



UCC INNOVATES

IMPACT FOR OUR SOCIETY

eNewsletter | December 2022



UCC

Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh
University College Cork, Ireland

Nuálaíocht Innovation

Celebration of start-ups at Ignite Autumn Awards

UCC Enactus World Cup

Launching Future Disruptive Technologies Summit

Making Innovation Real – UCC Supporting Healthcare

Recognition for UCC Spinout Pipeline

Launch of European Centre of Vocational Excellence in Dairy

Ideas for Impact Autumn 2022: “Making Lives Better”

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Welcome to the latest edition of UCC Innovates



Welcome to the Winter 2022 edition of the UCC Innovates eNewsletter, which highlights innovations and entrepreneurial activity across the UCC community.

The past few months have been an extremely exciting time for UCC in the areas of innovation and entrepreneurship. Some of our highlights include UCC spin-out company, Adiso Therapeutics, being shortlisted for the KTI Commercialisation Award; the successful Launching Future Disruptive Technologies summit – the first of its kind in Ireland; launch of FemTech with Health Innovation Hub Ireland, celebrating fantastic start-ups at the IGNITE Autumn Awards, and UCC’s Enactus success in representing Ireland at the Enactus World Cup 2022 where they were placed in the top 16 countries in the world.

I am also happy to announce that I have been appointed Director of Innovation at UCC. I look forward to exciting times ahead - helping

university researchers drive the commercialisation of their research to make a positive impact on society and the planet, through new products, services and spin-out companies.

We also welcome Sarah Nolan, Communications and Marketing Executive, to the UCC Innovation team. Please contact Sarah snolan@ucc.ie with any feedback or suggestions you might have for future editions of the newsletter.

Dr Sally Cudmore
Director of Innovation at UCC
s.cudmore@ucc.ie





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Celebration of start-ups at Ignite Autumn Awards

UCC Innovation’s Ignite Programme, held its Awards and Showcase on 25th October.

The Ignite programme nurtures start-ups from idea stage to commercial reality. At the showcase, twenty start-up founders with backgrounds in science, engineering, business and the arts, introduced their ideas in areas such as renewable energy, the circular economy, health and wellbeing and business services.

Four shortlisted start-up founders pitched their business ideas to the audience of entrepreneurs, business owners and investors –

nternz, a professional social network platform designed to allow students to discover and connect with companies to build their professional work experience,

RecruitRoo providing companies with access to global talent by building technology solutions that reduce friction of screening, migration and onboarding,

FEMTOFIRE is building a technology platform to locate and identify fire risks within forests.

SimpleScents is Ireland’s first ever fragrance subscription service.

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Pictured above (l-r): Dr Sally Cudmore, Director of Innovation at UCC; Deputy Lord Mayor Damian Boylan; Eamon Curtin, IGNITE Director.



Pictured above (l-r): Stephen MacCarthy, co-founder RecruitRoo; Niall Brennan, founder SimpleScents; Louis Walsh, founder FEMTOFIRE; Paddy O’Toole, founder nternz.

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The adjudication panel of Mark Knowles of Bank of Ireland, entrepreneur Kate Hyde of Glencove Ltd and investment advisor Ted Foley of CorkBIC selected the award winners for three different prizes.

- *Overall Bank of Ireland Best Business Award Winner:* Paddy O’Toole, Founder of nternz (Bsc Government and Political Science Graduate, 2021 – UCC)
- *Best Business Plan Award Winner:* Stephen MacCarthy, Co-founder of RecruitRoo, (BSc Health & Performance and MSc in Management Consultancy – UCD and Smurfit)
- *Best Pitch Award Winner:* Louis Walsh, Founder of FEMTOFIRE (BA Digital Humanities and Information Technology Graduate, 2021 – UCC)

Speaking at the awards, IGNITE Director Eamon Curtin said:

“It is great pleasure to celebrate start-ups at UCC. The 20 start-up founders we are working with are demonstrating that hard work and dedication ensure that a good idea can be developed into a great business with the right support. Congratulations to the four start-ups progressing from IGNITE. We have a flexible programme that provides start-ups with the support they need when they need it. And we continue to invest in development of the programme to meet the emerging needs of our start-up founders.”

Mark Knowles, Manager with Bank of Ireland commented:

“Bank of Ireland is honoured to be part of the fantastic IGNITE programme this year. The founders have inspired us with their ideas and we wish the IGNITE programme every success in the future as it continues to support the budding entrepreneurs of the future.”

This year’s IGNITE Awards & Showcase event also featured UCC’s QUERCUS Scholars for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the UCC’s ENACTUS Student Society.



