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Welcome to the latest edition of our CoMH Newsletter

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New Head of College of Medicine & Health







For info and submissions contact Kate McSweeney Email: *kate.mcsweeney@ucc.ie* To unsubscribe from the newsletter, please email kate.mcsweeney@ucc.ie *CoMHnews* is intended for circulation among staff and students of the College of Medicine and Health, UCC. Extracts from *CoMHnews* should not be published without the permission of the administration.

College of Medicine and Health UCC





APC Microbiome Institute

Message from Head of College back to front page





Professor Helen Whelton – New Head of College of Medicine & Health



Professor Helen Whelton (BDS PhD MDPH DTLHE FFD FFPHM) will become the Head of the College of Medicine and Health, UCC from October 2017. Prior to this she was Dean of the School of Dentistry, University of Leeds, UK. She was Professor of Dental Public Health and Preventive Dentistry in the University of Leeds and held Honorary Consultant appointments with the NHS and Public Health England. She is Principal Investigator of a large EU H 2020 grant to explore the use of Big Data in dentistry, involving eight national and private insurers in six EU countries.

Helen maintained her links with Cork during her time in Leeds as an Adjunct Professor at UCC where she directs a national oral health research programme funded by the national funding agency for health research the Health Research Board.

Her research has been recognised by a number of international research awards including the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) Distinguished Scientist Award (2011),

the IADR Oral Health Research Group Award (2010) and the European Organisation for Caries Research (ORCA) Zsolnay Prize (2009). She is a member of the editorial boards of the British Dental Journal and BDJ Open.

Previously, in UCC she was Vice Head and Dean of Graduate School, College of Medicine and Health. Professor of Dental Public Health and Director of the Oral Health Services Research Centre which is a WHO Collaborating Centre. Outside of dentistry Helen has served on the board of the Irish Health Research Board. the National Obesity Task Force and the Irish Women's Health Council. She is a recent past President of the International Association for Dental Research, which is the largest global dental research organisation and based in Washington DC.

The College of Medicine & Health is looking forward to welcoming Professor Helen Whelton as their new Head.





Professor Mary Horgan (left) and Ms Kathryn Neville

Professor Mary Horgan Finishes as Dean of School of Medicine

Professor Mary Horgan finished her term as Dean of School of Medicine, UCC on 31st August 2017. Mary made a significant contribution to the School. Amongst Mary's many achievements were the growth in international markets and selecting high quality students for the School of Medicine, securing €12 million in funding for the Clinical Medical School, the work that has been done to address facilities at clinical sites and engaging with these sites; and attracting the first outpost of the RCPI to Cork.

These are but a few examples of the success Mary has brought to the School of Medicine. Mary was the first woman Dean of Medicine in the history of the University and has shown great leadership in that role. Mary continues to blaze a trail by becoming the first woman President of the RCPI and we wish her every success in that role and in all her future endeavours.





Professor Martin Kinirons Retires as Head of Dental School & Hospital

Professor Martin Kinirons retired on the 31st August 2017 as Dean of Cork Dental School and as Professor in Paediatric Dentistry. Martin, a UCC graduate, joined UCC in 2003 and during his time here built up the clinical research output in his discipline and authored over 150 peer reviewed and scientific articles. An internationally recognised authority on dental trauma, Martin has collaborated, researched and published internationally. He has acted as PI and been awarded more than 20 funded research grants over his career. By integrating the disciplines of Dental Public Health, Orthodontics, Preventative and Paediatric Dentistry, he has seen the growth of a holistic, team based approach to oral health.

In 2013, Professor Kinirons was appointed as Dean of the Dental School. His leadership style is characterised by a broad-based consensual approach, underpinned by a clear focus on his vision for the Dental School. His achievements include two successful quality reviews, increased recruitment of overseas students, progress in the funding model for the Dental School and bilateral agreements with European & North American Dental Schools. His greatest legacy will be the building of a new Dental School, for which he demonstrated tenacity and foresight by securing much needed funding by engaging with external bodies. Martin was awarded the Leadership Award at the Staff Recognition Awards in 2016.

