

COMHIEVS Issue 20: July 2016



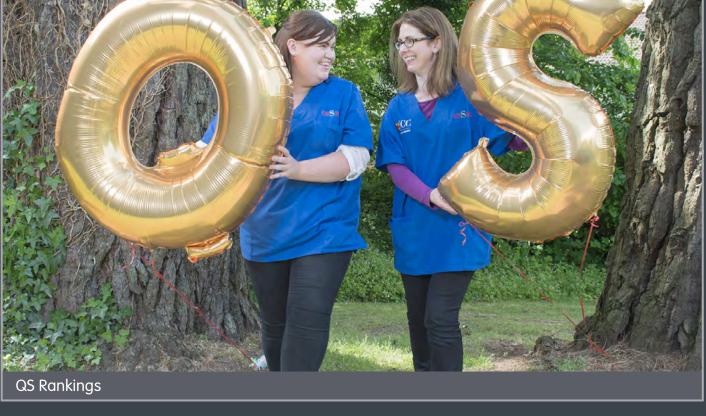
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Welcome to the latest edition of our CoMH Newsletter

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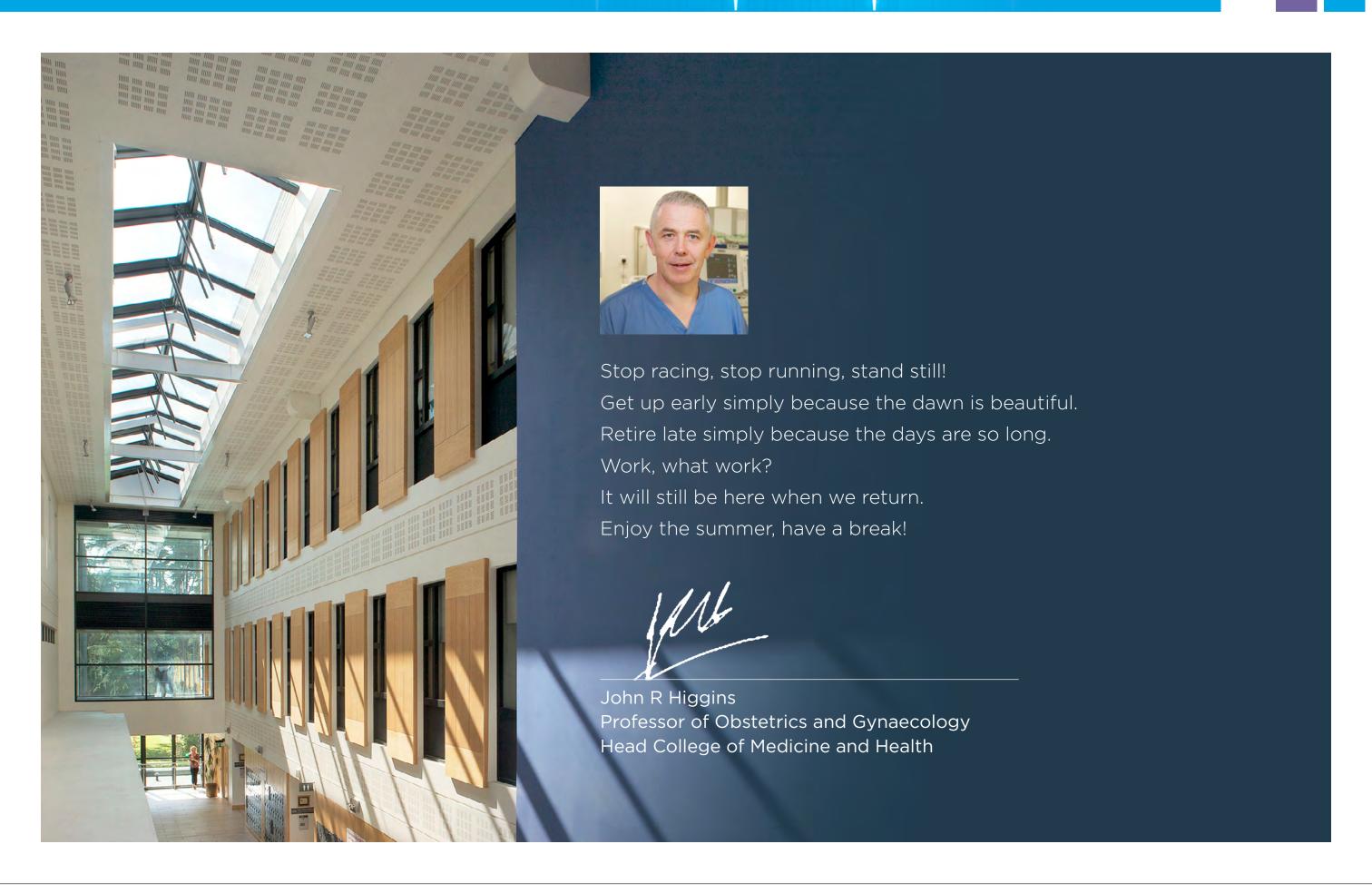














