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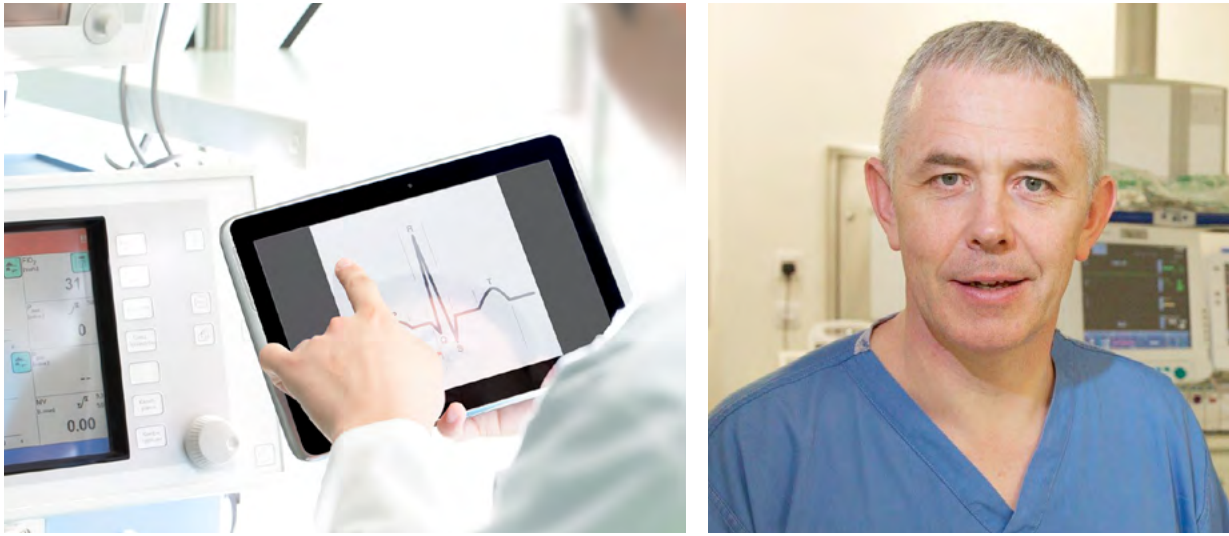
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# Welcome to the first College of Medicine and Health Newsletter

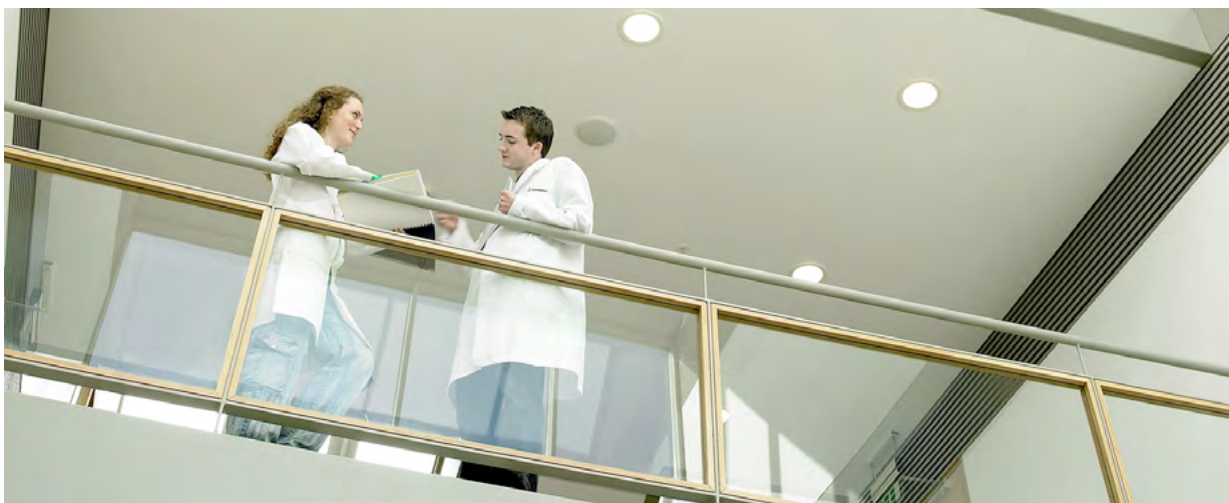
Our newsletter will be one of our key communication channels for our students, staff and college partners. In this issue we tell you about some exciting events such as the very successful College of Medicine and Health Research Day, the inaugural meeting on establishing an Academic Healthcare Centre (AHC) model for the new South/South West Hospital Group, and the Graduate School Summer BBQ. It is an exciting time for the University and our Hospital Group. I am optimistic that we will establish an AHC that will deliver the highest quality of care for our patients.

