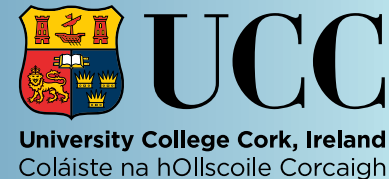


CoMH eNEWS

College of Medicine and Health, UCC | Issue 44 | December 2022



Featured articles



For info and submissions email: headofcollege-comh@ucc.ie

Season's greetings from Professor Helen Whelton

Dear colleagues,

What a busy and productive few months it has been. Great to see and feel the excitement on campus again. We had the pleasure of conferring over 500 students from all of our six schools recently and it was wonderful to see everyone enjoy these special occasions with friends and family. I am delighted for our students who excelled in their studies during a time of unprecedented challenge. We are witnessing phenomenal growth in student numbers across the College of Medicine and Health. In the last five years we have experienced 35% growth in student numbers and I am proud to say we have just over 4,500 students currently attending CoMH.

The Higher Education Authority (HEA) is currently seeking expressions of interest (EOI) from higher education institutions interested in building capacity in Dentistry, Pharmacy, Medicine and Nursing. We have submitted proposals for additional EU student places in each discipline along with requests for the resources required to increase capacity. The School of Nursing has proposed a new graduate entry programme and each of the other schools intend to increase capacity for EU students. The HEA expects a similar EOI process in respect of Physiotherapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Medical Scientists in the near future.

I am delighted also to announce some key appointments to the College. Congratulations to Professor Ella Arensman appointed Head of School of Public Health, to Professor Paul Brady appointed Head of Dental Hospital and School and welcome and congratulations to Professor Aisling Barry as first Professor and Chair of Radiation Oncology, UCC and to Professor Emma Wallace appointed Professor of General Practice, UCC. Emma gave an excellent inaugural professional lecture

at Brookfield Health Sciences Complex recently. You can watch it back here [Professor Emma Wallace | University College Cork \(ucc.ie\)](#).

On December 1st we were delighted to celebrate the appointment of 30 new clinical professors to the College of Medicine and Health. We also marked the retirement of our esteemed colleague Gerry O'Dwyer who recently announced his retirement after 50 years in the health service – eight of those as CEO of South/South West Hospital Group. Thank you Gerry for your leadership and your support and for all you have done which has benefitted patients in this region.

We said goodbye also recently to colleagues Professor Christine McCreary, former Dean and Head of Dental School and Hospital and to Barry O'Brien as director of HR and we say thank you to Professor Ivan Perry who recently stepped down as Head of School of Public Health – our gratitude to Christine, Ivan and to Barry for their leadership over the last number of years. Best wishes also to our former head of College Kathryn Neville who recently moved to a more senior role within UCC.

Our best wishes also to University Safety Officer John Ring who retired recently. We thank John for his leadership in health and safety.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and relaxing Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

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



Q&A

We spoke with Professor Helen Whelton and our six Heads of Schools to ask them what were the highlights for them this year and what are they looking forward to in 2023.



Professor Helen Whelton

Head of College of Medicine and Health

www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/

What was the highlight at College of Medicine and Health, UCC this year & why?

Getting back to in-person graduations and seeing the students back on campus was a huge highlight this year. So great to see the college come to life again. Obviously there were lots of really fantastic things that happened within the college in terms of research achievements and new programmes but seeing all the students back on campus was exciting.

What are you looking forward to next year?

I would like to see further development of Academic Health Sciences System (AHSS), that important triple helix between the health service, university and industry.

I look forward to seeing the regional health authority continue to develop in partnership with the university and developing our links with the life sciences industries which will contribute ultimately to better research for patient benefit. Our capital development programme, iEd Hub initiative, Cork BioHub, Health Innovation Hub Ireland are all part of our AHSS ambition and I look forward to seeing the continued development of each of them.

What do you like about Christmas?

I like everyone getting together at Christmas time. This year I will be spending Christmas in Australia with my husband Frank, our son James (30) and our daughter Sophie (26) who is living in Perth so we get to spend time with her this Christmas. We will miss our other daughter Vicky (34) who will stay in Dublin.

Favourite Christmas Movie?

Christmas is a great time to batten down the hatches and watch movies, I don't really have a favourite as I rarely watch anything twice. I also love board games this time of year.

Piece of advice to students as they head into a new year?

I would say look after themselves and their loved ones. Students have been through a lot of residual stress following the pandemic. I would advise them to have a good rest over Christmas, to give themselves space and time to relax and refresh as they head into a new academic year. Talk to someone if they are feeling low, they wouldn't be the first and it can happen this time of year especially. There are lots of supports available, use them if needed. Enjoy the holiday.

Q&A



Professor Ella Arensman

Head of School of Public Health & Chief Scientist, National Suicide Research Foundation

www.ucc.ie/en/publichealth/

What was the highlight at School of Public Health, UCC this year & why?

In 2022 we received the positive news that the School of Public Health had received the Agency for Public Health Accreditation (APHEA) for a period of six years. This really is wonderful news. With this important designation and recognition, it means School of Public Health UCC is now the 8th School/Institute internationally receiving the APHEA institutional accreditation which is a major achievement. I want to thank all our staff and I would like to acknowledge the leadership and strategic guidance of Professor Ivan Perry and Dr. Fiona MacLeod during the rigorous and lengthy process over a two-year period. I would like to thank all authors involved in the self-assessment report – Fiona MacLeod, Ivan Perry, Michelle Syron, Tara O’Connell, Felicity Lee, Eilis O’Reilly, Zubair Kabir, Susan Calnan, Ali Kashan and Birgit Greiner. They compiled an impressive report with input from all School staff, which was referred to by the review committee as exemplary. Sincere thanks to Felicity Lee for co-ordinating the complex programme for the site visit, and to Frances Buckley, Vicky Murphy, Tania McCollum and Paul Kelly, and the PhD students, Edel Burton and Aileen Callanan who were valuable members of the organising team.

Also a highlight, since the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic there is a consistent pattern of increased prioritisation of Public Health and Public Mental Health at both national and international level which will facilitate increased interdisciplinary collaborations for the School’s teaching and research programmes.

What are you looking forward to?

I would like to see the School maintaining the high quality of teaching and research

programmes over the coming years and the further strengthening of interdisciplinary partnerships and leadership in public health and public mental health, nationally and internationally.

What do you like about Christmas?

I enjoy being with my family without needing to think about or plan travel. For my son Jules, who has Down Syndrome, Christmas is a magic time and highlight of the year, which makes Christmas for us as a family even more special.

Favourite Christmas Movie?

It’s not a Christmas movie, but a historical movie: Awakenings (1990), with Robin Williams and Robert De Niro. Awakenings is a unique account of a group of patients who contracted sleeping-sickness during the great epidemic just after World War I. Following decades-long sleep, these men and women were given up as hopeless until 1969, when Dr Oliver Sacks gave them the then-new drug L-dopa, which had a remarkable awakening effect. It’s a timeless movie.

Piece of advice to students as they head into a new year?

For students in general, I would recommend to plan internships and workplace experience opportunities carefully aligned with your interests and future plans and look out for inspiring mentors during the different study phases and your career development.

For students in Public Health, I would like to underline that you have made the right decision to choose public health in a time where public health priorities, public health emergencies and public mental health are gaining momentum the like of which we have never seen before.

Q&A



Professor Brian Griffin

Head of School of Pharmacy

www.ucc.ie/en/pharmacy/

What was the highlight at School of Pharmacy, UCC this year & why?

The School was ranked 66th in the world subject rankings in Pharmacy & Pharmacology by QS which was a major success for our School, a magnificent achievement and huge credit to all our incredible staff, students and graduates. Moving up over 40+ places in ranking in the last year is testament to the quality of our programmes, commitment and dedication of all staff in the School of Pharmacy, the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics and affiliated academic partners.

What are you looking forward to?

In 2023 the School will be 20 years old so we will be celebrating two decades of advancing pharmacy on the UCC campus so very much looking forward to that and highlighting the major achievements over the last 20 years. We plan to launch a new strategic vision next year.

What do you like about Christmas?