Martin's biggest influence has been his positive impact on the morale and collegiality of the staff and students at the Dental School. This is a reflection of his vision, empathy and personal warmth. His leadership enabled and facilitated others to achieve their full potential. Martin will be greatly missed by all his colleagues and students, who wish him a happy and fulfilling retirement.



The School of Pharmacy Hosted its Second Clinical Pharmacy Summer School in August 2017

The School of Pharmacy, UCC and Future University in Egypt (FUE) signed a co-operation agreement in 2014 which has led to the development of the Clinical Pharmacy Summer School, hosted in UCC for the second time this year. The two-week Summer School was attended by 26 undergraduate students from FUE who travelled to Cork to take part in the programme. The students were accompanied by three staff members from FUE, including Professor Nabila El Maraghy, Ms Dina Khaled Aboelfadl and Mr Mahmoud Fathy Ibrahim.

The Summer School was led by Dr Margaret Bermingham and delivered by staff members in the School of Pharmacy in collaboration with colleagues from the Pharmacy Departments of Mercy University Hospital, Cork University Hospital and Boots Pharmacy. The Summer School taught clinical pharmacy through interactive workshops, small group teaching and experiential clinical visits to practice settings. The focus was on the role of the clinical pharmacist in caring for patients with chronic conditions such as cardiovascular and respiratory disease.

During the course of the two weeks, students commented on the invaluable opportunity of getting practical experience in a clinical pharmacy practice setting in hospitals and Boots community pharmacy.

www.ucc.ie/en/pharmacy/news/the-school-of-pharmacy-at-ucc-hostedits-second-clinical-pharmacy-summer-school-in-august-2017.html



Pictured above: Mr Mahmoud Fathy Ibrahim, FUE, Professor Stephen Byrne, Head of UCC School of Pharmacy, Professor Nabila El Maraghy, FUE, Professor Patrick O'Shea, President of UCC, Ms Dina Khaled Aboelfadl, FUE, and Dr Margaret Bermingham, UCC.



Pictured above: FUE group with Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr Tony Fitzgerald and UCC staff at Cork City Hall.



APC Microbiome Institute Scientists Show Surprising New Impact of Gut Bacteria on Gene Expression in the Brain



Pictured above: Dr Alan Hoban. Dr Gerard Clarke and Professor John Crvan

This research demonstrates in animal models that the trillions of bacteria within the gastrointestinal tract can influence microRNAs (miRNAs) in areas of the brain, such as the amygdala and prefrontal cortex that are involved in anxiety and fear-related behaviours. These miRNAs, which can regulate gene expression, may then act 'upstream' of our gut microbes to fine tune physiological processes that are fundamental to the functioning of the central nervous system.

Dr Gerard Clarke and Professor John F. Cryan, along with their PhD student Alan Hoban, used mice and rats that have either no gut microbes at all or depleted gut microbes and demonstrated that the miRNA expression profile is dysregulated in the amygdala and prefrontal cortex brain regions. The amygdala is responsible for the emotional response to fear stimuli, while the prefrontal cortex is key to higher cognitive functions and in the expression of anxiety and social behaviours.

The team was able to show that some of the miRNA alterations seen could be rescued by adding back the gut microbiome later in life. However, the team also noted a number of miRNAs that remained altered following exposure to microbes, which supports the concept of critical neurodevelopmental windows during which the gut microbiota is essential in influencing brain development.

