

## Summer NEWSLETTER

### Featured articles





## Greetings from Prof. Helen Whelton

Dear colleagues,

It has been a really exciting few months at College of Medicine and Health with lots to celebrate.

Our students are hardworking, inspirational individuals. I see this showcased at various stages of the year, including our Quercus Scholar Awards, and it is never more

evident than when I watch hundreds of our students graduate from UCC every year and become the very backbone of our healthcare system. Congratulations to our 303 healthcare professionals who graduated from both School of Medicine and the Dental School and Hospital in May. I wish you every success in your career, and hope that you always remain connected to UCC. Graduations are such a happy time, full of celebration, and I love to see families and friends from near and far, this year including Canada, US, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Jordan, Australia, Hong Kong and others, proudly joining us on campus to celebrate this joyous occasion. Another rewarding moment for me is to see family members of our staff graduating from UCC. This year in the College we had a particularly high number of such graduates, and some photos of this proud bunch are shared with you here. Also among those who recently graduated is Olympic Gold medal winner Dr Paul O'Donovan. Paul has brought pride to us as a university and has inspired the nation through his rowing talent and immense success. We wish him well in the next chapter of his medical career.

We continue to see growth across the six schools at the College of Medicine and Health. Today we have over 4,500 students from Ireland and around the world, and with our highly rated international reputation this number continues to rise. The QS World University Rankings by Subject, published in March, feature a total of 1597 universities across 161 countries. Those rankings list UCC as one of the world's top universities for the study of 25 subjects, a wonderful achievement. We are very proud of our School of Nursing earning a QS World ranking of 33rd in the World, and additionally top 100 rankings have been earned in the areas of Pharmacy & Pharmacology (99), and Anatomy & Physiology (51-100), and also Medicine in the top 200. Well done, and thank you, to all involved.

It is an exciting time for recruitment here in UCC, with our ambitious UCC Futures programme shaping an innovative academic recruitment strategy. Here in the College, we have had a number of key appointments in recent months. Welcome to Professor

Patricia Leahy Warren our new Head of School of Nursing & Midwifery, Professor Gerard O'Keeffe our new Vice-Head for Research and Innovation, and to Dr Aoife Fleming as Vice Head of Interprofessional Learning, all of whom have brought a new energy to our College.

Throughout the College, the energy that our colleagues exhibit in hosting events to showcase our students, our research and our academic achievements never ceases to amaze me. Many of these events are written about on our website and I encourage you to take a few minutes and look through the articles here at: [Medicine and Health | University College Cork \(ucc.ie\)](https://www.ucc.ie/en/medicineandhealth/)

Many of our health science courses are heavily reliant on approval from an accrediting body. Reviews by such bodies are detailed and stringent, as they should be, and it is with great pride that we can say that the School of Public Health was recently awarded its APHEA accreditation. Well done to Head of School, Professor Ella Arensman, and all our colleagues in the school. We are also excited to announce that CUH in collaboration with University College Cork have recently become members of The

Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OEI) and have begun the application process to become a fully accredited Cancer Centre. Finally, with the goal of supporting gender equality in higher education and research, our colleagues across our schools are working hard on achieving Athena Swan awards. Most recently, our congratulations to School of Clinical Therapies who were awarded the Athena SWAN Bronze Award.

In my role as Head of College, I am also the Chief Academic Officer for the South South-West Hospital Group, and the current chair of this national group. On May 18th, the CAO group in partnership with the Hospital Group CEOs and Community Health Organisation COs, hosted an event titled "Health Science Systems: The Foundation of Sláintecare" in Farmleigh House. This was a seminal meeting, involving senior leaders from our universities, government and health service. The meeting explored the concept of an academic health science system (AHSS) in Ireland and how the university sector should engage with healthcare delivery in the future. We had inspirational and insightful presentations and panel discussions from our guest speakers, further details of which can be found on our [Academic Health Sciences website](https://www.ucc.ie/en/academichealthsciences/). The meeting highlighted for

me how we all share the same goal, that is excellence in patient care, be it through service, education, research or policy. I am excited to lead our national CAO Group to the next stage of the development of an AHSS in Ireland.

Finally, I would like to extend congratulations and warm good wishes to Prof John Higgins, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and previous Head of this College, on his appointment as Chief Executive Officer of the HSE South South-West Hospital Group. John was instrumental in Ireland for the development of the concept of a partnership between academic education, research and the health service and is a strong advocate of an Academic Health Sciences System.

Thank you to our staff, affiliates and students. It has been a wonderful few months for College of Medicine and Health with some exciting activities and developments underway for the remainder of this year.

**Professor Helen Whelton**

Head of College of Medicine & Health  
*University College Cork*



## Recent Conferings!

**We were delighted to celebrate spring and summer conferings recently.**

We were delighted to celebrate Spring Conferings in March. Wonderful to see so many graduates entering the medical profession and other disciplines. Our health service will be all the richer because of these students contribution and commitment to learning. Head of College Prof. Helen Whelton congratulated all students, encouraging them to “stay open to new ideas. Stay well-rounded, curious and self-aware and make things happen”. Prof. Whelton thanked the staff in the School of Pharmacy under the leadership of Prof. Brendan Griffin, the staff in the School of Public Health under the leadership of Prof. Ella Arensman, the School of Medicine under the leadership of Prof. Paula O’Leary, the School of Nursing and Midwifery under the leadership of Prof. Josephine Hegarty, the Dental School and Hospital under the leadership of Prof. Paul Brady and School of Clinical Therapies under the leadership of Prof. Nicole Müller.







L/R Prof. Helen Whelton, Prof. Paula O'Leary, Gold Medal winning Olympian Dr. Paul O'Donovan who graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Medicine, Prof. John O'Halloran, President UCC and Michele Power, Quercus Talented Students Programme.



Prof. Denis O'Mahony, Prof. in Medicine and Consultant Geriatrician and Prof. Paula O'Leary, Head of School of Medicine with their daughter Julia O'Mahony who graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Medicine in May.











## Bright Futures

Bright Futures was a wonderful event we held at Western Gateway Building in April celebrating advances in research and innovation across the college. Researchers and innovators had an opportunity to showcase their work and hear from Doctoral Alumni and special guests including Professor Philip Nolan, Director General, Science Foundation Ireland, former President of Maynooth University and member of the National Public Health Emergency Team. Prof. Nolan shared his career experiences delivering a keynote address entitled 'The Uncertain Journey: My Winding Path in Science and Leadership'.

The event which was organised by Prof. Yvonne Nolan, Vice Dean of Graduate Studies at CoMH featured a fireside chat with invited Doctoral Alumni speaking about their career paths, experiences and opportunities. Panellists included UCC President Prof. John O'Halloran; Prof. Helen Whelton, Head of College of Medicine and Health, UCC; Dr Sarah-Jo Sinnott, Director of Pharmacoeconomics at Sanofi, Boston, US; Dr Shane Hegarty, Chief Scientific Officer and Co. Founder of AXONIS Therapeutics, Boston, US; Dr Michael Myers, Co-Founder and CEO of Quoin Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Virginia, US; Dr Tanya

Mulcahy, Director of Health Innovation Hub Ireland; Dr Siobhan Cusack, Director of Research Strategy & Projects, UCC, Dr Mohamad Saab, Senior Lecturer School of Nursing & Midwifery, UCC.

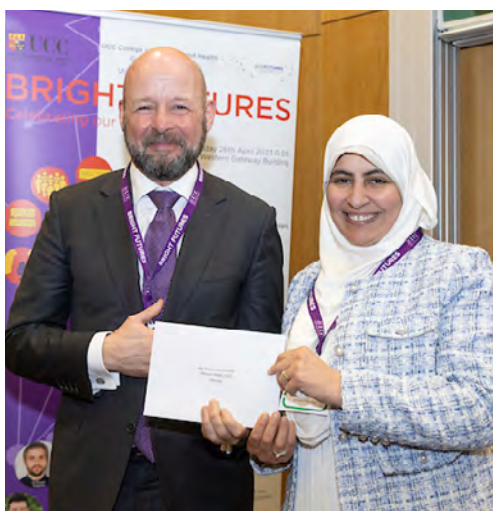
The event also featured research speed dating, a research tradeshow and an awards ceremony to celebrate the successes of doctoral students and included a very special event later in day when esteemed guest Dr. Katalin Kariko joined researchers for a special 'In Conversation with' led by Prof. John Cryan, Vice President for Research and Innovation.





