



# CoMH eNEWS

College of Medicine and Health, UCC



University College Cork, Ireland  
Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

Issue 30 | October 2018

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Stamp of approval



Scholarship



Conference



Publication



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For info and submissions email: [molly.tynan@ucc.ie](mailto:molly.tynan@ucc.ie)

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Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the autumn edition of the College of Medicine and Health Newsletter. Our students returned for the start of term, bringing with them a burst of activity and the atmosphere of a fresh start. I want to use this opportunity to look into our future and our vision for the College of Medicine and Health.

In my first edition of this Newsletter last year, I promised to consult all members of the College staff on the refreshment of our strategy. In the last months, I met many of you and received valuable inputs from all of our Schools and Research Centres. I now want to extend the invitation to all our staff and stakeholders. I encourage you to participate in the online workshops that will take place this November and early 2019. Look out for more information in this newsletter.

I want to congratulate our new senior appointees who will help shape the future of the CoMH. We are introducing all of them in detail in this newsletter.

We are very proud of the research we do here in CoMH and it is important that we communicate our success stories. The College Research Anthology launches on the 25th October and presents short accounts of the outcome and impact of some of our past CoMH research on people's lives. As we grow our research portfolio in CoMH we expect to see even greater strides towards improving health and quality of life for the benefit of patients and the population at large.

Recognising past and ongoing successes, An Post issued new stamps commemorating INFANT and APC Microbiome Ireland for their outstanding research in predicting neonatal

seizures and fighting superbugs, respectively. I want to congratulate both institutes and all contributing researchers and staff for their achievements.

This summer, a number of events and conferences were organised by our staff and researchers, helping us to advance important topics in research and sharpen the profiles of our Schools and the College. For example, the 19th Nursing Ethics Conference has been held in Ireland for the first time. It highlighted worldwide and national interest for highly relevant topics such as the impact of globalization on everyday clinical practices of nurses.

I also want to congratulate all of our 2018/19 Quercus Scholars as well as Sinead Flanagan and Sinead O'Riordan, the first Anu Undergraduate Gold and Scholar Medal winners in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. I appreciate the effort every School puts into providing the best possible education for our students and welcome the recent additions to our portfolio: the postgraduate programmes in Diagnostic Radiography and Physiotherapy; Health Professions Education; Dementia; Advanced Nursing Practice; the postgraduate certificate in Clinical Trials as well as the undergraduate programme Medical & Health Science and two new L7 diplomas.

I wish you all a great and successful term!

**Professor Helen Whelton**

Head of College of Medicine and Health  
University College Cork

# A Glance at Professor Helen Whelton's Recent Activities



## Launch of GP report

On 14th September, Professor Whelton attended the launch of the Eating Disorder Centre Cork report. The report was crucially important for the EDCC in an effort to maintain high standards of performance and excellence. An Tánaiste Simon Coveney TD, Minister of State for Mental Health & Older People Jim Daly TD, Lord Mayor of Cork City Cllr. Mick Flynn and Mayor of Cork County Patrick Murphy were all in attendance at the event which took place in the Western Gateway Building, UCC.



## Opening Address at INECC2018

The International Nursing Ethics Conference 2018 took place on the 1st-2nd of September. At the opening of the conference, Professor Whelton welcomed both delegates and the distinguished panel of speakers in her address.

Photo by Ger McCarthy



## IADR Conference

In July, Professor Whelton attended the International Association for Dental Research (IADR) General Session in London where she gave a presentation titled "Global Consensus on Unacceptable Fluorosis to Inform Fluoride Intake Decisions". Here she is pictured with the past Executives of the IADR.

## Honorary Conferring Ceremony



On 13th September, Professor Whelton attended the Honorary Conferring ceremony of Jim Dennehy, co-founder of the Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind charity. Jim was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws for the impact his charity has had on changing lives for the visually impaired.



## WORKING TOWARDS A SHARED VISION

Professor Helen Whelton invites staff and stakeholders to participate in workshops for the College of Medicine and Health' Strategic Plan 2018-2022.

Sharing a vision and identifying common goals can be a powerful engine to drive the College of Medicine and Health, enhancing its standing globally and to overcome obstacles and improve the daily life of staff, students and patients.

To develop a vision that is truly shared, Professor Helen Whelton invites staff and stakeholders to participate in two online crowdsourcing workshops. Participants can anonymously share their ideas on a designated safe online-platform, rate and comment upon

the ideas of others, and co-create consensus, insight and solutions. The outcomes of these workshops will inform the Strategic Plan 2018-2022 and affect the College's vision, goals and actions.

Clever Together, experts in crowdsourcing, facilitate the anonymous workshops, analyse the discussions, and collate the results. The project team ensures a fair and transparent process. The project team consists of representatives from across the College's units and is chaired by the Head of the School of Pharmacy, Professor Stephen Byrne.

Participants will receive invitations for the first workshop this November.

# Report Launch for the Eating Disorder Centre Cork



**Pictured above:** An Tánaiste Simon Coveney TD and Professor Helen Whelton at the launch of the report.

The Eating Disorders Centre Cork (EDCC), Community Work Department, HSE and the Department of General Practice - UCC, came together to launch the findings of the launch report for the EDCC. The author of the report is Dr Cormac Sheehan with the UCC Department of General Practice and co-author Grace Kelly. This report was a crucially important report on the Eating Disorder Centre in Cork. An Tánaiste Simon Coveney TD, Minister of State for Mental Health & Older People Jim Daly TD, Lord Mayor of Cork City Cllr. Mick Flynn and Mayor of Cork County Patrick Murphy were all in attendance at the event which took place in the Western Gateway Building, UCC. The report not only communicated the mainly positive response of clients to the service provided by the EDCC, but it also helps provide a forward focus towards enhancing future service delivery. The EDCC originated from a dedicated group of people whose purpose was to reach out with a first-class service to people, their families and carers, who suffer with an eating disorder. Therefore, the goal of the report is to maintain high standards of performance and excellence, both within the area of clinical service, and in the organisation. The report shows that there is a long way to go towards achieving that goal and building on the findings of the report.

Key Findings in the report were that the EDCC offers support to people from the ages of 12-60, living in Cork City and county, and as

far as Waterford, Kerry and Tipperary. People attend weekly or fortnightly, but the majority wish to attend twice a week. Currently there 80 people attending the service. Clients are 95% satisfied with the service. The clients stated that they encountered a number of ongoing challenges in recovering from their eating disorders. These included - but were not limited to - uncertainty around diagnosis, comorbidities, financial burden, hospitalisation, underemployment, unemployment, loss of earnings and absenteeism from work, college or school. People using the service are often exposed to financial burdens with 50% using the service earning less than €12,000 per year. One third of those using the service are between the ages of 15-20. Further research is needed to explore the connection between sudden changes in eating behaviours (for example not eating meat or other restrictions) and development of an eating disorder. This report tentatively suggests that people aged 15-20 or younger who change their eating behaviours should seek advice and support when doing so, and that parents should also seek advice on sudden changes in eating behaviours. What is needed to deal with diagnosis is integrated care, in line with HSE policy, however, this needs to be implemented and may need further invested in the future. There are very limited resources for those seeking help in relation to eating disorders with 1,800 new cases per year.