http://apc.ucc.ie/thinking-small/

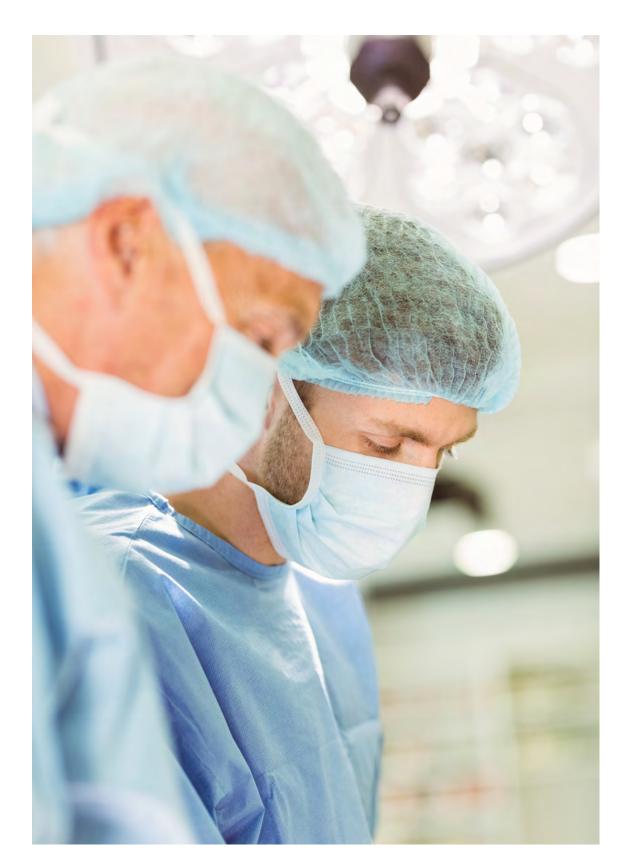


New Study Highlights Need for a Weight Loss Surgery Strategy

Data from a recent study carried out by the ESPRIT (Evidence to Support Prevention, Implementation and Translation) research group led by Professor Patricia Kearney at the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University College Cork (UCC), estimate that current weight loss surgery (bariatric surgery) provision in Ireland meets less than 0.1% of the need.

Bariatric surgery is an intervention for patients with severe obesity. The study, funded by Professor Kearney's Health Research Board Research Leader Award and published in the journal Surgery of Obesity and Related Disorders, estimates the number of older Irish adults who are potentially eligible for and likely to benefit from weight loss surgery. It calls for a strategy to develop and expand the provision of bariatric care.

The prevalence of severe obesity and type 2 diabetes (T2D) is rising, which poses a major challenge for public health in Ireland. While public health strategies focus on the prevention of obesity and lifestyle interventions, the treatment of morbid obesity needs to be recognised as a fundamental aspect in tackling the obesity epidemic. Bariatric surgery is a treatment option as it improves life-expectancy and increases the odds of diabetes remission, leading to a reduction in direct healthcare expenditure. However, bariatric surgical procedures are not commonly performed in Ireland. Only two public bariatric centres exist nationally and between them fewer than 50 procedures are performed annually, meeting less than 0.1% of the need for service provision.



www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/new-study-highlights-need-for-a-weight-loss-surgery-strategy.html





Pictured above: Dr David Henshaw, RCSI, President of Neuroscience Ireland and Professor John Cryan.



Professor John Cryan Awarded Tom Connor Distinguished Investigator Award

Congratulations to Professor John Cryan, Head of Department of Anatomy & Neuroscience, UCC and Principal Investigator in the APC Microbiome Institute, who was recently awarded the "Tom Connor Distinguished Investigator Award" from Neuroscience Ireland at its biennial meeting held in NUI Galway.

Neuroscience Ireland (NI) is Ireland's National Neuroscience Society with a membership in the region of 200 scientists and clinicians, and represents Ireland on the Governing Council of the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS). The biennial meeting serves as a multidisciplinary forum for knowledge and expertise sharing, thereby facilitating excellence in neuroscience research in Ireland. The Distinguished Investigator Award is given every two years alternating between an Irish or non-Irish based Neuroscientist. In 2013 it was renamed in honour of Professor Tom Connor, a previous President of the Society who passed away far too young that year. Professor Cryan is the first UCC scientist to receive the award.

http://apc.ucc.ie/distinguished-scientist-prize/



SLT Graduate Appointed Programme Director in USA



Dr Louise Keegan, a UCC Speech and Language Therapy Graduate, is the newly appointed Programme Director for the MSc in Speech-Language Pathology at Moravian College, Pennsylvania, USA. The programme will admit students beginning in June 2019, pending accreditation. It will use a problem-based approach, and emphasize inter-professional learning.

