

MGANEWS

Newsletter No 15 | June 2016



Medical Graduates Association

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WELCOME!

Welcome to the 15th edition of our newsletter. I am delighted to announce that following a review of the activities and objectives of the committee, we decided to 're-brand' as the UCC Medical Graduates Association.

Our newsletter is one of our key communication channels for our graduates and staff. In this issue we introduce you to some of our graduates, news from the School and information on some upcoming events both here and abroad.

I am delighted to introduce our new Chair, Medical Graduates Association, Professor Tony O'Brien MB FRCPI. Tony has kindly accepted our invitation to serve as the inaugural chairperson of the newly constituted board.

Tony is a UCC Medical Graduate ('80) and a consultant physician in palliative medicine based at Marymount University Hospital & Hospice and Cork University Hospital, Cork. He is clinical professor of Palliative Medicine at the College of Medicine & Health, University College Cork.

Tony is currently a member of the executive committee of the Association for Palliative Medicine of Great Britain and Ireland and a member of Council of the All Ireland Institute for Hospice and Palliative Care. Tony served as chairperson of the National Advisory Committee on Palliative Care, the National Council for Specialist Palliative Care, the Council of Europe Expert Committee on Palliative Care and the Irish Association for Palliative Care. He previously served on the Board of the European Association for Palliative Care, the Faculty of Pain Medicine, College of Anaesthetists of Ireland.

Tony has published and lectured widely on various aspects of pain and symptom management in palliative care and on service development and delivery. He has a particular interest in ethical issues at the end of life and has served as an expert witness in high profile legal challenges to the ban on assisted suicide in Ireland and New Zealand.

Finally, we would welcome your feedback and any suggestions you may have. In order to make our newsletter a success we would also welcome your contributions for editions throughout the year.

Professor Mary Horgan
Dean, School of Medicine

MEDICAL GRADUATION DINNER



Medical School Medal (l-r): Dr Michael Murphy, Dr Paula O'Leary, Dr Will Fennell and Professor Mary Horgan.



Windle Prize (l-r): Professor Mary Horgan, Dr Liam Plant, Professor Carl Vaughan and Dr Michael Murphy.

The annual School of Medicine Graduation Dinner took place on Wednesday May 25, 2016.

The recipient of the prestigious Medical School Medal was Dr Will Fennell, whose citation was delivered by Dr Paula O'Leary with the medal presented Dr Michael Murphy, President, University College Cork, in recognition of his exceptional contribution to Medicine and Society.

The recipient of the Windle Prize was Professor Carl Vaughan, whose citation was delivered by Dr Liam Plant with the prize presented by Dr Michael Murphy.

As is tradition at the Medical Graduation Dinner, the Graduands presented Teaching Awards to those faculty who contributed exceptionally to their undergraduate education. The list of winners were:

Outstanding: Community Based Clinical Teacher: **Dr Julie O'Connor**

Outstanding: Non Consultant Hospital Doctor: **Dr Siti Ismail**

Outstanding: Consultant Clinical Teacher: **Dr Mike O'Connor**

Outstanding: Peripheral Hospital Consultant Clinical Teacher: **Dr Frank Walker**

Outstanding: Student Mentor and Pastoral Support Provider: **Dr Rob Gaffney**

Outstanding: Teacher in years 1-3 of Direct Medical Entry Programme. **Dr Kathy Quane**

Outstanding: Teacher in years 1-2 of Graduate Entry Programme. **Dr Mark Rae**

Outstanding: Promoter of Undergraduate Research: **Dr Colm Ó Tuathaigh**

Best in Med School: **Dr Rob Gaffney**



MEDICAL GRADUATION

Congratulations to our Graduates from the School of Medicine who graduated on May 27, 2016



(1) Dr Eve O'Mahony, Dr Blathaid O'Connell, Dr Jeffrey Mulcaire and Dr Aine Peoples. **(2)** Dr Aoife O'Callaghan and Dr Ann O'Reilly. **(3)** Dr Ciara McCarthy and Dr Charlie Leahy. **(4)** First in Class: Dr Killian McCarthy with Professor Mary Horgan, Dean of School of Medicine, UCC. **(5)** Dr Karoline Tetlie and her family. **(6)** Dr Mustaqim Imran and his family. **(7)** Dr Jack Jeffries, Dr Robert Evans and Dr Sean Crotty. **(8)** Dr Tatim Hashim.

