



Academic Year 2016/2017 Review

Strategy & Organisational Development

Strategic Planning

The School continues to advance the goals and objectives identified in our Strategic Plan 2015 - 2020 (*A World Class Medical School within Ireland's Global University*). It has reported progress against these objectives (December 2016, March 2017) and has updated the School Risk Register as part of the formal University planning process. The School has prepared both a formal response and a detailed Quality Plan focusing on the recommendations of the 2015/2016 External Quality Review.

Presidential Working Group

As anticipated, after several years of significant fee income growth, the School's revenues moderated in 2015/2016 as our programmes reached full intake within current capacity. During the academic year, the President commissioned a high-level working group to examine the School's financial position and the sustainability of the current budget allocation. Arising from this review, six further initiatives have been established to focus on:

- Maximise Programme Revenues
- Developing Philanthropic Revenue Streams
- Reviewing Organisational Structures
- Review of Senior Academic Appointment Supports
- Review of School Supports for Research
- Developing a 5-year Budget Plan

The *School Executive Management Committee* has submitted a detailed response to the President, reviewing these financial challenges and the recommendations of the President's Sustainability Group.

Forward Planning

A *Strategic Development Advisory Group* has been established to guide the School leadership on emerging strategic opportunities and threats. Reporting to the Dean, the group seeks a proactive rather than reactive approach to School development. The group comprises:

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| • Mr Paul Harkin (Chair) | • Prof Fionnuala McAuliffe |
| • Dr Marguerite Clyne | • Prof Louise Rainford |
| • Dr Suzanne Donnelly | • Prof Paul McLoughlin |
| • Prof Brendan Drumm | • Prof Ronan Cahill |
| | • Prof Walter Cullen |

Enrolment Planning

Detailed enrolment plans have been prepared for all undergraduate and graduate taught programmes. With the sole exception of our undergraduate radiography programme which sees continued expansion to serve national workforce needs, no significant change is anticipated in the number of educational offerings or the student intake in the coming academic year. The School's priority remains consolidation of previous year growth and quality improvement across core modules in our main undergraduate degree programmes (including increasing small group teaching).

Changes to School Leadership Roles

The Dean made several changes to his academic management team during the academic year including:

- Dr Suzanne Donnelly (Associate Dean for Programmes & Educational Innovation)
- Dr Marguerite Clyne (Associate Dean for Research, Innovation & Impact)
- Dr Jonathan McNulty (Associate Dean for Graduate Studies)
- Dr Cliona McGovern (Chair, Admissions Committee)
- Dr Sinéad Murphy (Chair, Medicine UG Degree Committee 3, MDC3)
- Assoc. Prof Helen Gallagher (Head of Subject, Clinical Pharmacology)
- Prof Tadhg O'Dwyer (Head of Subject, Otorhinolaryngology)

Effective Semester One, 2017/2018

- Prof Walter Cullen (Head of Subject, General Practice)
- Prof Gerard Bury (Section Leader, General Practice and Forensic & Legal Medicine)

Penang Medical College

Penang Medical College appointed Professor David Whitford as its new Vice-President (Academic Affairs) & Registrar following the retirement of Prof Kevin B. Nolan. Prof Colm O'Herlihy has also concluded a 1-year appointment as Professor & Head of Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at PMC. Dr Geoff Chadwick, one of the founding academic leaders at PMC and Prof Denis Cusack, who has led the subject of Forensic & Legal Medicine have also retired during the academic year. We extend our sincere thanks to all for their dedicated service and contributions over many years.

Education & Training

Organisational Developments

Associate Dean Appointments

Dr Suzanne Donnelly (Associate Professor & Consultant Rheumatologist at Mater Misericordiae University Hospital) has been appointed as Associate Dean for Programmes & Educational Innovation and Dr Jonathan McNulty (Lecturer/Assistant Professor, Radiography & Diagnostic Imaging) has been appointed as Associate Dean for Graduate Studies.

Medical Education Unit

Building on the excellent foundation work the Education Project Development Team, the Technology Enhanced Learning Team, and the Teaching & Learning Strategy Group, Dr Donnelly has formally established a *Medical Education Unit* to enhance the School's educational mission. The strategic aims of the Medical Education Unit are to lead the continuous refinement of educational programmes to meet the needs of society and the ambitions of our graduates; to inform national policy and best practice in healthcare and to contribute to international scholarship in the field. The *Medical Education Unit* will achieve this by building medical education capacity, expertise, research and leadership within the School. Graduate programme interests will be represented by Dr McNulty and the Unit will work closely with the School's International and Research Deans and Academic Stage and Section Leads. Foundation themes include:

- (i) faculty development for educational leadership and research.
- (ii) graduate competitiveness for national initiatives in clinical academic internship & training programmes.
- (iii) 'Active Classroom' initiative to support deep student learning.
- (iv) 'Assessment to a Standard' initiative to support both the accountability and learning functions of assessment in the School.

The Unit will be led by Dr Suzanne Donnelly, Associate Dean Programmes & Education innovation and will launch in September 2017.

Radiography Programme Expansion

Having increased intake in 2016/2017, *UCD Radiography & Diagnostic Imaging* has announced a further expansion in the intake to its undergraduate radiography BSc (Hons) degree programme to address the demands of the Irish healthcare system. From September 2017, the number of places available will increase from 57 (2016/2017) to 100 places (2017/2018). This expansion has required significant changes to existing modules delivered by the Biomedical Sciences Section and an expansion of our nationwide Radiography clinical training network.

Key Programme Developments

Educational Priorities

Under this new academic leadership, the School's strategic educational priorities are focused on delivering high quality programmes that fully prepare our students for their chosen careers and that springboard our Medicine, Radiography and Paramedic graduates to the next phase of their clinical training. Innovative programme development to support this includes:

- Developing structured electives opportunities across all programmes.
- Developing student research expertise within our Medicine programmes which will fuel the research ambitions of our graduates and develop the capabilities of those competing for academic track internships.
- A focus on the consistent delivery of high quality programme assessment that supports student learning and credentialing.
- Evaluating our current Graduate Taught Programme Portfolio to ensure sustainable educational opportunities exist that support continuous professional development.

Curriculum Review & Enhancement Process

Associate Professor Stuart Bund took on the role of School Champion for the University-wide Curriculum Review & Enhancement Process (CREP). This initiative reported on all undergraduate and graduate programmes run by the School and prepared detailed roadmaps for possible programme development. The School Enhancement Report was received by the Registrar and its recommendations were adopted by the Medicine Programme Board. Key amongst these include:

- Provision of clinical interaction opportunities for students in BHLS programme.
- Development of research skills and the introduction of modules on intellectual property and commercialisation of research.
- Replacement of key X-Ray equipment for Radiography teaching.
- Academic resourcing across Radiography & Diagnostic Imaging programmes.
- Enhancing clinical skill training within the Medicine degree programmes.
- Support for use of educational technology, e-portfolios and the development of online learning.
- Professional accreditation of Psychotherapy programmes and support for practitioner-teachers.
- Engagement with Statutory Bodies associated with Emergency Medicine training and development.

Military Medicine Diploma

The School launched a new University Diploma in Military Medical Care programme with 23 members of the Irish Defence Forces enrolled on this intensive 1-year programme designed to equip graduates to undertake the demanding role of combat medical technician.

OBGYN Podcasts

Associate Professor Mary Higgins and the *UCD Obstetrics & Gynaecology group* have developed a series of podcasts on Obstetrics & Gynaecology emergencies. These educational resources are designed for UCD Students but have been made available free for download from iTunes. Produced with the assistance of the School's *Technology Enhanced Learning Group*, the series covers topics such as Sepsis, Shoulder Dystonia, Eclampsia, Post-partum Haemorrhage in short (<5 min) presentations.

ADHD Tsunami?

The *UCD Child & Adolescent Psychiatry* group held a highly successful international conference entitled 'ADHD Tsunami? Global Perspectives'. With a wide array of national and international speakers, the meeting attracted over 120 delegates and was proceeded with an information evening for parents entitled 'ADHD - What works in Schools'.

Robotic Surgery Training

The *Mater Surgery* group developed an academic programme for the use of robotic technology in the treatment of colorectal disease. The programme was organised by Assoc. Prof Conor Shields and Prof Ronan Cahill along with Prof David Jayne, Professor of Surgery at the University of Leeds.

Risk Management & Quality

UCD Forensic & Legal Medicine celebrated 21 years of their Graduate Diploma in Healthcare (Risk Management & Quality) with the Hon. Ms. Justice Mary Irvine, Judge of the Court of Appeal giving the keynote address at the conferring ceremony. During the year, the group also welcomed His Excellency, Kevin F. O'Malley, the US Ambassador to Ireland and Attorney who presented on the topic "*Medical Litigation in the US and Ireland*". A total of 388 participants from across the Irish healthcare system have completed the programme since its inception in 1995. The 2016/2017 academic year also saw the first intake to our new *Professional Certificate in Medico-legal aspects of Healthcare*.

Value of Bedside Clinical Teaching

A qualitative student-led research study by the *UCD Obstetrics & Gynaecology Group* shows that patient-centred bedside clinical teaching is highly valued by students in the consolidation of obstetrics knowledge and the development of communication skills. The study's first author, Dr Danielle Cotter (UCD Medicine 2016) is currently completing her

medical internship. A graduate entry medicine student, Danielle has a BA in Psychology (UCD 2010) and an MSc in Management Organisation Studies (UCD 2010).

Department of Surgery Grand Rounds

Under the leadership of Prof Ronan Cahill, the Department of Surgery at the Mater Hospital continued its series of extended Grand Rounds featuring inspirational medics. The series was launched in June 2016 with Prof Henry Marsh, internationally acclaimed neurosurgeon and author of the bestselling 'Do No Harm'. Henry gave a reflective and insightful talk entitled 'On Making Mistakes' which drew on his experiences and observations of a lifetime career in Neurosurgery. A second seminar featured UCD alumnus, Dr Marc Ó Gríofa (UCD Medicine 2006) who partook in the NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations 21 (NEEMO 21 Mission). The final seminar featured US-based Dr Paddy Barrett (UCD Medicine 2005), Interventional Cardiologist and creator of The Doctor Paradox, a podcast committed to addressing the issues of burnout in healthcare and understanding how to make it better. Speakers met students for a closed discussion following the main event and their generosity in this was much appreciated.

Specialist Imaging Study Days

The *UCD Radiography & Diagnostic Imaging group* held three popular summer school programmes on Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), Computed Tomography (CT) and Paediatric MR Imaging. With both local and international experts, these programmes were endorsed by both the *Institute of Radiography & Radiation Therapy* and the *European Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine and Biology*. These academies use our specialist expertise to support continuous professional development of radiographers in clinical practice.

Medical Education Research

A team from the School, led by Dr Suzanne Donnelly completed the national *Safe Start* report which was commissioned by the Medical Council in 2015/2016. *Safe Start* delivers a comprehensive assessment of the educational needs of doctors entering the practice of medicine in Ireland for the first time with a particular focus on the key areas of professionalism, cultural, ethical and legal issues. The report provides evidence based recommendations for a *Safe Start* educational initiative and Dr Donnelly continues in a research role working with the Council to deliver these.