Pictured left (l-r): Eamon Curtin, IGNITE Director; Paddy O’Toole, Founder nternz; Professor John O’Halloran, UCC President.

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QUERCUS INSPIRING ENTREPRENEURS TALKS

Four recipients of UCC’s QUERCUS scholarships in recognition of their achievements in innovation and entrepreneurship, spoke to a capacity crowd of UCC students. The four are:

Nick Cotter, co-founder with his brother Jack, of **Cotter Agritech**, which develops innovative products for agriculture. Nick has developed his business while completing his Law Degree at UCC. Nick was named Global Student Entrepreneur of the Year in 2022.

Annie Madden, a third year Law student is co-founder with her sister Kate of **FenuHealth**, an award-winning horse food supplements business. Annie won the 2022 Enterprise Ireland National Student Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

Alex Goodison, is a co-founder and CTO of **Homeplan**, a US-based start-up building a platform to help home owners maintain their properties. Alex is completing a degree in Computer Science at UCC.

Emma Coffey, a final year Commerce student is founder of **FinalBend**, a fitness clothing brand. Emma was a finalist in the Emerging Business category at this year’s Cork Chamber Awards.

The student entrepreneurs spoke about the origins of their businesses, what they have achieved, their ambitions for the future and the advice they’d offer aspiring student entrepreneurs.



Pictured above (l-r): Annie Madden, Emma Coffey, Nick Cotter and Alex Goodison.





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UCC Enactus Society at Enactus World Cup



The UCC Enactus student society represented Ireland at the Enactus World Cup 2022, held in Puerto Rico at the start of November. The competition welcomes business, philanthropy, student and education leaders from around the world who are committed to using entrepreneurship and innovation to solve the world’s biggest challenges.

Team Ireland finished in the top 16 countries in the world. This put UCC Enactus in the top 1% of universities worldwide, ahead of countries such as USA, Australia and China.

In June of this year, UCC Enactus was crowned winners of the Enactus Ireland National Competition, the highest recognised achievement in third level for social entrepreneurship in the country. The team presented two projects at the National Competition and World Cup – Ceangal and ReFrame.

Ceangal is a candle and lip balm business with all products handmade by female asylum seekers living locally in direct provision centres. All profits generated support the women and local direct provision communities. This initiative evolved from an initial outreach educational project into an independent business now managed directly by members of the direct provision community.

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ReFRAME is re-innovating the meaning of sustainable transport by making affordable micro-transport products (starting with cruiser skateboards) out of recycled plastic. This plastic is collected from students and staff on the UCC campus and recycled in the ‘Precious Plastic’ UCC workshop. The team has developed a prototype and look forward to bringing their first product to market whilst simultaneously raising awareness of the significant plastic waste issue in Ireland through community outreach projects on campus and in the wider community.

The Enactus World Cup attracted over 3,000 participants from across the globe. The UCC team had the opportunity to meet their fellow student social entrepreneurs and learn about their life changing projects. The UCC delegation attended networking events, sustainability forums (such as the Global Goals Forum), and thematic competitions (such as the Race to Feed the Planet). The competition attracts support from industry leaders such as AIG, Coca-Cola, Unilever and BIC. The team were proud to represent UCC and Ireland on the international stage which was a substantial achievement for the team and the society. UCC Enactus has had substantial achievements this year, impacting hundreds of people with the goal of creating a better tomorrow for us all, embodying the ambition of the Enactus Society.

Sam Spillane, Vice Chairperson of Enactus and 2nd year student, Civil & Environmental Engineering

enactus@uccsocieties.ie



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Launching Future Disruptive Technologies Summit

UCC Innovation and the Tyndall National Institute were proud to organise and host the first all-island Launching Future Disruptive Technologies (LFDT) Summit in September.

LFDT is a first of its kind in Ireland. It brought together the diverse stakeholder groups needed for deep tech commercialisation, including researchers, investors, state agencies, technology transfer professionals, entrepreneurs and support services on a common platform of equals.

275 attendees from Ireland, Great Britain, USA, Belgium, Portugal and Australia met to exchange experiences and views. The event was headlined by two keynote international speakers who are thought leader in this field, Kathy Ku (former Executive Director of Stanford University’s Office of Technology Licensing), and Dennis Purcell, founder of Aisling Investments a market leader in Life Sciences investment.

Kathy Ku’s online keynote reminded the audience that there is no clear way to know who will win in deep tech commercialisation, noted that we should constantly emphasise a friendly and approachable Tech Transfer process, and captured audience attention as she described the series of decisions that led to the licensing of web search technology to two graduate researchers with no commercial background, Larry Page and Sergey Brin, instead of accepting a low six figure license fee from industry.