PROFESSOR BARRY PLANT



Professor Barry Plant MD, FRCPI is a consultant respiratory physician at the Department of Respiratory Medicine, Cork University Hospital, a Professor, Dept. of Medicine, University College Cork, Director of the E.L.D.R.G. (*Extreme Lung Disease Research Group*) and the Director of the Adult CF Centre at Cork University Hospital (CUH)-University College Cork (the second largest Cystic Fibrosis Center nationally). Professor Plant is the current Chairman of the Medical and Scientific Council of CF Ireland, is an executive member of the CF Registry of Ireland and a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

He has diverse clinical commitments to Respiratory Medicine at Cork University Hospital/University College Cork in the following areas: General Respiratory Medicine, Cystic Fibrosis and Non-CF Bronchiectasis, COPD, Asthma/Exercise Induced Bronchoconstriction, Lung Fibrosis, Orphan (rare) Lung disease, lung transplantation and exercise medicine.

A University College Cork medical graduate in 1996, he undertook his internship and senior house officer medical scheme at CUH/UCC before dual training in respiratory and general medicine in accordance with the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. During this training period Professor Plant was awarded a higher medical degree (M.D. by Thesis) by University College Dublin examining the Role of a genes in inflammatory lung disease. In 2004 he was awarded the National University of Ireland Traveling Studentship in Internal Medicine (one award nationally) to pursue further international training and subsequently undertook a fellowship in pulmonary and critical medicine at the University of Washington, Seattle, where he remained until securing his current post in 2007. Since returning to Cork, Professor Plant has worked closely with the University, CUH and philanthropy to develop new translational facilities to cater for the clinical and research needs of patients with severe lung disease, including the development of research laboratories, an Adult CF day center and a recently opened State of the Art inpatient 22 bedded Respiratory Ward incorporating best practice with 'next generational' patient engagement technologies (supported by the Innovation Hub, UCC) at Cork University Hospital campus.

Professor Plant heads up the E.L.D.R.G. (*Extreme Lung Disease Research Group*) at Cork University Hospital/University College Cork. With the support of the HRB-CFR, UCC and Professor Joe Eustace, the E.L.D.R.G.'s mission statement is "*Focusing on extreme clinical phenotypes will enhance our understanding of all phenotypes*". Presently it has a number of active research streams including:

- **The microbiome:** Professor Plant recently coordinated and was successfully awarded an FP7 award (6 million euros over 3 years) from the EU commission, to lead 12 partner sites across Europe and the USA. This project CFMATTERS (*Cystic Fibrosis Microbiome-determined Antibiotic Therapy Trial in Exacerbations: Results Stratified*) will provide a randomised multi-centre control trial of microbiome-derived antimicrobial treatments (next generation detection methods) versus current empirical therapy (standard hospital methods) for lung infection.
- **CFTR Modulation:** Personalised medicine is gaining importance particularly in the area of lung disease. The CORK (*Clinical Outcomes in Real-world Kalydeco*) Study is presently examining the downstream consequences of 'new' personalised CFTR modulatory therapies in the area of Cystic Fibrosis.
- **Biomarkers of response to therapy in Lung disease:** Currently the group is exploring the utility of different novel blood biomarkers for CF lung disease and Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (in collaboration with Dr. Michael Henry, CUH). Equally the development of radiological imaging as a biomarker of response to treatment is ongoing in collaboration with Professor Michael Maher, UCC.
- **Clinical Trials:** The group participates in increasing numbers of clinical trials. To date a number of studies in the area of inhaled antibiotics and CFTR modulation therapies have been the primary

focus. Recently Professor Plant assumed a Global PI role for the Next Generation CFTR Vertex Modulation Therapy Program.

- **Exercise in Elite athletes:** In collaboration with Dr. Eanna Falvey/ Professor Michael Molloy and the IRFU the group continues to prospectively monitor immune and lung function in elite athletes during competition to understand the mechanism behind acute sepsis and exercise induced bronchospasm in this group of 'healthy' patients.
- **The Lung-Gut axis:** The relationship between these two organs in health and disease is gaining importance with certain bacteria pre-agging the gut prior to the lung and the emergence of antibiotic related gastrointestinal diarrhea post therapy for lung sepsis. In collaboration with the APC Microbiome Institute, Professor Fergus Shanahan and Teagasc. The group is gaining significant expertise in the area of *Clostridium Difficile* infection in CF, the CF gut microbiome and potential future role of probiotics in this cohort.

Professor Plant is extensively published in international medical journals and textbooks in all areas of lung disease. He has been an invited speaker by many international societies including the American Thoracic Society, the Irish Thoracic Society, the European Respiratory Society, the Australasian CF Society, the European CF Society and the Food and Drug Administration USA.

He spends his spare time "hanging-out" with his three daughters Kokie, Rosie and Scarlett, playing electric and acoustic rock guitar (badly), marathon running and cycling.