I like the downtime. Spending time at home with Sinead and our three children Daniel (17), Darragh (16) and Emma (10) watching movies, chilling, not having to be anywhere, no expectations just relaxing.

Favourite Christmas Movie?

That's an easy one! Home Alone.

Piece of advice to students as they head into a new year?

Embrace university life in its entirety – get involved in extracurricular activities, take advantage of all what is on offer across the

university in terms of clubs, societies and supports. Ditch the phone and go on campus to build a real social network; join societies and meet students from different backgrounds. There is so much more to the university experience than academic development. University is a place where students develop personal and professional career skills within the dynamic and diverse community on campus. So ditch the social media network and build a real social network within the University community.

Q&A



Professor Josephine Hegarty

Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery

www.ucc.ie/en/nursingmidwifery/

What was the highlight at School of Nursing & Midwifery, UCC this year & why?

Back in February we had an in person gathering in the common room for the very first time post-COVID with President John O'Halloran, Prof. Helen Whelton, retired staff and many more present. It was a real highlight to come together to say a proper farewell to staff who had retired during the pandemic and an opportunity to welcome new staff.

Another highlight was our Awards ceremony for students and staff and our research event Magnet4 Europe in September where delegates from across the US and Europe linked in with our research team here in UCC. Also this year we were ranked 41 in the global QS rankings and ranked number one school in Ireland for the first time according to Shanghai Global Ranking of Academic Subjects (GRAS) rankings.

What are you looking forward to in 2023?

For me I will be changing into a new role next year which I look forward to. For the school there are a number of new research initiatives and conferences organised plus we have a new postgraduate programme 'community and primary care' starting next September. We are currently working on our graduate entry nursing programme which is a highlight for us and we moved our clinical assessment documentation on-line which is another highlight.

What do you like about Christmas?

Meeting family and friends and I like the fact that

everything looks bright and cheery and I like the downtime. I will be celebrating Christmas at home with husband Finbarr and our children Sean (22), Brian (20), Sarah (18) and Emily (13).

Favourite Christmas Movie?

If I have to pick one 'The Holiday'.

Piece of advice to students as they head into the new year?

Check in with yourself regularly, be kind to yourself and others and focus on what you are passionate about and enjoy.

Q&A



Professor Paula O'Leary

Head of School of Medicine

www.ucc.ie/en/medical/

What was the highlight at School of Medicine, UCC this year & why?

I think our first in-person graduation events since 2019 in June 2022 has to be it. Considering the journeys of this particular group of students, the teachers and administrators responsible for keeping their programmes in motion, the health systems in which they learn, and the patients whom they have learnt from and now care for is quite overwhelming when considered for any length of time. The sun shone, everyone was happy and it was topped by the University acknowledging the contributions of Dr Vera Delaney, a most inspiring role model for our student body, through the award of an Honorary Doctorate in Medicine.

What are you looking forward to in 2023?

Hopefully that we will complete the academic year without too much disruption arising from infection risks. While that may sound mundane at one level, it will bring some stability to what has been an incredibly challenging time. Not only are we responsible for delivery of high quality education to our students, we are, like our fellow schools in Medicine and Health, responsible for delivering it in the very heart of where pandemic hits hardest within the healthcare settings.

That aside, I look forward to making my contribution to shaping the future for medical education here in UCC and nationally – we have great plans for programme overview, educational spaces and further integration with our health services in the interests of providing comprehensive medical services for our population.

What do you like about Christmas?

Having the kitchen to myself for even half an hour early on Christmas Eve. It's a lovely quiet time to reflect on time past and hopes for the future. I look forward to spending time relaxing with my husband Denis and our children Dan (25), Julia (24) and Robbie (17) and Cassie, the dog.

Favourite Christmas Movie?

Depends on the mood, but the classics always win – It's a Wonderful Life never fails to grip.

Piece of advice to students as they head into a new year?

Focus on experiencing and participating in the present to the full and in that you will create your future. Be yourself.

Q&A



Professor Paul Brady

Head of Dental School and Hospital

www.ucc.ie/en/dentalschool/

What was the highlight at Dental School & Hospital, UCC this year & why?

For myself firstly a huge honour to be appointed Head of Dental School & Hospital and Associate Professor of Oral Surgery in August of this year. Coming out of Covid and getting the Dental School back to normal was a highlight. It is great to see all the students back both our home students and our international students. We have a lot of students from Canada in particular and it is great to see them all on campus.

We completed a refurbishment project in the dental surgery which has reopened and is very good. Dr. Christine McCreary retired as Head of School before me. She was a great supporter of mine and I wish her all the best in her retirement. She had done a lot of work on the new dental school which is currently paused because of a shortfall in funding so I am going to pick up that mantle now and I am pushing at the moment to find that extra funding so we can get this new school built out of Curraheen.

What are you looking forward to in 2023?

The big thing is to get the new school back on track. We have planning permission, we have a design so hopefully we can get funding organised and see progress in 2023. We are going to undergo a review of our curriculum here at the school so that is an exciting project that lies ahead.

What do you like about Christmas?

I enjoy getting together with family, lots of catch-ups, walks in lovely East Cork. I remember my

mother at Christmas time. Sadly she is not with us anymore but she was a huge lover of this time of year.

Favourite Christmas Movie?

Home Alone - I love to sit down and watch it every Christmas.

Piece of advice to students as they head into a new year?

Focus on learning and not just the grades. It is important to experience university life in its entirety and that can be difficult for dental students because they are out on placements during clinical years. For general wellbeing it is important to be involved in sport and societies and embrace the wider university experience.

Q&A



Professor Nicole Müller

Head of School of Clinical Therapies

www.ucc.ie/en/clinical-therapies/

What was the highlight at School of Clinical Therapies, UCC this year & why?

We were delighted to celebrate the graduation of the first cohort from the Masters Degree in Hearing, Balance and Communication here at UCC's School of Clinical Therapies this year for many reasons but chiefly because that was a degree we set up on the instigation of the health service to upskill people like audiologists, ENTs and others working with people with hearing and balance problems.

Another highlight was the fact that we are back on schedule with placements for all of our pre-clinical programmes. I would like to give a huge shout out to our practice education team who pulled that together ...a massive achievement to do so over the past two years.

Another highlight is that we are hosting an Otology clinic conducted by Peter O'Sullivan here on Fridays, which provides a fantastic opportunity for our Audiology students.

Some really exciting new and ongoing research projects happening too, for example by Helen Kelly (North-South collaboration: ENSPIRE), Pauline Frizelle (TECS-E), Joe McVeigh (VR for Rehab), and others.. We've also prepared our Athena Swan Bronze application - thanks to Ciara O'Toole for leading this effort and making it happen.

What are you looking forward to?

Some really good work happening on strengthening our simulated clinical practice. We also now have engagement at national level

with the Department of Health, DEFHERIS, and the National HSCP office to work on a sustainable and reliable supply of clinical placements. This came about because the covid crisis precipitated a shut-down of all our placements but now I look forward to continuing that work and laying the groundwork for a national framework for practice education for all of our disciplines. Also in June 2023 the College of Medicine and Health is hosting the International Conference on Communication, Medicine and Ethics on June 20th - 22th and I am leading a team on that and very much looking forward to that.

What do you like about Christmas?

Not a Christmas person.

Favourite Christmas Movie?

Don't have one.

Piece of advice to students as they head into a new year?

Every day, remember to do one thing that makes you happy (even if it's a very small thing). And hang in there - there will be life after graduation!



Welcome to our new Clinical Professors

We had a great evening welcoming our new Clinical Professors to College of Medicine and Health, [University College Cork](#) recently. Great to see so many familiar faces, friends and colleagues come together to acknowledge and celebrate academic research and teaching excellence.

Professor [Helen Whelton](#) congratulated 30 new clinical professors and said it was a very exciting time to collaborate and work together and an exciting time for research in UCC - “already we are home to the highest number of the top 1% of the world’s most influential researchers among any Irish university and we are national leaders in research income generation. Our new professors are part and parcel of this success, a success we are ambitious to build on”.