SCHOOL OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY CELEBRATE SUCCESS IN QS RANKINGS

The School of Nursing and Midwifery, UCC, recently celebrated their significant achievement of being ranked in the top 50 (34th) nursing schools in the world in the QS subject rankings.













Photos: Gerard McCarthy



The science underpinning the training of surgeons for 21st century medicine

In a study published by the Journal of Surgical Education on the 100 most cited articles in the area of surgical education, Dr Anthony Gallagher, Director of Research at the ASSERT Centre, UCC achieved the greatest number of first author publications in the top 100 and authored two of the top ten ranked articles including the number one cited paper 'Virtual Reality Training improves Operating Room Performance'.

Pictured above, Professors (I-r): Richard Satava MD, (University of Washington, Seattle), Anthony G Gallagher PhD, DSc (ASSERT Centre, University College Cork), Neal E Seymour (Dept of Surgery, Tufts University), Dana K Andersen MD (Scientific Program Manager, Division of Digestive Diseases and Nutrition, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, NIH). Invited speakers at a recently organized NIH meeting NIDDK-NIBIB Workshop, Simulation Research in Gastrointestinal and Urologic Care: Challenges and Opportunities.

www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-660236-en.html



Professor Mairead Kiely, who leads the Maternal and Child Nutrition research programme at INFANT, and is co-Director of the Cork Centre for Vitamin D and Nutrition Research.

Researchers Call for National Vitamin D Guidelines for Pregnant Women

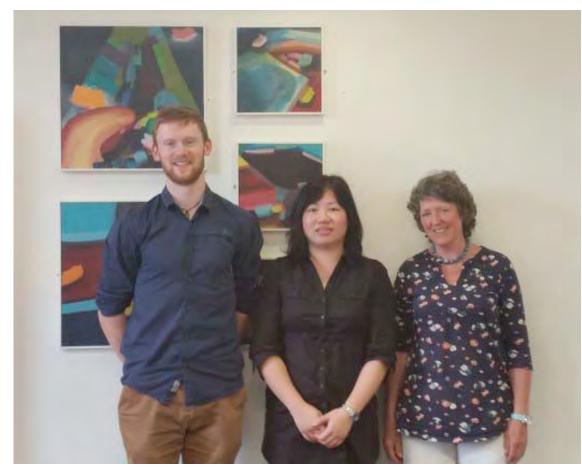
Cork study shows that 17% of pregnant women have a Vitamin D deficiency amongst 1,786 mothers surveyed at Cork University Maternity Hospital. Researchers at UCC have reported that high Vitamin D status is associated with lower risk of pregnancy complications such as pre-eclampsia and small-for-gestational age (SGA) birth.

The findings, published recently in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, come from analysis of vitamin D status in the SCOPE (Screening for Pregnancy Endpoints) Ireland study. The project aims to develop screening tests to predict and prevent the major complications of late pregnancy, such as pre-eclampsia, SGA and spontaneous preterm birth.

www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-649328-en.html



Developing an Irish-English Assessment for Adults with Prosody Difficulties



Project Team (I-r): Joseph Nyland, Dr Alice Lee, and Dr Sue Peppé.