Wonderful day at College of Medicine and Health when Dr. Katalin Karikó took time to share her journey with students during 'Bright Futures' event in April before receiving an Honorary Doctorate from UCC. More here:

[News | University College Cork \(ucc.ie\)](https://www.ucc.ie/news/2023/04/20/dr-katalin-karik%C3%B3-receives-honorary-doctorate-from-ucc/)



Prof. Philip Nolan, Director General, Science Foundation Ireland with one of our prizewinners



L/R: Prof. Philip Nolan, Prof. Paula O'Leary, Prof. Yvonne Nolan, Prof. John O'Halloran, Prof. Helen Whelton & Prof. John Cryan



Attendees at Bright Futures Event



L/R: Anne Burke and Jane Hurley, College of Medicine and Health





## University College Cork and Marymount University Hospital and Hospice jointly launch an innovative MSc in Palliative Care

**Tánaiste Micheál Martin TD spoke about the impact the course will have for palliative care in the Cork region and nationwide.**



An exciting day when our new MSc programme in Palliative Care was launched in partnership with Marymount University Hospital and Hospice and University College Cork. This clinically-oriented course incorporates leading research and innovative evidence-based practice in the field of contemporary palliative care. Its design focuses on developing competence and confidence in caring for people living with advanced illness while supporting those important to them.

Chief Executive Officer of Marymount University Hospital and Hospice, Dr. Sarah McCloskey said: “as a relatively new medical speciality, Specialist Palliative Care is often misunderstood by both healthcare professionals and the public. It is essential that we educate more. This Masters programme through enhancement of knowledge and awareness of palliative care will enable appropriate and faster access to specialist services which ultimately benefits patients and families.”



Head of College of Medicine and Health, Prof. Helen Whelton said she was “delighted to be involved in supporting such an important educational initiative with Marymount University Hospital and Hospice. Everyone in Cork knows someone who has benefited from the care and support offered by Marymount, Ireland’s oldest and busiest hospice having celebrated 150 years of service in 2020. As the specialist Palliative Care Centre for Cork and Kerry the institution of Marymount is much loved and universally admired”.

Special mention was given to Dr. Catherine Sweeney, Senior Lecturer in Health Professions’ Education UCC who led the programme design and curriculum development for this programme.

The joint MSc Programme in Palliative Care is an innovative part-time, blended-learning programme which has been designed to an international standard. The Postgraduate Certificate is now open to healthcare professionals who would like to develop knowledge, skills and competencies to assist them in delivering palliative care to patients and their families at a generalist level. The Postgraduate Diploma supports students to take on the delivery of palliative care at a specialist and leadership level and the MSc provides the knowledge and skills required to critically evaluate the available evidence and develop and undertake research and assume management and leadership positions in the delivery of palliative care.

**The MSc Programme in Palliative Care starts this September and is now open for applications for year one: <https://www.ucc.ie/en/pcpc/>**

**Prof. Gerard O'Keeffe****Dr. Aoife Fleming****Prof. Patricia Leahy-Warren**

## Key Appointments

Delighted to announce a number of key appointments at College of Medicine and Health this term. Prof. Patricia Leahy-Warren appointed new Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery, Prof. Gerard O'Keeffe as Vice Head for Research and Innovation and Dr. Aoife Fleming appointed Vice Head for Interprofessional Learning.

Prof. O'Keeffe will lead the development and implementation of a strategic research and innovation plan for CoMH helping to implement the UCC Futures framework and create an innovation culture and entrepreneurial campus underpinned by an ethos of creativity and discovery.

A native of Lismore in Co. Waterford, Prof. O'Keeffe graduated from UCC with a BSc and PhD in Neuroscience in 2000 and 2004. This was followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at the School of Biosciences in Cardiff University in the UK before returning to UCC in 2008 where he now leads an active research team in

the Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience. Prof. O'Keeffe and his team use a multi-disciplinary, collaborative approach to discover and characterise the factors that influence the development, degeneration and regeneration of neurons in the nervous system.

In welcoming Prof. O'Keeffe, Prof. Whelton said this "is an exciting time for research in UCC and CoMH. We very much look forward to working with Gerard. We also thank and complement the excellent work of Prof. Liam Fanning and Prof. Mike Clarkson over the past years in driving the research agenda in the College to date".

Dr. Aoife Fleming, a Lecturer in Clinical Pharmacy at the School of Pharmacy will promote the development of Interprofessional Learning (IPL) opportunities for students as well as supporting collaborative partnerships between College of Medicine and Health and the health services and promoting public and patient engagement in IPL education.

A native of Courtmacsherry Dr. Fleming will lead an IPL action plan and work with a community of IPL advocates across Schools and Departments in CoMH to promote IPL education and research.

Dr. Fleming graduated with a degree in Pharmacy from Trinity College Dublin in 2004. She completed a Masters in Hospital Pharmacy (Trinity College Dublin) in 2007 while working as a Pharmacist at Beaumont Hospital. She has extensive experience working the hospital and community pharmacy settings.

Prof. Whelton said "we are delighted to have Dr. Fleming as Vice Head for Interprofessional Learning. It is essential to build on the professional training delivered to our students and further enhance it with interprofessional learning and teaching to give our future practitioner an understanding of their and other roles in the healthcare team.





## The All Ireland Interprofessional Healthcare Challenge

The All Ireland Interprofessional Healthcare Challenge (AIPEC) 2023 took place in the University of Galway earlier this year. UCC was well represented by Dr. Aoife Fleming and our UCC College of Medicine and Health team members:

**Emma Crowley**, Pharmacy  
**Aine Neligan**, Speech and Language Therapy  
**Maeve Kearney**, Physiotherapy  
**My Linh Truong**, Nursing & Midwifery  
**Maeve Kearney**, Physiotherapy  
**Olivia Donegan**, Medicine  
**Diana Junio**, Occupational Therapy.

AIPEC is an annual interprofessional, intervarsity competition which provides an opportunity for students from all health and social care disciplines to work collaboratively for eight weeks to present a patient management plan for a patient with health and social care needs.

Congratulations to you all! This year's case focused on a man who was homeless and experienced a stroke. All student teams presented their patient management plan to a panel of expert judges. Our UCC College of Medicine and Health team were commended on their presentation which addressed patient advocacy and the challenges faced by the patient and the health care professionals to ensure an appropriate step-down care plan. This year teams from all over Ireland took part; University College Cork, University of Limerick, University of Galway, Trinity College Dublin, Royal College of Surgeons Ireland, University College Dublin, Queen's University Belfast and the University of Ulster. UCD were the AIPEC 2023 winners. The event included a presentation from Karen Golden CEO of Galway Simon Community.



## Q&A

Gearoid has worked in the internationalisation space for UCC for almost ten years, starting out as the ASEAN International Manager in the UCC Academy. Since 2017, he has worked as the Medicine & Health International Manager.



### Gearoid McCarthy

International Manager

#### Q1. Tell me about your job?

My job is primarily oriented towards non-EU internationalisation activity. Within the College, and with the wider university team, I support student and staff mobility as well as research collaborations and partnerships with international universities. What remains central to my day-to-day activity is non-EU student recruitment. Across all six schools, I ensure that we hit our recruitment objectives in terms of numbers and diversity. I also work with a wide range of players and stakeholders external to UCC. These include Ireland's extensive embassy network, student recruitment agents, government bodies like Enterprise Ireland, and, importantly, international schools.

#### Q2. How much travelling is involved? Where does it take you?

There is a good degree of travel involved in this role, but, clearly, there has been significant disruption to this since 2020. Pre-Covid, I could spend anything up to 12 weeks abroad in a given year, all of this across a range of geographies, but primarily, Southeast Asia, China/Hong Kong, East Asia, Middle East, India and West Africa. While reasonably successful when we had to pivot to online recruitment and other internationalisation activity, there is no substitute to the face-to-face value in what I do. Therefore, a return to boots on the ground is welcome, and I am coming off the back of two very successful trips to West Africa and East Asia earlier this year. I recognise the environmental necessity to take less flights, so finding the balance is key.