A highlight of the evening was a presentation to Gerry O’Dwyer, South/South West Hospital Group [Health Service Executive](#) who recently announced his retirement after 50 years in the health service - eight of those as CEO of South/South West Hospital Group.

Congratulations to all.

Images: [Darragh Kane](#)



Our Head of College Professor Helen Whelton wishes Gerry O’Dwyer best wishes on his retirement after 50 years in the health service - eight of those as CEO of South/South West Hospital Group. Pictured here with his wife Carol.





Our new Clinical Professors:

- Adrian Brady
- Dorothy Breen
- Martin Buckley
- Michael Clarkson
- James Clover
- John Cooke
- Daniel Costello
- Simon Cronin
- Orla Crosbie
- Noel Fanning
- Paul Gallagher
- Sinéad Harney
- John Hinchion
- Marcus Kennedy
- Brian Manning
- Gerald McGreal
- Adrian Murphy
- Conleth Murphy
- Des Murphy
- Gráinne Murphy
- Michelle Murphy
- Kevin O'Regan
- Barry O'Reilly
- Críostóir O'Suilleabháin
- Martin O'Sullivan
- George Pope
- Derek Power
- Nóirín Russell
- Corinna Sadlier
- Brian Sweeney





2022 Medals of Excellence winners at Irish Research Council 2022 Dr. Claudia Dellacasa, UCD, Dr. Amiya Pandit, UCD, Charitha Marcus, Technological University Dublin and Jack Murray, UCC

Jack Murray takes ‘Medal of Excellence’ at 2022 Irish Research Council Awards

Congratulations to Jack Murray, a first year PhD student at School of Pharmacy UCC who was awarded the esteemed Jane Grimson Medal of Excellence at this year’s Irish Research Council Awards.

Jack is one of four top-ranked early-career postgraduate researchers selected by the Irish Research Council for ‘Medals of Excellence’. Jack was awarded his medal for his work in the STEM category where he was given high praise for his research which investigates ways of addressing challenges associated with formulating oral drugs, such as poor water solubility. His focus is on the creation of a ‘smart’ development pathway - using artificial intelligence to assist formulators in choosing the best ingredients for each poorly water-soluble drug.

Professor Helen Whelton said this was a great achievement and she congratulated Jack on his excellent work.

Twenty-three year old Jack said he is delighted to receive this prestigious award. “I am working in this area because of the potential of artificial intelligence to streamline the clinical translation of tomorrow’s medicines. It will improve the safety of therapies already on the market and reduce the need for expensive experiments”

Jack said he would like to thank Professor Brendan Griffin and Dr. Patrick O’Dwyer for their time and help with his project.

COMET Conference 2023 will be hosted by UCC

Our Plenary Speakers



Professor Mary Catherine Beach
Johns Hopkins University, USA



Professor Chris Code
Exeter University, UK



Professor Hossam Hamdy
Gulf Medical University, UAE

We are delighted to host the 21st International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Communication, Medicine and Ethics (COMET Conference) in June 2023. This conference aims to bring together scholars from different disciplinary backgrounds, involving various healthcare specialities and the human and social sciences. A special emphasis will be on the dissemination of ongoing research in language / discourse / communication studies in relation to healthcare education, patient participation and professional ethics.

The 2023 conference will be hosted by University College Cork and will take place in the Western Gateway Building.

Dates: 20-22 June, 2023
Venue: Western Gateway Building, UCC, Ireland
Contact: comet2023@ucc.ie

Organisers are currently inviting proposals for conference themes and the deadline is January 9th, 2023. To find out more visit <https://www.ucc.ie/en/comet2023/>

Congratulations to all our students who were conferred with their degrees recently. Really wonderful to have you all on campus and to share this special time with you and your friends and families. We wish all our graduates every success in your future careers. We share a few photos here from recent conferrings on campus.





Professor Paula O'Leary, Dr. Argun Nair, Mrs. Mary Hill, Carol Walsh, Dr. Nair's wife and daughter during a recent visit to UCC campus

Ananth Nair Memorial Fund

Dr. Arjun Nair, a Consultant Radiologist with University College London Hospital, has generously set up a memorial bursary fund to support international medical students who are experiencing acute hardship due to extraordinary circumstances.

The bursary fund has been dedicated to his brother, Ananth Nair, who sadly passed away from a sudden illness while studying Medicine at UCC. This year marked the 25th anniversary of his passing and Dr. Arjun Nair felt it was a fitting time to establish this fund which will continue his brother's legacy of helping those most in need. Following Ananth's passing, The School of Medicine erected a memorial plaque to always remember this bright young student and the legacy he left behind. We were delighted to welcome Dr Arjun Nair and his family back to UCC campus earlier this year, so they could visit the plaque in person and acknowledge the establishment of the fund.

We are grateful to the Nair Family for their generosity in establishing this fund. If you would like to make a contribution please contact Carol Walsh, Head of Development, College of Medicine and Health by emailing carolwalsh@ucc.ie.

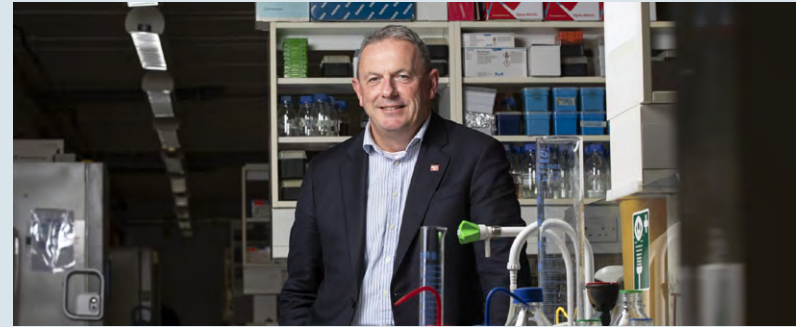


Year 1 BSc Nursing and Midwifery students attending a uniform ceremony at School of Nursing & Midwifery.

More info here: <https://www.ucc.ie/en/nursingmidwifery/theschool/news/year-1-bsc-nursing-and-midwifery-students-attended-a-uniform-ceremony-h.html>



At the BSc Medical and Health Science Open Day stand from left; Fourth year BSc MHS student Eibhlís Myers, Second year BSc MHS student Eli O'Driscoll, with Dr Louise Collins, Professor Aideen Sullivan, and Fourth year BSc MHS students Seán O'Flaherty and Emma O'Donovan.



For more on this story: [click here](#)

Professor Paul Ross awarded prestigious ERC Advanced Grant to tackle antimicrobial resistance

Congratulations to our colleague Professor Paul Ross, Director of [APC Microbiome Ireland](#) who has been awarded a highly competitive and prestigious [European Research Council \(ERC\)](#) Advanced Grant to investigate viable alternatives to antibiotics. Professor Ross is the first researcher based at UCC to secure an ERC Advanced Award. He has received funding of €2.5 million for a project entitled BACtheWINNER.

This award will enable Paul to advance his pioneering, impactful research in microbiome science, a key area for UCC Futures.

President John O'Halloran, President of UCC said this award will drive momentum for this initiative and provide solutions to antimicrobial resistance, one of the most important global challenges of our time.

The rapid emergence and spread of resistant bacteria is occurring worldwide, endangering the efficacy of antimicrobials, including antibiotics and antivirals. The Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) crisis has been attributed to the overuse and misuse of these medications, as well as a lack of new drug development. The discovery and development of new antimicrobial treatments is now urgent.

Thank you...

The College of Medicine & Health (CoMH) is very grateful for the support our research received from industry through corporate philanthropy. Partnerships among academia, the health and social care service, industry, and policymakers are essential to promote, facilitate, translate, and implement research advances in a timely manner. Our industry partnerships have enabled us to establish the CoMH interdisciplinary Seed Award (CiSA) Programme in 2019, which brings together academic and clinical researchers to better address knowledge gaps and impact the lives of patients.

The CiSA seed funding provides an opportunity for new research collaborations between CoMH staff in the member Schools (Clinical Therapies, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing and Midwifery, Pharmacy and Public Health) and all healthcare-aligned staff in affiliated clinical institutions. In particular, CiSA facilitates the development of clinical and non-clinical researcher collaborations to develop new or substantially new research areas and to foster them to a point where a more extensive grant application can be made. To date, we have awarded approximately €125,000 to 13 teams.