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INFANT NEWS

2015 was a great year for the INFANT (Irish Centre for Fetal and Neonatal Translational Research) Centre. November and December saw quite a few awards:



SFI RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation, Damien English, announced Professor Geraldine Boylan and Professor Louise Kenny as the Science Foundation Ireland Joint Researchers of the Year 2015 at the SFI Science Summit. The award is in recognition of their global leadership in reducing the burden of disease and disability associated with the period just before and after birth. This award was a first in two respects: the first time it has been given as a joint prize, but also the first time it has ever been awarded to women.

www.infantcentre.ie/infant-directors-win-researchers-of-the-year-2015/



Top: Professor Geraldine Boylan and Professor Louise Kenny receiving the award. Above: Professor Mark Ferguson (SFI), Professor Geraldine Boylan (INFANT), Professor Louise Kenny (INFANT), Damien English (TD).

(Photos: Jason Clarke)



Professor Louise Kenny wins Irish Tatler Woman of the Year Award 2015 for STEM

Professor Louise Kenny was honoured at the Irish Tatler Women of the Year Awards ceremony on 7 November 2015 in recognition of her work on preeclampsia. Up to 70,000 women die each year as a direct cause of preeclampsia – a life-threatening condition that occurs during pregnancy. Premature babies are 10 times less likely to survive than full-term infants and are more likely to suffer brain injury. Preeclampsia is a complex condition, which is not yet fully understood. Prof Kenny is working to develop a clinically robust, predictive blood test for preeclampsia. If she and her team are successful, the test could dramatically reduce mortality rates among mothers and their babies.

A promotional graphic for Prof. Geraldine Boylan. On the left is a portrait of her with the text 'cork needs you' overlaid. On the right, a red banner reads 'Conference Ambassador'. Below this, her name 'Prof. Geraldine Boylan' is written in large blue letters. Underneath, it says '9th International Conference on Brain Monitoring and Neuroprotection in the Newborn'. Two blue boxes contain the text 'Delegates: 280' and 'Conference Value: €392K'. A paragraph of text describes the conference's success in Cork. At the bottom, there is a slogan 'Whether you're Cork born, Cork bred or Cork in spirit you too can become a Cork Ambassador!', contact information for the Cork Convention Bureau, and their logo.

Professor Geraldine Boylan honoured as Association Ambassador of the year 2015

On 3rd December 2015, Prof Geraldine Boylan was honoured at the Cork Convention Bureau event in recognition of her bringing the International Brain Monitoring & Neuroprotection in the Newborn Conference to Cork in October 2015. Over 280 delegates attended the 3 day event. It was only the third time the biannual conference had ever been held outside of the USA and it was so successful, the organisers are hoping to return to Cork in 2017.



DR GEORGE POPE

FRCP, FRCPI, FHEA, MRCP, PGDipLATHE

Consultant Geriatrician, General Medical Physician and Stroke Specialist

Lead Medicine for Elderly University Hospital Waterford

Senior Lecturer University College Cork

Dr Pope graduated from University College Cork in 1999 and became a member of the Royal College of Physicians in 2003. He completed postgraduate specialist training in geriatric medicine in Limerick University Hospital, Mercy and Cork University Hospitals and King's College Hospital London (2008). Subsequently, Dr Pope completed Stroke Specialist training fellowship in Oxford with RCP London Specialist certification (2008-2009).

He was appointed to a Stroke, Geriatrics and General Internal Medical consultant post in the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford (2009-2013). As lead for clinical governance, stroke and geriatric strategic developments in Oxford he was involved in admission avoidance strategies, creating collaborative patient pathways and protocols bridging hospital and community care. He developed rapid access geriatric and TIA clinics; establishing an early supported discharge team and hyper-acute tertiary stroke services.

Currently, Dr Pope has an appointment as a consultant Geriatrician and General Medical Physician in University Hospital Waterford (2013-current). He is a member of the National Stroke Clinical Advisory group and Lead for Medicine for the Elderly and Stroke services UHW.