## 19th Nursing Ethics Conference - Gender, Justice and Care



**Pictured (l-r):** Dr Joan McCarthy, Award recipients Miriam Kasztura and Alice Leahy, Dr Dolores Dooley and Professor Ann Gallagher.

The 19th International Nursing Ethics conference entitled 'Gender, Justice and Care' was held in the Brookfield Health Sciences Complex by the School of Nursing and Midwifery on 1st - 2nd September. The conference focused on highly relevant and current topics such as gender and care ethics, social justice and globalization which have an increasing impact on the everyday clinical practices of nurses and midwives working in both acute and community settings. A distinguished panel of speakers from both Ireland and abroad were involved with Professor Hilde Lindeman from Michigan State University, USA, Professor Helen Kohlen from the University of Vallendar, Germany and Professor Marsha Fowler from the University of Surrey, to name but a few. In addition to international keynote speakers, delegates from all over the world including Japan, Canada, Australia and Iran presented papers on ethical care, ethical dilemmas and professional practice. Other highlights included the highly anticipated International Human Rights and Nursing Awards Ceremony which honoured two deserving nurses from Ireland and Switzerland, Alice Leahy and Miriam Kasztura, in recognition of their outstanding commitment to human rights and to nursing professional practice. This is the first time such a conference has been held in Ireland, gaining recognition from President Michael D. Higgins.

## APC & INFANT discoveries celebrated on An Post stamps

An Post has launched four new stamps highlighting Irish scientific discoveries made by scientists who work in pioneering research and development in Ireland.

Both the INFANT Centre and APC Microbiome Institute had their research represented on two of the four stamps. The Fighting Superbugs stamp focuses on the discovery of a new protein complex by PhD student Fergus Collins, Professor Colin Hill and Professor Paul Ross from the APC Microbiome Institute and Moorepark Teagasc Food Research centre. This protein complex is found in the intestines of mackerel and can kill a wide range of harmful bacteria.

The Neonatal Seizures stamp represents research by Professor Geraldine Boylan, Professor Liam Marnane, Dr Andrey Temko and Dr Gordon Lightbody in the INFANT Research Centre. As seizures in babies are difficult to detect, the INFANT team has developed a tool that harnesses artificial intelligence to read electrical impulses and notify staff of the need for intervention.

The stamps were developed by An Post and SFI and are focused on innovative and impactful areas of academic research that are being carried out in Irish institutions.

Former president and climate justice campaigner Mary Robinson, Professor Luke O'Neill from Trinity College Dublin and the Director General of Science Foundation Ireland, Professor Mark Ferguson unveiled the stamps at the international Schrodinger at 75 Conference in Dublin.



Photo by Maxwell Photography



Professor Richard Greene, Director of the National Perinatal Epidemiology Centre. (Photo by Tomás Tyner)

## Perinatal deaths in Ireland at their lowest rate

or 1 in 172 births, representing a statistically significant decrease in the Perinatal Mortality Rate compared to 2015 (15% decrease) and the lowest PMR since recordings began. The most significant rate decrease was in early neonatal deaths.

Almost half (47.2%) of all stillbirths and 25% of early neonatal deaths were classified as severely small for gestational age. This highlights the importance of close monitoring for fetal growth during pregnancy.

Increased Body mass index (BMI) is associated with perinatal mortality. Over half (56.6%) of the mothers who experienced perinatal loss in 2016 were either overweight or obese.

An association between maternal age and perinatal mortality was also identified in this report: compared to mothers aged between 25-29 years, women aged less than 25 years and greater than 40 years had at least twice the rate of perinatal mortality.

Perinatal mortality is an important indicator of quality of care in

the Irish maternity services, and NPEC has worked with colleagues in all 19 Irish maternity units in developing an in-depth national clinical audit of perinatal mortality. The fundamental aim of this clinical audit is to improve the care of mothers and babies in Ireland through the provision of key epidemiological evidence and monitoring of adverse perinatal outcomes.

Professor Richard Greene, Director, NPEC said: "It is wonderful to see the clear reduction in perinatal mortality described in this report. While this finding is just one for one year, we would hope that this trend continues in the future. However, it is important that we do not focus on rates and numbers alone. We should remember that each perinatal death has a profound effect on a mother, a father and the extended family."

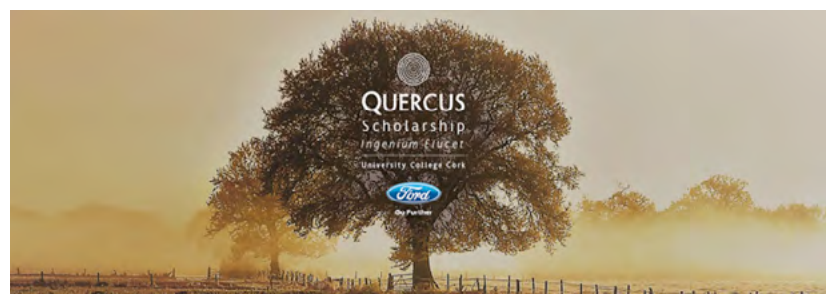
Recommendations in NPEC Perinatal Mortality Report in Ireland 2016 include the development of public health education programme on perinatal deaths and modifiable risk factors and improved antenatal detection of fetal growth restriction.



## Lancet Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Alcohol Collaborators' Study

Congratulations to Dr Zubair Kabir - Senior Lecturer at the School of Public Health, who contributed to a landmark publication as a co-author, in The Lancet on 23 August 2018. The study titled "Alcohol use and burden for 195 countries and territories, 1990-2016: a systematic review for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2016" was undertaken by the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Alcohol Collaborators' and Dr Kabir is one of the two GBD collaborators from Ireland. The study had a one-line powerful message that "there is no safe level in alcohol consumption on improving health". Recently, Dr Kabir has become a member of the WHO European Burden of Disease Network (EBoDN) representing Ireland at the EU level. He expresses concern that Irish women were one of the 7 top alcohol drinkers in the world consuming on an average of 3.1 drinks every day. Dr Kabir thinks that a comprehensive burden of disease (BoD) study in Ireland is necessary for informing health policy and improving population health in Ireland.





## Quercus Scholars 2018/19

Congratulations to all the College of Medicine and Health 2018/19 Quercus Scholars!