The most recent impacts of the CiSA Awards included:

- **Research findings impacted and were published in a National Strategy “Leading the Way - A National Strategy for the future of Children’s Nursing in Ireland 2021-2031”**
- **€730,000 leveraged funding secured**
- **A dental nurse salary was funded because of research findings**
- **Eight publications in esteemed international medical & dental journals, including two in ‘Trials’**

Through the continued generosity of our partners, we ran the CiSA programme again this year. We anticipate exciting and impactful research that will benefit the Health Care Sector in Ireland and the quality of life for patients.

We wish to thank our industry partners Boston Scientific, GSK, Laya Healthcare, and Pfizer for enabling us to run this seed funding programme.



L-R CiSA team members - Dr Harriet Byrne, Dr Mary Jane O’Leary, Dr Mohamad Saab, Mr James Harte, Prof Helen Whelton, Dr Aonghus Joyce, Dr Maria Buckley, Dr Michael Clarkson, Dr Owen J O’Connor



Medical Student Musicians - (L-R) Catherine Kelly, Irina Riedewald, Eileen Cleary



Mr David Ahern, Prof Tony O'Brien and Prof Aisling Barry, recently appointed Chair and Professor of Radiation Oncology



Dr Barry O'Connor, former President MTU, Dr Andrew O'Brien, Ms. Trish O'Brien



Left to right – Ainsworth Scholars Dr Dearbhla Kelly and Dr Grace Neville, Mr. Aengus Carmody and Mr. Eoin Kelleher



Prof Tony O'Brien, Chair, Medical Graduates Association

Medical Graduates' Association

For the first time since the Covid pandemic, the 2022 annual medical scientific meeting was held in-person at Brookfield Health Sciences Complex. A large gathering of delegates from a broad spectrum of graduation years and disciplines were treated to a series of exceptional, authoritative, state-of-the-art presentations delivered by distinguished graduates, faculty members and collaborators including wonderful presentations by Ainsworth Scholarship winners Dr Dearbhla Kelly and Dr Grace Neville.

The Association is particularly grateful to all the plenary speakers who enthralled and inspired our audience with an exceptional series of outstanding presentations. Each paper attracted much interest and stimulated a great deal of discussion and commentary.

- Prof Subrata Ghosh
- Prof Donncha O'Brien
- Dr Michael Kelleher
- Dr Catherine Clifford
- Prof Helen Whelton
- Dr Oisín O'Connell
- Prof Noirin Russell
- Prof Colin Bradley
- Prof Anthony O'Connor

Guests enjoyed a wonderful musical performance from three medical students, Catherine Kelly, Irene Riedewald and Eileen Cleary in the lovely setting of the Aula Maxima and we had great entertainment provided by the irrepressible and dynamic duo of Prof Liam Plant and Prof. John Coulter. The planning has already commenced for the 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting – please follow the MGA website for further details.

Medical Pre-Graduation Dinner 2022

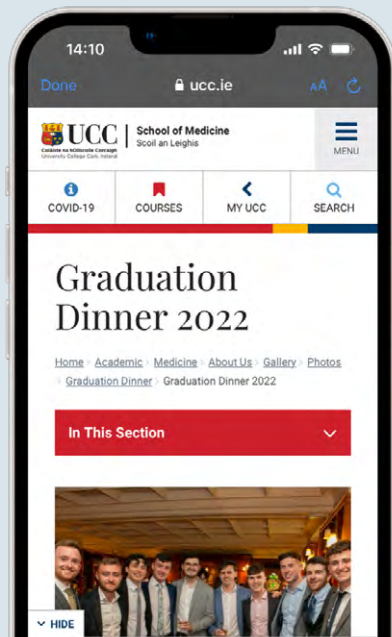
Congratulations to the Medicine Class of 2022. A celebratory dinner was held at the Aula Maxima where a number of awards were presented on the evening by the students.

Outstanding Intern Teacher - Dr Clara Forrest

Outstanding NCHD Teacher - Dr Darren Buckley

Outstanding GP Teacher - Dr Declan Herlihy

Outstanding Teacher Consultant - Mr Emmette Andrews



Photos from the evening are available here: [Graduation Dinner 2022](#)





Professor Aisling Barry

Chair of Radiation Oncology

MB Bch BAO, MRCPI, FFR RCSI,
FRCPC, MSc

Welcome to our new Professor and Chair of Radiation Oncology at UCC Prof. Aisling Barry.

I am very excited to be in Cork as the first Professor and Chair of Radiation Oncology at UCC. My hope is to incorporate my radiotherapy skills, research interests and to collaborate in advancing the care of patients with cancer locally and nationally. It is a fantastic and exciting time to be in cancer care and research at UCC and CUH and I am delighted to be a part of the Cancer Research @UCC group, the Cork Cancer Trials Groups and nationally the Irish Research Radiation Oncology Group (IRROG).

Part of my UCC commitment will also be in education, where I will be lecturing in the Masters of Radiation Therapy program - the first radiation therapy masters program in Ireland. This is an important masters providing an excellent clinical and academic learning opportunity for students.

I am originally from Galway, graduated from Trinity College Dublin and completed my general medical training between Dublin and Galway. I then completed my radiation oncology

specialist training and moved to Toronto, Canada undertaking a specialised radiation oncology fellowship at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre.

I first completed a breast cancer fellowship and then received a Dr. Richard Steevens bursary from the HSE to complete a stereotactic body radiotherapy fellowship. A very sought-after skill which delivers highly focused, high doses of radiation to cancer tumours.

I specifically worked with patients with primary liver cancer. We moved to Vancouver BC where I worked as a locum radiation oncologist at BC Cancer Agency before taking up a permanent position as an assistant professor and consultant radiation oncologist back at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre and the University of Toronto.

In September 2022 Prof. Aisling Barry was appointed first Professor and Chair of Radiation Oncology at University College Cork. She is also a consultant radiation oncologist at Cork University Hospital.



Ireland's World Champion Olympic rower and final year medical student at UCC with Prof. Paula O'Leary, Head of School of Medicine, Prof. Helen Whelton, Head of CoMH and UCC President, Prof. John O'Halloran.



Combining studying medicine with world champion rowing...

From the waters to the ward

We were very proud and honoured to welcome back UCC final year medical student Paul O'Donovan who took a break from rowing and was back in scrubs to attend lectures at CoMH.

Asked how he combines studying for a medical degree with world champion rowing Paul said he doesn't think about it too much.

"You make a plan and stick to it. Be efficient about your time I would say".

UCC President John O'Halloran said: "it is a great honour to welcome Paul a national treasure back to UCC".

Professor Helen Whelton wished Paul the very best both for his study - "not easy to combine final year medical studies with world champion rowing. We support Paul in any way we can."



Congratulations to the Superheroes in the FLAME lab, Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience led by Batman (Michael Cronin) who baked cakes and put on their Superhero outfits to raise funds for the Mercy Hospital Heroes Campaign which raises vital funds for the Mercy Kids & Teens Appeal.

FLAME lab Superheroes from back left to right: The Flash (Max Shanahan), Captain America (Wayne Sheehan), Batman and event organiser (Mike Cronin), Superwoman (Aisling Noone), Robin (Conor O'Mahony) and Superwoman (Ruth Kelleher) fundraising for the Mercy University Hospital Foundation. Photo B. Riedewald



Professor Emma Wallace

Professor and Head of Department
Department of General Practice

Welcome to our new Professor and Head of Department of General Practice at UCC, Professor Emma Wallace

Emma Wallace took up her new appointment as Professor of General Practice and Head of Department at UCC in July. She previously was Associate Professor of General Practice in RCSI Dublin and a GP in Cromcastle General Practice in Coolock, North Dublin.

Emma is from Co Tipperary and studied medicine at UCD.

“While at UCD, I completed my undergraduate general practice attachment in an inner city practice in Dublin; the variety and continuity of care that general practice offered really appealed to me.”