Joseph Nyland is a third year student of Speech and Language Therapy in UCC. He is conducting a study funded by the HRB (Health Research Board Student Summer Scholarship 2016) which involves adapting an assessment of speech prosody, the Profiling Elements of Prosody of Speech Communication (PEPS-C), for the Irish-English speaking adult population. He is carrying out his research under the supervision of Dr Alice Lee, Lecturer in the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, UCC, and in association with Dr Sue Peppé, the original creator of the PEPS-C assessment.

Prosody is an umbrella term which refers to the different patterns of speech, for example, how we use intonation, rhythm and stress when speaking to convey different emotions, meanings, emphasis and attitudes. At the moment, there is no assessment for testing speech prosody difficulties in adult speakers of Irish-English. Joseph's research project aims to develop the new Irish-English version of the PEPS-C and assess 25 typical adults to obtain normative data. He will also assess 10 individuals learning English as a second language in Ireland, analyse the resultant data and compare the results between the two groups in order to determine the accuracy of the new assessment.

The outcome of this study will equip Speech and Language Therapists with a valid tool to assess speech prosody problems in adults in Ireland. This is important for both diagnosis and speech therapy planning.





Above top: Medical School Medal (I-r): Dr Michael Murphy, Dr Paula O'Leary, Dr Will Fennell and Professor Mary Horgan. Above bottom: Windle Prize (I-r): Professor Mary Horgan, Dr Liam Plant, Professor Carl Vaughan and Dr Michael Murphy.

Medical Graduation Dinner 2016

The annual Medical School Graduation Dinner took place on Wednesday 25th May 2016, two days before the Medical Conferring. On the day, various well-earned awards were distributed. This year, the recipient of the prestigious Medical School Medal was **Dr Will Fennell** in recognition of his exceptional contribution to Medicine and Society. The recipient of the Windle Prize was **Professor Carl Vaughan**.

Other awardees included:

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

Outstanding: Non Consultant Hospital Doctor: **Dr Siti Ismai**l 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









COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH CONFERRINGS

Congratulations to our most recent graduates from the College of Medicine and Health, who graduated at UCC's Summer Conferrings on Thursday 16th June 2016. The conferring address was delivered by Professor Brian O'Connell, Professor of Restorative Dentistry and Director of Postgraduate Prosthodontics at Trinity College Dublin.









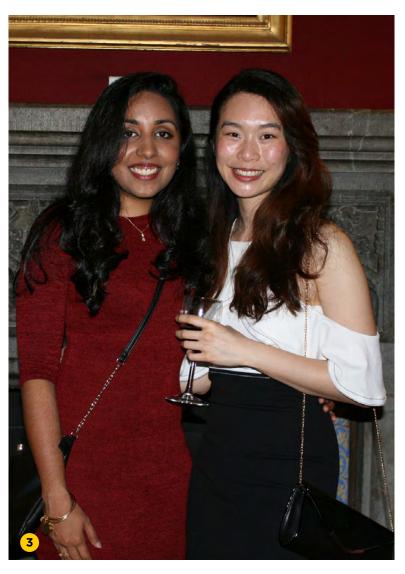
Photos: Gerard McCarthy

For more images, please visit the College of Medicine and Health's Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/774910415891922/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1011567515559543









Dental School and Hospital – International Dinner

A successful pre-graduation dinner was held in the Aula Maxima for the international graduates of Bachelor in Dental Surgery on 15th June 2016. It was attended by graduates from Canada, Singapore and Malaysia.

- 1: Margaret Awan, Farrah Awan (BDS Grad), Sarah Awan & Khalid Awan from Canada.
- 2: Kieran Moriarty (BDS Grad), Nathalie Phoon (BDS Grad), Sean Phoon (brother), Mona Phoon (Mother) from Singapore.
- 3: Roshini Vennu (BDS Grad) & Krystell Chiu (4th Year BDS) from Malaysia.



Dr Caroline McCarthy

Congratulations to Dr Caroline McCarthy, who graduated in Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (Oral Surgery) on the 16th June 2016.

Pictured above: Dr Frank Burke, Professor Brian O'Connell, Dr Michael Murphy, Dr Caroline McCarthy, Dr Christine McCreary, Dr Catherine Gallahger, Professor Martin Kinirons.