The day involved six panels of international speakers from all the stakeholder groups that lead lively and insightful discussions and debate.

Following the first day of panel discussions and first keynote, the LFDT Night Summit allowed for the conversation to continue.

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Pictured above (l-r): Liam Fitzgerald; Peter Finnegan; Micheal Collins, UCC. (Organisers - LFDT Summit).



Pictured above (l-r): Panel – “What investors want”. Conor O’Sullivan (Atlantic Bridge); Maria Costeira (EIT); Amy Nommeots-Nomm (Octopus Ventures); Ayokunmi Ajetunmobi (Pioneer Group); Ross McNaughton (Taylor Wessing).



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The second day focussed on the LFDT Summit Pitch Prize of €10,000. 23 spin-out prospects and companies competed for the first LFDT Summit Pitch Prize of €10,000. The competition showcased the range, diversity and quality of the spin-out ecosystem on the Island. The promoters pitched to an international panel of deep tech investor judges from Ireland, the USA, the UK and the EU. Cormac Flynn from Suil Pharma (University of Galway spin-out) was selected by the judging panel as the winner.

“With 50% female representation in spin out pitches, panellists and keynotes, the summit was described by the Awaken Hub as the most gender-balanced tech summit [they] had ever attended.”

There was a diversity of deep tech opportunities presented in sustainable foods, photonics, AI, psychology, energy efficiency, therapeutics and more that demonstrated the potential the research system across the island has to build new national technological and economic resilience around research institutes.

“I wanted to reach out and thank you for organising the summit. From the connections made, I have four investor meetings, one meeting with the BD team of a multinational in the

ophthalmic pharma space, two potential collaborators and two potential hubs/accelerators that are interested in hosting the next stage of our journey. As well as lots of new contacts and interesting projects and a really good conversation with Taylor Wessing. It was a really positive event! Thanks so much!”

- Cormac Flynn Suil Pharma
(winner of LFDT Pitch Award)

We are very pleased that the post event survey rated the LFDT summit a 4.6 / 5 for the experience, with positive feedback accompanied with words of advice for future iterations. The summit has the potential to become a fixture for the international deep tech venture community.

We would like to once again thank all the event sponsors. We could not have hosted the event without the support from Foundation Sponsor Taylor Wessing, Gold Sponsors UCC Innovation and the MaREI SFI Research Centre, with Tyndall National Institute, Cork County Council, Weldon O’Brien, the Helix Way, Kildare Innovation Campus and the Rubicon Centre as Silver Sponsors. InterTrade Ireland, the BICs and NIBRT all provided ad promotion supported the Summit as Partners.



Pictured above (l-r): Spin Out Panel - “What is it like to Spin out a Business in Ireland”. Micheal Collins, UCC Innovation; Joe O’Keeffe (Meta); Sian Farrell (StimOxyGen); Andrea Doolan (Atlantia Clinical Trials); Michael Dalichau (CEACAM Therapeutics); Susan Kelly (Respiratory Analytics); Carl Jackson (Atlantic Bridge).

We would like to particularly thank Peter Finnegan, New Ventures Manger in the Tyndall National Institute, together with UCC Innovation colleagues Micheal Collins and Liam Fitzgerald, and co-organisers Dan Pitt and Vu Viet Anh for the tireless work to organise the event.

If you would like to help with LFDT 2.0, please reach out to us at summit@lfdt.tech

Watch video of event [HERE](#)



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UCC Spin-Out, Adiso Therapeutics, shortlisted for Annual Knowledge Transfer Ireland Award

The Annual Knowledge Transfer Ireland (KTI) Awards are taking place on December 1st 2022 in Dublin. These awards recognise significant impact and achievements from knowledge transfer and the commercialisation of publicly funded research in universities and other State research institutions. The awards pay tribute to the work of those within Ireland’s Innovation and Technology Transfer community who provide a vital link between industry and academic research.

UCC has had significant success at these awards over the years with 6 awards over the last 6 years. We are delighted that one of our spin-out companies, Adiso Therapeutics, is shortlisted for this

year’s commercialisation award, which focuses on spin-out companies.

Adiso Therapeutics specialises in developing therapies for patients with chronic and progressive inflammatory diseases. The Adiso team has seen particular success with identifying a treatment for prevention of recurrent *Clostridioides difficile* infection, leading them to receive fast track approval from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

We sat down with Professor Paul Ross, one of the founders of Adiso Therapeutics, to discuss the history of the company and its achievement of being shortlisted for the commercialisation award.