Emma completed her GP specialist training in Dublin and was subsequently awarded a HRB PhD training fellowship for healthcare professionals. She completed her PhD in the area of medicines optimisation for older people with multimorbidity, as part of the SPHeRE PhD programme. Emma was then appointed as Senior

Lecturer and then Associate Professor in General Practice at RCSI, before her appointment to UCC.

“I was interested in joining UCC as I knew that the GP Department had a strong footprint delivering teaching and assessment across three years of the undergraduate medical degree programme. I was also aware that there is a committed group of GP tutors supporting student placements in general practice.”

Emma plans to expand the excellent network of GP clinical tutors facilitating UCC medical student placements and to strengthen existing links with the Cork postgraduate GP training programme, Cork/Kerry HSE primary care and other local networks.

In her new role, Emma will be joining Parklands Surgery General Practice in Cork city. “I am really looking forward to joining Parklands and building relationships with patients and colleagues locally.”

Frontline Covid-19 paramedics graduate from UCC



Some of the graduates from Paramedic Studies BSc run in collaboration with the National Ambulance Service.

Congratulations to all our graduates 2022 and special mention to the first graduates of UCC's new BSc (Hons) Paramedic Studies Degree Course run in conjunction with the National Ambulance Service.

Conor Deasy, Professor of Emergency Medicine at UCC said it was an extremely joyous day to see this group of 22 paramedics being conferred.

"The commitment displayed by these men and women to their patients and their profession is inspiring; day after day these students were on the frontline, donned PPE and cared for patients while studying on-line at UCC for this three-year Degree Course".

All 22 now go on to work as full-time paramedics within the health services having secured permanent contracts with the National Ambulance Service.

Professor Deasy said UCC is currently educating just over 300 undergraduate Paramedics, 50 Masters in Community Paramedicine and Advanced Paramedicine and four Doctoral students in partnership with NAS.

University College Cork, he added, is aiming to launch a CAO entry pathway for Paramedic BSc to commence in Sept 2024.

Prof. Helen Whelton said not only have these paramedics remained committed to their studies while working on the frontline of Ireland's response to COVID-19, they have benefitted from learning in pre-hospital training sites and clinical placements where patient-centred care is the priority.

The demand for highly skilled paramedics she said continues to grow as they now work in a variety of settings, including general practice, emergency department and offshore.

"Through UCC's partnership with health service organisations such as National Ambulance Service, HSE and private hospitals, we aim to ensure they have that broad academic skill set that allows them to be ambitious and achieve their full potential".

Congratulations to Irfan

Congratulations to second year medical student Irfan Khan. His ground-breaking research shows that waist-to-pelvis ratio is a better measure of healthy weight than the more traditional BMI. Irfan's research which was carried out with colleagues in Canada was presented to the meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) in Stockholm in September.



Congratulations to Professor Roisin Connolly, Dr. Mohamad Saab, Dr. Sheena McHugh, Dr. Martina Hayes, Professor Geraldine Boyland and Professor Keelin O'Donoghue who were awarded Health Research Board (HRB) Knowledge Translation Awards for Health as part of a €1.2 million investment to help solve health challenges. Read the full story here: [News | University College Cork \(ucc.ie\)](https://www.ucc.ie/news)



Dr. Joseph McVeigh, Senior Lecturer and Head of Physiotherapy, School of Clinical Therapies testing out new technology in the physiotherapy curriculum. Dr. McVeigh and colleagues from University College Dublin, HU University of Applied Sciences, Utrecht, and Magos Solution, Athens, Greece, were successful in obtaining grant funding of €250K to explore the use of technology in the physiotherapy curriculum. The research funding from the Erasmus+ Programme, Cooperation Partnerships in higher education, will explore the use of virtual reality technology to supplement pain physiotherapy education. The aim of this project is to provide a structured approach to enhance physiotherapy students' development of clinical reasoning skills in pain assessment and management using virtual reality technology.



The Hospital Saturday Fund Charity reception took place in the Aula Maxima, UCC recently. Twenty-six Irish charities benefitted from the funds distributed at this special event. The Cork University Foundation received a grant towards supporting the University's medical electives programme.

Pictured accepting the donation are from L-R: Dr. Colm O'Tuathaigh UCC School of Medicine, Carol Walsh representing Cork University Foundation, and Dr. Eileen Duggan, UCC School of Medicine.

School of Clinical Therapies launch new Bee Mural

We had a wonderful day unveiling 'A Bee at UCC' mural at School of Clinical Therapies at Brookfield Health Sciences Complex (BHSC). This large mural now welcomes young patients, families and staff where 3,630 clients (2,400 paediatric clients and 1,230 adult clients) use the clinical therapies on offer.

The College commissioned artist Kevin O'Brien to create the mural inspired by JP Quinn's book 'A Bee at UCC' and illustrated by UCC graphic designer Charlie Ruxton.

Professor Nicole Müller said the mural has transformed the reception into a warm, bright and welcoming space for the paediatric clients from Health Service Executive and the South Infirmary Victoria Hospital (SIVUH).



Anne Tangney, HSE SLT Manager, City General Hospital; Sinead Dineen, HSE SLT Clinician, Brookfield Clinic, Professor Helen Whelton, Head of CoMH; Alice Moore, HSE OT Clinician, Brookfield Clinic; Professor Nicole Muller, Head of School of Clinical Therapies; President Professor John O'Halloran.



JP Quinn, Head of UCC Visitors Centre; Dr. Maria Kirrane, UCC Sustainability Officer; Charlie Ruxton, UCC Graphic Designer; Una Martin, Administrator, College of Science, Engineering & Food Science; Anne O'Sullivan, Manager, School of Clinical Therapies; Kevin O'Brien, Artist.



Anne O'Sullivan, Manager, School of Clinical Therapies.



Artist Kevin O'Brien chats with James Lee.



Professor Helen Whelton meets some of children at reception at Brookfield Health Sciences Complex

Pioneering work with Cork's Crann Centre

Congratulations to Alice Moore, a doctoral candidate and Dr. Helen Lynch, Senior Lecturer at Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy who won a National Occupational Therapy award recently for their pioneering work with Cork's Crann Centre.

Together they designed an inclusive play and recreation space for their service users and families. This award is the highest honour awarded annually by the Association of Occupational Therapists of Ireland (AOTI) in recognition of excellence in Occupational Therapy practice.

The Ann Beckett award is an award that honours Occupational Therapy projects that showcase active engagement involving service users and aim to inspire colleagues.

The Crann Centre is a not-for-profit organisation in Cork that supports people living with neuro-physical disabilities and their families.

Alice and Helen were presented with the specially commissioned award trophy at the AOTI Annual Conference Dinner in October. More information on this project see: <https://cranncentre.ie/inclusive-play/>



Alice Moore, Dr Helen Lynch and John O'Neill, O'Neill Healthcare, sponsor.



Speech and Language Therapy Students at the DLD Awareness Day Bake Sale 2022



UCC Main Quad lights up in Purple for DLD Awareness Day 2022

Main Quad lights up in Purple for DLD Awareness Day 2022

UCC Main Quad was lit up in purple for the Developmental Language Disorder Awareness Day in October. Staff and students at the Dept. of Speech and Hearing Sciences, School of Clinical Therapies, gathered to host their annual Bake Sale in Brookfield Health Sciences Complex.

DLD is a common but hidden lifelong condition that affects how children and adults use and understand language, creating obstacles in school, work and everyday life.

Dr Ciara O'Toole explained although DLD is more common than other disabilities such as autism spectrum disorder or ADHD, "it is not very well known".

DLD she said has no single known cause and is likely a result of several biological, genetic and environmental risk factors.

In Ireland, about two in every class of 30 primary-school children will experience DLD that is severe enough to hinder their academic progress.



Celebrating the Value of Research & Scientific Knowledge

Our 'from Molecules to People' [#m2p](#) Research Conference was a great success with Professor Liam Fanning (Chair, Research Committee) and Professor John Cryan (Vice-President for Research and Innovation) and our lead speakers Professor Andrey Shkoporov, APC Microbiome Ireland, Professor [Piotr Kowalski, School of Pharmacy, UCC](#), Professor [Caitriona O'Driscoll, School of Pharmacy, UCC](#), Professor [Jonathan Drennan, University College Cork School of Nursing and Midwifery Univer](#), Professor [Deirdre Murray, INFANT Research Centre, University College Cork](#).