Congratulations to Professor George Shorten and colleagues on the success of COLLAGE (Collaboration on Ageing) which has just been awarded a 3-Star rating in Brussels for its bid to become a reference site for best practice on active and healthy ageing.

We are very pleased to welcome Professor Tony Gallagher (BSc (Hons), PhD, DSc) and Ms Kate McSweeney (BBS (Hons), MBS) to the College of Medicine and Health. Short biographies for both Tony and Kate feature in this Newsletter.

Finally, we would welcome your feedback and any suggestions you may have. In order to make our Newsletter a success we would also welcome your contributions for future editions.

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







Pictured: Kevin Byrnes (Medicine); Sinéad Sweeney (Nursing); Professor John Higgins; Jason Hayes (Pharmacy); Stephanie Anne English (Medicine); William Hutch (Medicine); Laura Mc Carthy (Nursing) and Anand Iyer (Dentistry). The other recipients who are missing from the photo are Leo Carroll (Medicine), Jack Collins (Medicine) and Andreea Zagoneanu (Clinical Therapies) (Photo by Colman Casey)

The College Summer Bursaries (Summer Undergraduate Research Experience [SURE] Awards) were awarded, to those of the successful 10 applicants who were in attendance, by Professor John Higgins.

#### **Medicine:**

William Hutch. (Geraldine Boylan and Gene Dempsey)  
 Jack Collins. (Stephen Cusack)  
 Leo Carroll. (James Harty)  
 Kevin Byrnes. (Henry Redmond)  
 Stephanie English. (William Plant and Joe Eustace)

#### **Nursing and Midwifery:**

Laura McCarthy. (Eileen Savage)  
 Sinéad Sweeney. (Patricia Kearney)

#### **Dentistry:**

Anand Iyer. (Martina Hayes)

#### **Pharmacy:**

Jason Hayes. (Abina Crean)

#### **Clinical Therapies:**

Andreea Zagoneanu. (Jeanne Jackson, Karen McNulty)

For more see:

<http://www.ucc.ie/en/news/fullstory-271547-en.html>

## CoMH Research Day

A very successful College of Medicine and Health Research day was held on Thursday 13th June 2013 at the Western Gateway Building. The theme of this year's conference was - **The HRB Clinical Research Facility at UCC: Meeting Challenges in Patient Focused Research**. All presentations related to research planned or in progress at the Clinical Research Facility, under the Directorship of Professor Joe Eustace.

There was a moderated poster session at lunchtime with 80 posters. There were three awards for best poster and each recipient was presented with a Gold medal. Congratulations to Jacqueline Lyons (School of Food and Nutritional Science), Anne Marie O'Flynn (Department of Epidemiology and Public Health) and Maeve Crowley/Caroline Noone (Haematology, CUH).



## Irish project paves way in improving Euro quality of life

For more see:

<http://www.ucc.ie/en/news/fullstory-282793-en.html>

COLLAGE (Collaboration on Ageing) has just been awarded a 3-Star rating in Brussels for its bid to become a reference site for others to base best practice on through the ground-breaking European Programme on Active and Healthy Ageing. A shared vision of enhancing the experience of ageing and realising the potential of an ageing population brought together all of the supporting initiatives and institutions to form COLLAGE led by University College Cork (UCC) and the Louth Age Friendly County Initiative.