#### Q3. Where was the last place you visited? Tell me about it?

I visited Ghana with the School of Nursing & Midwifery in January. This was my first visit there, so there was a significant degree of preparation and planning required. We had hiccups and stressors along the way, including delays to visas and unreliable transport, but I like to think that with my experience in this space, none of these are insurmountable. Ghana is a fascinating country. It is colourful, musical, welcoming and full of excellent students looking for education opportunities abroad. Our primary objective in visiting was to source high-calibre nursing and public health students, and to build the UCC brand by linking in with state nursing bodies and universities of note. It was a hugely successful trip, and, to date, we have seen a five-fold increase on last year in Ghanaian applications for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes across the College of Medicine & Health.

#### Q4. Your top tip for jet lag?

If I had one that is fool-proof, I would certainly share it. Alas, I don't, and often need to suffer through it like many. It always tends to hit me on the second or third night. I wake with a ping, pray that it's not 2am, but, of course, it always is. I've researched the most recent scholarly articles and even read golfers' interviews (with their considerable travel commitments) for tips. The prevailing suggestion seems to be to start aligning your sleep with your destination country in the days leading up to your trip.





Speaking with students and parents at an education exhibition in Vietnam

**Q5. What are the questions you get asked the most when meeting prospective students?**

Understanding the cultural context of what I do is really important, so depending where I am visiting, there will be different priorities for students in terms of questions. For example, in many Asian countries, the decision to travel abroad to study is a family one so parents and guardians are particularly involved in the process.

Overall, though, when I am attending university education exhibitions, I am invariably asked the same ten questions a thousand times by students and their parents. These include,  
 “What is UCC most famous for?”  
 “Will there be good learning/career outcomes from my time there?”  
 “Is Ireland/Cork safe and welcoming?”  
 “Do you have any scholarships?”  
 “How is it different to the UK?”

**Q6. What attracts students to studying at College of Medicine and Health at UCC?**

Medicine looms large in terms of interest everywhere I travel. UCC has a long legacy of educating world-class medics, and this hasn’t gone unnoticed. This also transfers across programmes in the other schools. Dentistry, Pharmacy, Nursing & Midwifery, Public Health and the Therapies – they all enjoy considerable interest and demand because of their quality and post-graduation opportunities. Ireland, and particularly Cork, is now a global heavyweight in the Pharma/Bio-Pharma/Med Tech area, so this is also driving additional interest from students. Another attraction is to be able to showcase our wonderful campus. I always invite prospective students to visit Cork and UCC, and many of them take me up on the invitation. Invariably, many will subsequently apply. And, don’t forget the fact that we are now the only English-speaking country in the EU (well, technically, we are one of two along with Malta!).

**Q7. What is your key piece of advice to international students coming to UCC?**

I know it’s a national obsession, but I do emphasise the weather and being prepared for it. Many incoming students will also be experiencing levels of independence they may be underprepared for, so it is important that they know what to expect. Otherwise, the advice centres around practical elements like cost of living, transport, bank accounts etc.

## Quercus scholars celebrated at College of Medicine and Health

We celebrated the achievements of 36 students who received a Quercus Undergraduate College Scholarship at a special event in the Dr. Dora Allman Room in March. The scholarship acknowledges the achievement of a first class honours standard in their University examination in 2022. The event was a great afternoon of celebration for the students, friends and family. Students from as far away as Vietnam and Canada received the scholarship demonstrating the international reach of CoMH.

The College also celebrated Grace O'Sullivan, a third-year dental student from Ballincollig, Co Cork on becoming Quercus University Academic Scholar for the College of Medicine and Health. Grace was awarded the NUI Dr Henry Hutchinson Steward Medical Scholarship in Dentistry in 2022 and was awarded a UCC Quercus College Scholarship two years in a row for achieving the highest aggregate score in her exams in 2020 and 2021.

Professor Stephen Byrne, Deputy President & Registrar of UCC congratulated and commended all students on their remarkable academic achievement.

Head of the College of Medicine & Health, Prof. Helen Whelton also congratulated all the recipients from across all six Schools and reminded them -

“success requires a diverse skillset, meaning that those who come out on top must truly be all-rounders. This entails not only being able to learn and critically appraise material presented to you, but also being a valuable team member, a competent leader and a willing follower, depending on the situation at hand. You have all displayed these abilities in abundance.”

Student Grace O'Sullivan said: “Being a part of the Quercus family is one of my proudest achievements to date and has inspired me to continue reaching my potential with the ultimate aim of providing patients with the care they deserve”.

After three years of studying dentistry Grace said she has learned “that the practice of dentistry is not limited to filling and extracting teeth, but that our knowledge and expertise are life-changing gifts to our patients. By engaging with patients, we are not only promoting oral health as dentists, but we are advising lifestyle changes that will immensely impact a patient's overall well-being”.

In the College of Medicine & Health, Quercus Undergraduate College Scholarships of €500 each are tenable for one year and offered based on the results of each of the Summer First, Second, Third and, where applicable.





**COMET 2023****COMET Conference  
in June**

COMET is an international and interdisciplinary conference on communication, medicine and ethics. The 2023 conference will be hosted by UCC's School of Clinical Therapies and will take place in the Western Gateway Building on June 20-22. COMET aims to bring together scholars from different disciplinary backgrounds, involving various healthcare specialties and the human and social sciences. A special emphasis will be on the dissemination of ongoing research in language / discourse / communication studies in relation to healthcare education, patient participation and professional ethics.


 **For more information and to register, visit <https://www.ucc.ie/en/comet2023/>**

- Dates: 20-22 June, 2023
- Venue: Western Gateway Building, University College Cork, Ireland
- Contact: [comet2023@ucc.ie](mailto:comet2023@ucc.ie)

**Congratulations to Prof.  
Robert McConnell**

Interim Head of the College of Medicine and Health and former Dean of the Dental School who has co-edited a book 'Bulk Fill Resin Composites in Dentistry' with Prof. Joseph Sabbagh, Lebanese University.

Written by over twenty international scientists and clinicians, this book introduces the reader to new advanced and innovative dental resin composites, including their composition and physical properties, and a step-by-step guide to their successful clinical applications.

 **Direct link to the book here:**  
**<https://rd.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-16388-3>**

**Bulk Fill Resin  
Composites in  
Dentistry**

A Clinical Guide

Joseph Sabbagh  
Robert McConnell  
*Editors*

 Springer

## Clinical Pledge Ceremony for students at our Dental School & Hospital

### Clinical Pledge Ceremony at our Dental School & Hospital

This event marked the development of our students our future dental professionals well. We wish them well as they continue on the journey of assuming responsibilities of leading and managing care for their

patients. The event was held in the historic Aula Maxima at UCC with addresses from UCC President Professor John O'Halloran, Professor Paul Brady (Dean, Cork University Dental School & Hospital). The event was convened by Professor Chris Lynch who invited the students to recite the Clinical Pledge.



BDS3 class with (L-R): Professor Chris Lynch, Professor John O'Halloran (UCC President), Professor Stephen Byrne (UCC Deputy President), Professor Paul Brady (Dean of Cork Dental School).



BDS4 class with (L-R): Professor Chris Lynch, Professor John O'Halloran (UCC President), Professor Stephen Byrne (UCC Deputy President), Professor Paul Brady (Dean of Cork Dental School).



## School of Public Health awarded APHEA accreditation

Wonderful news recently with the announcement that our School of Public Health at University College Cork was awarded accreditation from the Agency for Public Health Education Accreditation (APHEA), becoming the eighth institute globally to receive the prestigious recognition.

The School of Public Health drives the delivery of superior quality in research and advocacy in population health, health services and health systems to address global health challenges.

Established by Professor Ivan Perry and his team in 1997, the School of Public Health is the largest and highest-ranking school of public health in Ireland with a high-quality teaching and education programme and a research programme led by world-leading researchers.



L-R: Dr. Fiona MacLeod, Professor Ella Arensman, Head of School and Professor Ivan Perry, Founder of the School of Public Health

## National network for children's clinical research launched


In4Kids the first clinical trial network in Ireland to focus on children's health was launched at University College Cork earlier this year.

