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Happy Christmas
to all at CoMH and
a very happy
New Year



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Dear Colleagues

This month's newsletter is full of many good news stories – new appointments, launches, awards and prizes. There is much to celebrate as we welcome the Christmas season and a much deserved break for everyone. We have been working away in the past few weeks on laying the foundations for the new Academic Health Centre with our hospital partners.

A very successful Clinical Forum was held on 5th December 2013. Clinicians from our clinical groups from all the medical specialties and all the professional schools in the College of Medicine & Health met with their clinical partners in addition to managers and leaders from the hospitals and clinicians from primary care. The session was opened by the new Chair of the Southern Hospitals Group, Professor Geraldine McCarthy. We had an update from Mr. Ian Carter, National Director for Hospitals, HSE, and Mr. Pierce Grace, Chief Clinical Director from the University of Limerick Hospitals Group. The Assistant Secretary with responsibility for the Hospitals, Ms. Tracey Conroy attended and took part in the discussion. All the different professional groups presented feedback on their “blue sky vision” for their specialty regionally, nationally, and internationally over the next ten years. This is the first of many meetings and it was great to see almost 150 colleagues there.

Professor McCarthy, in her role as Chair of the Southern Hospitals Group, has requested that the College of Medicine & Health would provide office accommodation for her and her team. We are delighted to have been able to respond favourably to this request.

We have had a number of key meetings in Waterford with our new partner hospital in Waterford Regional (University) Hospital. I had the opportunity to brief

Waterford City Council in closed session. We have advertised two Senior Lecturer Posts in Clinical Education posts for Waterford. In addition, we are moving towards an agreement with the clinical staff in Waterford as to how we best utilise five new academic posts to be appointed there. A priority in the New Year will be to accelerate the engagement with South Tipperary General Hospital.

Last week, a joint announcement by the Minister for Health, James Reilly, and the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation, Richard Bruton, saw the second call for the Health Innovation Hub being launched. This builds on the success of Colman Casey (Director) and the team over the last year. One of the challenges for the new team at the Health Innovation Hub is that they ensure that its activities stretch across our entire group from Kerry, through Cork, Waterford and Tipperary and also that they ensures that we involve primary care. Please check out their new website www.hih.ie.

Finally, can I take the opportunity to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and every success in 2014. Thank you for all your hard work in 2013.

Kindest regards,

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





DENTAL HOSPITAL BOOK LAUNCH

Love or loathe that trip to the dentist, there is a distinct possibility that Cork University Dental School and Hospital has fulfilled a role in ensuring you receive a high standard of care.

Monday 25 November last saw the launch of a book that many will want to get their teeth into. **'Prevention is better than cure: History of the Cork Dental School and Hospital, 1913-2013'** was launched by Minister Kathleen Lynch TD in the Aula Maxima, UCC in honour of 2013 being the centenary of the founding of one of Cork's landmark institutions.

The book chronicles the colourful story of the institution and in many ways offers a story of triumph over adversity. It presents a real win over the years for dental patients, education and research and not just in Ireland – the reach of the closely-knit UCC dental community extends all over the world today.

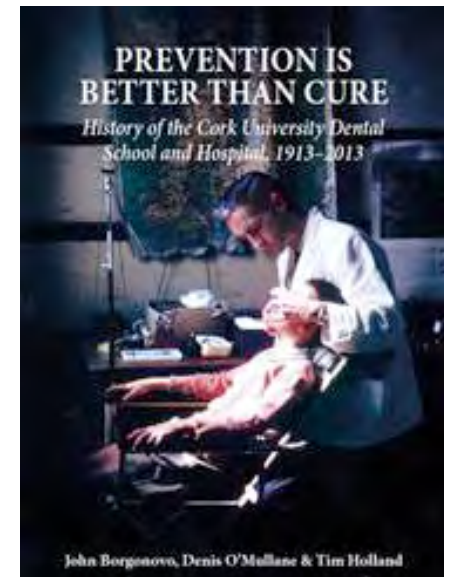
Many from that same community toasted the efforts of authors John Borgonovo, Denis O'Mullane and Tim Holland in capturing the essence of their story, at the successful Book Launch. Denis O'Mullane is UCC's Emeritus Professor of Preventative Dentistry, a graduate of the Cork Dental School, and one of the leading dental researchers in the state. Tim Holland is a retired Consultant in Paediatric Dentistry and served on the staff of the Cork Dental School and Hospital from the early 1970s through the 1990s. Dr John Borgonovo of the UCC School of History specialises in modern Irish and Cork history.

www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-406433-en.html



Top. Pictured (l-r): Dr John Borgonovo, Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr. Lorraine Kingston, Professor Martin Kinirons, Minister Kathleen Lynch TD, Mr Tim Holland, Professor Emeritus Denis O'Mullane and Professor John Higgins.