Through the European Innovation Partnership, the European Commission aims to enhance European competitiveness and tackle societal challenges through research and innovation. The European Commission has identified active and healthy ageing as a major societal challenge common to all European countries, and an area which presents considerable potential for Europe to lead the world in providing innovative responses to this challenge.

Professor George Shorten, Dean, School of Medicine at UCC commented:

‘The target of this pilot partnership will be to increase the average healthy lifespan of Europeans by two years by 2020. This unique collaboration will achieve this by providing key stakeholders with the means to cooperate, united around a common vision that values older people and their contribution to society.’



## Gold Medal for Anne-Marie O'Flynn



(L-R): Dr Patricia Kearney, Dr Anne-Marie O'Flynn and Professor John Higgins

**Gold Medal Recipient - Anne-Marie O'Flynn a recipient of a Gold Medal award for her poster at the College of Medicine and Health Research day tells us about her career to date and her PhD project.**

My background is clinical medicine. I graduated from UCC in 2003. My chosen specialties are cardiology and general internal medicine. I have been on the specialist registrar training scheme since 2007. I have worked in a number of hospitals throughout Ireland as part of this. In July last year I was awarded a HRB research training fellowship for healthcare professionals. This is a 3 year programme for those with a clinical background who wish to partake in research and attain a PhD. My PhD project will focus on night-time blood pressure and subclinical (early) cardiovascular disease.

The poster for which I won the award examined night-time blood pressure and markers of early heart and kidney damage in patients recruited to the Mitchelstown cohort by the department of epidemiology and public health here in UCC. 2047 patients were recruited to this study from the Livinghealth Clinic in Mitchelstown. 1207 of the participants had 24 hour ambulatory monitoring where their blood pressure was measured regularly over a 24 hour period as they did their usual activity. I found that higher night-time blood pressure which was measured using the 24 hour monitoring was associated with left ventricular hypertrophy (thickening of the heart muscle) on an ECG (heart tracing) and microalbuminuria (protein in the urine) measured from a urine sample. An ECG and urine sample are easy and cheap tests that can be done in a GP's surgery. By using 24 hour blood pressure monitoring and these tests it may allow GPs to better assess a person's risk of future clinical events such as myocardial infarction (heart attack) or stroke. I plan to further develop this by inviting a subgroup of the participants to attend for a scan of their carotid arteries in their neck and of their heart to further examine for subclinical cardiovascular disease.



## GRADUATE SCHOOL SUMMER BBQ 2013



The annual Graduate School Summer BBQ 2013 took place on Thursday 20th June 2013 in Brookfield Health Sciences Complex. The event provided an opportunity for the College of Medicine and Health doctoral students to network with their peers and for staff and students to partake in the fun and games organised by the Postgraduate Student Committee.

Professor John Higgins (Head, College of Medicine and Health), Professor Alan Kelly (Dean of the Graduate Studies Office) and Margaret Cole (for the Graduate School Statistician), Eamonn Connaughton (Facilities Manager) and Teresa O'Callaghan (General Services Supervisor) were in attendance. Dean Professor Helen Whelton thanked Áine Murphy for her administrative support to the School, she congratulated Wesley van Oeffelen on his first place in the creative mind category at the UCC PhD Student Showcase and she also acknowledged the dedicated efforts of the Postgraduate Student Committee in the organisation of events to enhance the student experience and to create an identity for the Graduate School.





(L-R): Dr Frank Van Pelt,  
Christian Waeber and  
Professor George Shorten

## The Jennings Gallery

**‘Defining Lines’** - an exhibition of photography by Christian Waeber was opened by Professor George Shorten, Dean, School of Medicine in the Jennings Gallery on Thursday 26 June. This new exhibition of work from locations in North America, Europe and in studio has a particular relevance not only for photographers but also for those interested in the visual arts as practitioners of medicine and health. It reflects the commitment of the Gallery to support the strategic initiative of the College of Medicine and Health to more closely integrate the arts and humanities into the education of medical and allied health professionals. Guest speaker Dr Frank van Pelt, Senior Lecturer, School of Pharmacology and Therapeutics introduced Christian, who also gave a seminar on the **‘The Representation of the Human Body in Fine Art Photography’** immediately preceding the opening. The exhibition will run until 31st July 2013.