Funded by the Health Research Board (HRB), [In4Kids](#), the Irish Network for Children's Clinical Trials, will support innovative clinical research and trial design for children in Ireland.

**Professor Geraldine Boylan**, lead for the In4kids network and INFANT Centre Director, UCC, said: "All children must have access to innovative therapies and medicines that have been developed with the same rigour and urgency as those developed for adults. We have a great team of investigators in our network and in4kids will support them to roll out the latest clinical trials for children across Ireland."

**Professor Helen Whelton**, Head of College of Medicine and Health said In4kids is working to ensure Ireland produces excellent clinical research and clinical trials to benefit all children. "We are launching a paediatric network to ensure that every child is seen and heard and has access to the best possible therapies and interventions. Our children deserve and must have the same access to high quality, evidence-based health care as adults."

As part of the launch, leading experts addressed the challenges and opportunities for clinical trials in children in Ireland as well as announcing a new collaboration between the Glucksman and In4Kids.

 [Learn more about In4Kids here](#)



Photographed Professor Geraldine Boylan, INFANT Centre Director UCC and Prof John O'Halloran President UCC

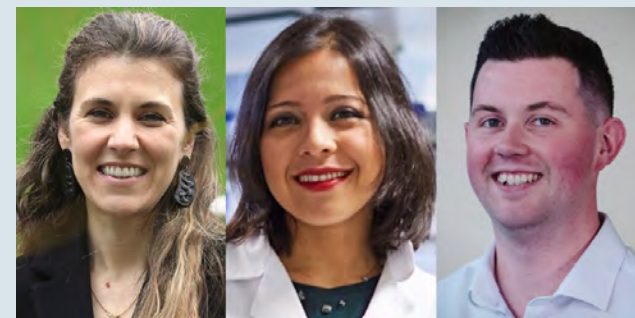


## Congratulations to the UCC health researchers inducted into the newly formed Young Academy of Ireland.

Established by the Royal Irish Academy (RIA) and supported by Accenture, the Young Academy of Ireland (YAI) has been established to promote greater engagement and opportunities for early career researchers and innovators, encouraging members to use their expertise and potential to tackle important issues and challenges in society and promote meaningful change. Dr. Maria Rodriguez Aburto, a lecturer in the Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience and a SFI Funded Investigator in APC Microbiome Ireland. Dr. Yensi Flores Bueso, a Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellow at the Cancer Research Centre in UCC and Dr. Kieran Walsh, a Senior HTA (Health Technology Assessment) Analyst in the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) and an Adjunct Clinical Senior Lecturer in the School of Pharmacy UCC have been selected for their excellence of research impact and commitment to public service.



Thank you to Prof. Aisling Barry for an excellent presentation 'Precision Radiation Medicine'. Another great start to our inaugural lecture series 2022/23.



L-R Dr. Maria Rodriguez Aburto, Dr. Yensi Flores Bueso, Dr. Kieran Walsh.



Above: Nicole Duggan MCC, Dr Alice Lee School of Clinical Therapies, Dr Irene Hartigan School of Nursing & Midwifery

## Celebrating Interns at School of Medicine

A very successful National Academic Track Internship Showcase took place in U.C.C Centre for Executive Education, hosted by the School of Medicine - South Intern Network. Twenty-three Academic Track Interns presented their research projects via poster boards, live demonstrations or through group oral presentations. Each presenter received the Academic Track Medal & Certificate and two prizes were also awarded for Research Excellence and Science Communication. Widespread agreement the quality of the research being carried out by these Interns is excellent and for that reason no doubt the number of HSE funded Academic Track Interns posts recently doubled from 24 to 48 nationwide.



Members of the South Intern Network Management team along with 4 South Academic Track Interns



The 23 Academic Track Interns who presented their work along with Judges and South Intern Network Management Team.

## Congratulations Dr. Patrice James, Dental School and Hospital

Congratulations to Dr Patrice James recently conferred with the degree Doctor of Philosophy (PhD). The title of Patrice's PhD was 'Impact of downward adjustment of water fluoride concentration on dental caries and fluorosis'. The topic of her thesis is critical to dental public health in Ireland and the prevention of tooth decay. It follows on from the previous work undertaken by Emeritus Professor Denis O'Mullane and Prof Helen Whelton with national studies of oral health in Ireland with recommendations for policy. Patrice is pictured here with three of her five supervisors/co-supervisors. It was a fitting day for Emeritus Professor Denis O'Mullane to see Patrice graduate 50-years after he himself was awarded his own PhD.



Prof. Mairead Harding, Dr Patrice James, Prof. Helen Whelton, Emeritus Prof. Denis O'Mullane. Absent from photo Emeritus Prof Ivan Perry and Dr Michael Cronin.



## Awards for School of Clinical Therapies

The School of Clinical Therapies was delighted to receive their first Athena Swan Bronze award in April 2023. As a relatively young School, this award acknowledges the collaborative work achieved by the self-assessment team which included staff and students across all four disciplines. The School has now established an Equality Diversity and Inclusion Committee who will oversee the implementation of the action plan. The committee aims to ensure that the School meets their goals to create an inclusive, diverse and equal place to study and work and to maintain a culture of connection and mutual respect.



Staff members who recently received their Athena Swan Award including Dr Ciara O'Toole Chair and Dr Joe McVeigh Vice Chair of the School of Clinical Therapies Athena Swan Steering Group

Special Olympics Ireland awarded Discipline of Audiology at School of Clinical Therapies with a Golisano Health Leadership Award for their significant contribution to improving the health care access of people with intellectual disabilities through the Healthy Athletes, Healthy Hearing screening.

The Golisano Health Leadership Award is awarded nationally to outstanding individuals and organisations dedicated to improving the health of people with intellectual disabilities and advancing the health of Special Olympics athletes. The award also promotes awareness of the progress and extraordinary efforts toward fulfilling the goals, values and mission of Special Olympics Health work.

Healthy Hearing Screening of 20 Special Olympics Athletes took place at the Brookfield Audiology Clinic at UCC in September 2022. Special thanks to Hayley Kavanagh, the Health and Well Being Coordinator from Special Olympics, who helped to coordinate the workshop and to our MSc Audiology student volunteers Liath O Shea, Lauren Faquhar, Katie Lynam and Annika Heyl.



## School of Nursing and Midwifery Honours Exceptional Students at Annual Achievement Awards Ceremony

A very successful National Academic Track Internship Showcase took place in U.C.C Centre for Executive Education, hosted by the School of Medicine - South Intern Network. Twenty-three Academic Track Interns presented their research projects via poster boards, live demonstrations or through group oral presentations. Each presenter received the Academic Track Medal & Certificate and two prizes were also awarded for Research Excellence and Science Communication. Widespread agreement the quality of the research being carried out by these Interns is excellent and for that reason no doubt the number of HSE funded Academic Track Interns posts recently doubled from 24 to 48 nationwide.



Recognizing the accomplishments of outstanding students in the nursing and midwifery programs.



Ms Anne-Martha Utne Øygarden, Professor Patricia Leahy-Warren Head of the School, Dr Helen Mulcahy

## School of Nursing & Midwifery developed its first Erasmus+ exchange programme specifically for PhD students.

The School of Nursing and Midwifery are celebrating another first!

The School has developed an Erasmus+ exchange programme specifically for PhD students with ViD Specialized University in Oslo, Norway, and would like to welcome Anne-Martha Utne Øygarden who is the first PhD candidate to avail of this.

Anne-Martha is visiting the School of Nursing and Midwifery on an Erasmus exchange for 3 months. She is a Ph.D Fellow at ViD Specialized University in Oslo, Norway and in her final year of completing her thesis. Anne-Martha's thesis is entitled 'Perinatal

depression symptoms and Parental stress among first-time mothers'.

Anne-Martha holds a bachelor degree in Nursing from Western Norway University of Applied Sciences (HVL) and an MSc degree in Health Science from the University of Oslo (UiO). She has a particular interest in perinatal mental health and early intervention in municipal health services.

