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A better healthcare system through collaboration

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## Dear Colleagues

All countries are struggling to provide high quality, safe and effective healthcare at an affordable cost. Ireland is not alone!

The new South/South West Hospitals Group, with UCC as its primary academic partner, will face many challenges. The hope is that close organisational and governance structures between the hospital and the College of Medicine & Health in UCC will be mutually beneficial.

This type of fundamental change always makes those most affected feel uncomfortable. Clinicians and those who work in the hospitals will worry that the academic agenda may dominate. University academics will worry that clinical demands may swamp the academic agenda. The international evidence is that both the clinical service provided by the hospitals and the teaching, training, research and innovation that universities provide are enhanced by an integrated, collaborative approach.

We need a healthcare system that is open to constant improvement, that is always learning and is ambitious for all its patients and all its staff.

Kindest regards

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John R Higgins  
Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology  
Head College of Medicine and Health

# Taoiseach welcomes new Irish-American technology development partnership

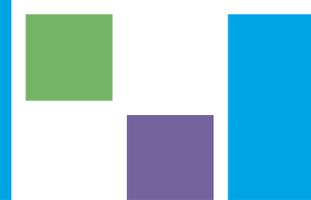


Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD, with INFANT and Waters Corporation in Washington

Speaking in Washington at an event hosted by Science Foundation Ireland to celebrate links between Irish science and US industry, the Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD, welcomed the announcement that the Irish Centre for Fetal and Neonatal Translational Research (INFANT) has signed a research partnership with Waters Corporation.

This is a significant announcement for all parties as it further enhances the growing reputation of INFANT as a world-leading perinatal research centre, while it enables Waters Corporation to reinforce its role within the obstetrics healthcare arena. The new research programme will see Waters make a meaningful investment into the Science Foundation Ireland funded INFANT Centre at University College Cork with a view to ultimately bringing ground-breaking innovations from Irish research to patients in need worldwide. In addition to the goal of impacting health sciences, the partnership with INFANT extends Waters' Irish footprint beyond its 264 employees and Wexford manufacturing plant.

[www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-462508-en.html](http://www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-462508-en.html)



## CORPORATE PARTNERS

The College of Medicine and Health at University College Cork is proud to announce corporate partnerships with Pfizer, Laya Healthcare and Boston Scientific. These new corporate partnerships highlight the importance of fostering collaborations between academia and industry in Ireland. Funding for these partnerships will focus on delivering the mission of the College of Medicine and Health in research and innovation, resulting in better outcomes for patients.



## Pfizer

“Pfizer are delighted to be the founding partner of the UCC College of Medicine and Health. The partnership enables us to build strong links with UCC, a leading academic centre close to key Pfizer operations.”

Dr Paul Duffy, Vice President, Pfizer

## LAYA Healthcare

“UCC’s commitment to healthcare and making families and communities healthier emulates our commitment to looking after our members always, ensuring the best possible care pathways to promote successful outcomes. Laya Healthcare is delighted to join the UCC College of Medicine and Health in its pursuit of playing a leading role in the advancement and improvement of healthcare in Ireland.”

Dónal Clancy, CEO, Laya Healthcare

## Boston Scientific

“Advancing research and innovation for the betterment of patients’ health is at the core of Boston Scientific Cork and we are delighted to collaborate with the College of Medicine and Health at UCC to help further pursue this goal. The College has a long and proud reputation for excellence in standards and leadership and provides a stimulating setting for students and academics to research and develop healthcare solutions and effect change.”

Tom Mangan, Vice President of Operations for the Cork facility, Boston Scientific

## Launch of New e-brochure for Post Graduate Programmes



The School of Nursing and Midwifery hosted a very successful Post Graduate Education Open Evening and launch of their new e-brochure for post graduate programmes at Brookfield Health Sciences Complex. Lecturers and programme co-ordinators were available to meet with prospective students from across the health care spectrum. It was a wonderful evening with a great atmosphere. Thanks to all who participated.