PAMEX-UCC PRIZE IN OPHTHALMOLOGY

The Pamex-UCC Prize in Ophthalmology, linked with the annual UCC prize giving ceremony, is awarded to the UCC student who has the combined highest performance for the Duke Elder exam and the ophthalmology components of their continuous assessment and written UCC exams through-out the academic year. The ophthalmology rotation is part of the mixed surgery month taken by all fourth year medical students at UCC. The rotation is coordinated by Dr Mark James and involves various tutorials, clinic and theatre attachments, as well as an end of week case report and OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examination) performed on patients in the CUH Eye Clinic. Students are graded on their performance throughout the ophthalmology rotation as well as through end of year written examinations and an OSCE. The prestigious Duke Elder examination, organised by the Royal College of Ophthalmologists and involving nearly 500 students across the UK and Ireland, is a supplemental examination undertaken by students with an interest in ophthalmology and makes up the remainder of the marks used to determine the prize winner. Such is the standard set out in this exam, even a passing grade is worth noting on the student's CV. It is therefore highly commendable that three UCC students achieved marks within the top 10% of those sitting the exam, with two students (Brian Ó Tuama and Stephen McCracken) coming joint 15th (equalling the previous UCC record of Alexandra Brito, the winner of the 2014 UCC Prize in Ophthalmology). This is the first time UCC has had two medical students making the Duke Elder's top 20 list, and UCC was the only Irish medical school to have students in the top 20 this year. The UCC Prize in Ophthalmology is kindly sponsored by Pamex and takes the form of a pocket ophthalmoscope. Congratulations to this year's winner, Brian Ó Tuama, a fourth year student in the graduate entry programme.



SCHOOL OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY - STUDENT AWARDS CELEBRATION 2016



Student recipients with Head of School, Professor Eileen Savage. (Photo: Diane Cusack)

The School of Nursing and Midwifery, UCC recently held its first Student Awards Ceremony. The School strives to promote excellence in the student experience that emphasizes personal, professional and academic development for life. It recognises the many exceptional and talented students that are engaged in various activities within and outside UCC. These awards are the School's way of acknowledging the work of these students. The eleven awards and student recipients were as follows:

Undergraduate Student of the Year

Diana Duarte De Cadogan Sarah Moloney Hazel O'Sullivan

Postgraduate Student of the Year

Michael Rean

Student Leader of the Year

Peter Kelly - Postgraduate Student Leader of the Year Zoe McHale - Undergraduate Student Leader of the year

Award for Recognition in Sport

Phil Healy

Award for Recognition in the Arts and Entertainment

Richard Pierce Evanna Kearney

Community Engagement/Activist Award

Geraldine O'Brien Sonya Greaney

www.ucc.ie/en/nursingmidwifery/news/fullstory-648870-en.html



The Gut-Brain Axis



Pictured (I-r): Dr Niall Hyland, Mr John Fitzgerald (Librarian and Head of Information Services, Boole Library, UCC), Professor Catherine Stanton.

Professor Catherine Stanton, APC Microbiome Institute & Teagasc Food Research Centre, and Dr Niall Hyland, APC Microbiome Institute and Dept. of Pharmacology & Therapeutics, have recently co-edited and published a book with Academic Press/Elsevier exploring the gut-brain axis. The book is titled 'The Gut-Brain Axis, Dietary, Probiotic, and Prebiotic Interventions on the Microbiota'.

Professor Stanton and Dr Hyland tells us a bit about their book:

The gut microbiota is comprised of trillions of bacteria with which we have evolved to co-exist. However, this relationship is not a static one, and is susceptible to change by a variety of factors including, for example, diet, age and where we live. Moreover, there appears to be a certain balance among the bacteria in our gut that confer particular health benefits. The mechanism by which this occurs is likely to involve nerves, hormones and the immune system. Emerging evidence now suggests that our gut bacteria may influence our brain, and the way we behave. This is an exciting concept in both health and disease, and raises such thought provoking questions as, could bacteria in your intestine actually affect how you feel and think? If this is indeed the case, then altering the bacteria in our gut, by consuming pre or probiotics, or through changing our diets, may positively influence our general health. The challenge, however, is to first define what it is we consider a healthy microbiome and then to discover ways in which we can successfully create an ideal balance of gut bacteria, which, through careful characterization, are most likely to positively influence brain function. This challenge, to some degree, therefore, is dependent on the application of state-of-the-art technologies in not only defining the microbiome, but also in the identification and characterization of putative probiotic strains.

