of older person service development locally and nationally. This was during a time of contraction of hospital services nationally in the midst of a struggling Irish economy for most of those years. He served on the Working Party on Services for the Elderly from 1987-8, which produced the highly influential "The Years Ahead" report. This report had a major influence on the delivery of hospital and community medical and social services for older people. The following decade saw the establishment of specialist departments of geriatric medicine in virtually all of the nation's public hospitals. In 1978 the country was served by five geriatricians; the number today exceeds 100, many of whom were attracted to the specialty by Michael's qualities of service, clinical teaching and his selfless commitment to patients.

Michael received many honours in recognition of his outstanding contributions to geriatric medicine, including the British Geriatric Society's Presidential Medal in 1998, an honorary doctorate from UCC in 2008 and the Irish Gerontological Society Presidential Medal in 2012. He served as President of the Irish Gerontological Society from 1994 to 1998. He played a key role in

PROSPER, the first large scale clinical drug trial undertaken specifically in older people by researchers in three universities i.e. Leiden, Glasgow and UCC. The PROSPER trial results were published in *The Lancet* in 2002 and showed that statin drugs were just as beneficial in older people as younger people for prevention of heart disease. Following his retirement in 1998 until 2012, Michael served as chairman of the UCC-affiliated hospitals Clinical Research Ethics Committee (CREC). The committee acquired an enviable reputation for speed and efficiency under his direction which greatly facilitated a burgeoning local and national medical research community.

Among his few concessions to leisure were his love of opera and classical music (Wagner, Mahler, Richard Strauss, Bruckner among others), hill walking, gardening and visits to his beloved Ballycotton. In the midst of his busy professional life, Michael remained a highly committed family man. Michael's final illness brought him back to the department he had established in St. Finbarr's where he was lovingly nursed during his final year. He is survived by his wife Rosaleen, daughters Rachel and Lucy, son Peter, brother John and sisters Sheila and Bridget. He is predeceased by his daughter Emma.

Born in Pudsey in Yorkshire in 1934, where his Cork-born father was a general practitioner, Michael Hyland was very proud of his Yorkshire roots. His childhood in Yorkshire was interrupted by World War 2, which was spent with his relatives in Cork, with holidays in Ballycotton, a place that always remained close to his heart. The family went back to Yorkshire in 1944, only to return to live permanently in Cork in 1948 – where he and his siblings completed their school years. He went to UCC qualifying in medicine in 1957.

Geriatric medicine was emerging as a new clinical specialty in the UK in the 1950s. Michael received most of his postgraduate geriatric training in London in the 1960s. He was fortunate in having outstanding and highly respected figures as mentors,