Q: Can you tell us about the history of Adiso and what led you to setting it up in the first place?

Adiso came from the 2022 merger of two companies, Artugen Therapeutics (2016 UCC spin out company) and Bacainn Therapeutics.

Artugen was founded by myself, UCC’s Professor Colin Hill, and Ronnie Farquhar who worked in antibiotics in a company called Cubist. It evolved from an APC Microbiome Ireland industry day, where the head of Morningside Ventures, Gerald Chan, visited to discuss innovative technologies. He was interested in our anti-microbial work, and in particular molecules that kill the



Above: Professor Paul Ross



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pathogen *Clostridium difficile*, without causing the collateral damage that you see with other antibiotics. Artugen was formed and, with the help of UCC Innovation, secured a license to base the company on Intellectual Property (IP) owned by UCC and Teagasc. The company has its HQ in Boston, with most of the wet lab work done in Cork in the Teagasc Food Innovation Hub.

These anti-microbial technologies have since been fast tracked by the FDA, and Adiso has just finished a phase 1b clinical trial to demonstrate its safety. We’re just about to go into two phase 2 trials – one for *Clostridium difficile* infection and one for Ulcerative Colitis.

Q: What was it about the technology that was investible?

Antibiotic resistance is a huge problem, and we face a possible future of no effective antibiotics. The WHO estimates that by 2050 we’ll have 10 million deaths¹ worldwide per year from antibiotic resistance. Adiso is exploiting the ability of bacteria to out-compete each other, by producing chemicals that kill bacteria

¹<https://www.who.int/news/item/29-04-2019-new-report-calls-for-urgent-action-to-avert-antimicrobial-resistance-crisis>

that compete with them in a particular environment, such as the gut microbiome. We are identifying narrow spectrum antimicrobials that kill certain bacteria, particularly harmful ones, but leave the healthy bacteria unscathed. Of the trillions of bacteria that are in your gut, most of them are very good for you. You don’t want to lose all of them. That’s Adiso’s strength - being able to go in and edit microbiomes in a precise way with these anti-microbials.

Q: What have you learned from the spin out process?

Many Adiso team members had industrial experience and were familiar with the pathway into FDA approval. What has been really informative is that Colin and I, as founders, have had the opportunity to be very much involved in the company, but there’s a lot of other people in the company who know more about regulatory approvals, how to do things for scale-up and for preclinical trials – and there’s a whole knowledge base there that as researchers we don’t have on the commercial side, whereas they depend on us for the scientific side.

Q: If you had your time back, would you choose the same spin out journey?

I would definitely repeat a spin-out journey as it is an effective means to get our research into commercial setting, with the ultimate aim of developing a therapeutic to help patients. Colin and I, through spinning out, were able to access regulatory and commercial experts with knowledge that we didn’t have. Looking back on it all, I think the balance between the scientific and commercial side has been at the core of the success of the company.

Q: Congratulations on being shortlisted for the KTI Awards, are you and the Adiso team excited?

We are all very excited and delighted to be shortlisted. At our recent Adiso meeting the first ten minutes were spent talking about the event and the fact that we were shortlisted, we are so excited and delighted to get this exposure through KTI. It is fantastic for the company, and I do hope there will be more spin-out companies from the APC Microbiome Ireland SFI Research Centre in the future.



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Making Innovation Real – UCC Supporting Healthcare

As part of National Public Service Innovation Week, UCC Innovation and Health Innovation Hub Ireland collaborated to deliver an in-person showcase event which featured healthcare professionals speaking about their experience of commercialising innovation. The event, titled “Making Innovation Real – UCC Supporting Healthcare” was opened by Professor Liam Fanning, Chair of the UCC College of Medicine and Health Research Committee, who spoke about the culture of support available to hospital healthcare professionals who are interested in pursuing innovative collaborations and exploring the commercialisation journey.

Key showcase speakers on the day included:

Dr Justina Ugwah, who is the Commercialisation lead for the Enterprise-Ireland funded project **CLISTEProbe**). This project recently received +€700k to support the development of their bioimpedance device called **SmartProbe**. Smartprobe provides real-time diagnostic data which can identify benign and cancerous breast tissue.

Dr Fergus McCarthy, who is a consultant OB/GYN in Cork University Maternity Hospital and Clinical Lead for the Enterprise-Ireland funded project **pHetalSafe**. This is a fetal sensor designed to detect fetal hypoxia (lack of oxygen at birth), a damaging condition which can result in long-term brain damage for newborns.