Our new e-brochure is available here:

[www.ucc.ie/en/nursingmidwifery/courses/postgrad/](http://www.ucc.ie/en/nursingmidwifery/courses/postgrad/)

Pictured at the Open Evening and Launch: Conor Quinlan (Post Grad Student), Helen Forbes (Executive Assistant), Moira O'Donovan (Co-ordinator Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT)), Anna O'Leary (Co-ordinator CPD), Dr Margaret Landers (Co-ordinator Oncology Nursing Programme), Dr Alice Coffey (Director Post Graduate Education), Professor Eileen Savage (Head of School), Teresa Wills (Co-ordinator Gerontology), Judy Fitzgerald (Student), James O'Mahoney (ANP Co-ordinator/Lecturer CBT), Dr Mary Hughes (Children's and General Nursing Programme).



**COLLEGE OF  
MEDICINE AND  
HEALTH**

MSc in End-of-Life  
Healthcare Ethics



# MSc in End-of-Life Healthcare Ethics

September 2014 – July 2016  
(2 days monthly + online learning)

The deadline is approaching for applications for the world's first Master's degree in End-of-Life Healthcare Ethics which begins next September.

Course Director, Dr Joan McCarthy, of the College of Medicine and Health at UCC, tells us a bit about the course:

“An understanding of the ethical challenges at the end-of-life is central to good end-of-life care because lack of knowledge and uncertainty about ethical obligations and responsibilities, lack of confidence in expressing nagging doubts and fear of litigation and professional accountability can and do lead to oversight, error and poor practice.”

For further information, please see:

[www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-467714-en.html](http://www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-467714-en.html)



## PROFESSOR HENRY SMITHSON



Henry Smithson has recently taken up the position of Professor of General Practice within the Department of General Practice in UCC. He brings experience gained through over twenty five years in clinical practice in both rural and urban settings and from the development of networks of research practices in the UK. He is a keen observer of the unintended consequences of health service reform, particularly in the UK and hopes to provide evidence to inform the changes being considered in Ireland. He moved to Cork because of the strength of general practice locally and the opportunities offered by joining an expanding university department.

Coming from general practice, it is not surprising that he has worked on a broad clinical range of studies including asthma, diabetes, incontinence of urine, vit D supplementation in infants and medicines adherence but his particular interest is in how people manage their long term conditions with epilepsy as the main exemplar. He is also working with the Irish charity Epilepsy Ireland to set up a national registry of epilepsy related death reported by families, doctors, nurses and coroners. The objective is to better understand the behavioural circumstances leading up to death. There is an opportunity to work with the National Register of Suicide and Self Harm to consider extending the reach of the registries to general practice.

General practice is a rich teaching environment with many committed tutors in a variety of premises with the practices offering a wide choice of clinical experience in settings that offer a range of health care. Students can gain invaluable clinical experience dealing with multi-morbidity, behavioural aspects of medicine and medicines management. With increasing sub-specialisation in hospital practice, general practice presents students with a rare opportunity to see the bio-psycho-social aspects of general medical practice across a range of ages and conditions.



Patrick Cotter and family at the spring graduations

## First Student Graduates from Doctor of Nursing Programme

Patrick Cotter, an Advanced Nurse Practitioner in Emergency Nursing at Cork University Hospital is the first graduate of the Doctorate of Nursing Programme at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, University College Cork.

[www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-461920-en.html](http://www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-461920-en.html)



Dr Éanna Falvey and family at the spring conferrings

## Dr Éanna Falvey receives his PhD

Dr Éanna Falvey, Team Doctor to the Irish Senior Rugby Team and the Irish Amateur Boxing Association High Performance Unit receives his PhD.

The title of Dr Falvey's PhD is "An Examination of the Role of Sports and Exercise Medicine Specialist in Ireland - from Epidemiology to Treatment". This is the first work of its kind in Ireland examining issues around epidemiology, screening, the evidence base for treatment and the impact of injury prevention measures as they apply to the specialist in Sports & Exercise Medicine.

<http://www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-461924-en.html>



## MSc Clinical Pharmacy Graduates

Congratulations to our MSc Clinical Pharmacy Graduates, Class 2011-2013, who have celebrated their achievement during the Spring Conferring Ceremony!