Anne-Martha will be part of the team in the Maternity, Primary Care and Families Research Cluster - [Maternity, Families and Primary Care | University College Cork \(ucc.ie\)](https://www.mfpc.ucc.ie/)



## We bid farewell to Professor Josephine Hegarty as Head of School of Nursing & Midwifery

We bid farewell to Professor Josephine Hegarty as Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery for the past seven years. Professor Patricia Leahy-Warren now takes over this role having commenced in April 2023.

Prof. Hegarty thanked all the students and staff of the School, clinical partners and collaborators locally and nationally for their support - "you are all truly an amazing team". She wished them all the best for the years ahead and sent her best wishes to the new head of School Professor Leahy-Warren who she said "will do an excellent job in in the role. We are very lucky to have a leader of Patricia's calibre leading the School to the future".

Professor Hegarty is returning to her substantive role of Professor of Nursing in UCC's School of Nursing and Midwifery.



Dr. Sile Creedon presents bouquet of flowers to the outgoing Head of School of Nursing & Midwifery Professor Josephine Hegarty

## ASSERT UCC

ASSERT UCC had a very successful inaugural interventional radiology meeting recently - the inaugural Cadaveric Interventional Radiology Skills Course (CIRSC) took place in February 2023 at ASSERT. This collaboration between the Department of Radiology at Cork University Hospital and UCC/CoMH/ASSERT was supported by an education grant from Stryker Neurovascular. The course was organised by Prof Noel Fanning and Dr Stephen Power, Interventionalists at the Department of Radiology, CUH.

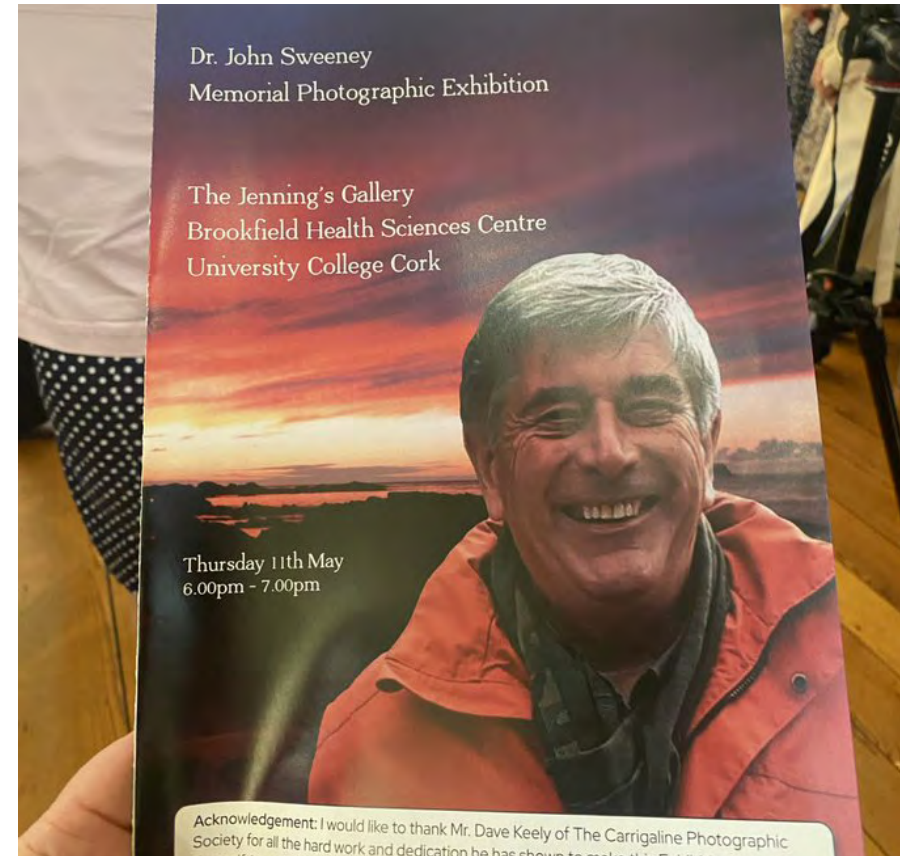
This unique course provided Radiology Specialist Registrars an opportunity to safely practice real-life interventional scenarios in a simulated Interventional Radiology Suite environment using fresh frozen cadaveric specimens. The use of fresh cadaveric specimens allowed for high fidelity simulated clinical practice. Ultrasound and fluoroscopic guided imaging allowed for practice of solid organ and spinal biopsies, simulated abscess drainage, lumbar punctures and vertebroplasties. The course feedback was excellent and an enjoyable educational experience was had by both trainers and trainees. It is hoped that this will be an annual interactive meeting







We were honoured to welcome Professor Paul Whelton, Professor of Global Public Health at Tulane University, New Orleans back to UCC. One of four brothers who studied medicine at UCC #Classof1970 Paul delivered a lecture on 'Managing High Blood Pressure: The Way Forward'.  
More here: [News | University College Cork \(ucc.ie\)](https://www.ucc.ie/en/news/2023/05/08/prof-paul-whelton-returns-to-ucc/)



A special photographic exhibition took place at the Jennings Gallery remembering Dr. John Sweeney, School of Nursing & Midwifery UCC.  
More here: [News | University College Cork \(ucc.ie\)](https://www.ucc.ie/en/news/2023/05/08/dr-john-sweeney-memorial-photographic-exhibition/)



## Paramedic for a Day

5th year students and their teachers joined us in UCC for 'Paramedic for a Day'.

We were delighted to welcome secondary school students to UCC for our Information Day where they had the Chance to find out more about what it really means to be a paramedic.



**Read more here: [News | University College Cork \(ucc.ie\)](https://www.ucc.ie/news)**



## Pregnancy Loss Research Group launches new website to enhance awareness and action around pregnancy loss

The Pregnancy Loss Research Group launched a new website – [www.ucc.ie/pregnancyloss](https://www.ucc.ie/pregnancyloss) – showcasing over ten years of pregnancy loss research in Ireland. It aims to support efforts to enhance public and policymaker awareness of pregnancy loss, influence policymaker awareness of pregnancy loss, influence policymaking and healthcare funding and inform the provision of more effective services and supports within the health care system, community sector and beyond.



**More here: [News and media | University College Cork \(ucc.ie\)](https://www.ucc.ie/news)**



L/R Prof. Geraldine Boylan (Director, INFANT Centre), Prof. Keelin P'Donoghue (Lead, Pregnancy Loss Research Group-PLRG), Prof. John O'Halloran (President UCC), Marita Hennessy PhD (Postdoctoral Researcher, PLRG), Ms Maria Moynihan (journalist) and Ms Paula O'Reilly (CEO, Irish Hospice Foundation).



## Academic Health Sciences System and the way forward

Group Prof. Helen Whelton with leaders of national and international healthcare and academia at 'Academic Health Sciences Systems: The foundation of Sláintecare' symposium at Farmleigh in May. Panel discussions revolved around how the university sector engages in healthcare delivery in the future.



More information: [www.UCC Academic Health Sciences](http://www.UCC Academic Health Sciences) | [University College Cork](http://University College Cork)



Our Head of College Prof. Helen Whelton in attendance at Academic Health Science Systems: The Foundation of Sláintecare at Farmleigh House in May – a joint symposium of the Chief Academic Officers, Group Chief Executive Officers & Community Health Organisation Chief Officers of Ireland.



Prof. John O'Halloran, President UCC with Dr. Colm Henry.



Chief Academic Officers at AHSS meeting.



Prof. John Higgins, CEO South / South West Hospital Group and Prof. Ivan Perry, Interim Director of Clinical Research Facility



## Working together to revolutionise Cerebral Palsy care in Ireland

The Cerebral Palsy Foundation in partnership with University College Cork Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), Trinity College Dublin and Children's Health Ireland has launched a programme of Excellence to revolutionise CP care in Ireland which will change the trajectory of people's lives affected by CP in Ireland.

The Collison brothers-funded programme aims to halve diagnosis time for cerebral palsy to make Ireland a world leader in CP within five years.

"The newborn brain has plasticity so if we recognise there's a problem very early we can help it to retrain, adapt and bypass areas where is a problem", Prof. Geraldine Boylan, director of the INFANT Research Centre University College Cork told guests at the programme launch. "It's much harder later on".



