



Arthritis Ireland

UCD Barry Bresnihan Professor of Rheumatology

University College Dublin

UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science
Mater Misericordiae University Hospital
St Vincent's University Hospital

Join Dublin's Vibrant Rheumatology Community

Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin are two of Europe's leading research-intensive Universities where undergraduate and graduate education, research and innovation, and national leadership form a continuum of activity.

Their Medical Schools have a broad tradition of leadership in Irish Healthcare and between them are responsible for the education and training of over 1,800 medical students and 1,000 masters and doctoral students annually.

Both Universities and their affiliated teaching hospitals have a strong record of research in rheumatology and in musculoskeletal disease with expertise in both translational research and in fundamental biomedical research.

Between the two institutions and their teaching hospitals, the rheumatology community provide care for a catchment population of almost one million people.

With funding support from Arthritis Ireland, Ireland's only arthritis charity and a leading supporter of Irish rheumatology and the Health Services Executive, the two Universities have created two new professorial positions to add to the current cohort of academic rheumatology clinicians.

Both Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin are appointing an *Arthritis Ireland Professor of Rheumatology* post at each University. Through these appointments, we hope to create a critical mass in rheumatologic research activity that will further develop Ireland as a leading international centre of excellence in the field.

This document describes the post of the *UCD Barry Bresnihan Professor of Rheumatology* which is now open for applications. This post has been named in honour of the late Professor Barry Bresnihan who established an international reputation in the field of rheumatology.

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Role Purpose

The Universities are seeking to expand academic leadership in Rheumatology by attracting outstanding clinician scientists with an internationally competitive research profile.

Both Universities are committed to building collaborative programmes involving these two appointees, existing TCD and UCD academic staff and clinician scientists to establish Dublin as a centre of excellence in rheumatology and to enhance the quality of patient care across the country.

Hence both post holders, together with existing academic staff will be expected to:

- Help position Ireland at the forefront of rheumatology research by leading an internationally competitive research programme.
- Lead as necessary the subject of Rheumatology in the host university working with the other academic staff in the subject to oversee the design, delivery, assessment and quality of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.
- Assume a broader academic leadership role within the School, College and University and represent the University as appropriate on national and international advisory boards and professional bodies.
- Contribute to clinical and academic leadership within Ireland's two leading academic health centres, *Trinity Academic Medical Centre* and *Dublin Academic Medical Centre*.
- Provide national leadership to maximise the potential of the Irish Rheumatology community (including physicians, allied health professionals, social and basic scientists) to improve patient care.
- Provide academic leadership nationally to promote and develop education of doctors and allied health professionals in the specialty of rheumatology.
- Promote the goals of *Arthritis Ireland* and act as powerful patient advocate in national and international health policy development.

Candidate Profile

The ideal candidates will match the following profile:

- A clinician scientist who is a dynamic leader and collaborative in nature.
- Have a strong track record of clinical, translational or fundamental biomedical research in a field of rheumatology science of relevance to the institutions.
- Demonstrate sustained research productivity as evidenced by lead authorship of original research articles published in high impact publications, sustained peer reviewed grant income and/or the generation of new intellectual property.
- Demonstrated ability to build and lead a successful research team and collaborative research programmes
- Pursue research which is aligned with the host University's research strategy.

It is anticipated that the UCD Professor of Rheumatology will have a strong focus on clinical and translational research and will complement existing expertise in early arthritis, osteoarthritis, and psoriatic arthritis which includes the study of disease mechanisms, patient stratification through biomarkers and the development of new biological therapies.

Employment Summary

The appointee will be employed by University College Dublin as an academic member of staff at the *UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science*. University appointments are made subject to defined academic criteria and benchmarks and hence UCD reserves the right to appoint at a lower academic rank as appropriate.

The appointee will have a clinical attachment to both *Mater Misericordiae University Hospital* and *St Vincent's University Hospital* as a consultant rheumatologist. The specific split of clinical duties between both hospitals will be determined in advance of appointment taking into account the appointee's clinical specialism.