Pictured above (l-r): Dr Fergus McCarthy, Consultant OB/GYN CUMH; Clare Meskill, Co-Founder/CEO Teletherapy; Caitriona Heffernan, Innovation Lead HSE; Dr Justina Ugwah, CLISTEProbe; Professor Noel Caplice, Consultant Cardiologist CUH; Dr Karen McCarthy, UCC Innovation.

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Professor Noel Caplice, who is a consultant cardiologist in Cork University Hospital and founder of UCC spinout **ProVascTec**. Provasctec offers a cell-therapy solution to combat chronic arterial disease, particularly where conventional surgical options are not feasible.

Ms Caitriona Heffernan, who is Senior Speech and Language Therapist, and HSE Spark Innovation Leader/ Innovation Programme lead for Cork University Hospital. Her work focused on developing a dynamic and solution focused healthcare system in Ireland.

Ms Clare Meskill, who is a Speech and Language therapist and Co-Founder/CEO of **Teleotherapy**. Teleotherapy is a therapist-led software platform to support people with Parkinson’s disease, providing support for early inventions and therapy engagement.



After individual presentations by our showcase participants, a panel discussion was moderated by Dr Karen McCarthy, Commercialisation Case Manager with UCC Innovation, where the group shared their advice, experience and top tips for engaging with UCC on the innovation journey.

The National Public Service Innovation Week ran from the 24-28th October and offers public servants an opportunity to celebrate and showcase innovation in their sector, along with identify opportunities for future collaboration to solve pressing public sector challenges. For more information on the National Public Service Innovation Week, visit:

<https://www.ops.gov.ie/actions/innovating-for-our-future/innovation/innovation-week/>

If you would like to discuss a clinical innovation please contact **Health Innovation Hub Ireland** or **UCC Innovation**.





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Insight at UCC to coordinate a €9 million project to develop Europe’s AI-on-demand Platform



A UCC-led research consortium has secured €9 million from the European Union to develop the next phase of Europe’s strategically important artificial intelligence infrastructure known as the “AI-on-Demand” (AIOD) platform.

The consortium comprises 24 partners across 15 European countries, and is led by Professor Barry O’Sullivan, Dr Gabriel Castane-Gonzalez, Shaun Gavigan, and Tanvir Badwal of the Insight SFI Research Centre for Data Analytics and School of Computer Science and Information Technology.

The objective of the AIOD platform is to bring together Europe’s AI community while promoting European values. The platform serves as a catalyst to aid AI-based innovation, resulting in new products, services, and solutions to benefit European industry, commerce, and society. By bringing

people together, the community resource seeks to address the fragmentation of the European AI landscape and facilitate technology transfer from research to business.

Initiated in 2019 with the support of the European Commission, the platform will continue to develop over the coming years through further investment that will see the platform add additional services and tools.

Pictured above (l-r): Professor Barry O’Sullivan, AI4Europe Coordinator and Director, Insight Centre for Data Analytics, School of Computer Science & IT, UCC; Susanne Kuehrer, Project Coordinator, EIT Digital; Dr Gabriel Castane Gonzalez, AI4Europe Programme Manager, Insight Centre for Data Analytics, School of Computer Science & IT, UCC; Professor John Cryan, Vice President for Research and Innovation, UCC. (Photo: Tomas Tyner, UCC)



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RECOGNITION FOR UCC SPINOUT PIPELINE



Above: Dr Waleed Faisal, founder of ArrayPatch (centre) receiving the 2022 Pharma Industry Award for “Innovation of the Year”

Several UCC teams have had significant success in their journey towards establishing spinout companies.

Four UCC research teams, including teams from Tyndall, have been awarded Enterprise Ireland (EI) commercialisation funding to carry out feasibility and technological development.

EI’s Commercialisation Fund grant provides third-level researchers with the support required to transform commercially relevant research into investable high potential start-ups.

Arraypatch

Dr Waleed Faisal, a pharmacy researcher at UCC, has been awarded €738k by Enterprise Ireland (EI) to develop a medicated ‘band-aid’ to treat fungal infections of the fingernails and toenails (onychomycosis) that causes discoloration, thickening, and separation from the nail bed. ArrayPatch aims to take a slice of the global onychomycosis treatment market currently worth US\$4.5 billion.

ArrayPatch took home the award for “Innovation of the Year” at the 2022 Pharma Industry Awards held in Dublin in November.

UCC Innovation expects to establish a spinout company within 18 months, with the anti-fungal patch anticipated to hit the pharmacy shelves within 2-3 years when clinical trials are completed.

CLISTEProbe

“CLISTEProbe”, a UCC and Tyndall National Institute technology, was awarded €753K by EI to continue technical and commercial development on a bioimpedance biopsy needle.