Louise graduated from UCC in 2008 with a BSc in Speech and Language Therapy. She completed her PhD in Applied Language and Speech Sciences at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, in 2012 (incidentally, under the supervision of Professor Nicole Müller, who is now the Head of Department in Speech and Hearing Sciences, UCC). Louise previously served as the Undergraduate Program Director of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Appalachian State University in North Carolina. Her research primarily focuses on identifying and maximizing the linguistic skills of individuals with cognitive communication disorders after traumatic brain injury. As a licensed Speech Language Pathologist, she provides Speech Language Pathology services to individuals with traumatic brain injury and thus, her research also contributes to improved treatment approaches for cognitive communication difficulties in this population. In addition to clinical research, Louise also conducts research in the scholarship of teaching and learning as related to clinical education, experiential learning and problem-based learning.

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Dr Cathal McCarthy and Dr Jane English

Congratulations to Dr Cathal McCarthy and Dr Jane English, Researchers from the INFANT Centre, who have both won an Emerging Investigator Award from the Health Research Board. The HRB Emerging Investigator Awards supports researchers in the middle of their careers to build sustainable research programmes. With an investment of €8.3 million, the HRB are rewarding 11 successful researchers for their "diversity and ability to multitask".

Dr McCarthy and Dr English will now contribute to ground breaking research towards improvements in general health, policy and practice. They will also act as mentors to the next generation of researchers.



www.infantcentre.ie/article/2017/8/21/infant-researchers-win-emerging-investigator-award



Nursing Student Visits Zambia

Congratulations to Rebecca Heinhold, 2nd Year student from the School of Nursing & Midwifery, UCC who has been accepted as a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity Ireland and will be travelling to Zambia with a group of students from around Ireland in May 2018.

Habitat for Humanity aims for a world where everybody has a decent place to live. Groups of volunteers travel internationally building homes, communities and hope. Habitat for Humanity's volunteer programme provides Zambian families with adequate shelter.

Rebecca will be working alongside a family to help build their home, giving her opportunity to make a lasting difference in the community.

Medical Graduate Recipient of 2017 Fielding Medal

Congratulations to Dr Holly Acton, UCC medical graduate of 2017, who has been awarded the 2017 Fielding Medal by the Faculty of Radiologists. This is an annual award named in honour of Dr John Fielding FFRRCSI (1904-1964, Consultant Radiologist in St. Finbarr's Hospital and The North Charitable Infirmary in Cork), Professor John Fielding (1938- 2002, Consultant Gastroenterologist in Jervis St. & Beaumont Hospitals, Dublin, and co-founder of the Irish Hospital Consultants Association), and Dr Raymond Fielding FFRRCSI (1935-2016, Consultant Radiologist in The North Charitable Infirmary, Cork, from 1964 to 1987, and in The Mercy Hospital, Cork, from 1987 to 1994). The award is made to the best medical undergraduate Radiology project during the twelve-month period since the prior annual faculty meeting in a medical school on the island of Ireland. Holly's project was entitled 'Monitoring of radiation dose using dose tracking software in a neurovascular intervention room'. The project has been written as a paper and being sent for consideration for publication.







TRUST Clinical Trial

Below, Professor Patricia Kearney, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, UCC presents plaques to acknowledge and recognise the valued contribution of a number of hospitals and their staff, who contributed to the TRUST Clinical Trial. TRUST (Thyroid Hormone Replacement for Subclinical Hypo-Thyroidism Trial), an international consortium, consists of experts in ageing, thyroid problems and vascular disease from around Europe. Professor Patricia Kearney lead the Irish trial, which concluded in April 2017.





Pictured above: Professor Patricia Kearney presenting a plaque to the Chief Medical Scientists and laboratory staff, Mercy University Hospital, to acknowledge and recognise the valued contribution of the Mercy University Hospital and its staff to the trial. Included in the photograph from UCC are Dr Fionnuala McSweeney, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, Dr Vera McCarthy, School of Nursing & Midwifery, and Ms Gemma McCarthy (Study Co-ordinator). **Pictured top right:** Professor Patricia Kearney presenting a plaque to Mr Seamus Cotter, Biochemistry Laboratory, University Hospital Waterford, acknowledging and recognising the valued contribution of University Hospital Waterford and its staff to the trial.

Pictured right: Professor Patricia Kearney presenting Dr Con Cronin of St. John's Hospital, Limerick with a plaque in acknowledgement and recognition of the valued contribution of the hospital and its staff to the trial. Left to right: Dr Elaine Walsh, Department of General Practice, Dr Con Cronin, St John's Hospital, Professor Stephen Byrne, School of Pharmacy, Professor Patricia Kearney, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health and Kathleen Lynch, St John's Hospital, Limerick.