Above (l-r): Dr Teresa Barbosa (MSc Clinical Pharmacy Course Coordinator), Enda Molloy, William Stack, Marcello Bruno, Amelia Shorten, Nicola Shannon, Emily Ahern and Prof. Stephen Byrne (Head of School of Pharmacy and Course Director MSc in Clinical Pharmacy). Graduate in absentia from Uganda, Rajab Kalidi and Freddy Kitutu, and from United Arab Emirates, Ghada Al Tajir

Below: Nicola Shannon receives the medal for achieving the highest aggregate score in the programme for class 2011-2013 from UCC President, Dr Michael Murphy.



## MSc Pharmaceutical Technology and Quality Systems Graduates

Congratulations to our recent MSc in Pharmaceutical Technology and Quality Systems graduates!

This year, eight people graduated from the programme. Six students, Jurgen Mifsud, Claire O'Sullivan, Marie McDonnell, Aisling Gilligan, Stephan Henken and Stephen Keane were conferred with a Masters in Pharmaceutical Technology and Quality Systems. Two students were awarded Postgraduate Diplomas. All graduates are in full time employment within the Pharmaceutical Industry.

[www.ucc.ie/en/pharmacy/news/fullstory-456465-en.html](http://www.ucc.ie/en/pharmacy/news/fullstory-456465-en.html)



Opposite (l-r): Stephan Henken, Clare O'Sullivan, Aisling Gilligan, Marie McDonnell and Jurgen Mifsud conferred with a Masters in Pharmaceutical Technology and Quality Systems pictured with Dr Brendan Griffin, Course Director.



Gillian Leonard and Una McAuliffe



## MPDH

Three students graduated with honours from the masters programme in dental public health (MDPH).

**Dr Úna McAuliffe** is in general practice in Cork and undertook the degree to support her understanding of evidence based healthcare, research methods for population health research, and the study of the determinants of health and oral health. Una was recently awarded the Dental Health Foundation sponsored International Association of Dental Research (IADR), Irish Division Public Dental Health and Health Promotion Prize, based on her MDPH dissertation.

**Dr Gillian Leonard** is working with the HSE in County Meath, Gillian focused on oral health preventive programmes for pre-school children and the training requirements of public health nurses and speech and language therapists in promoting oral health. Gillian is not only a Master but also became a very proud Mum during the programme.

**Dr Tarik Nazer** (who graduated in absentia) is now practicing in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia where he has opened his own mother and child health centre, and is visiting lecturer to a number of Universities in the Kingdom. Tarik has a particular interest in regulation compliance and also in ASD and the impact on oral care.

The MPDH programme is a 12 month full time course which provides training at Masters Level in Dental Public Health. The course provides modules in all aspects of Dental Public Health including Epidemiology and Health Research Methodology. It is an innovative course designed to offer multi-disciplinary academic and experiential development. The course is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to lead and support the development of dental public health nationally and internationally.

Pictured left, back row (l-r): Professor M Kinirons, Una McAuliffe, Gillian Leonard and Dr F Burke. Front row (l-r): Professor Ivan Perry, Professor H Whelton, Dr M Harding and Dr Noel Woods.



# UCC Pharmacy Society wins Best Academic Society Award

Congratulations to the Pharmacy Society for winning the Best Academic Society Award.



Pictured (l-r): Ciaran O Hara, Niall Hally, Alice Nolan, Aoife Fleming, Jason Hayes, Maria Wilson, Suzanne Goggin, Kyle Malone and Tommy Ahearne.



Photographed were Siobhan O'Connor, Director of UCC's Global eHealth Scholarship with Miss Laura Daly, winner of UCC's Global eHealth Scholarship and Professor Anita Maguire, VP of Research at UCC. Photo by Tomas Tyner, UCC.

# Pharmacy student wins UCC's inaugural Global eHealth Scholarship

Laura Daly, a 2nd year pharmacy student from Fermoy, has won UCC's inaugural Global eHealth Scholarship for a concept that will come as a welcome boost in the fight against malaria.