<b>Aoife Casey</b>	Quercus Sports Scholar	Medical & Health Science (BSc Hons)
<b>Jenny Clein</b>	Quercus Sports Scholar	Pharmacy (MPharm)
<b>Elizabeth Coppinger</b>	Quercus Sports Scholar	Public Health Sciences (BSc Hons)
<b>Mary Fitzgerald</b>	Quercus Sports Scholar	Occupational Therapy (BSc Hons)
<b>Paul O'Donovan</b>	Quercus Sports Scholar	Medicine - Graduate Entry (MB, BCh, BAO Hons)
<b>Tommy Kirkham</b>	Quercus University Scholar	Medicine - Graduate Entry (MB, BCh, BAO Hons)
<b>Deirdre Quigley</b>	Quercus University Scholar	Pharmacy (MPharm)

### Paul O'Donovan awarded Quercus Sports' Scholarship



Photo by Daragh McSweeney/Provision

Olympic Rower and GEM student, Paul O'Donovan, has been awarded the Quercus Sports' Scholarship, an accolade which recognises his astounding success in rowing as an Olympic silver medallist at Rio 2016 in the lightweight double skulls and as a double World Championship gold medallist in the single sculls. Paul is looking forward to his time as a Graduate Entry Medicine student; "I am lucky that UCC recognises my love of rowing and my passion for medicine and will support me in balancing both."

Professor John O'Halloran, UCC Deputy President and Registrar and also Director of the Quercus Programme says that "At UCC we believe in creating an environment in which academic excellence can be combined with opportunities for personal development, independent thinking and the nurturing of talent across many domains. Paul has excelled in so many ways. We are delighted that he becomes a UCC student today and look forward to supporting him to realise all his ambitions."



### Prestigious IADR Prize

Congratulations to Dr Paul Brady who was awarded the IADR (International Association for Dental Research) Senior Clinical Research Category in London in July. Dr Brady's research was entitled 'Risk Factors for Hypoxaemia During Intravenous Sedation with Midazolma for Minor Oral Surgery in ASA I - II Patients'. This a fantastic personal achievement for Paul and a great honour for the Dental School & Hospital.

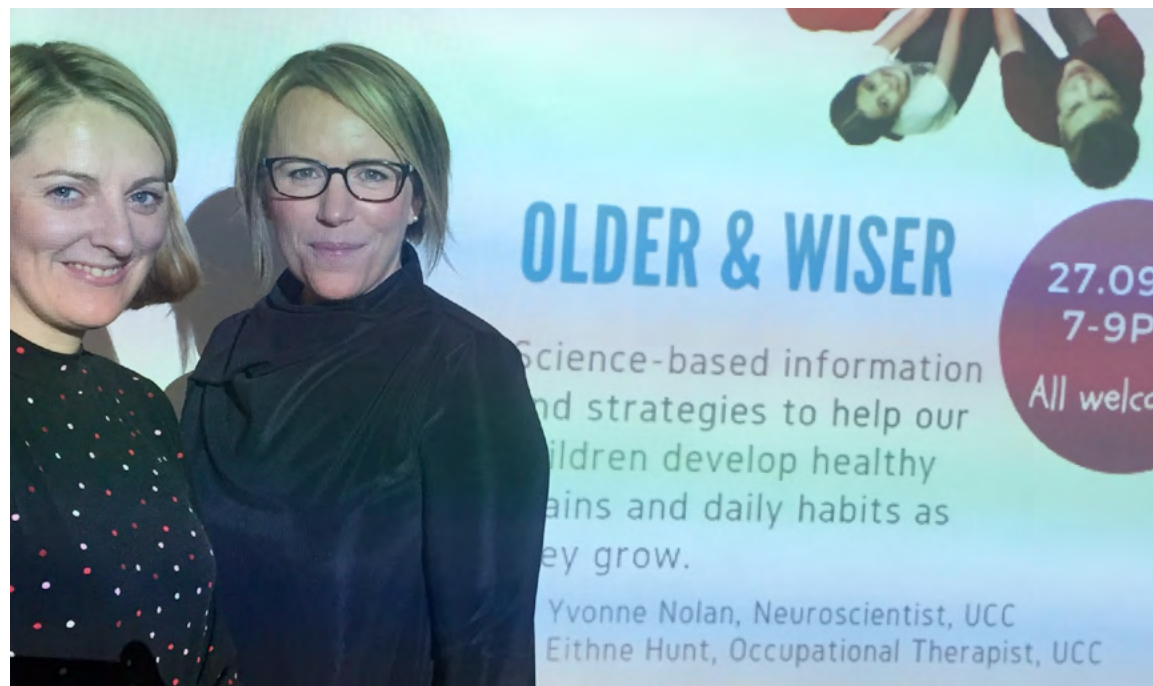
## Launch of Implementation Guide and Seminar on Implementation Science



**Pictured above (l-r):** Professor Dinah Gould (Cardiff University), Maura Smiddy (School of Public Health, UCC) Professor Carl May (The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine), Dr Heloise Agreli (School of Nursing and Midwifery, UCC), Fiona Barry (School of Public Health, UCC), Professor Josephine Hegarty (School of Nursing and Midwifery, UCC), Dr Sarah Condell (National Patient Safety Office, Department of Health), Dr Aisling Sheehan (The Centre for Effective Services), Professor Eileen Savage (School of Nursing and Midwifery, UCC) Dr Niamh O'Rourke (National Patient Safety Office, Department of Health), Dr Sile Creedon (School of Nursing and Midwifery, UCC). Photo by Tony Archer

The National Clinical Effectiveness Committee in the Department of Health National Patient Safety Office in partnership with the Centre for Effective Services launched an implementation guide and toolkit to support those involved in the development and implementation of national clinical guidelines. The launch took place at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, University College Cork on 19th September 2018. Over a hundred clinicians, policy makers, academics and researchers attended the seminar on implementation science and theory which was hosted in parallel with the launch. Professor Carl May of The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine; Professor Dinah Gould from Cardiff University and Professor Josephine Hegarty, University College Cork highlighted the importance of implementation science and theory in realising the full potential of clinical guidelines. Implementation science is an evolving field of science which seeks to facilitate the conversion of confirmed evidence into practice by patients, providers and health systems in real world situations. Professor Hegarty explained that ultimately the focus is on 'getting science and evidence into real world clinical practice which requires working with busy clinical teams, different clinical environments and with diverse patient groups'. Implementation science provides the tools to assist such a process.

The implementation guide and toolkit consolidates the best practices based on the current evidence and provides the steps and tools for each stage of implementation of guidelines in the clinical practice setting. Professor Karen Ryan, Chair of the National Clinical Effectiveness Committee welcomed the Implementation Guide, stating that "This is a very practical and useful resource. Implementation focuses on operationalising a plan - it is about 'how' something will be carried out, as well as 'what' will be carried out". In the end, real change is more likely to happen when we provide those at the centre of the change process the necessary tools to facilitate the change process.



