

SBBS News



Artist Emma Finucane collaborates with SBBS

UCD College of Science recently announced four recipients of the new artist in residence scheme. By providing resources to these artists, the aim of the residency is to enable artists, scientists and students to collaborate in creating new work. Artist Emma Finucane is currently working in collaboration with Professor Ciarán Regan, SBBS.

“I am interested in the way we connect and communicate with others and ultimately how it determines the quality of our lives. I am interested in the role of the artist in society and how artists can enter into different contexts and work alongside others in a different and meaningful way. I am interested in developing artwork through dialogue, process based, participatory and collaborative as well as educational practices.

My visual research consists of screen print, digital images and photography, slides and video experiments. I have been using video in both documentary and performance based formats, combining live action with static projections, improvisation and language.”

Emma studied Fine Art in NCAD where she received a first class honours degree in 1997 and a MFA in 2006. She has been commissioned and supported by the Arts Council Ireland, CREATE, Wicklow County Council, Carlow County Council, Kildare County Council, The Open Window Project, and Pfizer Ireland. Her work has been shown in Dublin, Belfast, Germany, U.K, L.A. and Copenhagen and can be found in many private and public collections including: OPW, AIB, DIT, and UCD. You can see more of Emma's work by visiting www.emmafinucane.com

You can read more about the Artist in Residency scheme by visiting the UCD Science website: www.ucd.ie/science/news/



Expunction ii (Lambda Print 27 X 18.9inch)

SBBS PI's Awarded Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Investigator Programme Funding

The projects of two SBBS Principal Investigators, Professor Geraldine Butler and Dr Tara McMorrow, were among the 85 research initiatives to be funded by the government via Science Foundation Ireland and which are designed to further accelerate Ireland's economic recovery through innovation. The research projects were selected following rigorous competitive peer review and ranking by eminent international scientists. In making the announcement, the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton TD said “By supporting these world-class researchers in their ground-breaking work we will ensure that we continue to maintain, attract and develop dynamic companies and create the quality jobs we need.”

Professor Butler's project involves the post-genomic analysis of biofilm and virulence characteristics of the pathogenic yeast, *Candida parapsilosis*. *Candida parapsilosis* is one of the commonest causes of hospital-acquired fungal infection, growing as drug resistant biofilms on indwelling medical devices. Having already identified one of the first known regulators of biofilm development through gene-knockout studies, the Butler group propose to generate a large-scale collection of gene knockouts which, along with other techniques, will lead to the characterisation of the networks associated with biofilm growth and virulence.

Dr Tara McMorrow's research proposal is to study the molecular mechanisms of cilia loss in mammalian epithelial cells. Primary cilia are hair-like protrusions found on virtually all mammalian cell types. Several studies have observed that primary cilia are absent in a variety of cancer cell types, suggesting a role for cilia loss in carcinogenesis. Dr McMorrow's group plan further research into the role of cilia in disease development.



Retirement of Professor Finian Martin

Professor Finian Martin retired on August 31, 2012, after almost 35 years as a member of staff of the former Department of Pharmacology and latterly, the School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science. DR Martin has had an outstanding research career and has achieved international recognition as a leader in investigating intracellular signaling pathways that support the functional and structural behaviour of epithelial cells, and for his work with the UCD Diabetes Research Centre to develop new strategies to combat diabetic nephropathy. He has published widely in the top journals in the field and has supervised 40 PhD students to successful completion of their degrees. He was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship in 1983 and a Royal Irish Academy Senior Visiting Fellowship in 1986. He was twice awarded a UCD President's Research Award [1991 and 2005]. He was a Visiting Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Berne in 1991 and was an SFI Principal Investigator from 2004 to 2009. He was awarded the silver medal of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland and delivered the E. J. Conway Memorial Lecture in 2010. This year he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Irish Epithelial Physiology Research Group.



A reception was hosted by the Head of SBBS, Dr Gethin McBean, in January to mark Professor Martin's retirement during which Dr McBean made a presentation to Professor Martin on behalf of the school.



Professor Finian Martin pictured with his wife Mags at the School's reception to mark his retirement



Professor Eamonn Duke (former Head of Zoology), Mr Kevin McGeeney (formerly of the Department of Medicine and Therapeutics) and Professor Ciarán Regan (SBBS), at Professor Finian Martin's retirement reception.



Professor Michael Ryan (Former Head of Pharmacology), Professor Cormac Taylor (SMMS) and Professor Alan Baird (School of Veterinary Medicine)



Professor Stephen Mayhew, (formerly Head of Biochemistry) with SBBS technical staff members Mana Hovsepyan and Dr Joan Simon.



Professor Paul Malthouse (SBBS) with the former Dean of Science, Professor Gerry Doyle at the retirement reception for Professor Finian Martin



From left: Ms Geraldine Neylan (SBBS) Dr Gethin McBean (SBBS, Head of School), Dr Keith Murphy (SBBS) and Dr Tadhg Ó Croínín (SBBS)

SBBS Hosts Society for General Microbiology Irish Branch Spring Meeting

The Irish division meeting of the General Microbiology Society will be held in the Health Sciences Centre in UCD on 21st and 22nd March, 2013. The Society for General Microbiology is an organisation for all areas of microbiology and is the largest learned microbiological society in Europe with membership based in Universities, Industry, Hospitals, Research Institutes and Schools. The Irish division of the SGM serves to promote research and education in all fields of Microbiology across the island of Ireland and organizes meetings which aim to bring together microbiologists from Ireland and abroad. For further details see <http://www.ucd.ie/sgm2013/> or contact Tadhg.Ocroinin@ucd.ie

Intoxication and Society

Professor Ciarán Regan has co-edited a book 'Intoxication and Society' which explores the use of drugs by a multidisciplinary approach. Read what it says on the back cover:

'Intoxicants, substances that alter a person's mental and physiological state, are a continuing obsession. In their effect on the mind and body, intoxicants go to the heart of what it means to be human. In the tensions between 'free' and uninhibited consumption on the one hand, and the pressures of social regulation and personal responsibility on the other, they also illuminate the daily paradoxes, and sheer complexity, of living in modern Western societies. Yet this complexity, and the rich history that underpins it, is often lost in the current debates over public policy.