Miss Daly was awarded the scholarship for a research project that sought to use mobile technology to collect data on paediatric malarial medication in Africa and to use this dataset to predict future areas of malarial drug resistance. Laura will receive €1,000 in funding to implement her idea by participating in a large EU-funded mobile health research project called 'Supporting LIFE' currently underway in Malawi, Africa. She will get to work with a large multidisciplinary team of researchers from the Department of Accounting, Finance and Information Systems at UCC, the University of Oxford, Lund University, Sweden and Mzuzu University, Malawi.

[www.ucc.ie/en/pharmacy/news/fullstory-465884-en.html](http://www.ucc.ie/en/pharmacy/news/fullstory-465884-en.html)



## CF Matters presents 8 abstracts at National CF Conference



Dr Grace O'Callaghan

The Cystic Fibrosis Research Team from UCC/Cork University Hospital presented a total of 8 abstracts (6 posters and 2 oral presentations) at the recent National Cystic Fibrosis Conference in Killarney.

### Dr Grace O'Callaghan

Dr Grace O'Callaghan was awarded 1st place in the Basic Research Category, for her work 'Investigation of the interplay of the Cystic Fibrosis lung-gut axis in the regulation of inflammation of intestinal epithelial cells'. This work showed that the Inflammatory changes in the CF lung can increase pro-inflammatory cytokine production in the gut. This mechanism may regulate intestinal inflammation independent of active CF lung infection. The research was supervised by Professor Barry Plant and funded by the FP7 Project CFMATTERS under grant agreement n°603038.

### Stephanie English

I have always enjoyed the concept of research, that you can perhaps contribute in some way to a bigger picture that interests you. Ever since my first research experiences in undergraduate Biomedical Health Sciences, I have been keen to gain new skills in research and learn the ropes. One of many areas that has always fascinated me is Cystic Fibrosis, a well-known disease in Ireland with a well-established clinical picture. However, the demography of patients with CF is changing and with newfound

longevity comes the reality of novel, poorly understood extra-pulmonary co-morbidities. These complications hold marked significance to the CF disease burden and interest me greatly.

Over the past year, I am grateful to have established on-going research in the area of Cystic Fibrosis related Acute Kidney Injury, as the latter becomes an emerging reality in the ongoing CF disease process. This research has been enthusiastically supported and cultivated by the Departments of Renal and Respiratory medicine at CUH, notably Dr Liam Plant and Dr Barry Plant. Our research was recognised at the recent National Cystic Fibrosis Meeting in Killarney this year and we are excited to take our findings for oral presentation at the European CF Meeting in Gothenburg, Sweden this coming June. The UCC School of Medicine has also contributed greatly to this research, affording me a Summer Undergraduate Research Award in 2013 which fuelled interest in the nascent project. I would like to thank the School of Medicine and Research Committee, and specifically Dr Colm O' Tuathaigh, for their invaluable research guidance and travel bursaries over the past year.

Finally, I would advise any student with a keen interest in research to sow the seed early and get affiliated with an area that interests you. There is so much to gain and learn on a multitude of levels.



Stephanie English

## The Impact of Stillbirth on Consultant Obstetrician Gynaecologists



The first research study into the impact of stillbirth on Consultant Obstetricians has recently been published in BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. This study was carried out by Mr Daniel Nuzum & Dr Keelin O'Donoghue based in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, UCC at Cork University Maternity Hospital. This study highlights that it is time to acknowledge the human and professional impact of stillbirth on Consultants. It reveals a very human insight into the personal burden of stillbirth. It also highlights awareness on the part of consultants of what bereaved parents experience when faced with this tragedy.

[www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-462242-en.html](http://www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-462242-en.html)



## AUDGPI Annual Scientific Meeting

Association of University Departments of General Practice in Ireland (AUDGPI) Annual Scientific Meeting was held at the Western Gateway Building, UCC.

The 2014 meeting was the Association's 16th scientific conference and saw close to 100 delegates attending.