In this book, we examine the application of such technological approaches in strain characterization, as well as their bioactive metabolites, and the technologies required for their successful application as tools in the development of neuroactive functional foods and probiotics. Specifically, we examine how the microbiota influences key host pathways most likely to affect brain function and behavior, and discuss the possibility of positively altering the microbiota in the context of brain function and wellbeing.

http://store.elsevier.com/The-Gut-Brain-Axis/isbn-9780128023044/



INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH ON SPEECH PROSODY IN CHILDREN WITH SPINA BIFIDA



Project Team (I-r): (front) Ms Jennifer Harte, Ms Deirdre O'Leary; (back) Dr Alice Lee, Ms Damhnait Ní Murchú, Professor Fiona Gibbon and Dr Sue Peppé. The Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences, UCC is collaborating with the HSE in Waterford Central Remedial Clinic, Cork University Hospital (CUH) and Mercy University Hospital (MUH) on a HRB-funded research project on speech prosody in children with spina bifida and hydrocephalus (SBH). The project team members include Dr Alice Lee as principal investigator, Professor Fiona Gibbon as co-applicant, Ms Jennifer Harte and Ms Deirdre O'Leary as research assistants, as well as collaborators Ms Damhnait Ní Murchú (Senior Speech and Language Therapist, Central Remedial Clinic, Waterford), Dr Olivia O'Mahony (Consultant Paediatric Neurologist in CUH/MUH), and Dr Sue Peppé (Linguist based in Scotland).

Prosody is an umbrella term that covers various aspects of speech. It centres on how variations in loudness, relative syllable-length and vocal pitch combine to enhance or change the meaning of what is said. For children with SBH, their language skills often appear strong; however, close examination of their communication skills frequently reveals difficulties in conversations and social interaction. These difficulties can persist into adulthood, reducing their opportunities to continue in education, gain employment and make friends. Previous studies have shown a link between difficulties with conversation and social interaction and problems in understanding and using prosody. Therefore, this project aims to investigate whether the communication difficulties experienced by children with SBH are related to their abilities to understand and use prosody in communication. This project is the first to investigate prosodic skills systematically in this clinical group. It will provide important new knowledge about prosody and its relationship with other language abilities in children with SBH and will inform best practice in speech and language therapy services, particularly on the assessment of prosodic disturbances. The project began in May 2016 and will run for two years.



MSc in Obstetrics and Gynaecology

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Cork University Maternity Hospital, together with University College Cork is now seeking candidates for the Masters of Science (MSc) in Obstetrics and Gynaecology commencing in September 2016.

The MSc in Obstetrics and Gynaecology is a two-year cyclical part-time programme, comprising taught modules, clinical attachments and a dissertation. Modules consist of formal teaching material, lectures and course work, individual assignments including case studies, debates and journal reviews, clinical skills teaching and practical exercises. The taught component is delivered during a weekly half-day session, and students working off-site can access this using a video-conferencing facility. The MSc programme incorporates the MRCPI curriculum and provides structured research opportunities, thus fulfilling a number of the requirements to aid career progression into higher specialist training.

The aim of the programme is to provide postgraduate education in Obstetrics and Gynaecology for clinical students in current employment, to enhance their academic understanding of the specialty and to provide thorough clinical training.

The closing date for applications is 31st July 2016 and the programme start date is 2nd September 2016.

For further information, please visit: www.ucc.ie/en/ckx12/







DOCTORAL STUDENT TRAVEL BURSARIES 2016/17

The Graduate School in the College of Medicine and Health is inviting applications for Travel Bursaries (10 awards) for students currently registered for a doctoral degree (PhD/MD/Doctorate) in the College of Medicine and Health.