Student Research

Dr Emily Pender (Stage 6 UEM student) and Mr Rory Plant (GEM Stage 3 student) gave oral presentations of their medical education research at the annual scientific conference of the *Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE)* in September 2016 in Barcelona. Their work investigated the development of assessment of empathy in medical education and was completed with the kind participation of our Patient Educators. Rory's presentation was entitled '*Do Medical Students Respond More Empathetically to Real Patients than to Standardised Patients (Actors)?*' while Emily presented related work entitled '*A pilot study to evaluate the utility of the 'CARE' measure to assess care and empathy in medical students.*' Both Emily & Rory carried out their research as an SSRA project under the supervision of Dr Suzanne Donnelly.

INMED 2016

UCD was again well represented at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Irish Network of Medical Educators (INMED), with original research presentations from the Departments of Paediatrics (Drs Jennifer Yates & Sinead Murphy); Obstetrics and Gynaecology (Dr Mary Higgins) and Centre for Emergency Medical Sciences (Ms Helen Tobin). Topics ranged from Opiate Addiction and Overdose: Medical Students' Experiences, Satisfaction with Learning, and Attitudes toward Community Naloxone Provision (Ms Helen Tobin) to innovations for learning: including Creating the U:CHILD (Dr Jennifer Yates & Sinead Murphy) and Flipped Learning of Obstetric Emergencies: Use of Podcasts and Plays (Dr Mary Higgins). We acknowledge the major contribution made by the School's technology enhanced learning (TEL) team, led by Mr Adam Tattersall, in supporting the development and delivery of both educational research and innovation.

International Relations

Europe

A record number of students took part in the Radiography Erasmus exchange programme this year with 26 students spending 3 months following academic and clinical practice modules in one of 10 countries across Europe.

North America

Our *International Office* has continued to develop new clinical and research elective opportunities for our students in North America. We have signed agreements with the University of Pittsburgh Medical School and UCLA Cardiac Arrhythmia Centre, guaranteeing five and two clinical elective places respectively. The School has also commenced participation in the *Global Health Learning Opportunities (GHLO)* initiative, an international programme run by the Association of American Medical Colleges.

The School is evaluating a potential collaboration with a leading US Medical School to establish a Pre-Med exchange programme. We continue to support our students' preparedness for major US and Canadian licensing examinations (USMLE, NAC OSCE) with several workshops and mock examinations. The School has also successfully completed US Department of Education Federal Aid Certification.

In conjunction with Harvard Medical School, we hosted a successful '*Introduction to Postgraduate American Medicine (IPAM)*' event for all Irish medical students considering career opportunities in North America.

A group of Radiography students had the opportunity to participate in an international elective exchange with Quinnipiac University in Connecticut, where they spent 6 weeks over the summer working with faculty, gaining clinical experience, and undertaking a mini-research project.

Middle East & South-East Asia

As part of our ongoing strategy of diversifying our international intake, the School has expanded its recruitment of students from the Middle East including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Oman. These students complete a 1-year Pre-University foundation programme in sciences, language and culture before entering our 6-year Medicine programme. Now in its fifth year, over 50 students have been successfully recruited through this pathway and the School hopes to expand the programme to include the United Arab Emirates in the coming years. Despite challenging economic circumstances, the School has maintained its student intake from South East Asia to both our undergraduate Medicine programme and the Penang Medical College twinning programme. The School has established a research scholarship with the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

SSRA International Expansion

The *International Office* has supported the expansion of our undergraduate student summer research initiative to include research placements at Penang Medical College, the Hospital for Sick Children at University of Toronto, University of Edinburgh, University of British Columbia, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Universiti Putra Malaysia, University College London, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, School of Surgery, University of Western Australia, University of Toronto- Centre for Global Health Research, the Babraham Institute, Cambridge, UK, University of Ottawa, Waikato District Health Board, New Zealand, Kessler Foundation, New York, DUKE-NUS Medical School, Singapore, Washington University in St Louis, New York University.

Research, Innovation & Impact

Leadership & Organisation

Associate Professor Marguerite Clyne was appointed Associate Dean for Research, Innovation & Impact effective from 1st December 2016. As Associate Dean for Research & Innovation, Dr Clyne is responsible for driving the School's translational research strategy, developing research capacity, and creating a world-class support infrastructure for UCD Medicine investigators.

The School has established a *Research, Innovation & Impact Group* (RIIG) chaired by Associate Professor Marguerite Clyne and with representatives from each academic section across the School. The group is a consultative forum which aims to guide the development and implementation of the School's research strategy and inform development initiatives.

An expanded *Executive Management Committee* chaired by the Dean of Medicine has been established to oversee the activities and priorities of the *UCD Clinical Research Centre*.

Prof Wolfe Elected Fellow of Royal Society

Professor Kenneth Wolfe (UCD Conway Institute) was named a Fellow of the Royal Society (UK). He is one of 50 distinguished scientists elected as new fellows for their outstanding contributions to science and is the first scientist to be elected from UCD since Professor Edward Conway, the namesake of UCD Conway Institute, in 1947.

Prof Wolfe studies how genomes and chromosomes are organised and how they came to have the structures they have today. His group discovered that the genomes of many species became completely duplicated during their evolution, doubling the number of genes they contain. Membership of the Royal Society is one of the greatest accolades a scientist can receive from their peers and his election is further confirmation that the quality of the research at UCD is equivalent to the very best anywhere in the world.

Prof Walter Kolch Elected to Royal Irish Academy

Professor Walter Kolch was elected to the Royal Irish Academy (RIA) Membership to the RIA is by election only and is considered the highest academic honour in Ireland. Prof Kolch is Director of Systems Biology Ireland (SBI) and Fellow at UCD Conway Institute. His work on quantitative biological mechanisms has led to improved therapies, particularly in the treatment of cancer. Prof Kolch aims to '*decipher the networks of life with his work*'. He co-ordinates interdisciplinary research to simulate biochemical networks to understand the dynamic interactions within them.

Two new Academic Centres established

UCD Academic Centre In Translational Oncology

Led by Associate Professor Amanda McCann, the primary vision of the *UCD Academic Centre in Translational Oncology (ACTO)* is to (a) acknowledge and foster the exceptional cancer initiatives already in place, with a particular focus on gaining international recognition within academic and industrial sectors, and (b) to unify the basic, translational and clinical cancer research communities across all UCD affiliated hospitals, Institutes and Schools. The recent creation of the *Ireland East Hospital Group* provides a catchment population over one million and includes two of the eight designated centres in Ireland (Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and St Vincent's University Hospital) that together currently treat the largest numbers of patients affected by all the major cancers (Breast, Prostate, Colorectal, Lung, Pancreas) within the country. This critical mass provides opportunities for enhanced basic research collaboration but also crucially will greatly enhance interactions with the pharmaceutical and medical device industries.

UCD Perinatal Research Centre

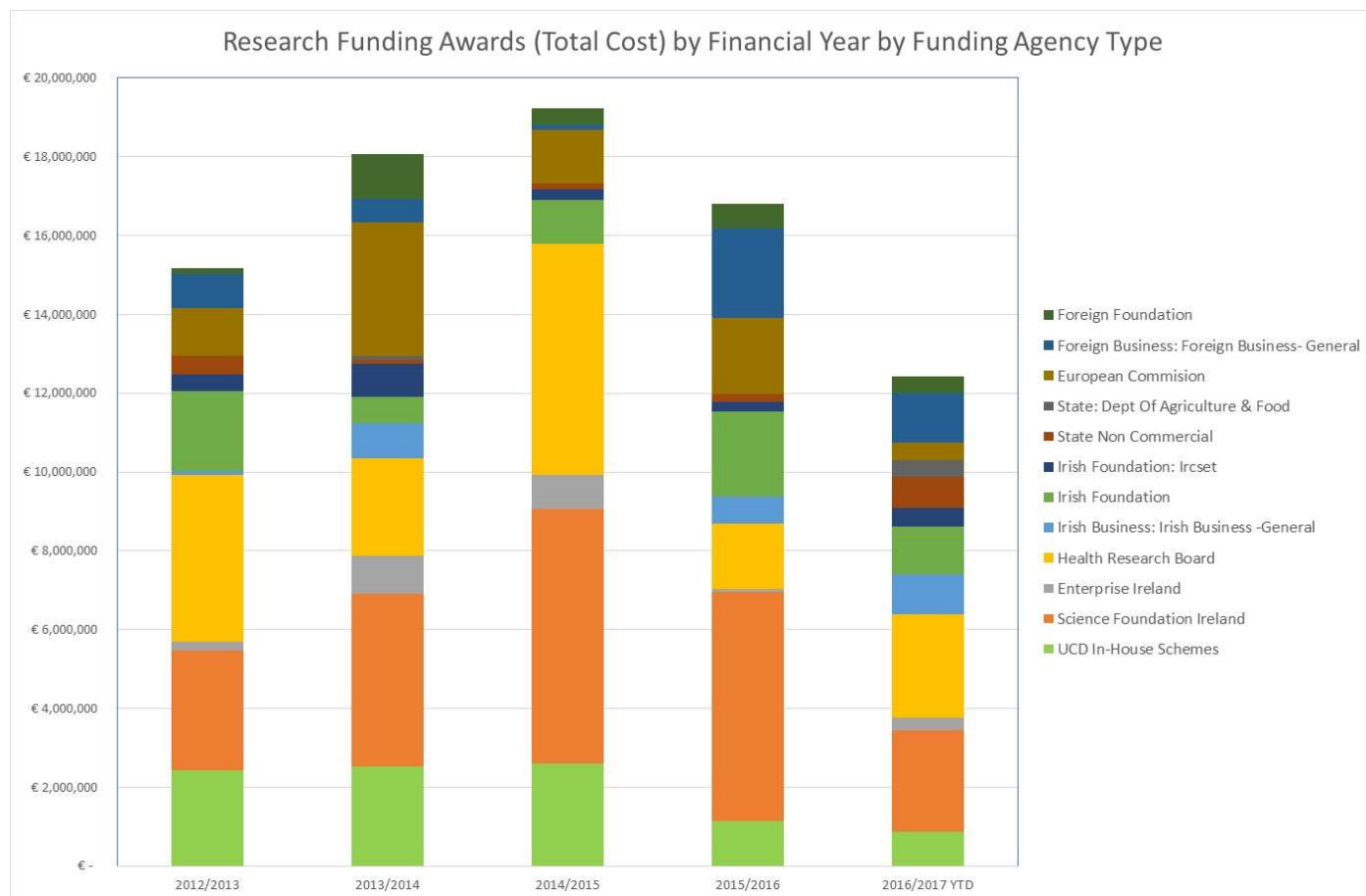
Led by Professor Fionnuala McAuliffe, the *UCD Perinatal Research Centre*, based at the National Maternity Hospital, Dublin coordinates national and international collaborative research in maternal nutrition and diabetes and its impact on maternal, fetal and infant outcomes. The group comprises researchers with backgrounds ranging from clinical obstetrics, paediatrics, nutrition, exercise physiology, behaviour and marketing, public health to economics. The research is funded by grants from the European Union, The Health Research Board Ireland (HRB), and The National Maternity Hospital Medical Fund.

Research Income

Although the number of investigators funded in 2016/2017 increased by 40% and the value of research proposals submitted to funding agencies doubled in 2016/2017 (compared with the previous year), the research funding environment continues to be very challenging with funding from national agencies significantly reduced. Between September 2016 - August 2017, the School secured a total of €12.4M of research funding, of which 93% was from external funding agencies. This compares with a total of €14.4M for the same period in 2015/2016. It is likely that the total research income for the full year will be substantially lower than the average of €17M *per annum* secured in the four previous academic years.