The meeting was addressed by Minister Alex White, Minister for State, Department of Health & Children with responsibility for Primary Care as well as Professor Bob Bollinger Head of the Centre for Global Health Education at Johns Hopkins Medical School.

There were 50 scientific papers presented and approx. 40 posters. Topics addressed included cardiovascular disease; diabetes; child health; healthcare of the elderly; prescribing; clinical decision making; and the patient's perspective. There was also sessions relating to education at all levels from second level (schools) to the continuing professional development of general practitioners. The workshops included using data from GP clinical information systems for research; career structures; online learning for health professionals; and evidence based medicine.

[www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-462238-en.html](http://www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-462238-en.html)



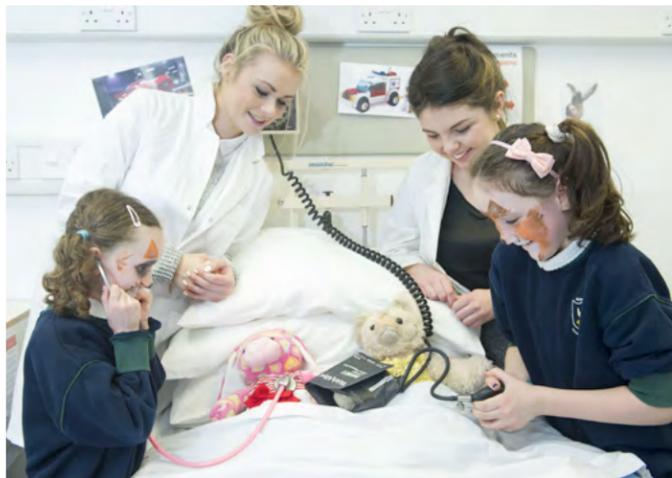
Above: Minister Alex White, Minister for State, Department of Health & Children with responsibility for Primary Care, Professor Colin Bradley, UCC and Professor Anne Mac Farlane, University of Limerick at the AUDGPI Conference.



## Teddy Bear Clinic

The Medical Society, School of Medicine, University College Cork, ran its Teddy Bear Clinic in Brookfield Health Sciences Complex with great success. The event was organised for primary school pupils, who were allowed to bring their own “sick” Teddy bears to serve as patients, while medical students from UCC acted as their doctors. The Teddy Bear Clinic strives to grant young pupils the opportunity to interact with medical professionals in a simulated clinical environment to alleviate the “white coat anxiety” often associated with visiting doctors.





More photos from the Teddy Bear Clinic.  
(Pictures: Gerard McCarthy)



## Planning on taking electives or further training in London?

For those who are interested in taking electives or further training in London, there is an active UCC Medical Alumni Group in London that organises UCC social and networking events. The most recent event in London took place April 29th 2014. Please view link for information about the UCC Alumni events and other activities in this region:

[www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=2057459&mostPopular=&trk=tyah&trkInfo=tas%3Aucc%20lon%2Cidx%3A1-1-1](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=2057459&mostPopular=&trk=tyah&trkInfo=tas%3Aucc%20lon%2Cidx%3A1-1-1)

UCC London Alumni Group's facebook page can be accessed here:

[www.facebook.com/UCCLondonAlumni](http://www.facebook.com/UCCLondonAlumni)

Above (l-r): Dr Áine Merwick, UCC London Alumni PRO, Dr Michael Murphy, President, UCC and Dr Maurice Clancy. Below: Dr John Riordan and Karen Kelly.