## Supporting children's healthy brain & body development

In the last 15 years, scientists have made amazing discoveries about how our brains grow and develop. Previously it was thought that most brain development happens in the first 3 years of life. Now we know that adolescence (more recently considered to stretch from age 10 to 24) is another crucial period of brain development. In a recent information evening for parents of children at Glasheen Boys and Girls National Schools and the wider community, Dr Yvonne Nolan (Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience) and Dr Eithne Hunt (Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy) shared some of the latest knowledge and practical tips on how to support our children's healthy brain and body development; and how to help them to manage some of the stresses and anxieties that can be part of daily life for us all. Those who gave feedback valued the blend of personal and scientific knowledge shared by Yvonne and Eithne and other schools have since invited them to deliver the talk to their school communities.

## 11th Collaborative Diabetes Conference

The 11th Collaborative 2018 Diabetes Conference took place on 26th September 2018 at Silversprings Clayton Hotel, Cork. This conference is organised annually by the Diabetes in General Practice (DiGP), Department of General Practice, UCC, with partners the HSE and the IPNA. This year's conference title was 'National Strategy: Local Implementation' and was chaired by Diarmuid Quinlan, GP with keynote speaker Professor Sean Dinneen, Endocrinologist in Galway. The conference was well attended with 240 delegate places booked.

The Conference was chaired by Dr Diarmuid Quinlan, GP, Chairperson of the Diabetes Subgroup of Local Implementation Governance Group for Chronic Disease and Clinical Lead HSE South on National Diabetes Clinical Care Program Working Group. The keynote speaker was Professor Sean Dinneen, Endocrinologist in Galway, and National Lead for Diabetes Clinical Care Programme

who spoke on "Improving Diabetes Care in Ireland: bringing it all back home". Workshops were run for the delegates covering topics including Fatty Liver Disease, Staying Fit for the Future, Guidance on Carbohydrates, Medications and Blood Glucose Levels, Diabetes Case Studies, The Eyes and Diabetes, ECG Interpretation, HbA1c Targets and Hypoglycaemia, Childhood Obesity, and Injectable Therapies and Glucose Meters.



**Pictured (l-r):** Dr Diarmuid Quinlan and Professor Sean Dinneen at the 11th Collaborative 2018 Diabetes Conference.

## Recent Appointments



### Dr Christine McCreary

#### Head of Dental School & Hospital

Dr McCreary MD FDS(OM)RCPS FFD RCSI graduated in Dentistry in 1983 and Medicine in 1991 from Trinity College Dublin. She completed her higher training in Oral Medicine while based in Dublin and obtained her MD from Trinity College. She subsequently worked as a Senior Lecturer/Consultant in Oral Medicine in the Dublin Dental School and Hospital from 1997 until 2002. She then moved to take up a new consultant appointment in the Dental School in Cork and set up the Oral Medicine Service there. This busy and ever expanding clinic provides a secondary

and tertiary referral service in Oral Medicine for a large geographic region in the South West of Ireland. Christine has previously served on the Dental Council and chaired the Council's Education Committee. She has also chaired the Education Committee of the Faculty of Dentistry and the Irish Committee for Specialist Training in Dentistry. She was appointed to the role of Head of School in the Cork University Dental School and Hospital in January of this year and is the project lead for the €37million new school and hospital build which is expected to be completed by the end of 2021.



### Professor Paula O'Leary

#### Head of Medicine

Professor O'Leary is a Professor in Medicine at UCC and Consultant Physician and Immunologist at Cork University Hospital. Paula graduated from the UCC School of Medicine in 1987, and pursued specialist training in Internal Medicine and Clinical and Laboratory Immunology in academic medical centres in Cork, Dublin, Oxford and Birmingham, before returning to UCC and CUH in 2000. She has undertaken a number of leadership roles in the School of Medicine, including membership of Curriculum Reform Working group (2003-2005),

Chair of the Curriculum Committee (2009-2014), Academic lead for the Final Year MB programme (2014-2018) and Intern Network Coordinator (2015-present). As the new Dean of Medicine, Paula welcomes engagement with the School of Medicine staff and network of affiliated clinical sites and hopes that this engagement will promote and progress excellence in educating the next generation of doctors and medical scientists to be competent, professional and compassionate in their careers.



## Professor Josephine Hegarty

### Head of Nursing & Midwifery

Professor Hegarty trained as a general nurse in Cork University Hospital and attained her BSc, MSc in nurse education and PhD at University College Cork. Thereafter she has worked as a lecturer and researcher within the School of Nursing and Midwifery, University College Cork. During her clinical career Josephine has worked in Cork University Hospital; Central Middlesex Hospital, London and the Bon Secours Hospital, Cork.

In her academic career, Josephine has held many leadership roles within the School of Nursing and Midwifery and College of Medicine and Health, UCC. These have included acting Dean of Graduate Studies, College of Medicine and Health; Director of Graduate Studies and Director of Undergraduate

Education at the School of Nursing and Midwifery.

Josephine has attained funding and managed grants from a number of national and international agencies and published over 50 peer reviewed publications and 11 commissioned reports. Her research interests pertain to oncology, evidence based practice, patient safety and contemporary nursing issues (e.g. scope of practice, continuing competence). She supervises PhD and MSc students for their research dissertations. Josephine leads the Enhancing Cancer Awareness and Survivorship (E.CASP) research group and she is passionate about oncology related matters in particular supporting individuals and their families on the cancer survivorship trajectory.



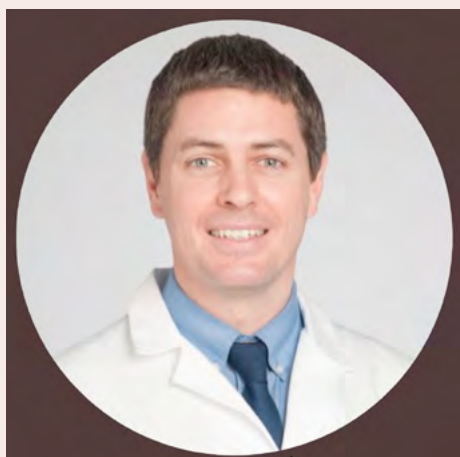
## Professor May Cleary

### Professor of Orthopaedics - University Hospital Waterford

Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon in University Hospital Waterford since 2011, a university teaching hospital of Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and University College Cork. May is lead orthopaedic clinician for South/South West hospital group on the National Programme for Trauma and Orthopaedics. She is head of the Department of Trauma and Orthopaedics at University Hospital Waterford/ Kilcreene regional orthopaedic Hospital, Kilkenny and is the Lead orthopaedic trainer for higher surgical training in UHW.