We would like to thank all students, staff and guests who attended. Some great research and findings to reflect on!

Professor Helen Whelton said this Research Conference is hugely important "showing the value of scientific research and shows the benefits of funding the creation of new knowledge. The research presented addressed important societal questions about our current and future health".

Read about the event here: <https://lnkd.in/eJrTcqWU>

See media coverage here <https://lnkd.in/eNBSRztK>

We can't wait for next year!



Funding for UCC-led projects...

And there was more good news with announcement that four UCC-led projects were awarded combined funding of over €1.6million recently.

See here the amazing Dr. Harriët Schellekens, Dr Frances Shiely, Prof. John Cryan, Dr Elizabeth Brint and Dr Linda O'Keeffe. Their projects are all newly funded by the Health Research Board (HRB) as part of its Investigator-Led Projects (ILP) 2022 scheme.

The four University College Cork-led projects were four of 33 projects that received a combined €10m from the HRB under the scheme.

For more on this story and other exciting developments from across CoMH follow this link <https://lnkd.in/ei5ARhjD>

Understanding Dementia Together – a new collaborative multi-disciplinary approach

Niamh Moore (Diagnostic Radiography) and Trish O’Sullivan (Physiotherapy) organised an excellent Interprofessional Learning workshop event ‘Understanding Dementia Together – a new collaborative multi-disciplinary approach’ at Nano Nagle Place recently.

Over 150 students from across 11 disciplines at College of Medicine and Health attended – first time ever that many disciplines have come together.

Dr. Tony Foley, GP and Senior Lecturer at UCC’s Department of General Practice said these workshops are exactly what is needed - “collaborative multidisciplinary care is essential in order to meet the complex needs of people with dementia and their families”.

This innovative workshop he said will harness the collective knowledge and skills of a range of healthcare professionals.

“It is about fostering that team-work approach amongst our students, sharing how we can learn to work effectively together.”



Attendees at Understanding Dementia Together workshop at Nano Nagle Place



Attendees at ‘Understanding Dementia Together’ workshop at Nano Nagle Place



Niamh Moore and Trish O’Sullivan



Dr. Tony Foley, GP and Senior Lecturer at UCC’s Dept of General Practice, Prof Nicole Müller, Head of School of Clinical Therapies, Prof. Mark McEntee, Chair of Diagnostic Radiography, Dept. of Medicine, School of Medicine

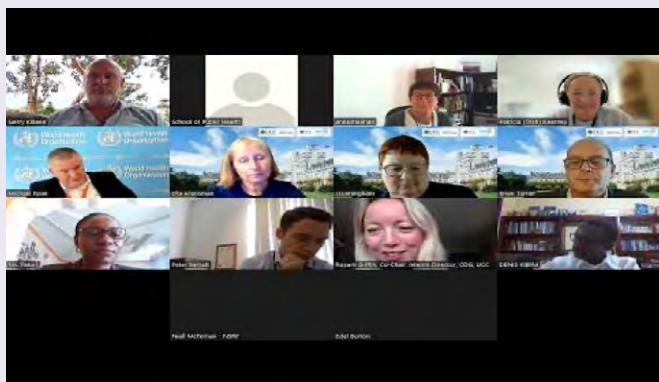


Carmel Geoghegan, Dementia Ireland and Dr. Tony Foley



Trish O’Sullivan with Dr. Tony Foley, GP

COVID and Where to Next, with Dr. Mike Ryan



We were honoured to have Dr. Mike Ryan, Executive Director, World Health Organisation (WHO) Health Emergencies Programme join us for a special webinar ‘COVID AND WHERE TO NEXT?’ in September.



The School of Public Health UCC and UCC Centre for Global Development hosted this special event with Lecturer Global Health and Development Colette Cunningham and Dr. Rosarii Griffin, Interim Director of the Centre for Global Development as co-chairs.

Dr. Ryan addressed the long-term impacts of Covid and spoke about the importance of prevention, prediction, preparedness and the importance of being agile, reactive and adaptable within our health systems.

You can watch the webinar back here. [\(70\) WHO's Dr Mike Ryan addresses next phase of COVID-19 & preventing the next pandemic at UCC Webinar - YouTube](#)

Professor Ella Arensman, Head of UCC's School of Public Health and Chief Scientist, National Suicide Research Foundation UCC thanked Dr. Ryan and all those who attended the webinar and our esteemed panelists:

- **Prof. Ivan Perry**, Professor of Public Health,
- **Colette Cunningham**, Lecturer in Global Health,
- **Prof. Ella Arensman**, Interim Head of School of Public Health,
- **Prof. Patricia Kearney**, Professor of Epidemiology,
- **Dr. Rosarii Griffin**, Interim Director of the Centre for Global Development and Board member of the US based Global Virus Network (GVN),
- **Dr. Anne Sheahan**, Area Director of Public Health, HSE Department of Public Health (Cork & Kerry),
- **Dr. Peter Barrett**, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, HSE Depart. of Public Health (Cork & Kerry),
- **Professor Gerry Killeen**, Ecology and Epidemiology, AXA Research Chair, School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences, UCC,
- **Dr. Brian Turner**, Economist & Lecturer, Dept. of Economics, Cork University Business School, UCC,
- **Fatia Kiyange**, Exec. Director, CEHURD, Uganda
- **Dr Denis Kibera**, Medicines Transparency Alliance, Uganda



Dr. Janas Harrington

Contributing to National Guidelines on obesity for adults

Well done to Dr. Janas Harrington at UCC's School of Public Health who contributed to the new national guidelines for the treatment of obesity for adults launched a few weeks ago which will mean obesity will no longer be solely defined by weight in recognising that it is a disease defined by many factors.

Supported by the HSE and Department of Health, the guidelines move away from obesity being a lifestyle illness, to recognising that obesity is a disease defined by health impairment and driven by complex biological, environmental and psychosocial factors.

The guidelines have been developed by the Association for the Study of Obesity on the Island of Ireland, and are the first of their kind in Europe, adapted from a Canadian model seen as the international benchmark.

Athena Swan Award for The School of Pharmacy



Noreen Moynihan pictured with Athena Swan Award

The School of Pharmacy received their renewed Athena Swan Bronze award recently led by Dr Kevin Murphy, chair of the School of Pharmacy's Athena SWAN team. Other members of this team included Prof Abina Crean, Prof Brendan Griffin, Prof Stephen Byrne, Dr Waleed Faisal, Dr Rachel Moloney, Dr Sonja Vucen, Ms Aine Healy, Ms Noreen Moynihan, Ms Laura Gleeson (postgraduate representative) and Ms Maria Mulrooney (undergraduate representative).

Prof. Brendan Griffin said the award will encourage all to seek further opportunities to achieve even more success and, in this sense, "enable us to excel further as a place where staff and students can fulfill personal career goals." Dr Murphy said the success of the application is due to the staff and students of the School - "their daily embodiment of the Athena SWAN principles is what drives improvement and delivers impact. Seeing this, I am confident that the best days are ahead of us."

Ms Noreen Moynihan attended the 2022 Athena Awards Ceremony on behalf of the School of Pharmacy at the Atlantic Technological University (ATU) Castlebar in November.

Meanwhile, for the second year in a row, young UCC researchers have received both prizes awarded at the annual meeting of the Irish Association of Pharmacologists held at Trinity College in November.

Robert Callaghan (MPharm student) received the prize for the best oral presentation for his study titled "Quantitative analysis of the use of non-sensorimotor behavioural tests in the experimental stroke literature" (supervised by Drs Rachel Moloney and Christian Waeber). Lianne Mulder (PhD student in the School of Pharmacy, supervised by Dr Piotr Kowalski) was awarded the prize for best poster for her study "Delivery of Tie2 mRNA to the endothelium as a novel strategy for the treatment of sepsis-induced multiple organ failure".