(Funding position as at August 2017. It is noted that approximately 40% of research grants are recorded in final quarter of the academic year.)

Research Funding Awards in 2016/2017 by Funding Agency Types



National Research Funding

Science Foundation Ireland remains the largest national research funding source with a total of €2.5M of funds secured by seven investigators. UCD Systems Biology Ireland's Prof Walter Kolch was awarded €1.5M under the SFI Future Research Leaders scheme, Dr David Gomez secured a Career Development Award and SFI Technology & Innovation Development awards were made to Dr Walter Kolch, Dr Dezhong Zhou, Dr Debra Higgins and Dr Madeline Murphy. These include:

1. *Next Generation Ex-vivo Functional Predictive Assays for High Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer Screening: Three Dimensional, Multicellular Drug Screening using Lab on a Chip Technologies (Prof Walter Kolch).*
2. *Development of Hyperbranched Poly(beta-amino ester) as a New Generation of Tissue Adhesive for Sternum Bonding (Dr Dashing Zhou).*

Supporting the recruitment of Dr Christina Kiel who will join Systems Biology Ireland from the 1st September 2017, Prof Walter Kolch has secured a SFI Future Research Leader award. The Future Research Leaders programme is a recruitment-only programme designed to attract outstanding new and emerging research leaders to Ireland, where

candidates may have both academic and/or industry relevant backgrounds with a focus on research excellence with impact. Christina's work will focus on quantitative and systems analysis of (patho)physiological signalling networks. Dr Kiel comes to SBI from a Senior Scientist position at the CRG in Barcelona (6th best molecular biology institute in Europe for the last decade). Her expertise and SFI FRL research programme will nicely complement that of the ongoing research activity within SBI.

SBI Junior Group Leader, Dr David Gomez was awarded a €555K SFI Career Development Award to support his work investigating the role of a key protein in the development of melanoma *Deciphering the role of the tumour suppressor LATS1 in melanoma*. The LATS1 protein is known to play an important role on the communication of cells with their environment. When LATS1 does not work properly, the cells do not die when they should and they can divide forming a tumour. Dr Gomez's preliminary work has indicated that when LATS1 does not work properly in skin cells the cells can become metastatic melanomas, an aggressive form of cancer for which we still lack effective treatments. This new project will investigate how the incorrect work of LATS1 can lead to metastatic melanoma and how we can use this information to benefit these patients. The award is part of a €22M

investment by SFI designed to forge next generation of research leaders in Ireland

Funding to the value of €6.0M was secured from other Irish funding agencies including €2.6M from the Health Research Board (to Prof Alistair Nichol, Prof Peter Kelly, Dr Marie Therésè Cooney, Dr Sarah Coveney, Dr Neil Docherty, Prof Bill Watson, and Prof Gerry Wilson). Two HRB *Definitive Intervention and Feasibility Awards* each worth €1M were awarded to clinical investigators. Prof Alistair Nichol's award was entitled *Targeted therapeutic mild hypercapnia after resuscitated cardiac arrest: A phase-III multi-centre randomized controlled trial*. Prof Peter Kelly's award was for project entitled *Colchicine for prevention of vascular inflammation in non-cardioembolic stroke - a randomised clinical trial of low-dose colchicine for secondary prevention of stroke. Northern Europe extension*.

Prof Bill Watson in collaboration with Mr David Galvin, Dr Antoinette Perry and Prof Brendan Murphy were awarded €317K by Health Research Board for project entitled *Building a risk calculator to inform prostate cancer diagnosis*. The grant aims to build a risk calculator from 4,000 patients from the National Cancer Control Programmes rapid access clinics for prostate cancer and inform the need for a prostate biopsy.

Dr Coveney was awarded a HRB Cochrane Fellowship for project entitled *Anti-inflammatory therapy for preventing stroke and other vascular events after ischaemic stroke or transient ischaemic attack*. Prof Gerry Wilson's HRB/Arthritis Ireland awarded of €257K is for project entitled *an investigation of the mechanisms linking C5orf30 with tissue damage in RA*.

Prof Sabine Koelle was awarded €415K from the Dept. Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) for project entitled *New strategies to predict and monitor semen fertility (FERTILEBULL)*.

Prof Ulla Knaus secured €104K of funding from National Children's Research Centre, Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin for project entitled *Towards targeting NOX4 for intestinal fibrosis in Crohn's disease* and Prof Donal O'Shea €107K from the same organisation for project entitled *Investigating the Impact of Childhood Obesity on Innate Immune Cell Function & Metabolism and their Modulation by Metformin and Glucocagon like Peptide-1*.

International Research Funding

Dr Paddy Mallon (Medicine, Mater) and a team of Irish clinical academics secured one of seven major Wellcome Trust awards made across the UK and Ireland as part of an initiative to increase clinical research capability. The *Wellcome-Health Research Board Irish Clinical Academic Training Programme* will support the intake of eight postgraduate trainee doctors

a year for a five-year period, providing fully integrated clinical and research training up to consultant level. Dr Mallon is Deputy Director of the Programme and Dr Suzanne Donnelly joins him on the ICAT Steering Committee.

SBI researchers, Dr Ariane Watson and Dr Oleksii Rukhlenko, each secured a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship. These highly competitive awards support experienced researchers in their research training and career development. Ariane secured a fellowship award (€215K) under the H2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie COFUND programme 'TOPMed10'. Ariane will be working with Prof Walter Kolch and Dr Colm Ryan investigating the role of epigenetics in modulating drug resistance in melanoma, through molecular crosstalk with the signalling pathways frequently altered in metastatic melanoma. Originally from South Africa but brought up in Ireland, Ariane completed her Irish Research Council-funded PhD in UCD in 2016 under the supervision of Dr Gerard Cagney including two years with Prof Nevan Krogan in University of California, San Francisco (UCSF).

Oleksii secured an MSCA Individual Fellowship award (€188K) from the European Commission under H2020 to study Signal Transduction Networks (STN) and the connection between environment and cell responses (*Investigation of adaptive design and rewiring of Survival-Apoptosis- Mitogenic (SAM) signalling transduction network (SAMNets)*). Using data-driven network reconstruction and model development, his research will seek to understand how STN 'compute' cell fate decisions depending on genetic background. It is anticipated that the developed mechanistic dynamical models will explain and predict mechanisms of intrinsic and acquired drug resistances, which often cannot be picked up by only intuitive reasoning. Originally from Ukraine, Oleksii has been working as a postdoctoral researcher in SBI under the supervision of Prof Boris Kholodenko since 2015 having previously completed his PhD in the lab of Prof Georgy Guria, National Research Centre for Haematology & Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology.

Commercial Research Funding

Approximately €2M has been sourced from Irish industrial partners in 2016/2017 YTD. This has included €905K for a Genomics Medicine Ireland-funded study of the genetic basis for inflammatory bowel disease (Dr Glen Doherty, Dr Peter Doran, SVUH).

Dr Paddy Mallon also secure funding of €706K from ViiV Healthcare for a UCD-sponsored Phase 4 clinical trial investigating the tolerability, adherence and efficacy of a single tablet regimen of an antiretroviral therapy for people with HIV with a history of intravenous drug use.

Dr Fionnuala Ní Aínle with Prof Patricia Maguire (SBBS) were awarded €170K from Industry for project entitled *Macitentan ameliorates the prothrombotic state in Eisenmenger syndrome: To characterise a novel potential therapeutic role for macitentan in patients at high risk of thrombotic and inflammatory complications*. Dr Lynne O'Shea was awarded €144K for project entitled Using a biomarker of oocyte quality to improve embryo selection during assisted reproduction.

Prof Bill Watson and Dr Antoinette Perry (SBBS) were awarded an Enterprise Ireland Innovation Partnership award with Randox for €163K for the project '*Validation and Risk Calculator Integration of Novel Biomarkers for Detection of Prostate Cancer*'.

Ulysses Medal

The University bestowed the UCD Ulysses Medal, its highest honour, on Dr Lee Hood in recognition of his outstanding contributions to science. UCD Deputy President and Registrar, Professor Mark Rogers presented the award at the 2016 UCD Conway Festival of Research & Innovation.

Research Publications

Our investigators are on course to achieve the recent year trend of over 450 publications *per annum*. We note that a significant number of our clinical staff only reference their hospital as institutional affiliation. We encourage all investigators to reference both the University and Hospital to improve visibility of their research publications.

Several investigators have published over 10 publications in peer reviewed journals during the current academic year to date including Prof Walter Kolch, Prof Fionnuala McAuliffe, Prof Walter Cullen, Prof Bill Watson, Prof Michael Turner, Prof Carel Le Roux, Dr Sally Ann Lynch, Dr Shane Foley, Dr Jonathan McNulty, Dr Wenxin Wang, and Dr Eoin Cummins. (While other investigators may have also achieved this level of publication output, they may not be identified due to the absence of UCD as the institution affiliation or RMS profile not being up to date.)

Consistent with previous years, we note a significant lag in the number of publications being captured on the University's *Research Management System (RMS)*. As the RMS system automatically feeds several important institutional reports (as well as the School website), we encourage all investigators to periodically update their RMS profiles to accurately reflect the School's research productivity.

Dr James O'Byrne and Dr Sally Ann Lynch (Children's University Hospital, Temple Street) had double publication success in the American Journal of Medical Genetics. Together with the Temple Street craniofacial team led by Mr Dylan Murray, the 3D CT skull images of a child with a de novo chromosomal translocation & craniosynostosis, featured on the front cover of the January edition of the journal.

The authors also published online the first Irish cross border epidemiological study involving the genetics centres in both Dublin & Belfast. The study looked at the incidence of fragile X syndrome (FXS) in both jurisdictions. Dr Deirdre Donnelly in Belfast helped provide the Northern Ireland data while Dr Michael Sweeney and Prof David Barton in the molecular genetics laboratory in Crumlin, Dublin helped compile the data from the Republic of Ireland.

Publications Recorded on RMS

Peer Reviewed Journals	328
Conference Contributions	37
Conference Publications	31
Other Publications	26
Book Chapter	7
Other Journal	6
Published Report	4
Book	1
Total (as at 31 st August 2017)	440

Books, Book Chapters & Other Publications

Prof Ronan O'Connell co-authored the *European Manual of Coloproctology* (Herold, Matzel, Lehur and O'Connell. 2016 Springer). Prof Denis Shields co-edited *Application of Clinical Bioinformatics* (Wang, Baumgartner, Shields, Deng & Beckman. 2016 Springer). Prof Billy Bourke, Prof Donal Buggy, Prof Fiona McNicholas, Prof Stephen Pennington, Prof Louise Rainford, Prof Michael Turner, Prof Douglas Veale, Assoc Prof Wenxin Wang, Dr Annemarie Broderick, Dr Ian Conrick-Martin, Dr Kathleen Curran, Dr Jessie Elliott, Dr Dick Fey, Ms Jennifer Grehan, Dr Brendan Kelly, Ms Orla Killeen, Dr Cliona McGovern, Dr Catherine Mooney, Dr Oisín O'Connell, and Mr Asim Sheikh each contributed book chapters. Dr Shane Foley published *EFRS Recommendations for the National Implementation of the Basic Safety Standards Directive*.