The purpose of these awards is twofold:

- To facilitate students in obtaining training in support of their academic development which they cannot otherwise receive in UCC.
- To facilitate students to present at an international conference.

Applicants can apply for up to €1,000 in financial support that may be used towards the cost of travel, accommodation and registration fees for relevant training courses or conferences that are due to take place between 1st October 2016 and 30th September 2017.

Application guidelines, selection criteria and the application form can be found at:

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

The closing date for receipt of completed application forms is **Thursday 15th September 2016**.

PG ONLINE COURSES

The Graduate School of the College of Medicine & Health, UCC are delighted to announce that the following Epigeum Online Courses are available to all UCC postgraduate students:

- Communicating your Research
- Statistics for Researchers
- Research Integrity

For further information, please visit:

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









IRISH STREET MEDICINE SYMPOSIUM 2016

The Department of General Practice is delighted to be in partnership with the Adult Homeless Integrated Service, HSE South in the organisation of The Irish Street Medicine Symposium 2016.

This event will take place on Saturday 24th September 2016 in the Western Gateway Building, University College Cork.

CPD RECOGNITION:

6 External Credits	ICGP
4 CEU	INMB
GMS study leave allocation:	1 day

Conference webpage:

www.healthequity.ie/#!street-med-symposium-2016/mprrm

Registration:

www.uccconferencing.ie/product/irish-street-medicine-symposium-2016/

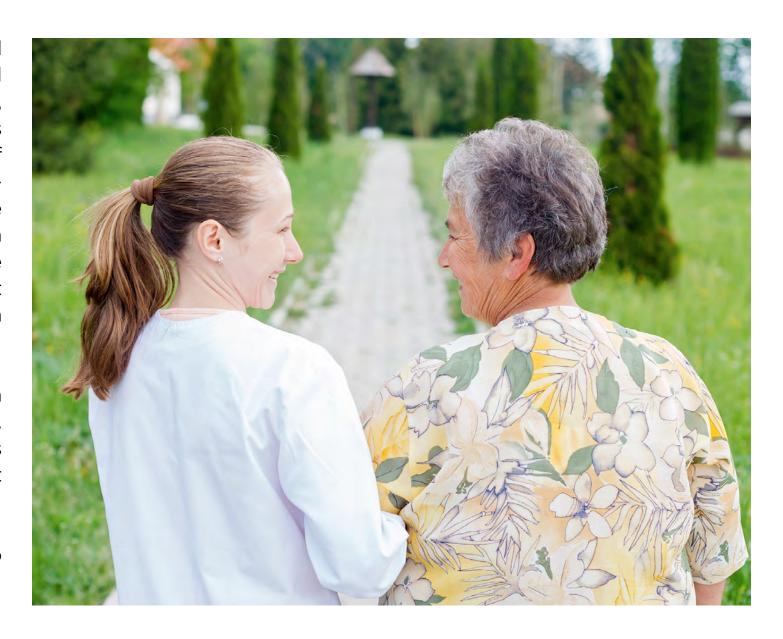


PALLIATIVE CARE ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF COMMON SYMPTOMS

This online course has been developed by clinicians and academics in Marymount University Hospice & Hospital and University College Cork led by Dr Catherine Sweeney, Lecturer Medical Education Unit, UCC. The course covers a general introduction to the principles and philosophy of palliative care and assessment and management of common symptoms encountered by people with palliative care needs. Symptoms covered include pain, dyspnoea, nausea and vomiting, constipation, fatigue and oral problems. The course is broken into a series of 17 interactive lessons that can be taken at the learners own pace. Assessment is in the form of an Online MCQ.

Creation of the module was enabled by the support of a Development Grant from the Irish Hospice Foundation. The All Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care has provided significant practical support in the development of the programme.

Target Audience: Health and social care professionals who care for patients with palliative care needs.



www.ucc.ie/en/comhcpd/courses/shortcourses/palliative/

Cork University Hospital 2nd Perioperative Study Day

Cork University Hospital (CUH) hosted its 2nd Perioperative Study Day on Saturday the 11th June, 2016. The theme of the conference was "Quality - The Cornerstone of Progressive Perioperative Practice", and this was represented throughout the day in the diverse topics presented. The conference attracted a large attendance this year including nurses and allied health professionals working in the Perioperative Environment from all regions of the country.