Prof Christian Waeber, Robert Callaghan, and Lianne Mulder



Annual School of Pharmacy Assembly

School of Pharmacy held its annual assembly in October. This packed agenda included a presentation from Kate O’Flaherty BSc Pharm, Principal Officer at the Department of Health, Ireland in Population Health Screening in the Department of Health.

Her inspiring presentation was entitled **Because it matters – your health and wellbeing as a Pharmacy student.**

The 2021/22 Athena Swan award was presented on the day to Siobhan Nestor.

Assembly finished up with an integrated **Ask Me Anything** session where students posed questions to staff on many topics, some of which included securing part time work, promotion through the pharmacy career ranks, international travel and the Pharmacy degree and why SOP staff chose Pharmacy as their career.

[Assembly Photo Gallery](#)

International Symposium on Dental Hygiene 2022



Ms Anne O’Keeffe, Ms Caroline Horgan, Prof Anthony Roberts, Ms Martina Collins, Ms Clare Murphy

Our Dental School and Hospital was well represented at the International Symposium on Dental Hygiene hosted at the Convention Centre, Dublin.

The theme of the conference was ‘The Future in Our Hands’ and over 800 delegates from across the globe attended the conference with a diverse programme including oral research presentations from Prof Anthony Roberts (Inter-Professional Education), Dr Niamh Coffey (Cystic Fibrosis and Oral Health), Ms Anne O’Keeffe and Ms Clare Murphy (both Dental Education) which were all very well received.

Research from Ms Caroline Horgan and Ms Martina Collins were presented by poster and Ms Collins was invited to compete in the Innovative Research competition and was subsequently awarded 3rd Prize for her abstract entitled “Dental Hygiene Students’ Reflections in a Medical Emergency Role Play”.

Representation at Oral Health Research Congress

Great to see representatives from our Dental School at the Oral Health Research Congress of the Pan European Region of the International Association for Dental Research which was held in Marseille in France in September. This was a joint meeting of the five European Divisions of the IADR and represented the first opportunity in three years to attend an in-person event. Representatives were delighted to present and defend research, to network and exchange ideas with colleagues.

Of particular note was an invitation to Dr Martina Hayes to present a keynote presentation on “Clinical Studies in Cariology – Is Big Data Better?” at the Irish Division IADR sponsored symposium on *Clinical and Translational Research in Ireland.*”



Dr Frank Burke with Dr Elizabeth Ann Ryan, Dr Niamh Coffey, Dr Martina Hayes, Dr Cristiane da Mata, Dr Siobhán Lucey and Dr Claire Curtin

NMBI National Student Midwife Debate 2022

Our School of Nursing and Midwifery was delighted to host this year's National Student Midwife Debate organised by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) in November.

The event saw six student midwives, from each of the six education bodies that offer midwifery, compete in two teams to debate for or against a motion. This year's motion was: **'This house believes that the diminishing 'normal birth' rate is a threat to the midwifery profession'**.

Debating for the motion was Nadia Hutton representing Trinity College Dublin, Laura O'Sullivan representing University College Cork and Claudia Donnelly representing Dundalk Institute of Technology. Debating against the motion was Khayla Timothy representing University of Limerick, Lia Kehoe representing University College Dublin and Hannah Flaherty representing University of Galway.

Khayla Timothy, from Co Galway, who is studying midwifery at University of Limerick won the prize for best speaker.

This annual debate gives students an excellent opportunity to broaden their knowledge and understanding of the profession and inspire new thinking around topics relating to midwifery.

Guest speakers were Fran McConville, Midwifery Advisor to the World Health Organization and Sarah Benson, Chairperson of Women's Aid. Attendees also heard from Sheila McClelland, CEO of NMBI; Dawn Johnston, Director of Midwifery at NMBI and Dr Geri McLoughlin.



Dr Geri McLoughlin, Midwife Lecturer at UCC School of Nursing and Midwifery with debate winner Khayla Timothy, University of Limerick; and Dawn Johnston, Director of Midwifery at NMBI



Students who debated against the motion - Nadia Hutton representing Trinity College Dublin, Claudia Donnelly representing Dundalk Institute of Technology and Laura O'Sullivan representing University College Cork



Name all eight of Cork City skyline silhouettes

Cork's Skyline Competition, celebrating the School of Nursing and Midwifery's Athena Swan Bronze award

In recognition of the School of Nursing and Midwifery being awarded the Athena Swan Bronze Award, Professor Josephine Hegarty, Head of School, commissioned this impressive wall art display, incorporating the three pillars of the Athena Swan philosophy- Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion.

Mr. Tony Archer, Audio-Visual Chief Technical Officer was instrumental in the creation and development of the wall art display as he worked through many variations of the design through using photographs, graphics, and text. This display design and development was assisted by Mr. Conor Moylan at B2B Signs and clearly demonstrates the School's commitment to Athena Swan.

The final agreed concept and commissioned design can now be viewed on the 3rd floor of the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Brookfield Health Sciences Complex.



Professor Aideen Sullivan, Academic Director, BSc Medical and Health Sciences, Ruslan Volkov, Isaac Sylvester, Professor Paula O'Leary, Dean, School of Medicine and Dr Louise Collins, Academic Coordinator, BSc Medical and Health Sciences

The Dean of the School of Medicine UCC, Professor Paula O'Leary, was invited speaker and presented the awards at the first BSc Medical and Health Sciences Awards Ceremony, which celebrated the first class of students to successfully complete this programme.



Pet therapy, superheroes,

Paws for thought as special guests join communication tutorial at School of Nursing & Midwifery

A recent communication tutorial with Lecturer Maria O’Shea was quickly transformed into a very cuddly affair with nine special guests. Attendees got to experience the benefits of pet therapy - silence quickly turned into shrieks of excitement as the K-litter of My Canine Companion (MCC) puppies arrived to class. Only 6 weeks young, these little creatures were being socialised in preparation for their future role as service dogs for children with autism.

The second year Children’s and General student nurses were delighted to see first-hand the impact dog-therapy has on children both on the

wards and from personal experience. By definition, dog therapy refers to the use of dogs as a way to help people cope with and recover from physical and mental health conditions but as Dr. Irene Hartigan explained it is so much more than that.

“We have seen the huge benefits this has on children who are anxious and scared to be in hospital. It provides comfort and a distraction, whilst also increasing mood and general well-being. Dog therapy can also help to increase movements and social interactions through walks and play – which can lead to decreasing anxiety and stress”.



From left to right: Maria O’Shea, Dr Irene Hartigan and Nicole Duggan, MCC

A special thank you to Dr Irene Hartigan, Lecturer, and Nicole Duggan, MCC Events and Content Manager for making this visit happen. Thank you to Maria O’Shea for giving students the opportunity to share in the benefits of canine therapy during a tutorial.

For more information:
[News | University College Cork \(ucc.ie\)](https://www.ucc.ie/news)

Nearly 90% of those living with Long COVID have not returned to full health

A study of 988 participants conducted by APC Microbiome Ireland in conjunction with Cork University Hospital and Long Covid Advocacy Ireland made international headlines with the announcement that nearly 90% of those living with Long COVID have not returned to their pre-Covid level of health.

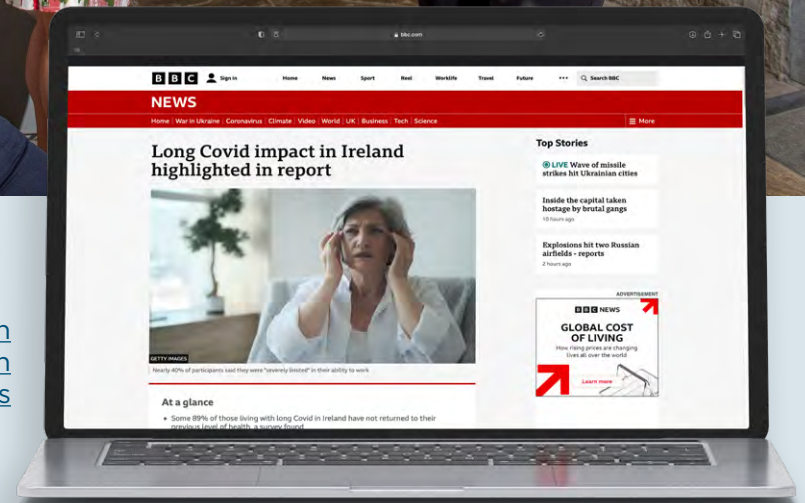
The study found that 2 out of 3 participants continue to experience fatigue, post-exertional malaise, palpitations, chest pain, stomach upset/nausea, memory problems, muscle pain or joint pain. The study found that six out of every ten people missed workdays.