In Vivo Microscopy

Prof Sabine Koelle (UCD Professor of Anatomy) published a new text book on *in vivo* microscopy of the male and female genital tracts. Prof Koelle's research interests are focused on reproductive medicine, especially on improving the results of assisted reproduction. Research projects include the mechanisms of gameto-maternal interaction, embryo-maternal communication and early embryogenesis in humans and animals. Her group is establishing new criteria for functional sperm and oocyte assessment and is developing new methods for *in vivo* imaging of fertilization and early embryogenesis in the female genital tract.

Seminars, Symposia & Summer Schools

John Fitzpatrick Irish Genito-urinary Cancer Conference

The *John Fitzpatrick Irish Genitourinary Cancer Conference* continues to go from strength to strength with over 300 national and international delegates across all disciplines attending the 3rd meeting on the 6-7th April in the Aviva Stadium conference centre. Plans are already underway for next year's meeting.

Mind-Reading 2017 | Mental Health & The Written Word

Dr Elizabeth Barrett, Associate Professor and consultant in child psychiatry at Temple Street Children's Hospital and collaborators at University of Oxford held a highly successful workshop at the *dlr LexIcon* Library in Dún Laoghaire. This one-day interdisciplinary conference attracted 135 psychologists, psychiatrists, GP's, healthcare professionals, historians of literature and medicine, academics and service users. Exploring productive interactions between literature and mental health both historically and in the present day, workshops identified the roles that writing and narrative can play in medical education, patient and self-care, and/or professional development schemes. Topics explored included the overlaps between physical and mental health, the patient and practitioner experience, literary case studies, health education and literacy, and perspectives on illness over time. Participants explored literature as a point of therapeutic engagement. In parallel, a public installation exploring the history of Child & Adolescent Mental Health was curated with the College of Psychiatrists of Ireland and subsequently displayed at the UCD Festival 2017.

UCD Personalised Medicine Showcase

Systems Biology Ireland hosted a *Personalised Medicine* research showcase featuring 9 new Marie Curie investigators and their current research projects.

7th Annual Head & Neck Oncology Conference

Dedicated to the memory of the late Prof Aongus Curran, the 7th Annual Head & Neck Oncology Conference 2017 took place in March at St Vincent's University Hospital.

European Teratology Society Meeting

Emeritus Associate Professor Shay Giles (Vice President Elect of the ETS) and Dr Deirdre Brennan, Lecturer in Anatomy were among the local conference organising committee for the **44th Annual Meeting of the European Teratology Society** which took place in September 2016.

Venous Thromboembolism

Prof Fionnuala ní Áinle and MMUH colleagues held a highly successful inaugural international VTE 2016 conference on ***Venous Thromboembolism*** in September 2016.

10th Conway Festival

The 10th UCD Conway Institute Festival of Research and Innovation also took place in September, showcasing the breadth of biomedical research undertaken across the University. Keynote speakers include Dr Leroy Hood, Dr Marina Granovskaya, Prof Eleanor Maguire and Dr Gerard Manning.

Computational and Molecular Biology Symposium 2016

The PhD students from the Bioinformatics, Systems Biology & Computational Infection Biology groups organised the 2016 Computational and Molecular Biology Symposium in December 2016.

The UCD Diabetes Complications Research Centre held a research symposium entitled '***Complications of Diabetes & Obesity***'. The UCD Conway Flow Cytometry core held another successful ***Flow Cytometry Summer School***. The SVUH Emergency Medicine group held a well-attended ***Trauma Symposium*** featuring local and international speakers. The Mater Misericordiae & Rotunda Hospitals held the 2017 National Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Conference. The one-day event focused on HIV post-exposure (PEP) and pre-exposure (PrEP) prophylaxis. In June 2017, the *HIV Molecular Research Group* launched a ***European HIV Seminar*** series which aims to bring together a distinguished panel of international speakers and local experts who have been at the forefront of advances in HIV research.

Innovation, Enterprise & Outreach

Amgen Biotech Experience in Science

In 2014, *Systems Biology Ireland* partnered with the Biomedical Diagnostics Institute at Dublin City University to obtain funding from the Amgen Foundation to pilot the first Amgen Biotech Experience (ABE) in Ireland in the North and South Dublin regions. The pilot was extremely successful and SBI has received approval for a third consecutive round of funding (€293,117) to support activities over the 2017 – 2020 period.

The ABE Ireland programme is a science education initiative featuring a hands-on curriculum that introduces students to the excitement of scientific discovery and provides the opportunity to explore the methods scientists use to create biotechnology medicines. The programme is designed to support the Irish science school curriculum and professional development of secondary school life-science teachers. Training in molecular biology techniques is offered free of charge and emphasises hands-on, enquiry-based learning, providing teachers with practical tools they can replicate in the classroom and lab to motivate students. Additionally, molecular biology resources and research grade laboratory equipment are made available on loan to participating schools. The aim is to increase students' scientific literacy and interest in scientific careers.

Since 2014, the ABE Ireland programme site has provided laboratory training, equipment and educational material to 150 teachers from 113 schools. By the end of the 2016/2017 academic year, 7800 students will have participated in ABE classroom practicals. Approximately 18% of participating schools have a Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) designation from the Department of Education & Skills

Genomics Medicine Ireland

Genomics Medicine Ireland (GMI) which was co-founded by Dr Sean Ennis secured Series A investment of \$40 million from sovereign and international investors including ARCH Venture Partners, Polaris Partners, the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund, and GV (formerly Google Ventures). The investment

will be used to establish a world-class genomic research and development program in Dublin and to create 150 highly-skilled jobs focused on advanced genomic research over the next three years. The investment will enable GMI to undertake comprehensive population-scale genome studies. These will improve understanding of the genetic and lifestyle factors involved in disease, contributing to better diagnostics, more targeted therapies, and more effective prevention and wellness.

EpiCor Therapeutics Wins 2016 Start-Up of the Year Award

EpiCor Therapeutics is an early-stage biotech start-up founded by Associate Professor John Baugh, Dr Nadia Glezeva, Dr Chris Watson, Dr Mark Ledwidge and Professor Ken McDonald. EpiCor Therapeutics won UCD's 2016 Start-Up of the Year Award and a €20,000 prize, after being declared overall winner of the 2016 UCD Venture Launch Accelerator Programme.

EpiCor Therapeutics is developing new disease-modifying treatments that target the mechanisms underlying the development of heart failure. The initial focus of EpiCor Therapeutics is to repurpose an existing drug, 5-azacytidine, for the treatment of a devastating heart disease called hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy (HOCM). The disease currently affects around 175,000 people, with associated annual healthcare costs of over \$1 billion, in the US alone. EpiCor Therapeutics is the result of collaborative research, funded by Enterprise Ireland and the Heartbeat Trust, and carried out over many years with colleagues in Queen's University Belfast, St. Vincent's University Hospital, Tallaght Hospital, St. Michael's Hospital and Cleveland Clinic.

AIB Start-Up Academy

Prof Stephen Pennington and his Atturos team were shortlisted on the eight-week AIB Start-up Academy programme. Atturos which is advancing new molecular diagnostics solutions for the management of prostate cancer, were shortlisted as one of 22 companies from a long list of 450 applicants. Atturos was awarded the '*most investible start-up*' at one of Europe's largest business angle events.

Newman Fellowship Programme 2016/2017

UCD President Professor Andrew J. Deeks hosted the annual Newman Fellowship Dinner with welcoming Donors, Fellows and their Academic Mentors to celebrate UCD's pioneering postdoctoral research initiative, the Newman Fellowship Programme. During the evening, Dr Seamus McGuinness, Craig Dobbin Newman Fellow in Mental Health and Dr Charlene Foley, Arthritis Ireland and Down Syndrome Ireland Newman Fellow spoke about their research and its impact. The Newman Fellowship Programme, which has raised over €10 million since its inception in 1989, brings together a vibrant cross-disciplinary group from industry and academia and has awarded 171 fellowships. It is funded entirely by philanthropy and provides vital funding at post-doctoral level across the University.

<i>Title</i>	<i>Fellow</i>	<i>Mentor</i>
Abbott Diagnostics Newman Fellowship in Acute Kidney Injury	Dr Stephen Duff	Dr Peter Doran
AbbVie Newman Fellowship in Inflammatory Bowel Disease	Dr Margaret Walshe	Prof Glen Doherty
AbbVie Newman Fellowship in Dermatology	Dr Jana Musilová	Prof Brian Kirby
Arthritis Ireland & Down Syndrome Ireland Newman Fellowship in Down's Arthropathy	Dr Charlene Foley	Prof Gerry Wilson
Baraka Iftexhar Khan Newman Fellowship in Lung Cancer	Dr Parthiban Nadarajan	Prof Michael Keane
Biogen Idec Newman Fellowship in Neurology	Dr Nonnie McNicholas	Dr Chris McGuigan
Boston Scientific Newman Fellowship in Colorectal Disease	Dr Susanne O'Reilly	Dr Garret Cullen
CARD Newman Fellowship in Rheumatoid Arthritis	Dr Candice Low	Prof Douglas Veale
CARD Newman Fellowship in Giant Cell Arteritis	Dr Richard Conway	Prof Eamonn Molloy
Craig Dobbin Newman Fellowship in Mental Health	Dr Seamus McGuinness	Prof Kevin Malone
Dansac Laker Newman Fellowship in Colorectal Disease	Dr Cathy Rowan	Prof Glen Doherty
Galderma Newman Fellowship in Dermatology	Dr Helen Rea	Prof Martin Steinhoff
Genomics Medicine Ireland Newman Fellowship in Colorectal Disease	To be appointed	Prof Glen Doherty
Merck Serono Newman Fellowship in Medical Oncology	Dr Louise Elliott	Dr David Fennelly Dr Elizabeth Ryan
Merrion Neuroscience Foundation Newman Fellowship in Neurology	Dr Eavan McGovern	Prof Michael Hutchinson
Novartis Newman Fellowship in Dermatology	Dr Anna Malara	Prof Brian Kirby
Novartis Newman Fellowship in Rheumatology	Dr Trudy McGarry	Prof Douglas Veale
Novartis Newman Fellowship in Neurology	Dr Mei Yap	Dr Chris McGuigan

Medicine & Society

Our biomedical scientist and clinical researchers are driven by a desire to improve healthcare in Ireland and around the world through research and enquiry. Some of the societal impacts and lessons learned from our investigations include:

HeartSafe

UCD Centre for Emergency Medical Science receive two awards *HeartSafe* initiative. Together with the British High Commission, the Irish Defence Forces' Medical Corps, and the Irish Embassy in Sierra Leone, the UCD group developed a highly impactful programme which has seen the training of 150 personnel as cardiac first responders. In recognition of this achievement, the team were awarded Public Sector Organisation of the Year in the UK Heartsafe Awards in Manchester. The initiative also won the prize for best education project in the Irish Healthcare Awards 2016. Not content to rest on their laurels, the UCD group undertook an ambitious University-wide campaign to train over 600 students and staff on how the fundamentals of cardio-pulmonary resuscitation.

Preventing Opiate Overdose

A survey of GP's by the *UCD Primary Care Group* has indicated strong support for a national naloxone programme to address opiate overdose deaths. More than 200 opiate overdose deaths occur annually in Ireland and overdose prevention and management, including naloxone prescription is now being considered for wider lay use.