Above. BDS graduates from each decade from the 1940s through to 2013 (l-r): Dr Liam Lynch, Dr Lana O'Brien, Dr Anne Marie Owens, Dr Peter Cudmore, Dr Eithne Lemasney, Dr Eimear Hurley and Mr TJ Horgan. In the centre is Dr Willie Palmer who's picture features on the front of the book.



The book can be purchased online at uccshop.ie



Pictured (l-r): Ken and Amanda McCarthy, (the first participant enrolled in the IMPROVED study) with Maeve O'Connell, Research Midwife, Improved.
Photo credit. Gerard McCarthy

New Project Offers Clear Hope for the Early Detection of Pre-eclampsia

A new research initiative focusing on the life-threatening complications associated with pre-eclampsia is set to save the lives of affected mothers and babies.

IMPROVED an acronym for '**IM**proved **PR**egnancy **O**utcomes by **E**arly **D**etection' entails the use of novel metabolite and protein biomarkers to develop a non-invasive, sensitive, specific, and clinically robust blood-screening test for this common late-stage pregnancy complication. An international consortium of obstetric clinicians and scientists led by Louise Kenny, Professor of Obstetrics, University College Cork, Director of the Irish Centre for Foetal and Neonatal Translational Research (INFANT), Cork and Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, University Maternity Hospital launched a major EU funded programme where maternal and foetal health care stand to become revolutionised through a significantly more personalised approach.

The study will be conducted with the help and participation of first-time pregnant women recruited in major obstetric centres across five European countries, as well as €6m in funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme.

www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-406435-en.html



STILLBIRTH CONFERENCE

The Impact of Stillbirth Inaugural Conference

Stillbirth is a devastating reality occurring in 1 in 200 births with far reaching impact for parents and health care professionals.

With this in mind, Cork University Maternity Hospital's Pregnancy Loss Team and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at University College Cork recently held their inaugural one day conference on "The Impact of Stillbirth" in the Western Gateway Building, University College, Cork.

A ground-breaking DVD "Why did my baby die?" which will be used to help bereaved parents consider the sensitive issue of post-mortem examination or autopsy was launched during the conference.

The invited international speakers provided updates on the latest research into stillbirth as well as bereavement practices and care at the time of stillbirth.

www.ucc.ie/en/news/fullstory-392691-en.html



Pictured (l-r): Dr Keelin O'Donoghue, Senior Lecturer, University College Cork, Consultant Obstetrician, CUMH; Mr Brian Crowley MEP; Dr Alexander Heazell, Manchester Academic Health Science Centre and St Mary's Hospital, Manchester, UK; Professor John Higgins, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Head College of Medicine and Health, UCC; Professor Ingela Rådestad, Sophiahemmet University, Stockholm, Sweden.

Photo credit: Gerard McCarthy



Steven Byrne

Professor Stephen Byrne has been appointed Chair of Clinical Pharmacy Practice and Head of the School of Pharmacy. Stephen has been on the staff in the School since 2004. He commenced his UCC career as a joint appointment between the School and Cork University Hospital where he quickly established a pharmacist and nurse lead anti coagulation clinic with clinicians in CUH. This concept has expanded to other hospitals in the region along with the establishment of a Community Pharmacy based anti coagulant clinic in East Cork. This novel service has been one of his research interests in recent times.

He graduated from the University of Sunderland in 1996 with a degree in Pharmacy before embarking on his clinical training in Scotland. In 2002 he graduated from the School of Pharmacy, Trinity College Dublin having completed his PhD in the area of non physician management of oral anticoagulant therapy and he was the first person in Ireland to undertake a PhD in the field of Clinical Pharmacy Practice. Since then Stephen has worked both as a community and hospital pharmacist in various locations throughout Ireland before joining UCC in 2004.