This biopsy device provides real-time diagnostic data to empower clinicians to make informed decisions during biopsy sampling by identifying benign and cancerous tissue. Millions of women around the world undergo breast biopsies following suspicious mammograms, waiting days to get results. Yet 80% of these breast biopsies are not indicative of cancer.

The CLISTEProbe team is led by Dr Eric Moore, with Dr Anulika Justina Ugwah moving into a commercial lead role in the project, and Dr Yineng Wang as the technical lead. The group is supported by UCC Innovation and the HRB Clinical Research Facility in UCC, a breast cancer clinical team in Cork University Hospital.

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UCC Innovation expects CLISTEProbe to spin out as a company in the next 3-5 years, following their regulatory and clinical approval for the cancer biopsy market.

ChirpComm

ChirpComm, led by Xing Ouyang, is a signal modulation technique, which is the core functional block in processors of a communication system, namely the 4G/5G modem chipsets in mobile phones, which are responsible for signal transmission and reception.

This team from the IPIC Centre based in Tyndall was awarded €563,000 to develop an open-source technology which is forward and backwards compatible with 4G, 5G and 6G wireless connectivity, and are expected to spin out of UCC in three years. The IP and novelty generated will be based on the implementation/interface technology required to ensure smooth compatibility with existing formats.

HyperPath

Enabling Ultra Reliable Low-Latency Communications over Multiple Unreliable Wireless Links. The Hyperpath team is led by Professor Holger Claussen from the Wireless Lab in Tyndall. They have been awarded over €550K to develop

technology that significantly increases the robustness and reliability of wireless network communications such as those between unmanned vehicles in warehouses or other industrial setting.

UCC Innovation anticipates that Hyperpath will spin out as a company in the next 3 years, following their demonstration of the validity and utility of the technology.

NeuroBell

Meanwhile, there was more good news for UCC as NeuroBell was announced as overall winner of the Healthy Mom & Baby Competition in Indiana, USA, an initiative aimed at improving healthcare outcomes in women and children’s hospitals, in partnership with MATTER Health, a healthcare incubator in Chicago.

Following an open call, several companies and projects were selected for virtual semi-finals and the Top 4 companies progressed to the finals, which included extensive meetings with leadership and clinical teams across the hospital group. NeuroBell was announced as overall winner of the competition, winning a free clinical feasibility study for their neonatal EEG monitor in the Parkview Women & Children’s Hospital in Indiana, which will support their route to market in the US.

Neurobell is an Enterprise Ireland-funded commercialisation project in the INFANT Research Centre, UCC. Led by Dr Mark O’Sullivan, the team is developing a portable EEG monitor with real-time neonatal seizure detection.

These are strong examples of innovative UCC research that are being commercialised to develop disruptive technologies to generate a positive global impact.



Above: Dr Mark O’Sullivan (third from left) being awarded the title of overall winner of the Healthy Mom & Baby Competition in Indiana, USA.



Above (l-r): Dr Brian O’Donnell; Dr Justina Ugwah; Mr Martin O’Sullivan; Dr Eric Moore from CLISTEProbe.



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Launch of European Centre of Vocational Excellence in Dairy

The European Commission has launched a €4M investment to establish a Dairy Centre of Vocational Excellence (CoVE) under the Erasmus+ scheme. The programme is led by the Association of European Dairy Industry Learning (AEDIL). It establishes nine regional Centres that contribute to a transnational European Dairy Learning Hub, including one based in UCC led by Professor Seamus O’Mahony, School of Food and Nutritional Sciences.

Underpinning the training will be a Dairy Academy, led by Professor Alan Kelly, School of Food and Nutritional Sciences, which will bring together stakeholders from the dairy industry, dairy researchers and dairy teachers to collaborate, learn from each other and share best practices to ensure that the dairy sector is ready to tackle ongoing sustainability, digitalisation and talent attraction and development challenges.

The Irish Dairy CoVE will bring educators and industry representatives, with a shared focus on talent development, to develop a programme of integrated training blocks to meet identified needs and gaps. The Irish CoVE will be led by UCC (Dr Joanne Uí Chruailaoich), who will work with partners in Carbery Food Ingredients, Munster Technological University, Cork Educate Together Board,



Pictured above (l-r): Professor Anne Nadolny; Professor Seamus O’Mahony; Professor Saskia Schwermann; Dr Joanne Uí Chruailaoich, at the UCC CoVE team visit to Hochschule Hannover University of Applied Sciences.

Teagasc Education, the Society of Dairy Technology and Dairy Industry Ireland to develop the four-year programme.