National Cancer Society

The unique needs of adolescents and young adults (AYA) are to be addressed in new National Cancer Strategy 2017-2026 which was launched by the Minister for Health, Mr Simon Harris TD during the year. Contributing author, Prof Owen Smith, UCD Professor of Paediatric & Adolescent Medicine highlighted the previously unmet needs of AYA's, noting that the new children's hospital will play a central role in the implementation of the strategy.

Patient Stratification in Prostate Cancer

Our investigators demonstrated the power of multi-institutional collaborations to undertake research that addresses fundamental key clinical questions. Prof Bill Watson from the *Prostate Cancer Research Consortium* and collaborators published in a high impact journal the stratification of prostate cancer patients. The group identified a gene signature that has the potential to direct appropriate treatments of high risk patients at an early stage.

Walker et al. Molecular Subgroup of Primary Prostate Cancer Presenting with Metastatic Biology. Eur Urol. 2017 Apr 10. pii: S0302-2838 (17) 30238-5. doi: 10.1016/j.eururo.2017.03.027. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 28408174 (Impact factor – 14.976)

The Patient Voice in Cancer Research

College Principal, Professor Cecily Kelleher opened *The Patient Voice in Cancer Research*, the most recent in a series of biannual events bringing together those living with a cancer diagnosis and their families with healthcare professionals, academic and clinical researchers, patient advocates, funding agencies, policymakers and charity groups. Patient involvement in research has the potential to make a significant impact on the health landscape in Ireland. A steering committee has been established with full stakeholder representation, including those living with a cancer diagnosis. This project is led by Associate Professor Amanda McCann PhD, Director, UCD Centre in Translational Oncology with support from the School, UCD Conway Institute, Systems Biology Ireland and Breast-Predict, the Irish Cancer Society Collaborative Cancer Research Centre.

BREAST-PREDICT

BREAST-PREDICT have shown that a new drug can help to prevent the growth of triple-negative breast cancer cells, one of the most aggressive and difficult to treat forms of breast cancer. It tends to be more common in younger women. The research under the supervision of Professor Joe Duffy and Professor John Crown involves laboratory tests in combination with current chemotherapy treatments. BREAST-PREDICT is an Irish Cancer Society Collaborative Cancer Research Centre.

Increasing Caesarean Section Rates

The *UCD Centre for Human Reproduction* has reported that the number of caesarean sections have soared in Ireland's two biggest maternity hospitals by 154% over the last 25 years. The study was conducted by Prof Michael Turner's group at the Coombe Hospital in conjunction with the ESRI.

Early Stroke Prediction

Professor Peter Kelly (UCD Full Clinical Professor at Mater Misericordiae University Hospital) and colleagues have published a validation and comparison of imaging-based scores for prediction of early stroke risk after transient ischaemic attack. The pooled analysis of individual-patient data from cohort studies was published recently in *Lancet Neurology*

Kelly et al. Validation and comparison of imaging-based scores for prediction of early stroke risk after transient ischaemic attack: a pooled analysis of individual-patient data from cohort studies Lancet Neurology, Vol 15, No. 12, p1238–1247

Good Gut Relationships in Defence Against Pathogens

Professor Ulla Knaus and Professor Billy Bourke together with collaborators in University College Cork, Grenoble University Hospital Centre and Washington University School of Medicine published a paper in *Cell Host & Microbe* showing how the microbiota can adapt to compensate when early warning signalling by epithelial cells in the gut wall fails and threatens the first line of defence against pathogens.

The study set out to investigate the enzymes responsible for generating Reactive Oxygen Species in the gut and to figure out how they contribute to protection against infection. When the team deleted these enzymes in the laboratory, they discovered that mice were still protected due to changes occurring in the microbiota. Rather than using ROS to disarm bacteria, the defensive role is taken on by highly increased levels of peroxide-secreting strains of microbiota, with lactobacilli found to be particularly beneficial.

Pircalabioru G, Aviello G, Kubica M, Zhdanov A, Paclet MH, Brennan L, Hertzberger R, Papkovsky D, Bourke B, Knaus UG. Defensive Mutualism Rescues NADPH Oxidase Inactivation in Gut Infection. Cell Host Microbe. 2016 May 11;19(5):651-63

Immune System Role in Regulation of Body Weight

Professor, Prof Donal O'Shea, Consultant Endocrinologist at St Vincent's University Hospital and UCD Conway Fellow was one of the lead investigators in a study which reveals that the immune system could be responsible for as much as 40% of our body's ability to regulate weight. This new knowledge opens up novel areas for treating weight loss, and will greatly enhance our ability to improve existing hormone treatments for weight loss. Prof O'Shea believes that these findings represent a significant step forward in our understanding of why people often find it so hard to lose weight, despite their best efforts.

Lynch L, Hogan AE, Duquette D, Lester C, Banks A, LeClair K, Cohen DE, Ghosh A, Lu B, Corrigan M, Stevanovic D, Maratos-Flier E, Drucker DJ, O'Shea D, Brenner M. iNKT Cells Induce FGF21 for Thermogenesis and Are Required for Maximal Weight Loss in GLP1 Therapy. Cell Metab. 2016 Sep 13;24(3):510-9

Reducing Diabetes Risk

Prof Carel Le Roux published an international study in *The Lancet* showing that the drug, liraglutide 3.0 mg may reduce diabetes risk by 80% in individuals with obesity and prediabetes.

Child & Adolescent Mental Health

The UCD Child & Adolescent Psychiatry Group held a highly successful 'A-Z of Child and Adolescent Mental Health' session UCD Summer Festival. The interactive audience discussion as led by Prof Fiona McNicholas, Assoc Prof Blánaid Gavin, Assoc Prof Liz Barrett and Prof Barbara Dooley (UCD Psychology).

Gene Identified

Our researchers have recently published the genetic basis of a family's presentation with ataxia. They have found a missense mutation in a gene known as ITPR1 which causes spinocerebellar ataxia type 29 (SCA29). The pathogenic gain-of-function missense mutation was located within the suppressor region of ITPR1. This is the first report of a gain-of-function disease mutation and contributes to our understanding of how variation in this gene can lead to neurological dysfunction.

Neurology Care Framework

Prof Tim Lynch (Neurology, MMUH) published a new framework model of care for neurological services in Ireland. The publication aims to define the future set up of acute and chronic neurological services in Ireland.

Maternal & Fetal Medicine

Dr Niamh Daly (Coombe) presented research on body composition as predictor of gestational diabetes mellitus at the 2017 Society of Maternal & Fetal Medicine conference in Las Vegas. Dr David Crosby (NMH) presented a 10-year review of the Robson Classification of Caesarean Sections at the same meeting.

Volunteering in Sierra Leone

Dr Niall Conroy and Dr Tomás Barry (Lecturers in Emergency Medical Science) volunteered at the Bo Children's Hospital in Sierra Leone. The war-torn West African country has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world and medical facilities are extremely modest.

Lobbying for Public Health Initiatives

Several staff and alumni have campaigned for greater awareness of the decline in uptake of the HPV vaccine. Prof Karina Butler, Prof Donal Brennan and Prof Mary Horgan were among the RCPI delegates who presented to the Joint Oireachtas committee on Health. There has been a significant decline in the number of adolescent girls who have received the vaccine against the Human papillomavirus following a concerted campaign of misinformation by the group REGRET. Dr Paddy Mallon (Director, HIV Molecular Research Group) supported a public awareness campaign on the importance of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) as part of the disease management strategy.

Tackling Concussion

Prof John Ryan (Emergency Medicine, SVUH) and colleagues in UCD Insight have published research on the use of inertial sensors as pitch-side concussion assessment.

Staff News

Faculty & Staff Appointments

We were delighted to welcome the following faculty & staff appointments during the academic year:

- Dr Eleanor Dunican, Consultant/Associate Professor
- Dr Mark Ruddy, Lecturer
- Dr Dearbhaile Dooley, Lecturer
- Ms Fiona Phelan, Radiographer
- Dr Angelina Farrelly, Clinical Tutor
- Dr Eimer O'Malley, Clinical Tutor
- Dr Joseph Walsh, Clinical Tutor
- Dr Marissa O'Callaghan, Clinical Tutor
- Dr Niamh McCawley, Clinical Tutor
- Dr Nicola Faichney, Clinical Tutor
- Dr Ross Doyle, Clinical Tutor
- Dr Therese O'Carroll, Clinical Tutor
- Ms Carla Coll, Educational Technologist
- Ms Elaine Gilroy, Clinical Research Nurse
- Ms Aisling O'Shea, Senior Executive Assistant
- Ms Sarah Kyne, Senior Executive Assistant
- Ms Eleanor Byrne, Senior Executive Assistant
- Mr David McCarthy, Senior Executive Assistant
- Ms Manon Tissier, Executive Assistant
- Ms Maebh Horan-Murphy, Executive Assistant
- Ms Amalia Suarez-Barbuyani, Executive Assistant

Academic Council

Assoc Prof Stuart Bund was elected to the Academic Council representing the Assistant Professors & Associate Professors within the School.

College Teaching Awards

Three academic staff were awarded College awards for outstanding contribution to student learning and teaching excellence.

- Dr Deborah Wallace, Student Learning Award
- Dr Amanda McCann, Student Learning Award
- Dr Stuart Bund, Teaching Excellence Award

UCD Wellcome Trust Research Support

Three School faculty were awarded research supports under the UCD Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund. Dr Conor Magee, Specialist Registrar Rheumatology at St James Hospital will undertake an MD research project on the development of biomarkers to predict the progression of psoriatic arthritis. Dr David Crosby, Clinical Research Fellow and Specialist Registrar Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the

National Maternity Hospital and Merrion Fertility Clinic, undertakes an MD research project which will focus on how the dysregulation of inflammatory pathways affects embryo implantation and pregnancy. Associate Professor Amanda McCann's research involves evaluating the role of extracellular vesicles in triple negative breast cancer.

Staff Promotion

Dr Louise Rainford has been promoted to UCD Professor under the University's Faculty Promotions scheme in recognition of her outstanding academic achievements. Louise has led the *Radiography & Diagnostic Imaging* Section as Section Leader and, previously as Head of Radiography and is Associate Dean for Radiography. During this time, Louise has substantially enhanced the international reputation of UCD Radiography, has developed significant research activity and has developed numerous new education programmes. She has led the Section through three successful professional accreditation reviews and taken a national leadership role for the profession of radiography. The Faculty Promotions Committee commended her pioneering multi-disciplinary initiatives as exemplified through the School's Obstetric & Fertility Ultrasound programmes. Her track record of Research, Scholarship & innovation includes 58 original publications, she has supervised 9 PhD students to completion (with a further 10 currently in progress as either primary or secondary supervisor).

UCD Medicine Clinical Pathway

The School made a series of adjunct academic appointments and promotion under the 2016/2017 UCD Medicine Clinical Pathway. There were a total of 46 new adjunct academic appointments and 19 advancements within the pathway to higher academic rank from the 75 applications received. There have been a total of 971 applications to the UCD Medicine Clinical Pathway since the scheme was introduced in 2008 with 556 current appointees comprising:

- UCD Full Professor (10)
- UCD Clinical Professor (76)
- UCD Associate Clinical Professor (155)
- UCD Assistant Clinical Professor (315)

Director of Research at SVUH

Dr Peter Doran, Director of the UCD Clinical Research Centre has been appointed as Director of Research at St. Vincent's University Hospital. Peter will lead a review of SVUH research activity, implement new research processes and oversight and develop a multi-year business plan for the growth of clinical research at the hospital.