Among his many research achievements he is part of a UCC team that developed the STOPP/START screening tool that was first published in 2008. This screening tool aims to improve the quality and safety of medicine prescriptions for elderly patients. The team's ultimate aim is to develop the STOPP/START software engine so that it can be deployed by all healthcare professionals e.g. doctors, pharmacists and nurses at the point of prescribing, dispensing and/or medication review for elderly patients on a regular basis.

His research team are also working in the field of antimicrobial usage patterns and he was part of a multidisciplinary team to publish the first set of antimicrobial guidelines for use in primary care in 2011.

He sits on a number of national and international committees such as the HSE Care of the Elderly, Medicines Working Group and the Health Services Research in Pharmacy Practice Research Group.



Mary Horgan

MD, FRCPI, FRCP(UK)

Professor Mary Horgan is Dean and Head of the School of Medicine, University College Cork and Consultant Physician in Cork University Hospital. She graduated from UCD with an Honours degree in 1986 and trained in Internal Medicine in the Mater and St. Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin. She was awarded her MRCPI and MRCP (Lond) in 1988 and 1989 respectively.

Professor Horgan undertook a Fellowship in the specialty of Infectious Diseases at Washington University School of Medicine, St Louis, USA in 1990 and was appointed Assistant Professor of Medicine at Washington University in 1995. She was conferred with an MD from UCD in 1995. She returned to Ireland in 1997 to take up the position of Consultant in Infectious Diseases at Cork University Hospital where she practices now. She served as Chair of the Consultant Medical Staff Committee and was a member of the Executive Management Board in CUH.

Professor Horgan was appointed as Director of the Graduate Entry Program in Medicine in UCC in 2010. She is actively involved in the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland where she is Director of Development and a Council Member. She chaired the Steering Committee on Acute Medicine (training). She was awarded FRCPI in 1997 and FRCP(Edin) in 2004.

Professor Horgan has served as a Board member of IBTS and is currently a Board Member of the Irish Medicines Board where she chairs the National Advisory Committee on Human Medicine and a Board Member of the Mercy University Hospital. She is President of the Infectious Diseases Society of Ireland.



Geraldine McCarthy

President of University College Cork, Dr Michael Murphy, has welcomed the announcement by the Minister for Health, Dr James Reilly TD, on the appointment of Professor Geraldine McCarthy as Chairperson of the South/South West Hospital Group. Congratulating Professor McCarthy on her appointment, President Murphy said, "Professor McCarthy's role will strengthen the linkages that already exist between the acute hospitals and University College Cork across the South/South West region."

Geraldine McCarthy was founding Professor and Dean of the Catherine McAuley School of Nursing and Midwifery which was established in University College Cork (UCC) in 1994. From 2010 to 2011 she held the post as Acting Head of the College of Medicine and Health at UCC providing strategic leadership in research and educational programs in Medicine, Dentistry, Therapies, Pharmacy, Nursing and Midwifery. She has held a variety of other positions in Ireland, the UK, USA and Canada. She holds a MEd from TCD, MSN and PhD degrees in Nursing from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, USA. She has been a member of a number of national and EU bodies including the Commission on Nursing, The Nurse Education Forum and the Task Force on undergraduate medical education, as well as the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) and the Fulbright Commission. She has published over 120 papers and has presented at national and international conferences. Her research interests include those associated with management and chronic disease self-care especially in elderly care. In addition she was a member of the non-executive Advisory Board for the Reconfiguration of the Health Services in the Southern Region.

www.ucc.ie/en/med-health/news/fullstory-395473-en.html



UCC ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The UCC Alumni Achievement Awards (AAA) took place on Friday 29 November 2013 in the Aula Maxima, UCC. The Award is the highest honour UCC can bestow upon a graduate.

Synonymous with dental research in Ireland, Denis O'Mullane, Emeritus Professor and Consultant, Oral Health Services Research Centre, Cork University Dental School & Hospital, received the Alumnus Award for Voluntary Service to UCC. The Cork native, who received a BDS in 1960 and a PhD in 1971 from UCC, is a pioneer in his area, having established the Oral Health Services Research Centre in 1983 - still the only one of its kind in Ireland. His contribution to the debate around the use of fluoroide in drinking water in Ireland is unparalleled, with Professor O'Mullane authoring most of the significant studies examining its impact on dental and public health.