GERALDINE O'BRIEN -SCHOOL OF NURSING & MIDWIFERY ALUMNUS

Geraldine O'Brien was born in Waterford and returned to college as a mature student at the age of 30 to complete the BSc Honours Degree in General Nursing in 2016. Since then she has travelled to Uganda three times as a volunteer nurse and currently works in the renowned Kings College Hospital in London as a staff nurse on a surgical ward that specialises in colorectal, urology and bariatric surgery. Geraldine travels with the Irish NGO Nurture Africa who have a medical Centre in Nansana, Uganda, providing primary healthcare to vulnerable children at risk of malnutrition and poverty. Along with medications, counselling and check-ups provided to adults and children with HIV, the Centre also provides antenatal care to HIV positive women to reduce the risk of mother to child transmission through education and healthcare. Nurture Africa work with local schools in regard to student sponsorship and child protection and this year launched Bia Le Beatha - Food for Life feeding programme where 600 primary school children of Kasengejje Primary School receive breakfast and lunch.

Geraldine fondly looks back on her time in UCC where she has gone from learning theory, skills and patient care to volunteering in Uganda and working in one of the busiest and 2nd largest hospital in the UK. Geraldine tells us a bit about her experience in UCC:

1. Best memory of UCC?

The one day that will always stand out is that of graduation. As a mature student nothing gives you more pride than hearing your name being called out and receiving your scroll.

2. How has your time in UCC helped you to where you are now?

I'm very lucky to work in Kings College Hospital in Denmark Hill, London and I know having trained in UCC helped with that. Attending one of the top universities in Ireland and indeed Europe will always stand to me and the training has also given me the confidence to work as a volunteer nurse in Uganda with Irish NGO Nurture Africa each Summer since 2015.

3. Advice to current students?

Go to all your lectures! Enjoy your time in UCC but also make time for friends and making memories. Happiness is the key to everything. I'd recommend volunteering to everyone, men and women from all over Ireland travel and volunteer together, with memories for lifetime. There's something about Africa that gets into your soul.



APC Microbiome Institute Hosts a Festival of Neurogastroenterology



Pictured above: NeuroGASTRO 2017 conference organisers Dr Niall Hyland, Dr Siobhain O'Mahony and Dr Gerard Clarke, APC Microbiome Institute, UCC.

APC Microbiome Institute recently hosted a festival of neurogastroenterology in UCC, culminating with NeuroGASTRO 2017, the flagship conference of the Neurogastroenterology and Motility Society. This saw an influx of over 460 delegates from all across Europe and indeed worldwide to Cork City and provided an important forum for the discussion of cutting-edge research in the company of leading investigators in the field of neurogastroenterology.

The NeuroGASTRO 2017 meeting, a well-established European event that brings together leading experts in this field, was secured by the local organisers and investigators in the APC Microbiome Institute, Dr Niall Hyland and Dr Gerard Clarke. It is the first time the meeting has been held in Ireland.

http://apc.ucc.ie/neurogastro-2017/





VTS Facilitators from UCC Visit the Lab Gallery in Dublin

On July 6th 2017, Ms Sioban Murphy, Dr Eileen Duggan, Dr Nora McCarthy, Ms Agnes Phelan, Dr Teresa Wills and Dr Mairin O'Mahony gave a presentation in the Lab Gallery, Dublin on Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS). The audience included Dublin City Council Arts officers, Curators of Education from the Dublin galleries (National Gallery and IMMA), the OPW State Art collection curators, Fred Boss from the NCCA (National Council for Curriculum and Assessment) responsible for rewriting the junior and leaving certificate Arts curriculum, Margaret O'Shea responsible for the implementation of the NCCA recommendations and Enda Carr from the PDST (Professional Development Service for Teachers). The presentation from UCC was received very positively and included lovely visuals of students engaging in VTS in both the Glucksman and Crawford galleries.