May is a fellowship trained lower limb arthroplasty surgeon who also deals with general trauma/sports injuries in trauma unit with a catchment population of over 500,000.

In UCC she has supervised postgraduate students across several disciplines and is currently co director of the MCh in Surgical Science.



## Professor Peter Neary

Professor of Surgical Oncology/Colorectal Surgery - University Hospital Waterford

Professor Neary graduated with an honors medical degree from University College Cork in 2005. He trained as a general and colorectal surgeon and has just completed a clinical fellowship in the Cleveland Clinic, Ohio where he was trained in advanced colorectal cancer/inflammatory bowel disease and ano-proctological surgical management.

He completed a Doctorate in Medicine through UCC under the mentorship of Professor Paul Redmond. He is involved in multi-national collaborative research through the Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland as well as the European Society of Coloproctology being a research cohort committee representative to the latter.

He attained a Masters in Leadership in Health Professions Education through the RCSI as well as a Masters in Healthcare Management and a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management through UCD. Peter worked in the role of Lead NCHD in both the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and St Vincent's University Hospital. This involvement has given him invaluable insight into the management and leadership of initiatives at both local and national level.

In his spare time, he loves to play soccer, and spend time with his very supportive wife and three children.



## Professor Eileen Savage

Vice Dean for Graduate Studies and Inter-professional Learning

Professor Eileen Savage is Chair in Nursing since 2013 and has recently completed her term as Dean of School of Nursing & Midwifery. In taking up the role of Vice Dean of Graduate Studies and Inter-professional Learning for the College of Medicine and Health, she brings extensive experience in graduate research and education. She has been supervising PhD and MSc research students since 2002 and has been internal and external examiner for numerous theses. She is a scientific reviewer with a number of funding bodies for research project grants, doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships, including Academy of Finland, National Medical Research Council, Singapore, and Children's Research Network Irl. Her research interests are in chronic illness management and she leads a research theme on Living Well with

Chronic Conditions and Disability. She is experienced in internationalisation in terms of recruiting and supporting non-EU students as well as research capacity building in nursing faculty abroad. She is co-Chair of two National Working Groups set up by the HSE to implement recommendations specific to the preparation of future healthcare professionals arising out of the Making Every Contact Count Framework and the Framework for Self-Management Support for Individuals with Chronic Conditions. These Frameworks relate to the Department of Health's Healthy Ireland strategy. In her role as Vice Dean of Graduate Studies and Inter-professional Learning, she is looking forward to embracing new challenges and leading out on strategy in collaboration with the six Schools in the College of Medicine and Health.



## Dr Michael Clarkson

### Vice Dean for Research & Innovation

Dr Clarkson (MB, BAO BCh, University of Dublin, Trinity College 1994) undertook postgraduate training in Internal Medicine and Nephrology in Dublin 1994-2001 and was awarded an MD by thesis in 2002. He completed a Clinical and Research fellowship at The Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston (2001-2004). He was appointed to the staff of the Brigham and Women's Hospital before taking up his current position in CUH as a Consultant Nephrologist and Clinical Senior Lecturer in 2005.

His research interests include the immunobiology of transplant rejection and small vessel vasculitis. He is a member of the Vasculitis Ireland Network and led the development of the dedicated vasculitis service at CUH.

Michael is the recipient of a Programme Project Grant from the Health Research Board of Ireland, has authored or co-authored over 35 peer-reviewed scientific papers, 8 book chapters and is editor of the Companion Handbook to Brenner and Rector's 'The Kidney'.



## Professor Liam Plant

### Vice Dean for Clinical & Strategic Partnerships

Professor Plant graduated in Physiology (1982) and Medicine (1985) from University College Cork. A former Auditor of the UCC Medical Society, he was an Elective Student in Africa with the Surgeon Noonan Society. Following General Professional Training in Medicine in Cork he travelled to Scotland, as an Ainsworth Scholar, and entered Higher Specialist Training in Nephrology. He was subsequently appointed Consultant Renal Physician at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and Honorary Senior Lecturer in Medicine at Edinburgh University Medical School. Since returning to Cork in 2001 he has been Consultant Renal Physician at Cork University Hospital and is Clinical Professor in Renal Medicine the School of Medicine, UCC.

His medical interests include: Renal Transplantation; Renal Home Dialysis Therapies; Acute Kidney Injury; Disorders of Fluid & Electrolyte Balance; Renal Disease in Pregnancy; Renal Disease in Cystic Fibrosis; Quality of Life in Kidney Disease; Ethical Aspects of Kidney Disease; Organisation and Development of Renal Services. He has authored or co-authored over 65 medical publications and is a frequent invited contributor to regional, national and international Healthcare conferences.

A former National Specialty Director for Nephrology Training, he chaired the Irish National Renal Strategy Review (2003-09) and was the first National Clinical Director of the HSE National Renal Office (2009-18). He is a member of the Board of Marymount University Hospital & Hospice.



## Study: the usage of amalgam and mercury-free alternatives in Irish Dentistry

**Pictured (l-r):** Dr Frank Burke, Dr Martina Hayes, Professor Chris Lynch.

With the impending amalgam phase down dentistry in Ireland is facing big changes. How might this affect dentists and the care which they provide to their patients? This study was prompted by the recent international agreement to introduce controls on the use of mercury under the Minamata Convention on Mercury. A new European directive, Regulation EU 2017/852, which was adopted on 17th May 2017, stipulates the various changes in relation to dental amalgam. In the first instance the use of amalgam will be restricted from use in children under 15, deciduous teeth and pregnant and breast -feeding women with a planned complete ban on amalgam use by 2030.

This study, carried out by Dr Frank Burke, Dr Martina Hayes and Professor Chris Lynch of the Cork University Dental School and Hospital, was funded by the Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA). This aims to determine the approximate number of restorations placed by dentists in Ireland and the proportion of these which are dental amalgam or mercury free alternatives; composite, glass ionomer cement and resin modified glass ionomer cement, and to identify key waste management practices and policies for amalgam and mercury free alternatives. It will provide baseline data from an Irish context. This will help the EPA to quantify the usage of amalgam and mercury-free alternatives in the dental service in Ireland, the current waste management policies and practices, and to identify variation between dental practitioners in this area. This information will determine if further research is needed and if there is a need for more formal guidance for dental practitioners around the area of waste management for mercury-free alternatives to amalgam.



## Oireachtas Joint Committee on Children and Youth Affairs meeting on Tackling Childhood Obesity

Dr Karen Matvienko-Sikar and Professor Patricia Kearney recently submitted a report, on behalf of the Choosing Healthy Eating for Infant Health (CHERISH) study team, to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Children and Youth Affairs. The CHERISH team also includes Dr Sheena McHugh and Dr Janas Harrington, as well as Ms Jenny Cooney who is currently working as a research assistant within the School, and collaborators from National University Ireland Galway, and Trinity College Dublin.