Intoxication and Society sets out to supplement the contemporary discourse surrounding intoxication with a more nuanced appreciation of the history and nature of what is very much a multidimensional problem. It does so by employing an interdisciplinary framework that includes contributions from leading academics in law, sociology, anthropology, history, literature, neuroscience and social psychology.

The result is a subtle historical and contemporary rereading of the social construction of intoxication that will provide a secure basis for analysis as society continues to respond to the problematic pleasures of intoxication.'

'Intoxication and Society: Problematic Pleasures of Drugs and Alcohol'

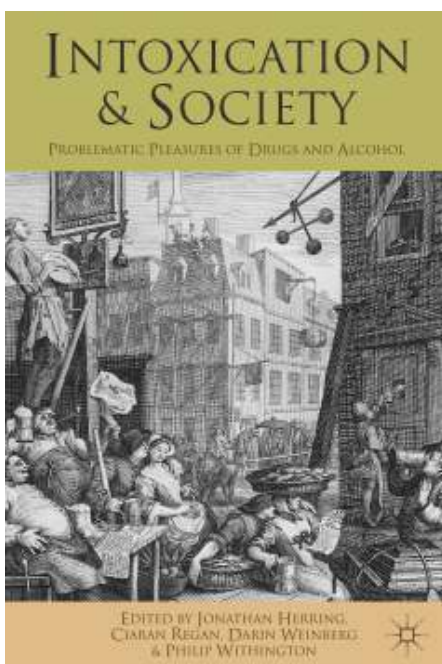
Edited by **Jonathan Herring, Ciaran Regan, Darin Weinberg and Phil Withington**

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Selected Recent Publications

Butler G, Lorenz M, Gow NAR (2012) 'Evolution and genomics of the pathogenic *Candida* species complex' In: L. David Sibley, Barbara J. Howlett, Joseph Heitman (eds). *Evolution of Virulence in Eukaryotic Microbes*. New Jersey: Wiley-Blackwell

Collery RF, Cederlund ML, **Kennedy BN** (2013) 'Transgenic zebrafish expressing mutant human RETGC-1 exhibit aberrant cone and rod morphology'. *Experimental Eye Research*, E-Pub ahead of print.

Sinigalliano, C.D., J. Erven, L.C. van de Werfhorst, B. Badgley, E. Balleste, J. Bartkowiak, A.B. Boehm, M. Byappanahalli, K.D. Goodwin, M. Gourmelon, J. Griffith, P.A. Holden, J. Jay, B. Layton, C. Lee, J. Lee, **W.G. Meijer**, R. Noble, M. Raith, H. Ryu, M/J. Sadowsky, A. Schriewer, D. Wanless, R. Whitman, S. Wuertz, J.W. Santo Domingo (2013) 'Multi-laboratory evaluations of the performance of *Catelliboccus marimammalium* PCR assays developed to target gull fecal sources'. *Water Research*, In Press.

Bright T, Dalton F, Elder VL, **Murphy CD**, O'Connor NK, Sandford G (2013) 'A convenient chemical-microbial method for developing fluorinated pharmaceuticals'. *Organic and Biomolecular Chemistry*, 11 (7):1135-1142.

O'Connor, JJ (2013) 'Targeting tumour necrosis factor- α in hypoxia and synaptic signalling. *Irish Journal of Medical Science*. Epub ahead of print.

Taught Masters Programmes: Applications Open

SBBS operates two masters programmes tailored to meet the needs of industry, an M.Sc. in Biotechnology and an M.Sc. in Biotechnology and Business. The Biotechnology programme adopts a multi-disciplinary approach that equips graduates with the essential skills for a successful career in the biopharmaceutical or biotechnology industry. The biotechnology and business programme operates in conjunction with the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School; it is ideal for those interested in entrepreneurship in science-based fields or who would like to pursue a career in management. A key feature of both these degree programmes is that there is the possibility of a work placement within the biotechnology sector which gives graduates the opportunity to develop connections with prospective employers.

Applications are now invited from graduates or those who expect to graduate this year with a degree in biological or chemical sciences. For full details, including entry requirements see our website <http://www.ucd.ie/biotech/>

Staff News

- Dr Oliver Blacque has been invited to participate in the 2014 Keystone Symposium on *Cilia, Development and Human Disease*. This meeting will be held March 2 - 7, 2014, in Lake Tahoe (USA).. The title of Dr Blacque's talk is: *Membrane Trafficking to C. elegans Sensory Cilia*.
- SBBS would like to welcome Dr Niamh O'Sullivan who has been appointed lecturer in Neuroscience and Genetics. Dr O'Sullivan will join the school on 1st July, 2013
- SBBS would like to congratulate Dr Gerard Cagney who will be appointed as a permanent lecturer in Biochemistry with effect from 1st April.
- We welcome Dr David O'Connell who has been appointed lecturer in the school's masters' programmes. Dr O'Connell will start on 1st April, or soon thereafter .
- We also welcome Elena Akelan who will join the school on 19th March for six months as executive assistant. Elena will be based in the Undergraduate office.

Please send photos and news items to heather.wood@ucd.ie for inclusion in our website or newsletter