The Dairy CoVE will foster dairy competitiveness through a smart specialisation strategy for lifelong upskilling of existing employees, potential future recruits to the sector and teachers by strengthening collaboration between these learning stakeholders. A key ambition is to develop industry-informed, impactful, sustainable programmes for vocational, lifelong and work-based learning to meet the needs of the current and future dairy professional.

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Ideas for Impact Autumn 2022: “Making Lives Better”

The second Ideas for Impact event took place in UCC on Friday 11th November.

Ideas for Impact is a 12 hour hackathon designed to find new ideas to solve the world’s biggest problems. The theme for this Autumn event was *Making Lives Better* in Lesotho and Malawi, with a specific focus on three Sustainable Development Goals: Zero Hunger, Good Health and Wellbeing and Quality Education.

Ideas for Impact Autumn was a collaborative event run by IGNITE, Strategic Design @ UCC and the Centre for Global Development.

Run over 12 hours, 33 national and international students from a variety of disciplines, level of studies and across the four colleges, were divided into multidisciplinary teams to develop innovative ideas that can significantly change the lives of people in Lesotho and Malawi. Over the course of the day, there were sessions on creative thinking, business model development,

team working and pitching skills, as well as expert mentors on hand to help throughout the day.

There were two award winners - first prize was for “Hygiene For All”, an idea to build a community of people in rural Malawi and educate and provide them with tools to make their own soap. With the lack of access to hygiene products, contamination of water and insufficient funds to pay for hygiene products, 1.3 million children are dying from

diarrhoeal diseases each year. The team want to educate and empower these communities while increasing child life expectancy in rural Malawi. The team included Marek Zbankski (Commerce, 2024), Aditya Agarwal (Computer Science, 2023), Ross Heaney (Computer Science, 2023), Damian Gornik (Computer Science) and Jillian Brunner (Psychology & Computing, 2023).

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Pictured above: Winning team, along with IGNITE organisers and judges.



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The runner up winner was “Different Abilities” an project to empower and educate people and spread awareness about intellectual disabilities in Lesotho. Their aim is to help children with intellectual disabilities get the support they need from a young age. The team included Collins Njoku (MSc Public Health, 2023), Lee Murphy (Psychology and Computing, 2023), Robin Lynch (Intellectual Disability Nursing, 2023) and Oleksandra Kaskun (Graduate Entry Medicine, 2023).

These ideas have the potential to have significant positive impact on the lives of many in Malawi and Lesotho in the years ahead. They have the opportunity to be further developed through supports at UCC and are great examples of what can be achieved through brainstorming and teamwork at Ideas for Impact.





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OUR CLIMATE NEUTRAL FUTURE REPORT COMMISSIONED BY WIND ENERGY IRELAND

In March 2021, the Irish government published a Climate Act committing Ireland to net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Net zero refers to the balance between the amount of greenhouse gas produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere. This was a landmark increase in ambition and aims to align Ireland’s future with the Paris Agreement to tackle climate change.

Wind Energy Ireland commissioned a study from UCC experts on **“Our Climate Neutral Future”** with the objective of creating a roadmap to a climate neutral future and explaining, for the first time, how Ireland can achieve this goal and what is involved. Dr Paul Deane from MaREI was the consultant on the study, which was supported by UCC Consulting.

Dr Deane applied his expertise in clean energy futures to produce a report that will influence future governmental decisions on the use of energy technologies and environmental emissions to meet Ireland’s future energy

needs. His report outlined that all the technologies, concepts and interventions required to reach a net zero economy are already in existence today in some form, however they must be radically scaled up across the economy for Ireland to reach net zero status.

Dr Deane also made recommendations to Wind Energy Ireland on investments required to achieve the government’s goals.

As a result of Dr Deane’s work, **“Our Climate Neutral Future”** was published widely across print media and radio with UCC authors taking a central role in outreach. Climate Action Minister Eamon Ryan publicly uses and refers to MaREI’s Net Zero Report to explain Ireland’s vision of a Net Zero Economy.

The study has allowed both MaREI and Dr Deane to build their profile and reputation as experts in clean energy and has helped build their relationship with Wind Energy Ireland.



The outputs from this study have been used to demonstrate and teach students about the use of research for public policy in UCC’s NE6011 Advanced Energy Systems Modelling course. The focus of the teaching is on how to communicate dense analytical information to an interested public audience. The project brief is presented to students, illustrating how analytical methods were used to address the questions of the client and how the information in the report was produced for the wider public with the use of simple terminology and rich visualisations.