IACR President

Associate Professor Amanda McCann was elected President of the Irish Association for Cancer Research at its annual meeting in Kilkenny. Amanda takes over the role from Prof Bill Watson.

National Clinical Effectiveness Committee

Dr Karen Ryan (consultant in palliative medicine at St Francis' Hospital, Raheny and the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital) has been appointed chair of the HSE's National Clinical Effectiveness Committee.

IMI Scientific Committee

Prof Dolores Cahill was appointed to the EU Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) Scientific Committee which includes internationally acclaimed experts from highly specialised medical fields, including bioinformatics, cancer, microbiology, molecular biology, neurology, pharmacology, proteomics and public health. The 11-member Scientific Committee provides strategic science-based recommendations to IMI and advises on the continued relevance of the Strategic Research Agenda and the scientific priorities.

University Appointment

Prof Jason Last was appointed as the inaugural UCD Dean of Students at the beginning of the year. In this senior University leadership role, Prof Last will be responsible for implementing the UCD strategic initiatives on enhancing the student experience. We wish Jason well in his new role and thank him for the tremendous efforts and achievements within the School over the past fifteen years.

1916 Commemoration

A UCD Mater team comprising Prof Ronan Cahill, Assoc Prof Denise Sadlier and Ms Debbie Killeen prepared a 1916 commemorative exhibition which displayed both in the Catherine McAuley Education & Research Centre and at the Mater Hospital Street in the Hospital's Whitty Building.

The Irish Laboratory Awards 2017

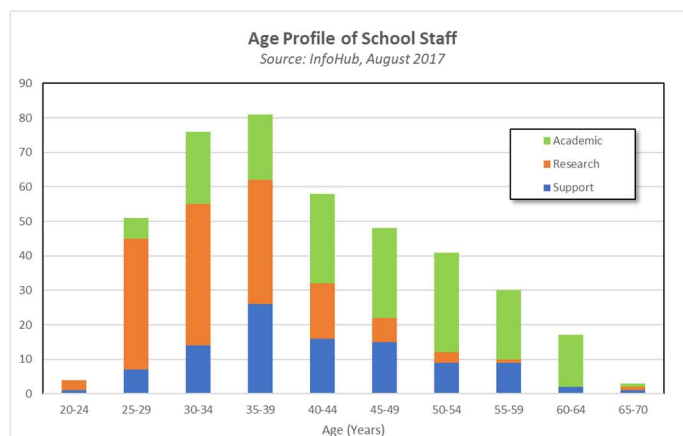
Represented by Dr Dirk Fey and Dr Eadaoin McKiernan, Systems Biology Ireland took both the Collaboration Achievement Award and the Education Laboratory of the Year Award at the Irish Laboratory Awards 2017. The Laboratory Awards recognise the successes and achievements of Ireland's internationally renowned scientists in areas including innovation, leadership and collaboration and focus on the ongoing work of Irish scientists to grow and develop a sustainable, globally competitive science research.

The Education Awards 2017

The inaugural Education Awards, initiated to recognise, encourage and celebrate excellence in the third level education sector on the island of Ireland from both State and privately funded institutions, saw members of the SBI Amgen Biotech Experience team (Elaine Quinn, Robert Schwamborn and Tara O'Connor) collect the accolade for Best Education Outreach. This was a great achievement in a very competitive category, including seven other innovative programmes involving students and the public in science, the environment and design.

Staff Retirements & Departures

Thanks to the School's age profile, we have been fortunate not to have lost too many staff to retirement in recent years. Less than 5% of current total staff (and less than 10% of academic staff) are aged 60 years or over. However, with the retirement of several senior academic staff during this academic year, we are reminded of the impact of losing experienced colleagues and the importance of effective succession planning. Recent staff retirements have included Prof Patricia Casey, Prof Ronan O'Connell, Professor Declan Walsh, Dr Geoff Chadwick and Mr Harry Kavanagh. The School was also sorry to lose Dr Ciara Murphy and Dr David Crampton (both to RCSI). We wish them both well in their new roles and thank all staff for their contributions to the School.



Prof Patricia Casey

Prof Patricia Casey retired as UCD Professor of Psychiatry at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital at the beginning of the academic year. Prof Casey graduated from University College Cork in 1976 with a Bachelors of Medicine and Surgery before completing her basic medical and higher specialist training in Britain at the Mapperley Hospital, Nottingham and

the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. She returned to her alma mater in 1985 where she was appointed senior lecturer and consultant psychiatrist in the Department of Psychiatry at Cork University Hospital until her appointment at Professor of Psychiatry and Director of the Acute Psychiatric Unit at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital in 1991. Prof Casey was a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland, the Royal College of Psychiatrists, and the Royal Society of Medicine. She is a former member of the Board of International Study Group on Personality Disorder, the Interim Prisons Authority (2000 – 2005) and the Medico-legal Society of Ireland. As a faculty member, Prof Casey has been a member of the UCD Academic Council and its High Degree sub-committee. Prof Casey's research interests include personality disorder and suicide prevention and she was a principal investigator in the 'Outcome of Depression International Network'. Prof Casey has published extensively in both academic journal and non-academic publications with over 230 editorials, articles and original papers in international peer-reviewed journals. She has authored and co-authored several books including *Psychiatry and the Law*, *A Guide to Psychiatry in Primary Care* and *Stress and Trauma Related Disorder*. She edits *The Psychiatrist* and the *British Journal of Psychiatry* on behalf of the Royal College of Psychiatrists as well as being on the editorial board of *Advances in Psychiatric Treatment*, *Irish Journal of Psychological Medicine* and *Primary Care Psychiatry*. She has been a high-profile commentator on television and radio on a range of social issues and has published regular opinion columns in several Irish newspapers.

Prof Declan Walsh

Professor Thomas Declan Walsh has retired from the inaugural Professor of Palliative Medicine at Our Lady's Hospice, a joint appointment between Trinity College and University College Dublin which he took up in 2012. A medical oncologist by training, he was the Founding Director of the ground-breaking Harry R. Horvitz Center for Palliative Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic - a model for hundreds of others internationally. Professor Walsh was the Senior Editor on a major textbook and web resource entitled *Palliative Medicine*. Research Fellows in his unit have been awarded ten "Young Investigator" awards. Other honours have included a Visiting Fellowship at Oxford University, the National Leadership Award from the American Academy of Palliative Medicine, and the John Mendelsohn Award from M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. He is a Fellow of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of Edinburgh and London, and the American College of Physicians.

*Prof Denis Cusack*

Prof Denis Cusack retired at the end of this academic year from the University after 25 years of distinguished service with UCD. Denis has been a UCD Full Professor and Head of Forensic & Legal Medicine at the UCD School of Medicine since his appointment in 1995 and Director of the Medical Bureau of Road Safety since 1999. Denis graduated from UCD School of Medicine in 1980. He

trained in general internal medicine and diabetes/endocrinology in Ireland and the USA. He was called to the Bar of Ireland in 1991, following studies at Kings Inns specialising in personal injury and medical negligence actions. Prof Cusack is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (1996), a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, London (1999), and a Foundation Fellow of the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine at the Royal College of Physicians in London. He was President of the Coroners Society of Ireland from 2008 – 2010 and President of the

Medical-Legal Society of Ireland from 2015 – 2017. He is a member of the Council of the Medico-Legal Society of Ireland, of the Executive, European Council of Legal Medicine and of the Scientific Advisory Committee, International Academy of Legal Medicine. Prof Cusack is international representative of the Presidium of the International Academy of Legal Medicine, a member of the international editorial board of the International Journal of Legal Medicine and the Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine, and Founding Consultant Editor of the Medico-Legal Journal of Ireland. Prof Cusack has served on numerous national and international bodies and expert advisory committees on medico-legal, forensic and coronial matters. Prof Cusack's research interests have included forensic and medico-legal death investigations, driving impairment through the influence of intoxicants, clinical forensic medicine, and healthcare risk management and quality. He has developed a several impactful graduate taught programmes in forensic and legal medicine, and in healthcare risk and quality management. Prof Cusack developed specialist training programmes for An Garda Síochána including roadside drug and alcohol impairment testing and sexual assault forensic examination. His dedication to teaching excellence was evidenced by his acquiring detailed knowledge of the Malaysian legal system in support of his teaching of Legal Medicine at Penang Medical College. Prof Cusack retains his roles as Director of the Medical Bureau of Road Safety and Coroner for County Kildare.

Prof Ronan O'Connell

Prof Ronan O'Connell has also retired from his University appointment at the end of this academic year. Prof Ronan O'Connell has been UCD Professor of Surgery and Consultant



Surgeon at St Vincent's University Hospital since September 2007. He was previously Senior Lecturer in Surgery at the Royal London Hospital (1989-1990), consultant surgeon at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital (1990-2007) and Newman Clinical Research Professor at UCD (2002- 2007). In

2009, he was appointed Section Head of the Section of Surgery and Surgical Sciences at University College Dublin and he was elected Chairman of the South-East Dublin Department of Surgery.

Prof O'Connell graduated from University of Dublin, Trinity College, trained in Dublin and Cork and completed specialist training in Colon and Rectal Surgery at the Mayo Clinic, Minnesota, USA. Prof O'Connell received the Dublin University Travelling Scholarship in Surgery (1983), a Fogarty Travelling Fellowship from NIH (1984) and a Council of Europe Travelling Scholarship (1989). He holds fellowships of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (1983) and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow (Honorary) (2001). He was elected to the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in June 2008.

Prof O'Connell is a member of the Irish Society of Coloproctology, a fellow of both the Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland and the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons and secretary of the European Association of Coloproctology. He is a fellow of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland and a member of the Society of Pelvic Surgeons and the International Surgical Group. He is an elected member and Editor in Chief for the European Surgical Association. In 2010 he was elected to the James IV Society of Surgeons.

Prof O'Connell has published widely in the areas of inflammatory bowel disease, pelvic floor physiology and continence. His research has been recognised by numerous awards including the Patey Prize of the Surgical Research Society (1985), the British Journal of Surgery Prize at the Association of Coloproctology Great Britain and Ireland (1995, 1997, 1999 and 2007), the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons Research Prize (2007 and 2010) and the Physiological Society (2009). His research is currently funded by Science Foundation Ireland and the Bowel Disease Research Foundation of ACPGBI.

Prof O'Connell is an Editorial Board member and Secretary elect of the British Journal of Surgery Society having served as associate editor (1999-2002) and editor (2002-6) of the Journal. He currently is associate editor of Diseases of the Colon and Rectum (since 2001) and is on the editorial board of several journals including the Annals of Surgery. He is joint editor of Bailey and Love's Short Practice of Surgery (25th and 26th editions) and the European Manual in Coloproctology.

Dr Geoff Chadwick

Dr Geoff Chadwick, Lecturer in Clinical Medicine and consultant in internal medicine and respiratory at St Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown after a distinguished 39-year career of service as a medical educator and clinician. Geoff graduated from the University of Dublin (Trinity College) Medical School in 1978 and completed his Intern training at the Adelaide Hospital Dublin before completing his basic specialist training at the Federated Dublin Voluntary Hospitals from 1979 to 1981 where he was registrar in general internal medicine at the Meath Hospital Dublin and then registrar in respiratory medicine at St James's Hospital, Dublin. Geoff undertook a one-year research fellowship in respiratory and sleep medicine at the Churchill Hospital Oxford UK and returned to Dublin in 1983 when he was appointed as Lecturer in Medicine at the UCD School of Medicine and St Vincent's University Hospital Dublin. He held an appointment as senior registrar in medicine at Mater Misericordiae University Hospital Dublin from 1985 – 1988 before he was appointed consultant physician in 1990 at the same hospital, a post he held until his appointment as consultant physician at St Columcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown, Dublin in 1998. Having completed a BA in Biochemistry at Trinity in 1975 before he completed his undergraduate medicine degree, Geoff continued to participate in education as both a student and a teacher. He was awarded his MD at Trinity in 1989 and an MBA in Health Services Management from the UCD Smurfit School of Business in 1999.