Christian Gould Joins the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health

Mr Christian Gould has joined the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health in June 2017 as Co-ordinator of the MSc Occupational Health and the Master of Public Health (MPH). Christian completed his MSc in Psychology in 2016. His thesis investigated the perceived causal strength and controllability of behavioural risk factors of coronary heart disease. Whilst studying for his MSc Christian worked for The National Autistic Society in the UK as a learning mentor with students in London universities. Before completing his MSc, Christian was a primary school teacher. The Department is looking forward to welcoming Christian to their team.





Dr John Duddy Completes Successful Term of Office as President of IMO



Dr John Duddy

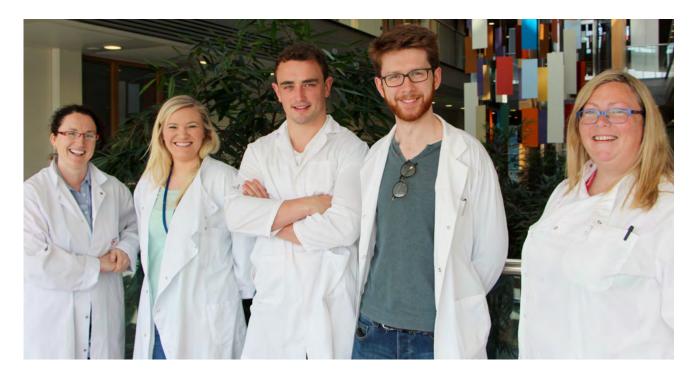
Dr John Duddy, Neurosurgery SpR at Cork University Hospital and UCC graduate, recently completed a successful term of office as President of the Irish Medical Organisation (IMO). John represented Irish doctors' views in the national media, in the Houses of the Oireachtas, and internationally at the World Medical Association General Assembly in Taipei, Taiwan. During his term of office, the IMO developed and launched a national anti-bullying Respect Charter with the HSE and Forum of Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies, to address bullying and harassment in the workplace. In addition, the Living-Out Allowance issue was resolved resulting in a pay increase for over 3,000 NCHDs. The IMO conducted research into gender issues in Irish medicine which resulted in the largest-ever response to an IMO survey. These results were released at a joint conference with the Bar of Ireland in June 2017, and are an important contribution to research in this area. John managed to combine this work with a full on-call commitment as a Neurosurgery SpR in CUH.

Pictured left: Dr Ellen O'Sullivan, Chair of Forum of Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies, Professor John Hyland, President, RCSI, Dr John Duddy, President, Irish Medical Organisation, Dr Peadar Gilligan, Chair, IMO Consultant Committee, and Ms Rosarii Mannion, National HR Director, HSE.





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Summer Internship Students 2017

Michael Vaughan, 3rd year Physiology student, and Cian O'Halloran, Physiology graduand, undertook their summer research internships at UCC's Department of Physiology. Cian joined Dr Dervla O'Malley's research group, where he focused on understanding the inter-kingdom communication between gut bacteria and the host with Dr Maria Buckley. Michael worked with Dr Mark Rae on a project entitled 'An investigation of the potential role of the Mas-related receptor D (MrgD) in G-protein-mediated calcium signalling in hippocampal neurons from a mouse model of Alzheimer's disease (3xTg-AD)'. Michael's research project is funded by the Physiological Society.

www.ucc.ie/en/physiology/news/summer-internshipstudents-2017.html



Rebecca Dennehy Attends World Anti-Bullying Forum

Ms Rebecca Dennehy from the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health recently received a College of Medicine and Health Travel Bursary to travel to the inaugural World Anti-Bullying Forum (WABF) in Stockholm. The conference was opened by Prince Carl and Princess Sofia of Sweden and was well attended by international researchers and practitioners. The focus of the conference was on bullying, harassment, discrimination and violence among children and young people. The perspective of young people is largely absent from current efforts to understand and address cyberbullying, particularly in the Irish context. Rebecca's research aims to give voice to young people and ensure that they are listened to. Rebecca gave two oral presentations at the conference firstly describing her participatory approach to designing and conducting research to conceptualise cyberbullying with post-primary school students and secondly presenting findings from this study.