He has been recognised internationally several times, including the Distinguished Service Award from the International Association for Dental Research, the largest dental research organisation in the world. His love of music and singing is well known locally and he recorded two CDs (at his own expense) to raise funds for Marymount Hospice in Cork. A keen sportsman, Professor O'Mullane played hurling for Grenagh and for UCC and continues to contribute heavily to that side of life in UCC.

www.ucc.ie/en/news/fullstory-401474-en.html



Occupational Therapy - Dr H.H. Stewart Medical Scholarship

Jessica Kennedy

Jessica graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Occupational Therapy in June 2013. In 2012, during her third year in University College Cork, she received a College of Medicine and Health Scholarship Award for her examination results. As a result of these grades, she was nominated for The Dr H.H. Stewart Medical Scholarship in Occupational Therapy from the National University of Ireland. She received this award for her paper titled 'The Quality Mechanisms that newly qualified Occupational Therapists can adopt to ensure their Practice is Effective and Evidence Based'. During fourth year, she completed a qualitative research study with the support of my supervisor Dr Helen Lynch in order to explore the nature of online social participation amongst Irish 9-16 year olds. Her final paper titled 'A Shift from Offline to Online: Adolescence, the Internet and Social Participation' earned her the Undergraduate Award for 'Social Innovation' in Ireland. The study's findings confirm the Internet's potential to provide a contemporary platform for adolescents to broaden their social circles, form relationships, develop social norms, experiment with their identities, express themselves and search for social validation. In addition, she received the award for 'Most Innovative Research Poster' from the Department of Occupational Science and Therapy in UCC. Jessica is currently working as an Occupational Therapist in Melbourne and would hope to complete further research in the future."



Nursing and Midwifery

Siobhan O'Connor UA Award

This year a final year B.Sc. Nursing student at University College Cork (UCC), Ms Siobhán O'Connor, won a top international academic award at the 2013 Undergraduate Awards. The Undergraduate Awards (UA) is the world's only pan-discipline academic awards programme that identifies the leading creative thinkers and problem solvers through their undergraduate coursework. Ms O'Connor was the overall winner in the Nursing and Midwifery category for her research focusing on the efficacy of zinc based wound products in healing chronic venous leg ulcers. She beat off stiff competition from students at the University Pennsylvania, King's College London, Queen's University Belfast, and the University of Ulster to name a few as this year's Undergraduate Awards received over 3,700 submissions from 182 institutions across 25 countries.

<http://www.ucc.ie/en/nursingmidwifery/news/fullstory-400405-en.html>

Dental School and Hospital

Gerry McKenna

Gary Pollock Postgraduate Award



Dr Gerry McKenna was awarded the Prize at the British Society of Restorative Dentistry meeting in London recently. Gerry's presentation was titled "Oral rehabilitation of a head and neck cancer patient using a two piece magnet retained obturator". At the same meeting Gerry was elected to the council of the Specialist Registrars in Restorative Dentistry Group (SRRDG).

Dental School and Hospital

IADR Awards

Well done to Postgraduates Dr Emma Warren (DClinDent Oral Surgery) and Dr Úna McAuliffe (MPDH) who were successful in the Royal College of Surgeons Prize and the Dental Health Foundation Prize at the IADR last month.



Medical School

THE DR HENRY HUTCHINSON STEWART SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIZES

Congratulations to UCC medical students who had an outstanding performance in this year's NUI Dr HH Stewart Medical Scholarships and secured over one-third of the awards. UCC medical students were awarded 8 first prizes (scholarships), 6 second places, three third places and two commendations.

FIRST PLACES

Biochemistry - **Dennis Hopkinson**

Pharmacology - **Francis Delaney**

Physiology - **Siobhan Rafferty**

General Practice - **Patrick Mitchell**

Ophthalmology - **Ming Yong Lee**

Medicine - **Sheila McSweeney**

Paediatrics - **Karen McCarthy**

Surgery - **Helen O'Brien**

SECOND PLACES

Gynaecology and Obstetrics - **Aoife Hurley**

Clinical Radiology - **Anne Mary O'Mahony**

Medical Microbiology - **Kieran Reddy**

Medicine - **Orla Houlihan**

Paediatrics - **Daniel Crowley**

Physiology - **Alexandra Britto**

THIRD PLACES

Biochemistry - **David Vaughan**

Pathology - **Laura Corkery**

Pharmacology - **Kieran Mullins**

COMMENDATION

Medicine - **Karen McCarthy**

Paediatrics - **Anne Mary O'Mahony**

The results from other schools in College of Medicine and Health was equally impressive. Dentistry UCC student Natalie Phoon Mei Yen got first prize and Patrick James O'Connor was awarded second place.