As a result of this submission, Dr Karen Matvienko-Sikar was invited to address the Joint Committee in relation to the topic of tackling childhood obesity. Karen presented on key findings and recommendations from the CHERISH study, which is funded by a Health Research Board Interdisciplinary Capacity Enhancement Award led by Professor Patricia Kearney.





## Inaugural YCRN Conference

The first Young Cancer Researchers Networking (YCRN) event, organised by Cork Cancer @ UCC, took place on the 21st and 22nd of June 2018. The main focus of this conference, attended by delegates from ten countries, was on translational cancer research with the key goal of promoting a collaborative approach between laboratory and clinical research. The conference included six scientific sessions covering themes including; 'Cancer Biomarker Discovery – translation towards personalised medicine', 'Novel drugs and drug delivery' and 'Cancer immunology and immunotherapy'. A career forum highlighting research and development in Industry, was given by research partners of the EU funded Vaccines and Imagining Partnership (VIP) from GlaxoSmithKline, Siena. This event gave a platform for early career researchers to present their findings as oral and poster presentations, alongside keynote talks from Professors Stephen Pennington and Julie Gehl and presentations by eight other renowned national and international speakers.



## Psychotropic drugs meet Harry Potter at Inspirefest 2018

Speaking on stage at Researchfest as part of Inspirefest 2018, Sofia Cussotto, a PhD student in the APC Microbiome Institute, found that the world of Harry Potter made quite a good analogy to psychotropic drugs.

Translating to 'mind-turning' from Greek, psychotropic drugs are ones that affect human behaviour, specifically brain disorders. While the reactions of psychotropic drugs in the brain are known, Sofia's research is looking at how they affect the microbiome.

In her research, Sofia compared three microbes to Harry, Hermione and Ron travelling into the Chamber of Secrets, representing the human gut and our microbiome closely linked with our brain.



## The effects of a high fibre diet on stress and gut health

Photo by Claire Keogh

Eating high fibre foods may reduce the effects of stress on our gut and behaviour, according to new APC Microbiome Ireland research published in The Journal of Physiology.

Stress is a significant health concern and can cause major changes in the gut and in the brain, which can cause changes in behaviour. In recent years there has been growing interest in the link between gut bacteria and stress-related disorders including anxiety, depression and irritable bowel syndrome.

Bacteria in the gut produce short-chain fatty acids (SCFAs), which are the main source of nutrition for cells in this region of the body. Foods such as grains, legumes and vegetables, contain high levels of fibres and will stimulate the production of these SCFAs.

The study conducted by scientists at

APC Microbiome Ireland at University College Cork and Teagasc Food Research Centre found that there was decreased levels of stress and anxiety-like behaviour when SCFAs were introduced.

Moreover, stress experienced over a prolonged period of time can affect the bowel by making the barrier between the inside of the gut and the rest of the body less effective and “leaky”. This means undigested food particles, bacteria and germs will pass through the leaky gut wall into the blood and cause persistent inflammation. Treating with the SCFAs can also reverse this “leakiness”.

These results provide new insights into mechanisms related to the impact of the gut bacteria on the brain and behaviour as well as gut health. Developing dietary treatments which target these bacteria will be important for treating stress-related disorders.



## Optimising HPV vaccine uptake

**Pictured (l-r):** Authors Dr Aoife Fleming, Dr Laura Sahm, Sarah Marshall and Dr Anne Moore.

A recent systematic review and meta-ethnographic synthesis, published in Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy, has concluded that the majority of parents are motivated to protect their children and prevent disease. The authors also discovered that the link to sexual intercourse associated with the HPV vaccine often complicates the vaccination decision.

In order to optimise HPV vaccine uptake, there is a need for (i) unambiguous information in a timely manner, (ii) addressing parental concerns regarding vaccine safety and efficacy, (iii) taking account of cultural and religious sensitivities and (iv) varying health literacy levels.

Sarah Marshall is undertaking her PhD with her supervisors in the School of Pharmacy, Dr Laura Sahm, Dr Anne Moore and Dr Aoife Fleming and with part-sponsorship of the Naji Foundation. Read the full paper here: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=29804879>

## Opening of new Health Innovation Hub



The Health Innovation Hub Ireland, whose Cork headquarters is led by UCC and based in the Western Gateway Building, is expanding with new hubs in Dublin and Galway. The Hub is a government-backed initiative which provides budding entrepreneurs with an opportunity to carry out pilot and clinical validation studies, while also giving health sector bodies early access to innovative solutions.

In addition to the Cork HIHI hub, for which Professor John R. Higgins is the Lead PI and Dr Colman Casey is the National Director, the new hub based at St James's hospital in Dublin will operate in partnership with Trinity College Dublin. A third location is scheduled to open in Galway later this year.

Since 2016, the initiative has run 25 studies in

Irish healthcare settings, with 72 companies receiving follow-up support. Among the work undertaken so far as part of the initiative has been the pilot-testing of new medical devices, software packages for health and safety reporting and illustrated booklets explaining vaccinations to school children.

Companies that have participated in the scheme include medical devices firm Ostoform, which has developed a device for stoma management after surgery. Earlier this week it announced a €1.1 million fundraising with participants including Enterprise Ireland, Sean O'Sullivan's SOSV and the Halo Business Angel Network. Other participants include Combimark, VClarity and Innerstrength Health, a highly regarded start-up that took part in the initiative to test its flagship product TickerFit.

## Dental School and Hospital: Evening Lecture Programme

The Cork University Dental School and Hospital has released its schedule of evening lectures. All evening lectures will be held in the Cork University Hospital Lecture Theatre and will commence at 7:30pm. The fee to attend is €35. For further details, please contact Ms Catherine Nevin at [c.nevin@ucc.ie](mailto:c.nevin@ucc.ie)

17th September	<b>Professor Chris Lynch</b>	Managing the phase-down of amalgam: The implications of Miniamata for education and clinical practice
9th October	<b>Dr Frank Burke</b>	Aesthetics and the Older Patient
30th October	<b>Dr Martina Hayes</b>	Moving on from mechanics - using resins in fixed prosthodontics
20th November	<b>Dr Graham Quilligan</b>	Retreatment of Apical Surgery - decision making
11th December	<b>Professor Anthony Roberts</b>	Perio: Shaken, not stirred...?!



# Research Conference: Innovation in HealthTech



“Innovation in HealthTech”, held on 11th and 12th of June at Tyndall National Institute, brought together academics, clinicians, regulators and companies involved in the medical devices sector, with a view to exploring how technology may provide novel solutions to challenges in healthcare. This event was jointly organised by the MedInvent project and the Celtic Advanced Life Science Innovation Network (CALIN), in collaboration with the UCC Medical Education Unit, ASSERT, and the Health Innovation Hub. Led by Dr Colm O’Tuathaigh and Dr Padraig Cantillon-Murphy, MedInvent is an EU Erasmus+ funded project that involves the development of an online personalized learning environment with a view to extending creativity and innovation skills in medical device design to HEI students and SME-based learners.