**Read more here: Collison brothers-funded programme aims to halve diagnosis time for cerebral palsy – The Irish Times**



Head of College of Medicine and Health Prof. Helen Whelton, Lily Collison, Rachel Byrne, Executive Director of the Cerebral Palsy Foundation and Prof. Geraldine Boylan, Director of the INFANT research centre UCC





## APC and UCC sweep all Top 7 positions in Irish microbiologist rankings

Congratulations to APC Microbiome. In its annual ranking of international scientists Research.com has scored seven APC and UCC scientists in the top ten list of Irish microbiologists. APC Director Paul Ross who was ranked first in Ireland and 25th globally was also the recipient of Research.com's Microbiology Leader Award for 2023.

Also included in the top 10 were APC's Colin Hill, Catherine Stanton, Douwe van Sinderen, Paul Cotter Paul O' Toole, and UCC's Gerard Fitzgerald

 [See full list here](#)

The rankings are based on a D-index (Discipline H-index) metric of scientists with at least 40 academic publications in the area of microbiology.

Prof. John F. Cryan, Vice President of Research and Innovation congratulated colleagues and the team at APC and UCC. "This recognizes UCC and APC's standing as global leading experts in the field of microbiology, advancing the science on the microbiome to address today's pressing global health and food challenges. Food, Microbiome and Health is a key pillar in our UCC Futures initiative, enabling us to maximise the potential of our academic expertise and provide tangible, impactful, solutions to some of the most important global challenges of our time".

 [About Research.com](#)

## PhD students at School of Medicine take Dermatology Awards

Congratulations to some of our PhD students at School of Medicine and dermatology department in the South Infirmary Victoria University Hospital (SIVUH) Cork who came away with the top prizes at the recent spring meeting of the all-island Irish Association of Dermatology. Dr Cathal O'Connor won the prestigious Burrows Cup for research from his PhD study – the 'assessing sleep in infants with atopic dermatitis' (SPINDLE) study.

Dr O'Connor performed detailed research on sleep and neurophysiology in young babies with severe eczema. He said 'our novel findings will be used to increase awareness of the neurological complications of early-onset eczema and the impact on families of babies with eczema'.

Dr Lisa Kiely was awarded the runner up prize for her research on a novel multispectral camera to improve the accuracy of remote patch testing in the region. Dr Kiely sought to find a solution to patients needing to come to SIVUH three times a week for examination for assessment of cutaneous allergy. She said 'this novel camera will optimise the investigation of patients with potential skin allergy, enhance patient and environmental impacts, and increase equity of care'. Dr O'Connor and Dr Kiely are both undertaking PhD degrees with University College Cork as part of the renowned Irish Clinical and Academic Training programme. The dermatology department in SIVUH is the only department on the island of Ireland to have two ICAT fellows.



Photo caption: Dr Cathal O'Connor and Dr Lisa Kiely with Burrows Cup



## Traveling Surgeons

Our thanks to Medical Student and Chairperson UCC Surgical Society Yasmi Richa for this report following a recent visit to UCC from the Travelling Surgical Society of UK and Ireland.

“We started off the academic meeting with a tour of our medical school with Michael Cronin, visiting the Anatomy Flame Lab and ASSERT Centre, UCC.

Throughout the day, we were privileged to engage in thought-providing discussions on topics ranging from global surgery, to the evolution of the pelvic floor and artificial intelligence in surgery, and to delve into the history of surgery in Cork and the history of the Travelling Surgical Society presented by role models Prof. Helen Whelton and Prof. Linda de Cossart.

Thank you Derek Hennessey and Graham Graham Sunderland for organising this exceptional event and inviting the UCC Surgical Society, and to all the inspiring surgeons who generously shared their lifelong advice and insights with us.

The academic meeting was an invaluable experience, reinforcing the importance of collaboration, continuous learning, and the pursuit of excellence in surgery. I feel privileged to have been a part of this remarkable event, and I look forward to future opportunities to engage with the Travelling Surgical Society”



## School of Pharmacy staff embrace mindfulness and resilience with coaching psychologist for Workplace Wellbeing Week

Staff in the School of Pharmacy took part in a strategy day on Thursday 26 April 2023, with Hugh O'Donovan.

Hugh is a Coaching Psychologist who helps individuals develop and enhance performance using a positive Psychology approach. The theme of the SOP away day was 'Our Culture, Team Pharmacy, Resilience & Wellbeing and Take 5'. The away day was specifically designed to get staff to "show up, slow down and take notice" so that we can live our lives in a productive yet mindful fashion while building on our resilience and personal leadership. Hugh's approach was a very enjoyable and impactful experience, something different for most of us, and there were many great take away messages from Hugh's coaching psychology approach. This was a timely workshop in terms of workplace wellbeing week, and staff really enjoyed his novel approach to self-care and performance.



Pictured: Hugh O'Donovan and School of Pharmacy Staff

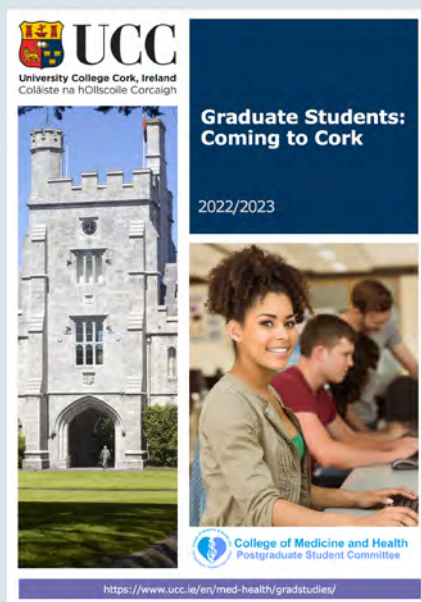


## Graduate Students 'Coming to Cork'

Graduate Students 'Coming to Cork' is a useful information booklet collated by our graduate students to support new researchers in UCC. It includes tips for Arriving in Ireland, Housing in Cork, Personal Public Service Number (PPSN), Money and Tax, Public Transport, Irish Mobile Phones, Health, Health Insurance, Shopping, Culture, UCC supports. Check it out here:



**Graduate Students Coming to Cork V2.4 (ucc.ie)**



## Safe Patient Care Conference

We are delighted to welcome back the Safe Patient Care Conference on the Friday, 23rd June. The conference will focus on "Assessing the Present and Planning for the Future" - Risk and Infection Prevention and Control.

The day will provide insights into the practical application of current policy with a wide range of experts from infection prevention and control and public health. Download the draft agenda [here](#).

The conference will be held in Room G05 on the ground floor of Western Gateway Building, University College Cork. There is no charge for attendance and Tea/Coffee with light refreshments and lunch will be provided. To find out more and to register for free, [click here](#).

For further information about this conference, please contact Chairperson Dr Maura Smiddy [m.smiddy@ucc.ie](mailto:m.smiddy@ucc.ie)

To find out more about how health care professionals can enhance patient safety, visit [PG Certificate in Infection Prevention & Control](#) and discover a career enhancing course that provides students with core infection prevention and control knowledge and skills to support good clinical practice implementation in the healthcare setting.

**Safe Patient Care Conference 2023**  
*"Assessing the Present and Planning for the Future"*

Back for 2023, this year's conference is proudly sponsored by Area D HSE SARI Infection Prevention and Control Committee which includes an exciting line-up of keynote speakers including from the AMRIC team and the Department of Public Health.

We invite you to submit abstracts [HERE](#) relating to infection prevention and health protection from any clinical setting. Abstract submissions will close on the 5th of June 2023.

Complimentary lunch, teas and coffees provided, and a chance to network with your colleagues.

There is no conference charge this year so hurry and register today for this event [HERE](#)

Date: 9AM - 4.15PM, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2023.

Location: Room G05, Western Gateway Building, University College Cork.

\*NMBI & RCPI CPD pending



Maura Smiddy

## Professor Chris Lynch admitted to Membership of the Royal Irish Academy – the highest academic honour in Ireland

Huge congratulations to Professor Chris Lynch, Professor and Consultant in Restorative Dentistry at Dental School & Hospital UCC and Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry RCSI, who was elected to the Royal Irish Academy (RIA) on Friday May 26th, 2023, the highest academic honour in Ireland.