## 'It's a Beautiful World' Exhibition

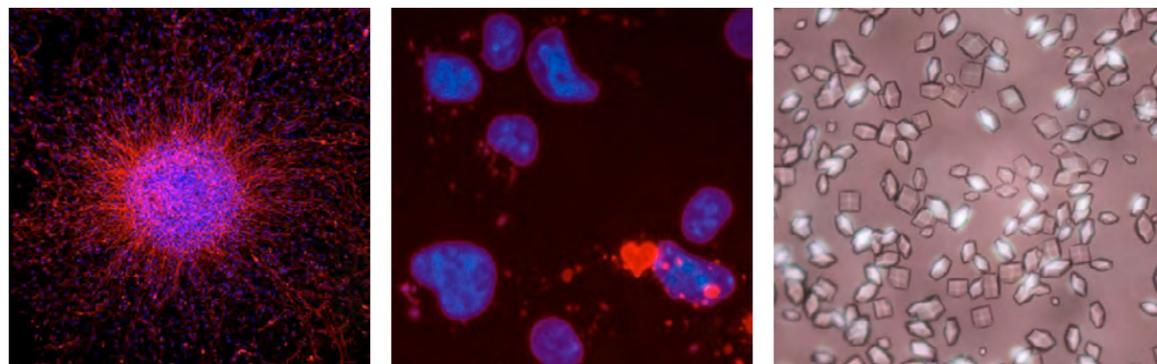
The recent 'It's a Beautiful World' exhibition in the Jennings Gallery was an extremely popular exhibition, attracting a large number of visitors from within the university and beyond. Visitors included a delegation from Chile hosted by Marian McCarthy at Ionad Barra, and Glasheen Boys' School.

The exhibition, - 'a Celebration of the Beauty of Science and Nature' featured a range of striking images from the World of Medicine and Science including electron-microscopy images, anatomical and botanical drawings, digital art, and natural history. For some artists, 'Beautiful World' was represented by an elderly couple leaving hospital or the smile on the face of a man in Zambia being able to hear for the first time in 20 years. The artists were all staff and students from the College of Medicine and Health and UCC Research Groups and Teaching Hospitals. For many artists, it was their first exhibition.

Dr Bridget Maher, Director of Jennings Gallery commented:

'This is the first time an exhibition like this has taken place and is another first for UCC. Bringing together scientists and clinicians is what Tomorrow's Medicine is all about. Coming together on a creative project has been hugely rewarding and enjoyable. We will be doing this again!'

View 'It's a Beautiful World' images and artists on Jennings Gallery website: [www.ucc.ie/en/jennings-gallery/currentexhibition/](http://www.ucc.ie/en/jennings-gallery/currentexhibition/)



Images: Top, Conleth and Maebh Murphy; Centre left, Dave Sheehan and Tommie McCarthy; Centre right, Frank van Pelt; Below from left, 'Becoming Neurons' - Louise Collins, Yvonne Nolan; 'Au Coeur de la Cellule Callout Box' - André Toulouse; Stephanie Carmody and Dave Sheehan. (Pictures: Gerard McCarthy)



## Celebrate your Autism

The Jennings Gallery was full of excitement and laughter on the Opening Night of 'Celebrate your Autism' Exhibition.

Teachers, families and friends gathered in the Jennings Gallery to celebrate the creativity of children on the autism spectrum. Artworks include quilting, ceramics, drawings and paintings.

'Celebrate Your Autism' was organised by the Regional Autism Team for Cork and Kerry as part of International Autism Awareness Day. The exhibition is the result of five workshops facilitated by local professional artists, as well as pieces created by children independently and in clubs and schools across Cork city. The project was coordinated by Maria Gleeson, Speech and Language Therapist (Regional Autism Team) and artist Conall Carey.





More photos from the 'Celebrate Your Autism' exhibition opening night. (Pictures: Gerard McCarthy)





## Meetings and Presentations



During the last number of months we continued to inform, consult and engage with staff and key external stakeholders on the College of Medicine and Health, South/South West Hospital Group and the Academic Healthcare Centre. Here are some of those whom we met.

20 March 2014	Presentation at IMSTA's Annual Conference
28 March 2014	SIREN Programme Steering Group Meeting
28 March 2014	Meeting with Board and management team of HRB
2 April 2014	Presentation at the 10th Irish National Healthcare Conference
2 April 2014	Meeting with executive committee of SFI
4 April 2014	Visit to South Tipperary General Hospital
10 April 2014	Presentation at the Perspectives in Healthcare Speaker series, GSK Strategic Advisory Group, Department of Health, Mayo Clinic and Enterprise Ireland
15 April 2014	Presentation to UCC Governing Body, held in Waterford