Geoff's main passion was medical education and he contributed strongly to various academic institutions in Ireland and overseas. He was Director of the Centre for Medical Education and the Clinical Skills Centre at the UCD School of Medicine from 1996 until his retirement. Geoff co-wrote the Penang Medical College curriculum and helped establish this international collaboration between UCD and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. His ambition for,

and commitment to the students of PMC has been clear from the outset and in recent years he worked tirelessly to adapt and improve their programme in Dublin and travelled to Malaysia to ensure the students' smooth transition to their clinical training in Penang. He has led clinical skills curriculum development through UCD's medicine programmes and has been a leading member of the Irish Network of Medical Education since its establishment. From 1992 until 2004, he was Dun's Tutor and postgraduate lecturer at the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland before becoming Associate Dean of Basic Medical Training at that organisation, a role he held for ten years between 2004 and 2014. Dr Chadwick became International Clinical Lead for the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland in 2014 and was elected senior fellow on RCPI in 2010.

His other research interests have included respiratory failure and control of ventilation, including disorders of breathing during sleep and respiratory muscle dysfunction in diseases of lung. He has been involved in e-learning educational programmes on Asthma to support education of patients, students and physicians-in-training as well as continuous professional development. He has also had an interest in clinical governance and the administrative aspects of medical care.

Geoff has been a member of the Irish Thoracic Society, European Respiratory Society, Association for the Study of Medical Education, Association for Medical Education in Europe, Irish Committee on Higher Medical Training, RCPI General Professional Training Committee, RCPI Education and Examination Committee, RCSI Basic Surgical Training Committee, RCSI Advisory Committee on Emergency Medicine Training and the Irish College of General Practitioners Vocational Training Steering Committee.

Mr Harry Kavanagh

Mr Henry Kavanagh ("Harry" to his fiends) joined UCD's Pathology Department as a technician in 1970. His training complete, he quickly assumed a key role in the diagnostic histopathology team. His sympathy for instruments and aptitude for learning new techniques meant

he was chosen to support UCD's contribution to the emerging field of diagnostic electron microscopy. His skills in this arena



ranged from aligning the smallest of specimens using a custom-made tool comprised of one of his own eyelashes glued to a matchstick to scouring acres of images for the elusive Birbeck granule required to clinch the diagnosis.

From an early stage Harry was making a key contribution to UCD's pathology teaching effort as he was tasked with turning informative specimens into teaching material and ultimately with the maintenance of the entire pathology specimen archive. With the winding down of clinical diagnostic activity in the lab Harry's role migrated to one of hands on teaching support. He believed in the notion, perhaps somewhat out of favour these days, that experts who are willing to teach should coincide with students who are anxious to learn in appropriately equipped rooms with the relevant teaching resources and technology.

Three generations of students and academics quickly grew to value the appearance of Harry's bemused face when all parties were agreed that pathology teaching was scheduled to take place but it was, as yet, unclear where. Indeed, Harry's near encyclopaedic knowledge of campus and timetable usually meant that he could rustle up a solution to the most incongruous of double bookings.

When visiting lecturers were recently informed that, due to his retirement, Harry would not be there this year to greet them, shepherd them to their assigned venue and address any "quirks" in the local audio-visual infrastructure, many replied sadly that this represented the "end of an era".

Our Best Wishes on their Retirement

Inspiring, dedicated and internationally respected, these individuals have greatly enhanced the reputation of the School and University throughout their distinguished careers. With their retirements, the School loses much-admired academic leaders and well-respected colleagues. We wish them long, happy and fulfilled retirements.

Student News

10 Years of Undergraduate Student Research

The School celebrated 10 years of undergraduate student research with its annual Student Summer Research Awards evening at the UCD O'Brien Centre for Science on the 13th October 2016. Over 100 participants undertook supervised eight-week laboratory or clinical research projects and competed with both poster and oral presentations to faculty.

Ms Leia Judge (Biomedical, Health and Life Sciences Programme) was awarded the SSRA 2016 Gold Medal for her research project entitled '*Gene and Tonic : Exploring the molecular mechanisms underlying fetal alcohol syndrome*' with Ms Ciara Giles Doran (Engineering) taking the silver medal ahead of Ms Niamh Crowley (Undergraduate Medicine). Ms Giles Doran described the development of durable user-specific 3D printed ankle foot orthoses while Ms Crowley's research investigated targeting HIV latent reservoirs with a new class of latency reversal agents.

The showcase event was honoured with several distinguished guests including former Dean, Prof Bill Powderly and his wife and the US Ambassador to Ireland, Kevin F O'Malley. Prof Powderly oversaw the establishment of the Student Summer Research initiative and has co-sponsored several research exchange electives with the University of Washington in St Louis. Also among the guests at the event were previous SSRA prize winners who have continued to pursue research throughout their clinical postgraduate training.

Over the past 10 years almost 900 students have engaged with the programme resulting in published conference proceedings and in many cases, full peer reviewed publications arising from the research projects. Many students have had the opportunity to undertake their research in leading medical centres around the world including at Texas Children's Hospital, Washington University St Louis, Sick Kids Toronto, American University Beirut Medical Centre, Penang General Hospital, Simon Fraser University Hospital, Boston Children's Hospital, University of Buffalo NY and Rosewell Park Cancer Institute Buffalo, BC Children's Hospital Research Institute Vancouver, Peterborough Regional Health Centre Canada, Texas Children's Hospital and the Centre for Applied Health Research St. Joseph's Care Group Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada.

The initiative has seeded research in Child Psychiatry with 17 students enrolled in lectures, workshops and research projects. Several students also undertook patient-focused research including studies with the Irish Platform for Patient

Organisations, Science & Industry (IPPOSI), MS Ireland and Dyspraxia Ireland.

Student Research at National Workshops

Making the theory of 'multidisciplinary care' work in real world clinical practice was the focus of a workshop delivered by a team from the School and the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital. The workshop was featured at a national conference on '*Preparing Healthcare Students Transition to Practice*' which was hosted recently by UCC and the EPREPP Consortium as part of a project funded by the National Forum for Teaching & Learning.

The workshop was developed following a SSRA summer student research project by Ms Bashayer Almaazmi (UCD Medicine Stage 4) which highlighted that effective care of patients with hepatitis C infection requires close cooperation between a wide range of health and social care professionals and agencies. Supervised by Dr Geoff McCombe (UCD Medicine Primary Care Research Group), the workshop was subsequently developed with Ms Mairead O'Connor (Mater Misericordiae University Hospital), Ms Carol Murphy and Dr Jack Lambert (HepCare Europe & MMUH), Ms Nicola Perry (Community Response) and Mr Adam Tattersall (Educational Technology, UCD Medicine). By working through scenarios based on real world clinical problems and incorporating video interviews with healthcare professionals, the workshop aimed to promote active learning and reflection among students.

Dr HH Stewart Medical Scholarships & Prizes

UCD was well represented among the 2016 NUI Dr H H Stewart Medical Scholarships and Prizes with three UCD Medicine students taking all three Pharmacology prizes.

Accessible Science

Ms Stephanie Whelan (PhD student in Dr Katherine Howell's group) won the top prize at the SBBS Engage *Accessible Science* Seminar Series in March 2017. This series emphasises the importance of communicating scientific knowledge to the general public to enable society to make informed decisions. Stephanie provided the audience with a fascinating insight into her research on the potential use of erythropoietin to cure the lung disease, emphysema.

Inaugural SimWars Intervarsity Competition

The School of Medicine hosted '*SimWars*', a medical simulation competition for medical and nursing students in Ireland on 25th February 2017. The event was organised by members of the Emergency Medicine Student Society of Ireland EMSSI and saw students work in teams of five to manage several simulated medical emergency scenarios which included using medical mannequins, actors and digital

technologies. Together these provided students with a realistic and immersive learning experience.

RAMI Intern Study Day

Over 450 abstracts were presented by Interns from across all six Medical Intern Training programmes at the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland Study Day which took place in RCPI in January 2017. The event is organised by Dr Dermot Power, UCD Intern Training Network and President, RAMI, supported by the School.

Student Medical Journal

The UCD Student Medical Journal team compiled and published their 4th Edition with an interesting panel discussion on Global Health issues.

International Student Presentations

Ms Ciara Feighan (Stage 3 Medicine) had her SSRA16 Project work, a study of the emotional journey of a gestational diabetes diagnosis, published in *The Lancet, Diabetes & Endocrinology* as a clinical picture. Ms Lade Adeusi (Stage 3 Medicine) presented a poster from her student research elective at the Canadian Paediatric Society annual meeting.

Dr Emily Pender (Stage 6 UEM) and Mr Rory Plant (GEM Stage 3) gave oral presentations of their research at the annual scientific conference of the Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE) in September 2016 in Barcelona.

Ms Louise Elliott (MSc student at the Centre for Colorectal Disease at St Vincent's University Hospital) won a poster of distinction accolade at the Digestive Disease Week 2017 Conference in Washington, DC. Louise's poster was entitled '*Immune Profile of the Tumour Microenvironment in Colorectal Cancer Corresponds to Molecular Subtype and Pathological Features.*' Also presenting at the conference was Dr Cathy Rowan (UCD Medicine 2011) current MD student at the UCD Colorectal Disease at St Vincent's University Hospital. Cathy's poster was entitled '*DUBLIN (Degree of Ulcerative Colitis Burden of Luminal Inflammation) Score, a Simple Method to Quantify Inflammatory Burden in Ulcerative Colitis*'.

Ms Eileen O'Brien, PhD Student with the UCD perinatal Research Centre won the oral prize for Maternal Medicine at The British Maternal & Fetal Medicine Society's 18th Annual Conference held in Birmingham on 21st & 22nd April 2016. Ms O'Brien presented on a study entitled 'Calcium attenuates impact of vitamin D inadequacy on bone turnover in winter pregnancy'.

Dr Eoin Brennan, (UCD Conway Research Fellow) was awarded the Young Investigator Award at the 30th Annual

General Meeting of the European Diabetic Nephropathy Study Group meeting in Helsinki in May. EDNSG is a group of Diabetes Specialists with a particular interest in nephropathy. The group is made up of Nephrologists and Diabetologists with an interest in diabetic kidney disease ranging from the structural and functional to the clinical.

Irish Cancer Society Post-Doc of the Year

Dr Maria Prencipe was awarded the 2016 Irish Cancer Society Post-Doctoral Researcher award. Maria, a Research Fellow within Prof Bill Watson's research team took the award for her project investigating metastatic prostate cancer patients whose cancer cells have spread to other organs. Maria's work has shown that patients who did not respond to current therapies have much higher levels of serum response factor (SRF). Dr Prencipe's research has shown that a new drug which blocks SRF can stop the cancer cells from dividing and surviving. When this drug is used in combination with current treatments, these are more effective in killing cancer cells. These research findings are currently being tested in preclinical models in collaboration with the University of Washington.