Speakers included Ms Mary Owens, Director of Nursing in CUH, Ms Maureen Flynn, HSE Quality Improvement Division Lead, Ms Katrina Sugrue, HIQA, Ms Anne Power, Wellness at Work, Ms Kathy Healy, Acting Clinical Facilitator, as well as Anaesthetic and Surgical colleagues in CUH. The organising committee would like to thank all involved in helping to make the day such a success, especially the presenters, Chairpersons and the Sponsors for funding the Study Day.

- 1: Professor Josephine Hegarty (UCC) and Ms Joanne Connolly (A/CNM2).
- **2:** Ms Noreen O'Leary (Theatre Operations Manager), Mr Michael G.J. O'Sullivan (Cons Neurosurgeon), Ms Lisa O Brien (Staff Nurse), Ms Lavinia McCarthy (Staff Nurse), Ms Katrina Sugrue (HIQA), Ms Teresa Wall (CNM 3).
- **3:** Ms Anna-Marie McCarthy (Staff Nurse), Ms Mary Owens (Director of Nursing), Ms Maureen Flynn (HSE), Ms Noreen O'Leary (Theatre Operations Manager), Ms Jane Shanahan (CNM1), Dr Declan F. O'Brien (Cons Anaesthetist), Ms Teresa Wall (CNM 3).
- 4: Ms Anne Power (Wellness at Work, HSE).
- **5:** Organising Committee: Ms Joanne Connolly (A/CNM2), Ms Anna-Marie McCarthy (Staff Nurse), Ms Susan Leahy (Staff Nurse), Ms Teresa Wall (CNM3), Ms Kathy Healy (A/Clinical Facilitator), Ms Toni Howard (A/CNM2).











www.cuh.hse.ie/Research-Education/Nursing-Conferences-Events/CUH-2nd-Perioperative-Study-Day-2016.html



INFORMATION AND NETWORKING EVENING



Pictured (I-r): Mr Brenton Phillips, Dr Birgit Greiner, Ms Norita Robinson, Mr Liam Howe, and Mr Finbarr Moloney.

A successful information and networking evening was recently held for members of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) and the MSc Occupational Health, UCC in the UCC Staff Common Room.

The MSc Occupational Health has recently received IOSH accreditation. The information and networking evening provided prospective students, future graduates and graduates with the opportunity to learn first-hand about the benefits and advantages of chartered membership of IOSH, as well as in which projects the institution is currently engaged. The positive implications for all graduates of the MSc programme were outlined and celebrated.

Dr Birgit Greiner, Senior Lecturer in Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, UCC, opened the evening by welcoming all guests. Ms Norita Robinson, IOSH Development Manager (Ireland), gave an update on IOSH and its place on the world stage, and reported on the current health and safety campaigns that IOSH is engaged in both nationally and internationally. Other speakers included Mr Brenton Phillips, Membership Advisor with IOSH, and Mr Liam Howe, Member of the IOSH Board of Trustees and former Head of Engineering at Coillte.



Future Professional Practice - A Step in the Right Direction

Future Professional Practice - A Step in the Right Direction, an event organised by the ePrePP project (electronic preparation for professional practice), will take place on Thursday 22nd September 2016 in the Aula Maxima, UCC. The ePrePP project is funded by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning and is a collaborative venture between UCC, TCD, IT Tralee, UL, UCD and NUIG.

The ePrePP initiative came about as a collaborative venture to build a suite of digital resources to assist students and tutors in enhancing the educational experience in clinical placements in medicine, nursing and pharmacy. The placement resources use e-portfolios to enable competency based learning supported by digital packages.

The variety of placements can affect the quality of learning and so this symposium has gathered together experts from medicine, nursing and pharmacy to provide information about how best to enhance learning in all settings.

It is aimed at students, clinical tutors and academics with presentations and workshops from international speakers and partners from other Irish institutions.