## Professor of Technology Enhanced Learning



**Professor Tony Gallagher** (BSc (Hons), PhD, DSc) has been appointed Professor of Technology Enhanced Learning in the College of Medicine and Health. Tony is a graduate of the University of Ulster and University of Dublin Trinity College. He is considered one of the pioneers and global leaders in the development, use and validation of simulation and technology enhanced learning in health care.

Tony will lead the Simulation and Technology-Enhanced Learning (TEL) department which will be the core 'business' of the ASSERT Centre (Application of Science to Simulation, Education and Research on Training) for Health at UCC. Originally from Castlederg in Co. Tyrone he is married to Liz and has two boys (Conor and Cullen).

## Marketing and Communications Manager



**Kate McSweeney** (BBS (Hons), MBS) has been appointed Marketing and Communications Manager to the College of Medicine and Health. A qualified and experienced business graduate, Kate has over 15 years experience in senior roles in both industry and academia and joins the College from the Tyndall National Institute.

Kate will lead the College in its development of internal and external communications, through the newsletter, website, other on-line media and public relations. She is the point of contact relating to the promotion and marketing of the College of Medicine and Health and its services.

A first class honours masters graduate (Management and Marketing, UCC) and a graduate member of the Marketing Institute of Ireland, Kate lives in Fermoy and is married with three boys (Eoin, Kieran and Daire).

Should you require advice or support regarding marketing or media opportunities, please contact Kate at: [kate.mcsweeney@ucc.ie](mailto:kate.mcsweeney@ucc.ie) and mobile: **087 6150199**.





## A New Dawn for Health Care in the South and South West

On 1st July 2013, at the invitation of Dr Michael Murphy, President UCC, Health Managers and Senior Clinicians from hospitals in the new South/South West group gathered at the College of Medicine and Health UCC, for the inaugural meeting on establishing an Academic Healthcare Centre (AHC) model for the new South/South West Hospital Group.

Discussions focused on the importance of growing the linkages between the Hospitals and the University and developing a collective ambition to deliver an AHC model in the South/South West hospital group.

An AHC will form a single entity to provide a fully integrated structure for delivery of patient care, teaching, research and innovation. Following the visit Professor John Higgins commented: 'The energy and commitment of our colleagues in the South/South West group was extremely uplifting. I am optimistic we will successfully establish an AHC that will deliver the highest quality of care for our patients.'

For more see:

[www.ucc.ie/en/news/fullstory-307810-en.html](http://www.ucc.ie/en/news/fullstory-307810-en.html)



## Plenty in the Pipeline for UCC Health Matters

UCC Health Matters is a unique venture within University College Cork. It is fully inclusive as it is run jointly by both staff and students using a settings approach that has not been attempted before within the University. The aim is to integrate health and wellbeing into the culture, processes and policies of the university and to create long term effective, sustainable change, thus benefiting the students and staff as well as the wider community. This is done by co-ordinating health related activities on campus, creating partnerships and collaborations and identifying areas for action that will potentially enhance the health of the university population.

Successes of the initiative so far have included the UCC Operation Transformation which was one of the first programmes run by UCC Health Matters and this is where many students and staff first heard of the initiative. The initiative is in a constant state of growth and over the coming months a UCC Health Matters Calendar will be developed which will aim to promote events and activities taking place in UCC to staff and students. A dedicated UCC Health Matters Day is also being organised for the near future and it will be a day to focus on collaboration within the University, bringing together all parties working for the health and wellbeing of the UCC community.





### Dates for your diary

## School of Pharmacy

**Friday 27th September** – Scientific Conference: Recent research developments in the Pharmaceutical Sciences

**Saturday 30th November** – Alumni launch dinner