If you are interested in availing of UCC Consulting’s services, please contact Rachel O’Leary & Ruth Hargrove, UCC Consulting at consulting@ucc.ie

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Femtech @ Health Innovation Hub Ireland

Ireland’s first Femtech ecosystem has been launched in Cork. The initiative, driven by Health Innovation Hub Ireland in collaboration with Ireland South Women and Infants Directorate and UCC Innovation brings together research, clinical and industry experts along with innovators, end-users, investors and funders in one network with the aim of developing products and services in women’s health.

Almost 50% of the world’s population are women, yet only 2% of the global research spend is on women’s health. Women are under-represented in clinical trials and the number of female founders is still very low. Women are however responsible for at least 70% of household spending and are the primary decision makers when it comes to healthcare choices for themselves and their families. Women are also

seeking solutions to unmet healthcare needs and through Femtech @ Health Innovation Hub Ireland, we aim to develop and deliver new products and services in this regard.

Why Femtech @ Health Innovation Hub Ireland?

Health Innovation Hub Ireland supports Irish based companies to fast-track development of health technology products through clinical access, feedback and pilots. In recent years we noted the number of women’s health companies seeking our support, we have also successfully delivered this support, attributed to our strong links with Ireland South Women and Infants Directorate and in particular Cork University Maternity Hospital. We also noted that many of these companies were lacking the research expertise required to inform product development

and working with UCC Innovation we have provided the required expertise. As a result, we realised that in Ireland, we have a significant activity in Femtech and women’s health but unlike the rest of the world, we haven’t labelled it or spotlighted it.

This is no longer the case! In June 2022 we started discussing Femtech Ireland on social media, radio and in print media- we invited people to join our network and today we have over 200 members in our Femtech network- men, women, researchers, clinicians, investors, developers- national and international.

If you would like to join the Femtech network, please visit us at this [LINK](#)

To learn more about the initiative, please click [HERE](#) or watch our [VIDEO](#)

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Ignite Recruitment – Open Now

IGNITE, the start-up incubation programme for graduates at UCC is looking for start-up founders to join the next programme, commencing January 2022. The programme is open to recent graduates in any discipline, from any third level institution in Ireland, who have the passion and ambition to work full-time on a scalable start-up idea that has potential for economic, environmental or social impact. Applications close 5 December, if you're interested in finding out more, register your interest [HERE](#).



Calling all Post Doc's, PI's & PhD Students Engaged in Research

Have you a research or business idea with commercial opportunity? Are you interested in learning new skills and being mentored by entrepreneurs to support bringing your research to market? If so, the SPRINT Accelerator Programme is for you. SPRINT is designed as a pre-start up accelerator (including masterclasses, workshops, live case studies and seminars delivered in-person and online) and covers all you need to know about starting a business from your research.

To date, 80 research led ventures have availed of the SPRINT programme from research centres such as Tyndall National Institute, IPIC, APC Microbiome Ireland, INFANT, MaREI, INSIGHT; Schools of Medicine, Pharmacy and Business and Law, as well as from Teagasc.

We have a limited number of spaces available on the upcoming SPRINT programme commencing in January 2023. For further details, please contact Myriam Cronin, Head of Gateway UCC and SPRINT Accelerator Programme [HERE](#).

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Upcoming Events

Inspiring Women Entrepreneurs

Come to the Western Gateway Building G.05 in UCC on **Thursday, January 19th @ 6pm** to an event co-hosted by UCC Innovation and the Going for Growth Programme, which is supported by Enterprise Ireland and by KPMG. You will hear from a panel of inspiring female entrepreneurs, who through their actions and accomplishments have shown that anything is possible.

The Inspiring Women Entrepreneurs programme will support women interested in establishing companies through a five step programme that will include workshops, fostering networks, facilitated round table of peers, as well as an introduction to follow on programmes such as Starting Strong and Going for Growth.

This event will introduce the potential of an entrepreneurial career to women that may not have considered it previously and where there is untapped entrepreneurial potential: women in senior corporate positions, those with doctoral and post-doctoral academic qualifications, professional women, women seeking a change in their life, among others.

Speakers at the event will include Andrea Doolan (CEO & co-founder of Atlantia Clinical Trials), Dr Anne Cusack

(co-founder and former CEO of Critical Healthcare) and Dr Barbara Anne Murphy (Founder of Equilume Ltd).

The Inspiring Women Entrepreneurs programme will support women interested in establishing companies through workshops, fostering networks, mentorship, as well as introduction to follow on programmes such as Starting Strong and Going for Growth.

Keep an eye out on UCC Innovation social media channels for more information on how to register for this event in the coming weeks.

INSPIRING
WOMEN
ENTREPRENEURS





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