**Press Release**

**Bruno Wins UCC Science for All competition**

**28 March 2012**

Bruno Godinho, Department Anatomay & Neuroscience and School of Pharmacy, UCC emerged the winner of the 2012 Science for All competition.

Communicating scientific research to a lay audience is the aim of ***Science for All,*** the UCC postgraduate public presentation competition which took place at UCC on Wednesday, March 28th 2012.

Topics such as developing new treatments for depression and Huntington’s Disease, diagnosis of cancer, renewable energy and chronic inflammation were presented in a competition to find  the postgraduate student who can explain their work most clearly and in the most interesting way.

Bruno, who is from Portugal, spoke about his research into Huntington’s Disease, "Hunting Disease Messages in the Brain", using silent messenger RNA to treat the disease. Huntington's Disease is a rare disorder that causes death of nerve cells within the brain. The disease is caused by a defect in a gene called Huntingtin (HTT) and as a result a toxic HTT protein builds up within the brain. The disease mainly affects middle-aged individuals and the symptoms are: rapid involuntary muscle movements, loss of memory, anxiety and depression. In addition, an affected individual has a 50% chance of transmitting the disease to their children and unfortunately there is no prevention or cure available.

The other finalists were:

* **Nazmul Hossain**, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, UCC and Tyndall National Institute *“Nature Inspired Optical Biosensor for Better Future Diagnosis”*
* **Anna Iwaszuk**, Department of Chemistry, UCC and Tyndall National Institute, *“New ‘energy drink’ for Earth citizen – Hydrogen”*
* **Fionn O’Brien**, Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience, Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre and School of Pharmacy, UCC *“A new approach to overcome the barrier to successful treatment of depression?”*
* **Christine O’Carroll**, Department of Biochemistry and Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre, UCC *“Macrophages: Friend or Foe?”*

The panel of judges for the Final was chaired by Ms Anne Marie O’Sullivan, H+A Marketing+PR and also included Mr Niall Murray, Education Correspondent, Irish Examiner, Mr Trevor Holmes, Vice President for External Relations, UCC and Dr Julie O’Donovan, Cork Maths Centre and winner Science for All and Science Speak (2009).

The competition is jointly organised by the College of Science, Engineering and Food Science and the Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre, UCC.

**Additional Information on finalists and their presentations:**

Bruno Godinho, will discuss how technology he is developing might in the future be used for treatment of Huntingon’s Disease in his talk “Hunting disease messages in the brain” Bruno is from Portugal, has a BSc in Pharmacy from Escola Superior de Tecnologia da Saude de Lisboa, Portugal and an MSc in Clinical Pharmacology, University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK. Besides research he enjoys Salsa dancing, travelling, volleyball, photography and hiking.

Nazmul Hossain, from Bangladesh, will talk about his research on optical biosensors which might one day be used for diagnosis of cancer. He has a BSc in electrical and electronic engineering from the Bangaladesh University of Engineering and Technology. In his free time he loves to read about nature; its history, self-balancing, progression and probable future.

Anna Iwaszuk was born in Poland. She obtained BSc degree in Analytical Chemistry from Hogeschool Zeeland in the Netherlands and MSc in Chemical and Process Engineering from Technical University of Szczecin, Poland. Her research uses metal oxides for renewable energy applications. Anna is keen on photography, likes nature and trekking with family and friends. Fionn O’Brien from Cork will speak about the technology he is developing to overcome the blood brain barrier to improve treatment of depression.

Fionn O'Brien has a BPharm for which the pre-registration year involved 6 month periods working with Bayer Ltd in Dublin and O'Sullivan's pharmacy in Wilton before becoming a registered pharmacist (MPSI) and then returning to UCC to do his PhD. He has a keen interest in all sports, in particular GAA and squash, and plays gaelic football with Douglas GAA club and captained UCC men's A squash team to our first "A" intervarsity victory in ~30 years in February this year

Christine O’Carroll, from Tralee has a BSc in Biomedical Sciences, UCC. Christine will talk about her research which will lead to a better understanding of chronic inflammatory diseases e.g. inflammatory bowel disease. Christine enjoys sports (GAA & rugby) as well as travel and music.