Aimee Tebay got second place in Midwifery, June Considine got second place in Nursing, Niamh Crowley first place in Occupational Therapy, Marie O'Halloran second place Pharmacy, Zoe Rourke first place in Speech and Language therapy.

The students received their medals and awards at an NUI ceremony in Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin on 12th November.



Receiving their awards are: Zoe Rourke (left photo) and Niamh Crowley

Dr Henry Hutchinson Stewart was born in Wicklow in 1799, the son of a clergyman. In 1829 he obtained the licence of the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland and MD of Edinburgh. In 1888 a bequest was received by Trinity College, Dublin and the Royal University of Ireland, from the estate of Dr Henry Hutchinson Stewart, for the establishment of Medical and Literary Scholarships. Under the terms of the trust, two-thirds of the income is allocated for the provision of medical scholarships and one-third for the provision of literary scholarships. The recipients of the medical scholarships and prizes are determined by an agreed extern examiner in each subject.

The NUI Awards for 2014 will be announced on the NUI website at the beginning of January:
www.nui.ie/awards

FIELDING MEDAL

Jamie-Sue Kelly, Graduate Entry medical student at UCC recently won the Fielding Medal awarded by the Faculty of Radiology, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland for the best medical student project submitted in an academic year in essay form. Her project was supervised by Mr Peter Ryan, Bons Secours Hospital, Cork.

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE – PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY

On Friday 22nd November, 2013 the annual School of Medicine Prize-Giving Ceremony took place in Brookfield Health Sciences Complex. The Dean of the School, Professor Mary Horgan, welcomed the large number of prize-winners, their families and friends, invited guests and School of Medicine colleagues to the Ceremony. Professor Horgan acknowledged this important event in the Medical School calendar as an excellent opportunity to recognise the impressive achievements of the School's students and graduates. Professor Horgan thanked the families and friends for supporting the students through the medical programme.

www.ucc.ie/en/medical/newsevents/fullstory-401550-en.html





CUH/UCC PROFESSOR DENIS O'SULLIVAN FELLOW RECEIVES NATIONAL RESEARCH AWARD

Dr Mike Harrison, Respiratory SpR, CUH/UCC, Professor Denis O'Sullivan Fellow, 2012-13 was awarded second prize at the Irish Thoracic Society Annual Scientific Meeting, November 2013, for his oral presentation "A prospective study of the CF gut: prevalence, ribotyping and toxigenic capability of **Clostridium difficile** in adult CF". This is a highly competitive annual award with over 200 research submission from both north and south of the border in all aspects of Respiratory medicine. This work forms part of Dr Harrison's MD thesis investigating host-pathogen interaction in Cystic Fibrosis under the supervision of Dr Barry Plant, Director of the Adult CF Centre, Cork University Hospital. The research was carried out in collaboration with the Teagasc Food Research Centre and Professor Fergus Shahanahn at the APC.

This work is the largest study to date examining the role of **Clostridium difficile** in the gut of people with Cystic Fibrosis and is the first study to characterise **Clostridium difficile** ribotypes and antibiotic sensitivities in people with Cystic Fibrosis. The study revealed a high prevalence of **Clostridium difficile**, including many hyper-virulent strains, in the gut of adults with Cystic Fibrosis without clinical evidence of Clostridium difficile-associated disease. The findings highlight the potential role of patients with Cystic Fibrosis as pathogen reservoirs for **Clostridium difficile**. The study also has important implications for the treatment of people with Cystic Fibrosis in the peri-lung transplantation period.



Dr Bridget Maher,
Director, Jennings Gallery

JENNINGS GALLERY APPOINTS NEW DIRECTOR

I am delighted to take up the role of Director of the Jennings Gallery and Chair of STEAM and send my warmest thanks to John Sweeney, Helton Whelton and Siobhan Murphy, who have all made the Jennings Gallery the very special place it is today. Visual Art and the Humanities are hugely important in health-care education. Here at UCC, our students and our teachers intuitively appreciate the importance of Art and creativity in their personal and professional lives. Together, in the Jennings Gallery, faculty from across the College of Medicine and Health are united in their pursuit of more rounded, reflective, compassionate and empathetic care-givers.