If someone says something online it is like it is more than one person's opinion, it feels like there is consensus

> ioing to be no perbullying it is so easy to do like

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Other News back to front page

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Ciara Griffin

Ciara Griffin was recently awarded a HRB TMRN Summer Student Scholarship and was working in the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health this June and July. The purpose of the student scholarships is to encourage an interest in methodology research and to provide opportunities to become familiar with research techniques. Ciara assisted with core outcome set research being conducted by the project lead, Dr Karen Matvienko-Sikar, Postdoctoral Researcher in the Department of Epidemiology & Public Health.



Congratulations to Rian Power, UCC BSc Public Health student, who has contributed to a significant publication while on placement at the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Copenhagen.

The publication, entitled 'On the road to Health 2020 policy targets: Monitoring qualitative indicators. An update.', was published on 9th August 2017, and will be one of the major outputs of this division of the WHO. It will also be presented at the next meeting with their 53 Member States' Ministries of Health in September 2017.

The publication can be accessed



First MSc Audiology Graduands

The first cohort of the MSc Audiology programme have completed their studies and will graduate at UCC's Autumn Conferrings in October 2017. Here they are pictured together at class celebration.



RIAN POWER



Call for Doctoral Travel Bursaries

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

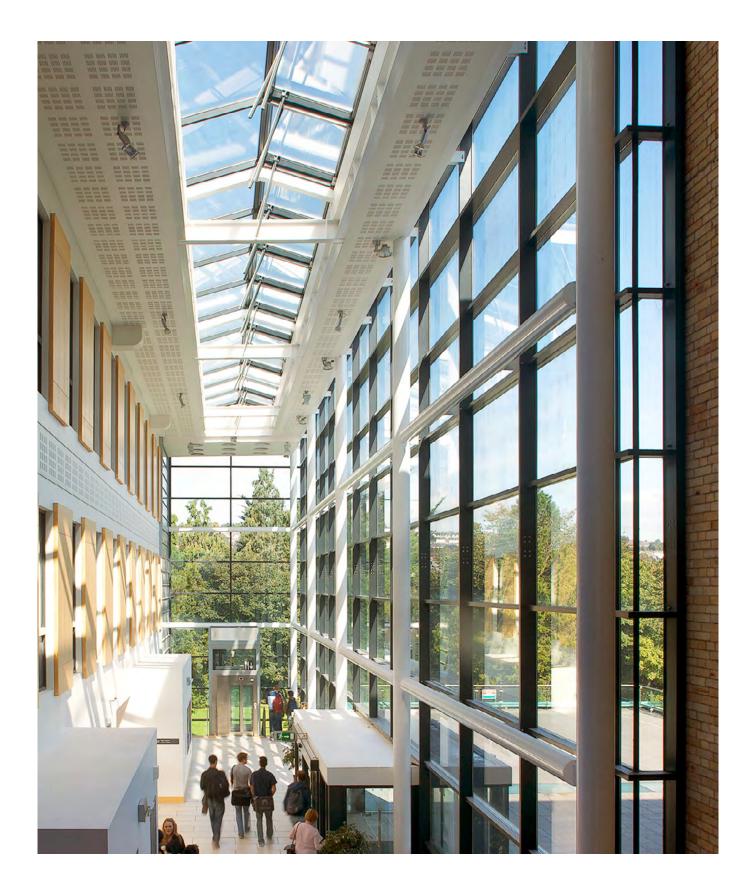
The purpose of these awards is twofold:

- To facilitate students who wish to present their work at an international conference.
- To facilitate the training of students who wish to acquire skills that are essential for their academic development, but which they cannot otherwise receive in UCC.

Applicants can apply for up to €1,000 in financial support that may be used towards the cost of travel, accommodation and registration fees for international conferences or relevant training courses that are due to take place between 1st October 2017 and 30th September 2018.

The closing date for receipt of completed application forms is **Friday, 22nd September 2017**.

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





NEW HORIZONS Research Conference

The New Horizons Research Conference, organised by the School of Medicine Research and Postgraduate Affairs Committee, UCC, is taking place on:

Thursday 7th December 2017 in the Western Gateway Building, UCC.

The Conference will highlight the diverse range of translational research in UCC and will include plenary sessions with short oral and poster presentations.

Free Registration will be available on the day.

For more information, please visit: www.ucc.ie/en/medical/research/horizon/