Chris is the third dentist to be admitted as a Member of the RIA, the first since 1940. (Edward Leo Sheridan, who became President of RCSI and is forever associated with the Faculty of Dentistry through the prestigious Edward Leo Sheridan lecture, was the last dentist to be admitted in 1940).

A UCC dental graduate (BDS 1999), Chris worked at Cardiff University as Consultant and Professor before returning to Cork University Dental School & Hospital in 2017. With a distinguished track record of excellence in clinical dental education and research, he was awarded the Award of Excellence in Dental Education from

the Association for Dental Education in Europe in 2014 - the premier European award in dental education, a Principal Fellowship from the Higher Education Academy UK in 2019 and one of Ireland's inaugural National Teaching & Learning Research Fellowships in 2020. In 2023, Chris was awarded the prestigious international Ivar Mjör Prize for Practice-Based Research from the Network for Practice-Based Research at the International Association for Dental Research.

Chris has been Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Dentistry, a leading international dental journal, since 2011.

Following election by his colleagues, Chris became Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in March 2023. This a Postgraduate Surgical Faculty which focuses on the post-qualification education and training of dentists in Ireland and overseas.



Professor Chris Lynch, Dean of the Faculty of Dentistry RCSI, who was elected to the Royal Irish Academy (RIA) on Friday May 26th, 2023, the highest academic honour in Ireland.





Congratulations to UCC medical student Enda McGonigle who achieved first prize in the prestigious, International Duke Elder ophthalmology exam'.

## UCC medical student achieves first prize in the prestigious, International Duke Elder Ophthalmology exam'.

Congratulations to medical student Enda McGonigle who took joint first prize at this prestigious exam which is run annually by the Royal College of Ophthalmologists in the UK. It is a highly competitive and challenging exam attracting over 400 applicants from multiple countries designed to test the knowledge of undergraduate medical students who have a special interest in ophthalmology. The winning candidate gets the opportunity to visit St John's Eye Hospital in Jerusalem.

We are so proud that Enda McGonigle finished joint first (Mark shares this honour with another student from UCD) in this year's Duke Elder examination.

Enda McGonigle said: "I am proud and delighted to be chosen for first prize in this prestigious event. I believe this really does showcase the high standard of Irish medical education. Ophthalmology is a fantastic specialty that brings together multiple areas including neuroscience, medicine, and surgery. The exam is an excellent opportunity to explore the field, and I would recommend any student interested in ophthalmology to sit it. I look forward to continuing my medical education at UCC, and hope to pursue a career in ophthalmology in the future".

## CoMH Futures Research Conference in September

The College of Medicine and Health is delighted to announce our [CoMH Futures Research Conference](#) which will take place on Thursday 21st September 2023 in Devere Hall, UCC. The theme of the conference this year is 'Futures' to reflect the recent launch of [UCC Futures](#), an ambitious new programme of research prioritisation, as part of the new [strategic plan 2023-2028](#).

We look forward to welcoming researchers from across UCC Futures, from all areas of research and innovation focus for the College and from across the Academic Health Science System partnership in the South/South-West region.

We invite researchers from all career stages to showcase and present

their work, make new connections and explore new opportunities for future collaboration. We are delighted to announce that prizes will be awarded for select student oral and poster presentations.

**The abstract submission portal is now open.** Click [here](#) to find out more and to submit your abstract by midnight on Friday 21st July.

Registration for the CoMH Futures Research Conference is free, and registration details will be announced at a later date.

We ask that you 'save the date' and we look forward to meeting all researchers and a stellar line up of speakers in Devere Hall on Thursday 21st September.



The poster for the CoMH Futures Research Conference 2023 features a central logo with the text 'Futures Research 2023' and icons for CoMH, UCC, and Industry. To the right, it displays the UCC logo and the text 'Research & Innovation UCC College of Medicine and Health'. The main title 'COMH Futures Research Conference' is prominently displayed, followed by the date and location 'Thursday 21st September 2023 Devere Hall UCC'. The text below the title states: 'The College of Medicine and Health is delighted to announce the **CoMH Futures Research Conference** which will take place on Thursday 21st September 2023 in Devere Hall, UCC.' It further describes the conference as showcasing a diverse range of fundamental, translational, and clinical research. A call to action states 'Abstract submission is now open.' with the URL <https://conference.ucc.ie/comh-futures-research-conference-2023>. The closing date for abstract submissions is 'midnight, July 21st, 2023.'

**Abstract submission is now open.**  
<https://conference.ucc.ie/comh-futures-research-conference-2023>

The closing date for abstract submissions is **midnight, July 21st, 2023.**



## UCC study to tackle speech and language gap of children from under-resourced areas

Congratulations to Dr. Pauline Frizelle, School of Clinical Therapies who secured Health Research Board funding for 'Happy Talk' which will address speech and language needs of preschool and early school aged children. The UCC study addressing the speech and language needs of preschool and early school aged children has received funding from the Health Research Board's Definitive Intervention and Feasibility Award (DIFA) scheme. The 'Happy Talk' project aims to narrow the gap between the speech and language skills of children living in under-resourced areas compared to those growing up in a high-wealth areas. Read more here: [News | University College Cork \(ucc.ie\)](#)



Dr. Pauline Frizelle

## British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry (BASCD) on June 15th and 16th at University College Cork

British Association for the Study of Community Dentistry (BASCD) 50th anniversary meeting is taking place in UCC on June 15th and 16th. The title of the Conference is 'Rethinking Policy, Protection and Prevention.' President-Elect of BASCD, Prof. Mairead Harding, Dental School and Hospital, UCC is looking forward to welcoming a host of speakers from the UK, Ireland and Europe. They will discuss and explore policy development, sustainability, teamwork, workforce planning, restoring services and the integration of oral health with non-communicable chronic diseases. Mr. Colm Burke TD will attend and open the Conference.



More details here: [BASCD Summer Scientific Meeting 2023 - BASCD](#)



## Busy Day at Teddy Bear Hospital

We had a busy day at Teddy Bear Hospital at UCC. 750 children and lots of sick and injured teddies attended UCC Med Soc's hospital. The annual event in February aims to help children feel more at ease when visiting the doctor and other healthcare professionals.



Read more here:

[News | University College Cork \(ucc.ie\)](https://ucc.ie/news)





## School of Medicine Clinical Commencement Ceremony 2023

This joyous event which was held in January marked the 2021/2022 class celebrate a key transition in the Medicine Programme. Students were moving from the predominantly campus-based learning with focus on medical sciences supported by simulated clinical learning to a predominantly clinical professional education delivered through clinical placements. It was a pleasure to welcome everyone back in person to celebrate the completion of the first phase of the Medicine degree programme. On the day we had circa over 300 students and their guests to mark the event.

Head of School of Medicine Professor Paula O' Leary congratulated all on the accomplishment and importance of getting to this stage. She highlighted how privileged we are to have access to clinical sites all over the country, staff and most importantly patients for the purpose of developing as medical practitioners.

Head of College Prof Helen Whelton introduced and thanked our guest speaker Dr. Suzanne Crowe, president of the Medical Council of Ireland. Dr. Crowe provided an inspiring speech to all and highlighted the importance of professionalism and incorporating this throughout their training and career.

Heads of department along with clinical site leads were also able to join us on the day. Despite the rain, it did not dampen a highly enjoyable, well deserved occasion!



## UCC Research Awards 2022

Congratulations to all those recognised at UCC Research Awards 2022. A special night recognising and celebrating outstanding research careers and achievements across UCC. Special mention to our recipients from College of Medicine and Health.



**Read more here:**  
[UCC Research Awards | University College Cork](#)

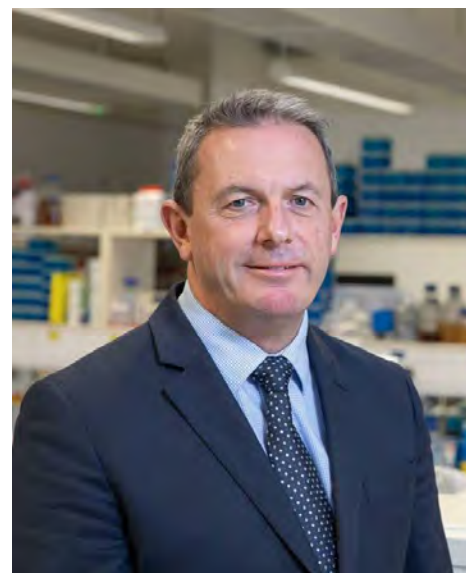


### UCC Research Awards 2022

#### Research Collaboration of the Year

**Professor Brendan Griffin**  
*School of Pharmacy*

At present, Brendan is collaborating his second EU funded Innovative Training Network programme, establishing strong networks across Europe involving all the top names in oral drug delivery.