The Jennings Gallery recently hosted two short-term exhibitions. The first of these, an exhibition of traditional Chinese Art, organised by the Confucius Society at UCC, was from Shanghai University. The visiting delegation included a traditional calligrapher who demonstrated Chinese calligraphy at the Gallery. The other members of the delegation (Professors of Fine Art at Shanghai University) visited the Gallery and met with members of the Jennings Gallery/STEAM Committee and faculty from COMH.

The exhibition 'I Hear Asylums' by Michelle Dalton was inspired by the artist's own journey through mental illness and was hosted as part of the conference 'The meanings of madness: critical and creative perspectives' organised by Dr Lydia Sapouna and Dr Harry Gijbels.

The current exhibition 'Acquainted with the Night' by Occupational Therapist Grainne Tynan opened on 28th November portrays scenes from suburban Dublin conveying the isolation of contemporary life.

The Jennings Gallery will host a collaborative exhibition in February of next year 'It's a Beautiful World'. This exhibition will include imagery from the world of science and medicine and we welcome your drawings, paintings, photographs and sculpture. Keep your eyes wide open and let the beauty find you...

The Jennings Gallery is also delighted to host an exhibition of artwork by children with autistic spectrum disorder in April 'Celebrating Autism' and on 13th May 2014 the Gallery hosts the Occupational Therapy Student exhibition 'The Art of Making'.



The visiting delegation to the exhibition of traditional Chinese Art

STEAM Committee

Visual Thinking Strategies at UCC

All Schools in the College of Medicine and Health have now introduced Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS). A pilot VTS programme recently commenced in the medical school, led by trained VTS facilitators from the School of Medicine with the support of VTS facilitators from School of Nursing and Midwifery, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Clinical Therapies. The School of Medicine is extremely grateful to our colleagues in the other COMH disciplines who helped make this programme possible. VTS programmes have already been introduced in the Schools of Nursing and Midwifery, Pharmacy, Dentistry and the Clinical Therapies.

‘Seeing is an Art that must be learned’

Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) is a teaching method that uses visual observations to enhance critical thinking and observation skills and is based on open-ended yet highly-structured discussions of visual art of increasing complexity. In addition to teaching students the importance of detailed observation, VTS aims to help students cultivate a willingness and ability to present their own ideas, while respecting and learning from the perspectives of their peers. VTS is thought to increase the frequency of supported observations and speculations and to foster critical thinking strategies.



Pictured (l-r): Eimear O’Sullivan,
Áine Murphy and Dr Bridget Maher

UCC Matters

The efforts made in UCC to tackle the complex issues around alcohol related harm have been recognised at the recent Irish Healthcare Awards, the “Oscars of Irish Healthcare”. UCC Health Matters had double success, winning the Best Public Health Initiative and even more impressively, winning An Duais Mhór (the overall award) ahead of 116 other entries, for its entry;

You can read the winning submission and see photos of the presentation of the awards on the UCC Health Matters Facebook Page on www.facebook.com/ucchealthmatters.

Dr Michael Byrne, Head of the Student Health Department UCC, and co-coordinator of UCC Health Matters speaks to the gathered audience at the Irish Healthcare Awards, explaining the importance of the work the UCC Health Matters Alcohol Action Group has undertaken in tackling alcohol related harm.



Dr Michael Byrne

Close Support Dentistry

The Cork University Dental School and Hospital (CUDSH) recently introduced a pilot programme in relation to the concept of Close Support Dentistry to third year dental students, dental nursing students and staff members. This course comprised of a didactic component followed by a practical hands on session in the Clinical Skills Laboratory of the CUDSH.

Close Support or Four Handed Dentistry is the area of dentistry concerned with allowing the dentist and dental nurse to function as a team in a seated position with maximum efficiency and minimal strain.

Some of the recognised benefits of Close Support Dentistry include good posture, prevention of musculoskeletal disorders, increased productivity, reduction of stress and fatigue to the dental team, work simplification and shorter appointments resulting in more patients being seen and higher financial gain. For further information please contact, Ms Siobhán Shakeshaft or Ms Mary Harrington CUDSH.



UCC Students Spark Biomedical Innovation

Engineering and medical students from UCC are working together to produce innovative design solutions to real-world clinical problems.

Student solutions were showcased in a 'dragon's den' style seminar symposium which took place in the Cork University Hospital, December 6th 2013, before a panel of independent industry experts. The event, sponsored by Stryker Ireland, culminated with the presentation of the John Francis Burke Perpetual Award for Biomedical Innovation as the first prize to the winning interdisciplinary team.