Day 2 of the event was dedicated to the theme “Collaborative Healthcare Requires Collaborative Education”. Dr Jef Vanderroot from the Faculty of Engineering Science at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven provided a summary of the principal findings arising from the MedInvent project, and Dr Eoin O’Cearbhaill of the UCD Medical Device Design Group discussed innovative approaches to medical device design education. Other speakers included Dr Simon Baconnier (European Nanomedicine Characterisation Laboratory) and Dr Paul Galvin (Tyndall). The final speaker, Professor Lee Swanstrom of IHU Strasbourg, provided fascinating insights into what ‘the operating room of the future’ may look like, integrating artificial intelligence, robotics and high-resolution real-time imaging.

Attending the Event: **Above:** Dr Aislinn Joy (Medical Education Unit), Dr Deirdre Bennett (Medical Education Unit), and Dr Gabriella Rizzo (Department of Medicine). **Far left:** Dr Padraig Cantillon-Murphy (UCC) and Dr Eoin O’Cearbhaill (UCD). **Left:** Professor Lee Swanstrom (IHU Strasbourg) and Dr Jef Vanderroot (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven).



## School of Pharmacy hosts its third International Summer School

International students from Future University in Egypt (FUE) have successfully completed the Industrial Pharmacy Summer School, the third Summer School run by the School of Pharmacy in UCC. The International Summer School is one element of an ongoing collaboration between UCC and FUE, whereby UCC supports the FUE in the delivery of enhanced pharmacy topics to FUE students.

Sixteen undergraduate students from FUE, accompanied by two staff members, travelled to Cork to partake in the Industrial Pharmacy Summer School, which was organised by Dr Maria Donovan and delivered by staff of the School of Pharmacy. Students attended specialist lectures in topics in industrial pharmacy, including pharmaceutical drug development, pharmaceutical manufacturing and registration of medicines in the EU. Additionally, staff ran extensive practical 'hands on' training sessions for students on tableting,

granulation and quality control testing in the state of the art pharmaceutical laboratories in the School. Experiential site visits were arranged at a local pharmaceutical manufacturing plant, Abbvie, and at the Biopharma Training Centre in Carrigaline.

Speaking at the opening of the Summer School, Professor Patrick O'Shea, President of UCC highlighted that the School of Pharmacy is well placed to deliver an international standard course in industrial pharmacy, particularly given that Cork is a global hub for the pharmaceutical industry.

In addition to promoting academic student development, the Summer School programme included non-curricular activities including a tour of UCC, Cork City and City Hall, along with day trips to Killarney National Park, Cobh/ Spike Island and an evening of Irish culture at Céilí Cois Locha to promote the student experience.



Pictured with the students from FUE are: **Front row (l-r):** Mr Mohamed Elgendy (FUE), Professor Patrick O'Shea (President of UCC), Dr Amira Ghoneim (FUE), Professor Stephen Byrne (UCC). **Second row (l-r):** Dr Maria Donovan (UCC), Professor Caitriona O'Driscoll (UCC), Dr Brendan Griffin (UCC). **Third row (l-r):** Dr Abina Crean (UCC), Dr Sonja Vucen (UCC).

## Link between hypertensive disorders of pregnancy and neurodevelopmental disorders



**Pictured above (l-r):** Dr Gerard O' Keeffe, Professor Patricia Kearney, Ms Gillian Maher, Dr Ali Khashan

JAMA Psychiatry published the systematic review “Association of Hypertensive Disorders of Pregnancy with Risk of Neurodevelopmental Disorders in Offspring” by SPHeRE Scholar Gillian Maher and supervisors Dr Ali Khashan, Dr Gerard O’Keeffe, Professor Patricia Kearney and Professor Louise Kenny, and collaborators Professor Ted Dinan and Ms Molly Mattsson.

The systematic review suggests that exposure to hypertensive disorders of pregnancy (HDP) may be associated with increased chances of developing autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in offspring.

Based on a pre-prepared protocol, a systematic search of the literature identified 61 articles for inclusion in the review. Twenty studies reported estimates for ASD. Eleven of these reported adjusted estimates, with a pooled adjusted odds ratio of 1.35 (95% CI:1.11-1.64). Ten studies reported estimates for ADHD. Six of these reported adjusted estimates with a pooled odds ratio of 1.29 (95%CI: 1.22, 1.36). Thirty-one studies met inclusion criteria for all other neurodevelopmental disorders. Individual estimates reported for these were largely inconsistent, with few patterns of association observed.

The authors feel these findings highlight the potential need for greater paediatric surveillance of infants exposed to HDP to allow early intervention that may improve neurodevelopmental outcome. However, before more definitive conclusions can be reached, more robust research is needed addressing key limitations in the literature.



## Teaching & Learning Research and Enhancement Awardee

**Left:** Award recipient Dr Brendan Palmer, School of Public Health.

Dr Brendan Palmer (School of Public Health and the HRB CRF-C) and Dr Adam Kane (School of Biological, Environmental and Earth Sciences) have been jointly awarded a Teaching & Learning Research and Enhancement Fund grant from UCC. Both Dr Palmer and Dr Kane have previously delivered training courses through the R statistical programming language. With this fund, they aim to build on their previous independent initiatives and offer a comprehensive introductory R course this coming academic year.

The course would ideally suit early career researchers looking to incorporate reproducible research practises into their day-to-day workflows. Topics to be covered will include an introduction to the implementation of statistics through R, data management, documentation and automated reporting. R is a free software package that encompasses

data analysis, visualisation and documentation and has become the industry standard in many fields, including biology, and statistics itself. Advances in R software development, namely the reorganisation of popular R packages under the umbrella banner of the “tidyverse”, has made R accessible to a wider audience. This has numerous benefits, chief amongst them being that R, as a programming language, has become more human readable, intuitive and, importantly, accessible.

Staff and students from all research backgrounds will be catered for through a combination of workshops for new (3 x 3-day intensive course) and experienced (3 x 1-day course) R users to be offered. The first 1-day course for users with R experience will be held at the end of October 2018. For further information, email [b.palmer@ucc.ie](mailto:b.palmer@ucc.ie)

## Dental Pharmacology award for Sinéad McKenna

A prize giving ceremony was held on 14th June at the Cork University Dental School, when Sinéad McKenna was awarded the Dr Anne Wilson Dentsply Prize for Dental Pharmacology 2017.

This prize is awarded to the student who achieves first place in Dental Pharmacology in third year BDS, and has been set up to commemorate Dr Anne Wilson’s contribution to the teaching of Dental Pharmacology. The prize is sponsored by Dentsply.