Universitas 21 Health Science Summer School

During Summer 2016, UCD sponsored three students to attend a Universitas 21 Health Sciences Summer School at Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile in Santiago. One of the students, Lok Yi Tan (UCD Medicine Stage 4) reported on her experience of this adventure.

Global Ingenuity Challenge

A UCD's student team has been awarded second place in the Universitas 21 2017 Global Ingenuity Challenge (GIC). Under the guidance of Dr Conor Buggy (U21 Ingenuity Facilitator (IF)), the students' entry, 'Roots before Branches' proposed a novel response to this year's GIC theme: 'Promoting Cultural Inclusiveness in Society'.

British Hypertension Society Prize

A UCD School of Medicine PhD graduate has been awarded a young investigator prize by the British Hypertension Society for his research that has found a new way of lowering blood pressure levels in patients. Dr Conor Kerley showed in a clinical trial that consuming certain foods containing dietary nitrate significantly lowers blood pressure in those with high blood pressure and in those who suffer from the sleep disorder obstructive sleep apnoea, which also predisposes sufferers to high blood pressure.

Med Day 2016

The UCD Medical Society had a phenomenally fundraising success in their annual Med Day, which this year morphed into a week of events leading up to the biggest day in the Student Society's busy calendar. This year a record €28,430 was raised for their chosen charities, the Jack and Jill Foundation, ALONE Ireland, Saplings School for Children with Autism, The Mater Foundation and St. Vincent's Foundation.

Sports, Culture & Performing Arts



Ad Astra Performing Scholars

There are now an incredible 6 School of Medicine students among the 11 UCD *Ad Astra* Performing Scholars including: Molly Murphy O'Kane (Stage 2 Medicine, Violin), Lukas O'Brien (Stage 4 Medicine, Oboe), Oisín Friel (Stage 5 Medicine, Viola), Eithne Nic an Riogh (Stage 5 Medicine, Violoncello), Dylan Browne (Stage 1 Medicine, Piano), and Maire Gaffney (Stage 3 Radiography, Soprano).

Rowing Success

Our students were among both the novice and senior crews in the annual UCD/TCD Colours Boat Races on the Liffey. It was a good year for UCD with both the Men's and Women's senior crews winning their races in convincing fashion while the Novice Women took the first race of the day in difficult conditions. The Senior Men took their ninth win in ten years to claim the Gannon Cup, a trophy instituted in 1947 in memory of a UCD Medicine alumnus, Capt Ciarán Gannon.

Rugby

Former Ireland U20's Rugby Captain, Josh Murphy (Medicine Stage 4) has joined the Leinster Rugby Academy and has made a number of appearances for the province.

National Chess Champion

GEM Student Hugh O'Connor took the National Minors section at the Galway Chess Congress 2017 dominating the field with seven straight wins.

Gaelic Games

Oisín Gough (PhD Student in Prof Catherine Godson's Research group) captained his club Cuala to the All-Ireland Club Hurling Championship title on St Patrick's Day at Croke Park. The Dalkey side were convincing winners over Ballyea to become the first Dublin side to lift the Tommy Moore Cup.

Michael Fitzsimons (UCD Medicine Stage 2) claimed his fourth All-Ireland Senior Football Championship medal with a man of the match performance for Dublin against Mayo to add to his sixth Leinster and fifth National Football League titles.

Women's National League Champions

Ms Siobhan Killeen was part of the Shelbourne Ladies FC who won their first Women's National Football League Title. This is the second national league title for the Radiography Alumnus who previously won the title with Raheny United.

Alumni News

NASA Extreme Environment Mission

UCD alumnus, Dr Marc Ó Gríofa (UCD Medicine 2006) recently took part in the NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations 21 (NEEMO 21 Mission) living with the other five researchers for eight days in simulated space-craft conditions under the Atlantic Oceans to test out new techniques, technologies and procedures in preparation for future missions either going to an asteroid or going to the surface of Mars.

Sloan Kettering Young Investigator Award

Dr Emmet Jordan (UCD Medicine 2007) won a Sloan Kettering Young investigator award to allow him to continue his research into bladder cancer.

STEM Woman of the Year Award

Prof Lydia Lynch, formerly of this parish received the STEM award at the Tatler Woman of the Year 2016 awards. During her Newman Scholarship at St Vincent's Hospital, Prof Lynch won the Unesco-L'Oreal International Woman in Science award for her work with T-cell and human lipids. Through a Marie Curie International Fellowship, she completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School before returning to Ireland where she has established her own research group at Trinity College.

UCD Medicine Alumni Reunion

The 2017 UCD Medicine Alumni Reunion took place on Friday 12th May 2017 at the UCD Health Sciences Centre, Belfield followed by a Gala Dinner later in the evening at the Conrad Hotel, Earlsfort Terrace. We were delighted to welcome back over 200 alumni from the UCD Medicine graduating classes of 1947, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1977, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2007 and 2016. The 2017 Medical Graduates Association Distinguished Graduate Award was presented to Dato Dr Leslie Lam (UCD Class of 1967) following a warm citation by classmate Dr Niall Keaney.

UCD Alumni Awards

Dr Anne Merriman (UCD Medicine 1963) has been honoured by the University in its 2016 UCD Alumni Awards in recognition of a distinguished career in palliative care in Africa. The UCD Alumni Awards proudly celebrate the outstanding achievements of our alumni who uphold values that UCD holds dear – integrity, excellence, collegiality, engagement, creativity and diversity.

Honorary Degree

Dr Francis J. Bonner (UCD Medicine 1970) was conferred with a degree of Doctor of Science honoris causa at the 2017 UCD Medicine Conferring Ceremony at UCD O'Reilly Hall. The distinguished UCD Medicine alumnus was conferred with the degree in recognition of his outstanding contribution to medicine, public life and to UCD.

Joint Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine of Ireland

Prof Martin Tobin (UCD Medicine 1975) was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Joint Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine of Ireland at its annual scientific meeting. This is only the second ever Honorary Conferring by the Faculty. The Kilkenny-native is Professor of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Anaesthesiology at Loyola Medicine, Illinois and is a world leader on mechanical ventilation.

Trauma Surgery

Dr Morgan McMonagle (UCD Medicine 1997) gave a great interview on RTE Radio on his experience as a trauma surgeon during the recent UK terror attacks and what Ireland needs as a trauma centre. Morgan is a consultant vascular and general surgeon with special interest in trauma at Waterford Hospital. He is also Director of Trauma Training at the UK Royal College of Surgeons of England and is an honorary consultant at St Mary's Hospital & the Imperial Healthcare. Arising from these clinical academic connections, Morgan found himself in London during the London Bridge and Westminster attacks but also during the Grenfell Tower tragedy.

Alumni Presidential News

New President at University of Limerick

Prof Des Fitzgerald (UCD Medicine 1977) was appointed as President at the University of Limerick becoming the fourth UCD Medicine alumnus to hold the top office in a leading University.

Prof Paddy Johnston RIP

We are saddened to learn of the sudden and untimely death of our alumnus, Prof Paddy Johnston (UCD Medicine 1982), Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University Belfast and leading Irish cancer researcher. We extend our sincere condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam

President, Infectious Disease Society of America

Prof William G Powderly, former Dean of Medicine & Head, UCD School of Medicine (UCD Medicine 1979) took up his appointment as President of the Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA), an organisation of physicians, scientists and other health care professionals dedicated to promoting health through excellence in infectious disease research, education, prevention and patient care.

President, Royal College of Physicians of Ireland

Prof Mary Horgan (UCD Medicine 1986) was appointed as President of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. She will become the first female President of the College in its 360-year history and their 142nd President in October 2017.

President, Association of British Neurologists

Prof Mary Reilly has been elected as the first female President of the Association of British Neurologists in the organisation's 83-year history. The 1986 UCD Medicine graduate is Professor of Clinical Neurology at University College London and is internationally recognised for her expertise in research and clinical practice related to peripheral nerve diseases.

Text Book Dedication

The late Professor John Fitzpatrick (UCD Medicine 1971, former UCD Professor of Surgery at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital) was remembered with a dedication in the 4th Edition of Hinman's Atlas of Urologic Surgery. The late Prof Fitzpatrick was a major contributor to previous editions of what is considered the authoritative surgical atlas in the field.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh n-anamacha

The School extends its condolences to the family, friends and former colleagues of all our Alumni who passed away during the year.

School Communications

Information is Giving Out ; Communication is Getting Through

Sydney J. Harris

Content Submission

The School supports a range of communications channels in our attempt to 'get through' to our various audiences. It is the content rather than the communications channels which is important. We welcome submission of your content for distribution across the School, our students, our alumni and partner organisations. For more information please contact Comms.Medicine@ucd.ie.

School Website

The School's website, profiling our education programmes, research, news and events, attracts approximately 25,000 viewers and 67,500 page views per month of which 68% are new visitors from Ireland (65%), UK (7%), USA (5%) and Canada (3%). Our site has a responsive web design (it reconfigures the page layout depending on the viewing screen size) which is important as 46% of visitors view our website on a mobile or tablet device. Our social media strategy seeks to drive traffic to the School website via a range of SoMe channels. Currently 78% of referrals is from Facebook with 17% from Twitter.

Facebook

Our Facebook channel offers more informal engagement with students and their parents, alumni and the general public. We use it to drive awareness and traffic to the School website as well as engage with other relevant stakeholder groups. We have begun to explore its utility in advertising graduate taught and occasional programmes. The channel currently has 3,500 followers.

Flickr

The School maintains a Flickr channel which houses over 10,800 high resolution photographs for various School events over the past 5 years. In addition to providing a convenient image repository, the facility allows students and their families access to high quality images for their personal use.

LinkedIn

We have created a UCD School of Medicine group within LinkedIn to support engagement with staff and, particularly, alumni.

YouTube

We maintain a YouTube channel to host educational and promotional video collateral. Our 166 videos have received over 2.3 million views (7 million minutes of watch time) and have attracted almost 15,000 subscribers.

Twitter

We use twitter to support engagement with prospective and current students and staff as well as for clinical education, healthcare literate, patient & advocate groups, and general public audiences. With over 5,000 twitter followers, this channel offers a large audience engagement with typically 120,000 tweet impressions per month.

We regularly participate in #IrishMed, a weekly Twitter chat created by UCD Medicine alumnus, Dr Liam Farrell, retired GP. During the academic year, we co-hosted 2 #IrishMed discussions on *Burnout*, *Empathy & Resilience* and on *Understanding Clinical Trials*, the latter in conjunction with the UCD Clinical Research Centre as part of our contribution to International Clinical Trials Day.

Staff e-Newsletter

We produce a periodic e-newsletter to keep staff and other stakeholders informed of School activity, news and events. With a reach of approximately 1,000 faculty, staff, research staff, clinical adjuncts and associates, this publication is well received and has been the source for much of the content in this document. The e-newsletter offers a short digest of key information with further details available on the School website.

Acknowledgements

We are indebted to the many staff across the School, our clinical affiliates and our research institutes for generously sharing details of achievements, activities and highlights. We apologise in advance if we have inadvertently missed your news item or an event. We hope that this publication will add to the general level of awareness of the extent of activities across the School and helps fuel ongoing dialogue between individuals and groups inside and outside the School.