### UCC Research Awards 2022

#### Researcher of the Year

**Professor Paul Ross**  
*APC Microbiome Ireland*

Professor Ross is UCC's first recipient of a European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Award.







**UCC FUTURES**  
Securing Our Future Through Research Excellence

## UCC Research Awards 2022

### Career Achievement

**Professor Anita Maguire**  
*School of Chemistry and School of Pharmacy*

Throughout her research career, Professor Maguire has been awarded €25m in research funding, in addition to €13m infrastructural support funding and supervised 56 PhD students to date.

**UCC** University College Cork, Ireland  
Coláiste na hOileáine Corcaigh

**Research & Innovation**  
Taighde & Nuálaíocht

**PURDYLUCEY**  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY



**UCC FUTURES**  
Securing Our Future Through Research Excellence

## UCC Research Awards 2022

### Research Supervisor of the Year

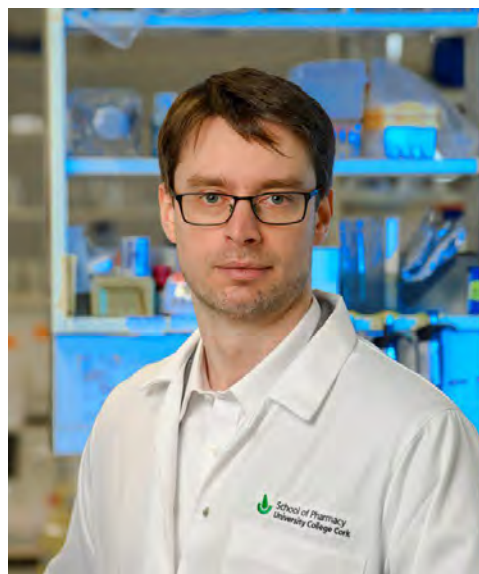
**Professor Catherine Stanton**  
*APC Microbiome Ireland and Department of Psychiatry and Neurobehavioral Sciences*

Professor Stanton has supervised over 70 PhD and Masters students, and currently has 10 PhD and 6 postdoctoral researchers in her research group.

**UCC** University College Cork, Ireland  
Coláiste na hOileáine Corcaigh

**Research & Innovation**  
Taighde & Nuálaíocht

**PURDYLUCEY**  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY



**UCC FUTURES**  
Securing Our Future Through Research Excellence

## UCC Research Awards 2022

### Early-Stage Researcher of the Year

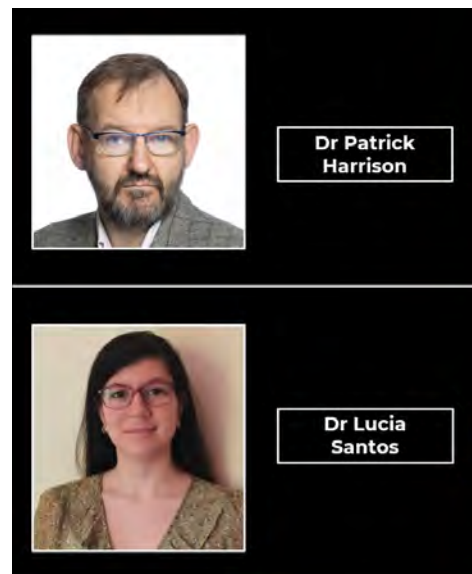
**Dr Piotr Kowalski**  
*School of Pharmacy and APC Microbiome Ireland*

Dr Kowalski was awarded a prestigious European Research Council (ERC) starter grant in 2022.

**UCC** University College Cork, Ireland  
Coláiste na hOileáine Corcaigh

**Research & Innovation**  
Taighde & Nuálaíocht

**PURDYLUCEY**  
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**UCC FUTURES**  
Securing Our Future Through Research Excellence

## UCC Research Awards 2022

### Innovator of the Year (Life Sciences)

**Dr Patrick Harrison & Dr Lucia Santos**  
*Department of Physiology*

CRISPR split Adenine Base Editor (ABE) with the potential to develop gene therapy cures for thousands of inherited diseases.

**UCC** University College Cork, Ireland  
Coláiste na hOileáine Corcaigh

**Research & Innovation**  
Taighde & Nuálaíocht

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Pictured left to right: Professor Geraldine Boylan, INFANT and UCC Futures Children Director; Lily Collison, Board Member & Advocate, Cerebral Palsy Foundation; Rachel Byrne, Executive Director of the Cerebral Palsy Foundation; Kerry Bryson, CEO of Cork University Foundation, UCC; and Professor Helen Whelton, Head of the College of Medicine and Health, UCC. Photo: Fennell Photography.

## Cerebral Palsy Foundation awards €1.6 million funding to UCC to support cerebral palsy education and research

University College Cork (UCC) and the Cerebral Palsy Foundation this month announced the creation of a new Chair in Early Brain Injury and Cerebral Palsy.

The new 'Cerebral Palsy Foundation Chair' is made possible thanks to generous support of €1.6 million from the Cerebral Palsy Foundation, a global not-

for-profit organisation committed to creating positive change for those with Cerebral Palsy and related disabilities. The appointed Chair will lead a programme of research and public engagement that will empower the voice of young children and families living with cerebral palsy.



**Read more here:**

**[Latest News | University College Cork \(ucc.ie\)](https://ucc.ie)**

## New Posts in the CF Gene Editing Group

Four new posts announced in the CF Gene Editing Group supported by a €3.2 million grant from the CF Foundation in the Harrisoin lab.



**More here:**

**[UCC Research Profiles: Patrick Harrison, Physiology](#)**





Professors Liam O'Mahony, Ruth Massey and Marcus Claesson of College of Medicine and Health and APC Microbiome

## Three APC projects funded in latest round of the SFI Frontiers for the Future programme

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris, TD recently announced 62 grants valued at €42 million to support research across 13 Higher Education Institutions. This programme was funded in collaboration with the Children's Health Foundation (CHF) and Geological Survey Ireland (GSI).

The SFI Frontiers for the Future Programme provides opportunities for independent investigators to conduct highly innovative, collaborative research in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) with the potential to deliver impact, whilst also providing opportunities for high-risk, high-reward research projects.

Among the new research projects that will be funded at University College Cork are three CoMH and APC projects:

**Professor Marcus J Claesson** (School of Microbiology and APC Microbiome Ireland, College of Science Engineering and Food Science and College of Medicine and Health).

*Determining the biotherapeutic potential of missing Lachnospiraceae in inflammatory bowel diseases.* This project will identify, isolate and characterise biotherapeutic Lachnospiraceae strains and their corresponding metabolites that are potentially protective of inflammatory bowel disease.

**Professor Ruth Massey** (School of Microbiology and School of Medicine, APC Microbiome Ireland, College of Science Engineering and Food Science and College of Medicine and Health).

*Attack and defence: defining key bacterial pathogenic strategies to identify targets for therapeutic intervention.* This project investigates the molecular characterisation of the means by which two major human pathogens *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Streptococcus pneumoniae* cause disease by attacking human tissue and defending themselves from the human immune system. By understanding these bacterial processes this project aims to identify novel means of preventing and treating infections.

**Professor Liam O'Mahony** (School of Medicine, School of Microbiology, APC Microbiome Ireland, College of Medicine and Health).

*Identification of Immune-Microbial Interactions that Contribute to Metabolic Reprogramming following SARS-CoV-2 Infection.* We know that the microbes that live on us and in us (our microbiota) are extremely important for educating our immune system and metabolism. In this project, Professor O'Mahony and his team will examine these microbiota-immune-metabolic interactions in patients with Long COVID and determine if these interactions are functionally important in disease pathophysiology.



**Read about other successful projects here:**  
[News | University College Cork \(ucc.ie\)](https://news.ucc.ie)