**Pictured left:** Sinéad McKenna being presented with the Dr Anne Wilson DENTSPLY Prize for Dental Pharmacology by Dr Órla Patricia Barry of Dept. Pharmacology & Therapeutics.

## SUMMER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

Three BSc Public Health Sciences students were successful in obtaining summer research internships in the School of Public Health.

Second year student, received a SURE award from the School of Public Health. His project was titled the “Sugar sweetened food consumption and its association with weight status in Irish children. The project was a secondary analysis of the Cork Children’s Lifestyle Study (CCLaS). Rhys was supervised by Dr Janas Harrington, Senior Lecture, School of Public Health.

Third year BSc Public Health student Ciara Lynch received a HRB Summer Studentship. Her project was titled ‘ Patient Experience of Diabetes Nurse Specialist services in the Community’. The project is an evaluation of community based integrated care Diabetes Nurse Specialists (DNS) through using a patient experience survey. Ciara was supervised by Professor Patricia Kearney, School of Public Health.

Third year BSc Public Health student, Holly McGrath, received a TMRN summer studentship. Her project was titled ‘Identifying effective recruitment strategies for Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) in clinical trials’. This project aimed to identify effective methods for recruiting PPI partners to a trial to improve attendance to diabetic retinopathy screening. Holly was supervised by Dr Sheena McHugh, Lecturer, School of Public Health.

**Pictured left (l-r):** Rhys Earl, 2nd Year BSc Public Health Sciences; Ciara Lynch and Holly McGrath, 3rd Year BSc Public Health.







**Pictured above (l-r):** Sinead Flanagan (Anu Undergraduate Gold Medal in Obstetrics and Gynaecology), Professor John R. Higgins, Sinead O'Riordan (Anu Undergraduate Scholar Medal in Obstetrics and Gynaecology).

## Anu Undergraduate Gold and Scholar Medals

At the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in UCC, excellence is rewarded and celebrated. Final medical year students Sinead Flanagan and Sinead O'Riordan were presented with the first Anu Undergraduate Gold and Scholar Medals in Obstetrics and Gynaecology respectively by Professor John Higgins on 28th June 2018.

These are new prizes awarded by the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology in University College Cork. Sinead Flanagan won the Anu Undergraduate Gold Medal in Obstetrics and Gynaecology on receiving top marks in the oral examination CP5400. Sinead O'Riordan won the Anu Undergraduate Scholar Medal in Obstetrics and Gynaecology on receiving top marks in the written examination CP5400.

John R. Higgins, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at UCC was effusive in his praise of the exceptional high standards of the students:

"It's our first year awarding these new undergraduate gold and scholar medals to outstanding final year medical students. We wish to recognise the exceptional performance of both Sinead Flanagan and Sinead O'Riordan and we are hopeful such high calibre professionals may consider a career in obstetrics and gynaecology in due course."

## Advanced Breast Cancer Conference 2018

On the 8th September, the Advanced Breast Cancer Conference 2018 was held in the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. This first national multidisciplinary meeting coordinated by Professor Seamus O'Reilly of University College Cork and the European School of Oncology, will bring together globally recognised experts with local clinicians, patients and advocates to highlight and discuss issues in cancer management in our communities.

While significant advances have been made in curative therapy for breast cancer in recent decades, a significant proportion of patients will present with metastatic disease at onset or relapse after initially curative cancer therapy. The

advances made in curative cancer care have translated into more effective durable cancer control for those living with metastatic breast cancer. However, the challenges for these patients and their care providers pose significant unique issues for our health services. Recognition of these challenges has led to the development of a consensus conference: ADVANCED BREAST CANCER under the auspices of the European School of Oncology (ESO).

The conference organisers were very grateful for the involvement and support of Dr Cordosa and Professor Dame Fallowfield in conducting this meeting and the generosity of sponsors without whom the meeting could not have occurred.



Open Science @ UCC is a 3-day workshop (31st October-2nd November 2018) offering a comprehensive interdisciplinary introduction to open science research. Following the conference attendees will be better placed to incorporate open science techniques into their own research and prepared to respond to growing funding obligations aligned to reproducible science practises.

The workshop will take place the Creative Zone, located in the Boole Library. Topics to be covered will include reproducible research methods, data packaging, emerging open access publishing and more. We welcome researchers from all backgrounds and career stages, especially those looking to incorporate open science practises into their current research workflows.

This event is being organised by Dr Darren Dahly, Senior Lecturer in Research Methods, UCC School of Public Health and Principal Statistician at the HRB Clinical Research Facility-Cork. To register, please email [ddahly@ucc.ie](mailto:ddahly@ucc.ie). The registration fee is €300 per participant for the full three-day event.

# Recent workshops in the ASSERT Centre



The Anatomy of Complications Workshop was held on 31st August in the ASSERT Centre UCC - this was the workshop's first time being held in Europe since its inception in 2000. The objective of the course, which is aimed at Consultant Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and Senior Residents, is to enhance the understanding of the anatomy of the pelvis and improve management and prevention of surgical complications.

On 7th September, Professor Barry O'Reilly, Professor Richard Greene and Dr Claire McCarthy welcomed faculty and participants to the Advanced Practical Skills for Obstetrics and Gynaecology. This course gave participants unprecedented hands-on experience in dealing with Obstetric emergencies.

The two-day RESUSCITATE course was held in the centre on 10th September. The course taught participants the emergency skills required for resuscitation of a complex trauma patient.



# OT Student Exhibition

The annual exhibition of prints and textiles created by first year Occupational Therapy students was opened by textile artist Lesley Stothers in the Jennings Gallery on 25th September 2018. The students created their pieces with guidance from Lesley and tutors at Cork Printmakers as part of their module OT1005 Creative Occupations and Health, designed and led by Dr. Eithne Hunt. This year's theme, reflected in the students' beautiful and thoughtful works, was "Occupation: Everybody, Everywhere, Everyday", words drawn from a paper by Emeritus Professor at the University of Southern California, Ruth Zemke. Ruth sent a message to the students, writing that when she entered the field of occupational therapy over 50 years ago, the definition of the profession always included "the art and science". She described how she learned over the years that both the art and science require creativity and an open mind to the wonders of the world around us - both natural and human made. Students Nicola Giles, Chloe Murphy and Chloe O'Connell all read from the accompanying exhibition booklet, sharing the meaning behind their artworks.



Pictured at the opening of the exhibition:

1. Professor Jeanne Jackson and Dr Eithne Hunt.
2. Chloe O'Connell and Niamh Anni Bent.
3. Brid Dunne, Alison Prendergast, Sarah Hayes and Jeanna Keane.
4. Mary Fitzgerald and Eva Staponkute.

Photos by Ger McCarthy