TEACHING

Formal teaching responsibilities and activities have included:

- Clinical Lecturer in Geriatrics and General Medicine (Honorary) Guy's, King's and St Thomas' School of Medicine in (2007-2008)

- Senior Clinical Lecturer at Oxford University Medical School (Honorary) Oxford University Hospitals (2008-2013)
- Royal College of Physicians London medical tutor and Lead for Senior House Officer Education Oxford University Hospitals (2010-2013)
- Higher Diploma in Learning and Teaching at Oxford University (2011-2013)
- Fellow of the Higher Educational Academe London (2013)
- Fellow of Royal College of Physicians London (2013)
- Fellow Royal College of Physicians Ireland (2015)
- Part time Lecturer Royal College of Surgeons Ireland (2014-current)
- Senior Lecturer University College Cork (2014-current)

RESEARCH

Throughout his career Dr Pope has engaged in three principal research themes namely, vascular pathology and stroke, translating technology to patient care and evidence based elderly medicine. Research activities include involvement in local, national and international trials, ethics and funding applications. In these themes he participates as a reviewer for the BMJ, has completed a range of research courses and led research groups in both Ireland and the UK. As trial participator and principal investigator he has been involved in research funding for national and international trails. Research has been presented in Ireland, the UK, Canada and Japan which has resulted in peer review publications and awards.

AOIFE COTTER



I have recently joined the academic staff of the School of Medicine at UCD as a senior lecturer with clinical responsibilities at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital (MMUH) and St. Vincent's University Hospital (SVUH) as a consultant in Infectious Diseases and General Internal Medicine.

I studied Medicine at University College Cork between 1999 and 2004. During my undergraduate training, we were encouraged to take part in research and with the support of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, I completed a project about asthma and swimming in chlorinated pools, a topical issue around that time. On the basis of this study, I was awarded the Aodán Ó Donnchadha Memorial Prize and as a result, had many opportunities to present both in Ireland and in the UK. Later on, during my basic specialty training in Cork, I worked with Professor Mary Horgan (a fellow Tralee woman) and her specialist registrar at the time, Dr. Eoin Feeney (now my colleague at SVUH). I was impressed with Infectious Diseases (ID) as a vibrant and varied specialty with an emphasis on global health, societal issues and emerging infections.

I decided to move to the Dublin to try out a year a clinical tutor and ID registrar at MMUH. During this year, I worked with a dedicated multi-disciplinary team providing care for with a cohort of patients from an inner city community whose medical problems were compounded by social deprivation and drug addiction. This period was formative in my career and had a significant impact on my commitment to this area of medicine.

After advancing onto higher specialist training in ID, I was offered a 3-year fellowship back at MMUH under the supervision of Dr Paddy Mallon, Associate Dean for Research, Innovation and Impact at the School of Medicine, UCD and head of the HIV Molecular Research Group (HMRG). The fellowship and

PhD programme were uniquely designed to allow me to carry out research on the ground within at MMUH but also spend time in London for practical analytical training with my second supervisor, Professor Caroline Sabin at the HIV Epidemiology and Biostatistics Group in University College London (Royal Free Campus). Under Professor Sabin's leadership, this group co-ordinate and analyse data from national and international cohort studies; they are key researchers in the international field of HIV research.

As part of this programme, I set up a bone densitometry and body composition unit for HMRG at the Clinical Research Centre (MMUH) and co-ordinated a prospective cohort of HIV-positive and HIV-negative individuals that is now in its 5th year of follow-up (HIV UPBEAT). UPBEAT aims to prospectively follow participants' bone health over time and provides a unique opportunity to investigate bone disease in people living with HIV. This study contributed significantly to my PhD and subsequently to Dr. Willard Tinago's thesis. Willard is a statistician from Zimbabwe working within our group who was recently awarded his PhD. Dr Tara McGinty has now taken on the mantle of co-ordinator for HIV UPBEAT and will no doubt have a very successful fellowship.

Now that I am back in an academic role within the HMRG and UCD, my immediate future plans include collaborative research between ID and hepatology at the MMUH and at SVUH. I am establishing a new cohort of patients undergoing treatment for hepatitis C aiming to investigate radiological and clinical outcomes. As our HIV cohort ages, I am focusing on fracture and frailty research within HIV UPBEAT and new exciting collaborations with researchers in London, Madrid and Barcelona are underway.



AISLING DOYLE

YEAR OF GRADUATION 2015

I graduated from the GEM course in 2015. My background is communications and commerce. I am in the process of completing a busy but enjoyable intern year at the Mater Hospital, Dublin. After my internship I will be moving to the US to undertake a residency in Internal Medicine in Barnes Jewish Hospital, St Louis.



AINE MERWICK

YEAR OF GRADUATION 2003

I graduated with a MB BAO BCh BMedSc (2003). I am member of the UCC's London Alumni Chapter committee and recipient of UCC's Ainsworth prize to pursue fellowship training in metabolic medicine.