The survey was produced in a researcher-clinician-patient partnership involving Professor Liam O'Mahony, APC Principal Investigator and UCC Professor of Immunology, Dr Corinna Sadlier, Consultant in Infectious Diseases at CUH, and Ms Tanja Buwalda, Long COVID sufferer and representative of 'Long Covid Advocacy Ireland'.

The study is published on HRB Open Research: <https://hrbopenresearch.org/articles/5-31/v1#referee-response-32610>



[Long Covid impact in Ireland highlighted in report - BBC News](#)





Dr. Martina Hayes, Prof. Chris Lynch and Dr. Siobhan Lucey

Many congratulations to Dr Martina Hayes and Dr Siobhan Lucey, on their recent successes in the InterCollegiate Specialty Fellowship Examinations (ISFE) in Restorative Dentistry and Paediatric Dentistry, respectively.



Prof. John Cryan and Prof. Ted Dinan

Food for Thought; feeding microbes to deal with stress

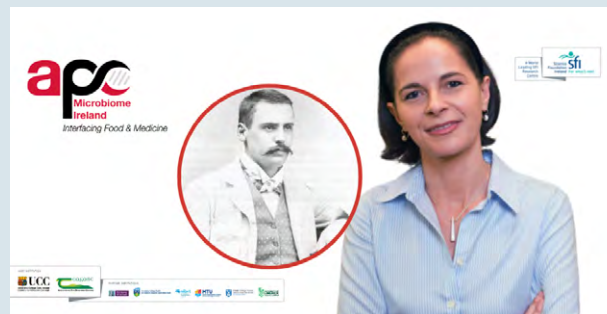
Dealing with stress through your dinner plate may be an effective approach according to new research from APC Microbiome Ireland.

The concept that “we are what we eat” goes back millennia but now the Cork researchers led by Prof. John Cryan have shown that by changing diet for just four weeks this adage can be extended to influencing perceived stress levels.

For more info:

[APC News | University College Cork \(ucc.ie\)](https://www.apcnews.com/news/university-college-cork-ucc-ie)

Congratulations to world-leading microbiome researcher Prof Yasmine Belkaid, who was awarded the prestigious 2022 Charles Donovan Microbiome Prize in October. As part of the prizegiving Prof. Belkaid delivered the ‘Distinguished International Lecture’ at the annual symposium of APC Microbiome Ireland which took place at University College Cork.



Prof. Yasmine Belkaid

UCC Futures: Food Microbiome and Health

Exciting Job Opportunities with the College of Medicine and Health.

UCC Futures Food, Microbiome and Health is a once in a generation opportunity to generate an ecosystem that will maximise the potential of our academic expertise and provide tangible, impactful, solutions in response to one of the most important global challenges of our time.

The following positions are open for applications:

- [Professor Consultant Chair in Oral Medicine](#)
- [Senior Lecturer in Sports and Exercise Medicine](#)

More information here:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/futures/>

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/futures/foodmicrobiomehealth/>

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/futures/foodmicrobiomehealth/medicine/>



Prof. Paul Ross (right hand side) receiving his award, alongside Prof. Jeffrey Gordon, Dr. Tina Jeoh and Prof. Phil Baran

Prof Paul Ross, APC Director receives prestigious International Science Award in recognition of his pioneering microbiome research

In a recent special ceremony in Delaware, IFF, an industry leader in the food, beverage and health sector, presented four leading scientists including APC's Prof. Paul Ross with Danisco Foundation awards for their work in advancing the future of food, nutrition and health.

The Science Excellence and Microbiome Science awardees were selected for their remarkable achievements in advancing science and technology.

Prof Ross received the 2021 Danisco Foundation Microbiome Science Award in recognition for his work on the human microbiome, notably his pioneering research aimed at developing microbiome editing tools for applications including food biopreservation and alternatives to antibiotics for animal and human health improvement.

More on this story at [IFF Honors Leading Academics, Supporting Advancement of Innovative Microbiome and Scientific Discovery and Technology.](#)



CoMH praised for its safety standards

College of Medicine and Health, UCC was recognised by the National Irish Safety Organisation at its recent awards ceremony.

The College received a Higher Distinction award for its outstanding workplace standards at this year's National Irish Safety Organisation Awards and it could not come at a better time. The award was indeed a fitting tribute to the huge work put in over the years by University Safety Officer Mr. John Ring who retired a few weeks ago after 30 years managing all things safety at UCC.

A graduate of civil engineering at UCC John has worked as University Safety Officer since 1992. John has worked consistently to provide safety management and compliance advice and supports to all functional areas and Schools (management and staff) across the university.

Head of CoMH Professor Helen Whelton paid tribute to John and said the NISO award recognised the work John has put in over the years providing a safe and positive working environment for all. "We want to thank him for that and wish him the very best in his retirement. It is indeed excellent timing to receive this award at this time. It is a great achievement and one that we at College of Medicine and Health are very proud of and I would like to thank John, our former college manager Kathryn Neville and all our staff who worked on this application. It is a great honour as it was the first time University College Cork and College of Medicine and Health entered this Competition so we are certainly heading in the right direction".

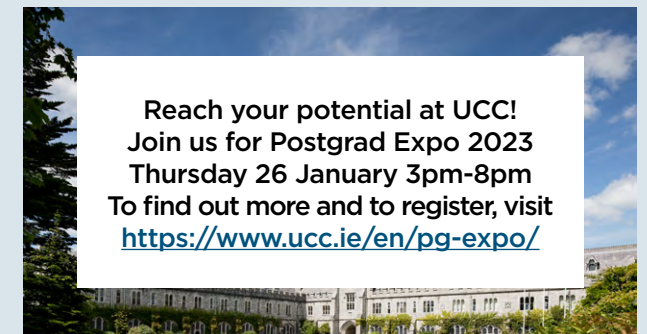
The NISO promotes the positive role that organisations can play when they adopt a proactive approach to health and safety. The All Ireland Safety Awards is an example of this. Organised in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Safety Group (NISG), the scheme recognises and recompenses excellence in health and safety practices.

John said he was delighted with this award which he said recognises the positive and proactive culture of safety in the College. John said he is looking forward to retirement – "I'm delighted to be retiring and I look forward to working on my golf handicap and enjoying more holidays. I will miss the people at UCC, I have had some great years here but it is now time to move on to new adventures."



Dr. Fergus McCarthy and Sarusha Pillay receiving their IDEATE Award Ireland

pHetalSafe, based at INFANT centre at UCC is a fetal sensor developed to detect and prevent a condition called fetal hypoxia. Here Sarusha Pillay tells Independent Thinking how this novel technology could potentially revolutionise obstetric care: www.bit.ly/3Ee5SzV



Reach your potential at UCC!
Join us for Postgrad Expo 2023
Thursday 26 January 3pm-8pm
To find out more and to register, visit
<https://www.ucc.ie/en/pg-expo/>

New cancer research will help individualise treatment for patients with early-stage breast cancer to improve survival

Professor Roisin Connolly was also awarded a Health Research Board grant earlier this year to support the UCC Cancer Trials Group. Through this funding, she will lead the expansion and availability of innovative clinical trials and investigator-led clinical projects to reach Irish patients. In addition, this award will focus

on training the next generation of cancer researchers and research staff.

More on this story here: <https://www.bcrf.org/researchers/roisin-connolly>



Prof. Roisin Connolly (Gerald O'Sullivan Chair in Cancer Research), Dr Maeve Hennessy (Breakthrough Clinical Cancer Research Fellow) and Orla Dolan (CEO Breakthrough Cancer Research)



Congratulations to Professor Roisin Connolly, Director of Cancer Research, UCC who was presented with a Breast Cancer Research Foundation Funded Investigator Award in New York.