The keynote speaker is Dr David Pearson, a leading author who has written a book on 'How to succeed in placements'. Other speakers include Professor Anne Peat, Head of Nursing and until recently Pro-Vice Chancellor Teaching and Learning, University of Sheffield UK, and Professor Mahendra Patel, Royal Pharmaceutical Society UK.

Please register









INFANT Centre Research Day

The INFANT Centre invites you to attend the INFANT Research Day "Better Outcomes for Maternal, Fetal and Infant Health", on Friday 9th September 2016 at 9.00-17.30 in the Western Gateway Building, UCC.

Please note that this meeting has CPD points pending.

Lunch will be provided.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Professor Peter Von Dadelszen, University of London (Session 1: Intrauterine Growth Restriction & Pregnancy Loss)

Dr Mark Turner, University of Liverpool

(Session 2: Clinical Trials in Perinatal Populations)

Professor Alan Irvine, Trinity College Dublin

(Session 3: Immunology, Dermatology and Atopy)

Dr Richard McManus, University of Oxford

(Session 4: Innovations in Medical Engineering)

Registration is free but places are limited.

Please register



Compassionate Mindful Healthcare Conference

The School of Nursing and Midwifery, UCC and Bon Secours Hospital are jointly organising an inaugural conference, "Compassionate Mindful Healthcare – Where are we now?", on Saturday 17th September 2016 at the Brookfield Health Sciences Complex, UCC. Mindfulness is a concept which is developing great momentum in the health sector and its relationship to compassion is intrinsically motivating.

Places are limited, so to secure your name please email: mindfulnessconference@bonsecour.ie by 19th August 2016.

For further information, please click the link below:

www.bonsecours.ie/contentfiles/Bons_MindfulnessConf2.pdf





SURGEON NOONAN

The Surgeon Noonan Society, a voluntary charity run by 4th year medical students in UCC, recently celebrated exceeding their aim of €100,000 this year. An appreciation night was held to commend the fundraising efforts of all 24 members of the society as well as thanking family, friends and mentors from the School of Medicine for the huge support that they have given to the society this year. With a total of €117,000 raised, the 24 members of the Surgeon Noonan Society travelled to Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia to carry out their placement in June. All monies raised contributed directly to the partner hospitals of Surgeon Noonan.





Recent CPAP meeting for the new Postgraduate Diploma in Practice Nursing

A Postgraduate Diploma in Practice Nursing is currently being developed in the School of Nursing & Midwifery, UCC. The programme received college approval at a recent College Programme Approval Panel meeting and will be going live on September 1st 2016. The programme will be delivered through blended learning.

www.ucc.ie/en/nursingmidwifery/news/fullstory-642744-en.html

UCC Staff & Alumni Provide Essential Dental Care at Refugee Camp in Calais

Staff from the Dental School recently travelled to France to provide essential dental care for the thousands of residents of the refugee camp in Calais. Junaid Nayyar, Senior House Officer in Paediatric Dentistry, Graham Quilligan, Registrar in Restorative Dentistry and Faizan Zaheer (2009 graduate), a GDP in the UK, provided emergency dental care over a busy weekend which was organised by the Refugee Crisis Foundation www.refugeecrisisfoundation.com

They carried out extractions, fillings, offered oral hygiene advice and prescribed painkillers and antibiotics where necessary.



Dr Junaid Nayyar & Dr Graham Quilligan



2016 CINP Rafaelsen Young Investigators Travel Award

Congratulations to Dr Anand Gururajan, who was recently awarded the prestigious Rafaelsen Young Investigators Travel Award at the 2016 CINP World Congress in Seoul, Korea. Anand is a Marie-Skłowdoska Curie Fellow in the Department of Anatomy & Neuroscience, UCC where he is studying the role of microRNAs in the pathophysiology of stress-induced psychiatric disorders under the guidance of Professor John F Cryan.

The Rafaelsen award, created in 1986, was named in honour of Professor Ole Rafaelsen, a pioneer in the field of biological psychiatry, to support the attendance of young scientists at the CINP Congress. Anand was presented this award by the CINP President Professor Shigeto Yamawaki which enabled him to travel to Seoul and present his latest research which identified the microRNAs let-7b and let-7c as candidate biomarkers for major depression.