I am a clinical academic neurologist with a special interest in vascular neurology, TIA management and inherited metabolic disorders. I completed my neurology specialist training in Ireland and Queen Square, London. I obtained my PhD at University College Dublin based on collaborative research with stroke physicians in Oxford, Paris, Spain, Greece, North America and Asia. I completed my MSc (Stroke) via Danube University, Austria. I am currently a consultant neurologist at Chelsea & Westminster NHS Foundation Trust and lecture on the UCL stroke degree, while maintaining a research interest in stroke risk prediction.

RCPI OPENS CORK OFFICE



Pictured (l-r): Professor John Higgins, Head of College of Medicine and Health, UCC; Professor Mary Horgan, Dean of School of Medicine, UCC; Professor Frank Murray, President, RCPI; and Leo Kearns RCPI Chief Executive, pictured at the opening of RCPI's office in the College of Medicine and Health. (Photo: Tomas Tyner, UCC)

The Royal College of Physicians in Ireland have opened their first national office outside of Dublin in UCC's College of Medicine and Health. RCPI President, Professor Frank Murray unveiled a special plaque to seal the new partnership on Thursday 3rd December 2015 in Brookfield Health Science Complex.

On the opening of the office, Professor Murray states that: "RCPI is the largest postgraduate training organisation in Ireland and is delighted to open an office in Cork. This office will act as a focal point for trainee and trainer activities. This opening represents the commitment of RCPI to develop a footprint in healthcare organisation and to optimise training and thus patient care."

Professor Mary Horgan, Dean and Head of the School of Medicine at UCC spoke at the event about the importance of continuum of education. "As a medical education faculty we must take all practical steps to oversee doctors' education and training across the continuum from undergraduates all the way to retirement. Within the School of Medicine, we have established a network and pattern that fully links to the national requirement to ensure that our doctors, clinicians and students have access to a superb quality of education regardless of where they are and what stage they are at in their careers. RCPI mirrors that philosophy, and by enshrining concrete links and working together, we will be able to ensure that the national and moral need is met, as we continue to equip doctors and other healthcare professionals with the skills and knowledge they need to care for their patients and run safe and efficient healthcare systems."

The RCPI office will be based in UCC's School of Medicine.



Minister for Health Leo Varadkar with staff and students from UCC's School of Medicine. (Photo: Domnick Walsh)

www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-621701-en.htm

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL KERRY

The Minister for Health Leo Varadkar formally renamed University Hospital Kerry (UHK) on Friday 19th February 2016. The renaming recognises the significant service that UHK provides to patients in the Kerry, North Cork and West Limerick areas as part of the South/South West Hospital Group. UHK is now formally linked to seven other acute hospitals in Cork, Waterford, and South Tipperary, as well as the Kilcreene Orthopaedic Hospital in Kilkenny.

UHK provides a range of acute services to the population of Kerry including a 24/7 Emergency Department supported by general and orthopaedic (trauma) surgery. It also provides unselected acute medical care, elderly care, obstetrics, and mental health care.

As a result of the improved networking relationships between the hospitals within the region, a number of new working arrangements with other hospitals in the Group have been implemented to provide better patient services in some areas. These include:

- Improved arrangements with Cork University Hospital for the small number of trauma patients who require rapid transfer to Cork.
- Access to the South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital for patients needing urgent care in ear, nose and throat (ENT) services.
- Outreach services provided by consultants based in Cork University Hospital in the following areas: dental, neurology, dermatology, nephrology, oncology, plastic surgery, and an STI clinic.

The university status of UHK will not only bring about improved care and services as part of the coordinated network of hospitals, but will also provide research opportunities to the staff of the hospital. This also ensures that patients will continue to benefit from the latest clinical expertise and knowledge as it flows from education and research into the hospital system.

NEWS FROM LONDON ALUMNI

A public event celebrating the contribution of Irish healthcare and academic professionals in the UK is planned for the evening of **November 29th 2016**.

The event is being organised in association with the Irish Embassy in London, and will be by invitation only. Interested UCC Medical and non-medical Alumni in the London/nearby area, as well as other health-orientated groups, or other individuals with an interest who are not UCC graduates, should contact **ainemerwick@yahoo.co.uk** or **alumnilondon@umail.ucc.ie**

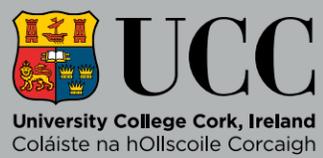
There is a growing community of medical/healthcare graduates in the UK. Alumni who would like to keep updated about UCC events in the London area can register via Log in or register - University College Cork.

Log in or register - University College Cork
View on community.ucc.ie

SAVE THE DATE

Medical Graduates Association
Annual Scientific Conference
September 8th 2016

For further information contact **MGA@ucc.ie**



Medical Graduates
Association

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