The team that scooped this year's award invented "Amputaid." Amputaid is a novel first-aid kit which optimally cools amputated fingers for up to 24 hours enabling their safe transport to a hospital for replantation. Not only does the Amputaid device provide optimal cooling, it promises to leave no mess to clean up, provides an instant cooling solution and is low cost. Amputaid was developed by an interdisciplinary team of medical and engineering students; namely Ronan Hand, Tadhg Lambe, Ronan O'Brien, Mobin Jamal and Ben Thistlewood under the mentorship of Mr Jason Kelly, a consultant in plastic surgery at Cork University Hospital.

Pictured (l-r): Ronan O'Brien, Ben Thistlewood, Mobin Jamal, Tadhg Lambe, and Ronan Hand.

Photo credit: Gerard McCarthy



Winter Gathering - The Graduate School

The Graduate School, CoMH hosted the annual Winter Gathering on Thursday 5th December 2013 in Brookfield Café.

Aoife Fleming, Chair, Postgraduate Student Committee welcomed Professor Josephine Hegarty in her new role as Acting Dean of the Graduate School.

A great evening was enjoyed by all with staff and students in competition for the lucrative boxes of Rose and Celebrations. Entertainment was provided School of Medicine musician and student Geoffrey Ronan.



SFI Researcher of the Year



Pictured (l-r): Minister for Research and Innovation, Mr Seán Sherlock, TD, Professor Fergus Shanahan, Director of the APC at University College Cork and Professor Mark Ferguson, Director General of SFI

Professor Fergus Shanahan, Director of the APC, has been named this year's SFI Researcher of the Year at the Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Science Summit in Athlone. Professor Shanahan, who is one of the leading international experts in the area of gastrointestinal research, was presented with the award by Mr Sean Sherlock, TD, Minister for Research & Innovation in recognition of his significant contribution to understanding how intestinal bacteria influence both health and disease in the gut and beyond.

Professor Mark Ferguson, Director General of SFI, said, "SFI is delighted to honour Professor Shanahan with this award. The award recognises his outstanding research in the field of gastroenterology. He has already been recognised worldwide as a leader in this field and it is important that his achievements are also acknowledged and valued here in Ireland. He has shown exceptional leadership in the establishment and expansion of the highly successful APC, gaining significant funding and achieving the ranking of second in the world in probiotic research."

Professor Shanahan's work involves the development of new therapies for debilitating gastrointestinal diseases, such as Irritable Bowel Syndrome, Ulcerative Colitis, and Crohn's disease. He is also responsible for exploring commercial opportunities in the pharma, biotech and functional food sectors that will help position Ireland at the forefront of these important growth areas. He was recently honoured by the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology with their highest award, the McKenna prize and lectureship.

www.ucc.ie/en/news/fullstory-394171-en.html

INAUGURAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DEMENTIA CARE IN ACUTE HOSPITALS



The Centre for Gerontology and Rehabilitation, University College Cork, in conjunction with their partners, are proud to host the Inaugural National Conference on Dementia Care in Acute Hospitals, which will take place on Friday January 31st 2014, from 9.30am to 4.15pm, in UCC.

This one-day interdisciplinary conference will be opened by Minister for Disability, Older People, Equality & Mental Health, Kathleen Lynch, TD, in the Western Gateway Building.

The programme boasts speakers from a wide range of backgrounds including gerontology, psychiatry and Psychiatry of Old Age, nursing, occupational therapy, general practice and the HSE. The event will provide a forum for the most cutting-edge developments in research and practice relating to dementia care in hospital settings to be disseminated and discussed.

Some highlights of the conference will include an expert panel discussion, chaired by Professor Des O' Neill, focusing on the issues

surrounding best care for people with dementia in acute hospitals, and an afternoon breakout session for delegates with a special interest in the area of delirium in the acute hospital setting.

This event will also host the official launch of the results of the first ever 'Irish National Audit of Dementia Care in Acute Hospitals' (INAD), a collaboration between UCC, TCD and the HSE Quality and Patient Safety Directorate.

Registration link:

www.uccconferencing.ie/product/dementia-care-acute-hospitals/

Medical Research Newsletter has been published

MRN (Medical Research Newsletter) published by the School of Medicine Research Committee October newsletter is available at the following link:

<http://uccschoolofmedicine.newsweaver.ie/newsletter/1kyz7alkguk>