

You Can Be Part Of This Too.

Volunteers

The person with Parkinson's is the central focus in all our research, and this is where we rely on help from you and the community in general. We are actively recruiting volunteers to participate in a variety of studies, ranging from self-completed questionnaires that you can do at home, to more complicated testing done in a clinical setting. Not only are we recruiting people with Parkinson's, we are also looking for help from people without Parkinson's to act as a comparison or "control group". Therefore, please let any family members or friends know about us if you think they might be able to help. If you are interested in research in any aspect of Parkinson's, please get in touch with us!

Fund-raising

Our work is largely dependent on donations. If you are interested in fund-raising or donating to our research projects, we would also love to hear from you.

Keep in touch

We will keep you updated on our activities over the coming months in our news letters and on the PDRC website - keep up to date in recent advances in Parkinson's Disease Research in our "News and Views" section.

If you wish to participate in our research or just find out more about our work, or our fundraising just contact us.

If you do not wish to participate in research in our group at this time, we understand. Please be assured that this will not impact in any way on the medical care you are currently receiving. Any support received from you is a generous gift without strings attached, and will always be regarded as such by us.

Thank you for your interest, we look forward to working with you as we work to find a cure and improve life for those affected by Parkinson's.

Useful Links:



Contact Details:

Visit our new website at

<http://www.ucc.ie/en/pdrc/>

See what kind of studies we are undertaking and how you may contribute to these.

If you have any questions or would like to participate please contact us using one of the options below.

Phone: 085 - 8149380

Email: PDresearch@ucc.ie

Post: Parkinson's Disease Research Cluster

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Parkinson's Disease Research Cluster



The quarterly newsletter on Parkinson's Disease research at CUH and UCC

2012

Research updates / People / Contacts

Parkinson's Disease Research Cluster



Dear Patient or Family member,

Welcome to the first newsletter from the Cork University Hospital and University College Cork newly formed, Parkinson's Disease Research Cluster (PDRC).

You are receiving this letter as part of on-going research in the PDRC to identify the prevalence of Parkinson's Disease in our region, and in particular people with Parkinson's and their families who have been seen in Cork University Hospital.

As you may know, Parkinson's Disease is a progressive neurological condition that affects one person in every 500. The cause of Parkinson's is currently unknown, and identified genetic causes are present in only a small minority of people. People with Parkinson's don't have enough of a chemical called dopamine because some nerve cells in their brain have died. Without dopamine people can find that their movements become slower so it takes longer to do things. The main symptoms of Parkinson's are tremor, rigidity and slowness of movement. As well as affecting movement, people with Parkinson's can find that other issues, such as tiredness, pain, depression and constipation, can have an impact on their day-to-day lives. There is currently no proven cure to stop the progression of Parkinson's.

Our research group is dedicated to producing high-quality research that will increase our knowledge about the causes of Parkinson's, how it can be detected and diagnosed more quickly, what are the important symptoms that impair the quality of life of people with Parkinson's and their families, and how we can improve these symptoms.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you and your families for your invaluable support, without which none of this would be possible.

Yours sincerely,

Sean, Aideen, and Ger.

Who are we?

At the PDRC, we are a research team working together to better understand Parkinson's Disease through conducting cutting edge research with the ultimate aim being to lead to advances in patient care.



This is a collaborative effort, involving experts from a wide range of disciplines based at Cork University Hospital and University College Cork including clinical neurologists, neuro-rehabilitation specialists, and neuroscientists.

Team members



Dr. Sean O'Sullivan
PhD, MRCP MB BCH BAO BMedSci

is a consultant neurologist at Cork University Hospital. He completed his undergraduate training in University College Cork, Ireland. He undertook a fellowship in movement disorders at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, London, working with

Professor Andrew Lees. During this time, Dr O'Sullivan obtained a PhD in Parkinson's Disease from University College London. He has published over 65 peer-reviewed papers, and is the author of two book chapters. His research in movement disorders and Parkinson's Disease has won awards from the Association of British Neurologists, and the World Movement Disorders Society.



Dr. Aideen Sullivan

BSc PhD is a senior lecturer and principal investigator in the department of Anatomy and Neuroscience at UCC.

Dr Sullivan graduated from University College Dublin with a BSc (Hons) in Pharmacology. She obtained a PhD in Neuropharmacology from the University of Cambridge, UK. She

worked in the Imperial College School of Medicine, London, as a post-doctoral researcher on a project funded by the Parkinson's Disease Society. Since 1998, she has led a research group focused on novel approaches to the treatment of Parkinson's Disease, in particular neuroprotective therapies, which have the potential to slow or even reverse the progression of this disease. She visits Parkinson's patient and carer groups, and clinicians and nurses who work with Parkinson's Disease patients, to speak about her research, or recent advances in the research field.



Dr. Gerard O'Keeffe

BSc PhD is a lecturer and principal investigator in the department of Anatomy and Neuroscience at UCC. He graduated from University College Cork with a BSc (Hons) in Neuroscience. Following this he obtained a PhD at University College Cork, working on factors that promote the survival of

dopamine producing nerve cells. He worked at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden before moving to the UK to work with Prof. Alun Davies FRS on factors that promote the survival and growth of neurons. He has been awarded a IRCSET and Leverhulme Trust Research Fellowships for his research. Since 2008 his laboratory has focused on identifying new molecules and mechanisms that promote the survival and growth of nerve cells.