The appointee will join a strong existing UCD rheumatology community and will be encouraged to build strong collaborative links with rheumatologists in Trinity College Dublin and other Irish medical schools.

Principal Duties & Responsibilities

The appointees will be expected to assume academic leadership positions within their University, School and hospital in Education & Training, Research & Innovation and Clinical Care & Public Service. Specifically:

Education & Training

- To act, as required, as the academic leader of the subject of Rheumatology, working with the other staff within the subject area in the School and in affiliated hospitals, to oversee the design, delivery, assessment and quality of modules and programmes for undergraduate and postgraduate students.
- To supervise graduate students (PhD, MD) and postdoctoral scientists.
- To support the Head of School in assuring the highest standards of teaching and learning within the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

Research & Innovation

- To establish a programme of independent research and enquiry in a relevant field of rheumatological science which produces original research articles published in high impact publications, which attracts sustained peer reviewed grant income and/or which leads to the generation of new intellectual property.
- To establish as appropriate institution-wide, trans-institutional, national and international research collaborations in rheumatology.
- To participate in and present research findings at major national and international academic meetings.

Clinical Care & Public Service

- To participate in development of and undertake all duties and functions pertinent to the Consultant's area of competence, as set out within the relevant Clinical Service Plan and in line with policies as specified by the University and the relevant hospitals.
- To ensure that duties and functions are undertaken in a manner that provides the best possible clinical service for patients.
- To participate in the development and operation of clinical governance structures and in such management or representative structures as are in place or are being developed.

- To provide, as appropriate, consultation in the Consultant's area of designated expertise in respect of patients of other Consultants at their request.
- To ensure in consultation with the Clinical Director or equivalent that appropriate medical cover is available at all times having due regard to the implementation of the European Working Time Directive as it relates to doctors in training.
- To supervise and be responsible for diagnosis, treatment and care provided by non-Consultant Hospital Doctors (NCHD's) treating patients under the Consultant's care.
- To participate as a right and obligation in selection processes for non-Consultant Hospital Doctors and other staff as appropriate.
- To participate as appropriate in clinical audit and proactive risk management and facilitate production of all data/information required for same in accordance with regulatory, statutory and corporate policies and procedures.
- To participate in and facilitate production of all data/information required to validate delivery of duties and functions and inform planning and management of service delivery as appropriate.
- To perform such other duties appropriate to the office as may be assigned to him/her by the Chief Academic Officer or Head of School.
- To participate in the relevant on-call medical rota as described within the relevant clinical service plan.

Reporting Structure

The appointee will report to the Head, *UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science* (or his/her nominee) for all academic and contractual matters.

The appointee will report to the Chief Academic Officer, *Dublin Academic Medical Centre* (or his/her nominee) for all clinical matters.

As part of the TCD/UCD initiative to establish a centre of excellence in rheumatological sciences, the appointees will be expected to participate in this trans-institutional collaborative programme, acting as or taking direction from, the programme leader as required.

Selection Criteria

Selection criteria outline the qualifications, skills, knowledge and/or experience that the successful candidate would need to demonstrate for successful discharge of the responsibilities of the post. Applications will be assessed on the basis of how well candidates satisfy these criteria.

Academic & Professional Qualifications

The candidate must:

- Be eligible for inclusion on the General Register of Medical Practitioners maintained by the Medical Council in Ireland.
- Be eligible for inclusion on the Register of Medical Specialists maintained by the Medical Council in Ireland.
- Be in possession of the MRCPI or an equivalent qualification.
- Be in possession of a relevant post-doctoral qualification.

Teaching & Innovation

The candidate must:

- Demonstrate evidence of high quality education delivery to undergraduate and postgraduate students in the subject of rheumatology.
- Preferably, have supervised to completion graduate students (PhD, MD) and postdoctoral investigators in research in rheumatological science.

Research & Innovation

The candidate must:

- Demonstrate international recognition as a leading researcher and scholar in the field of rheumatological science as evidenced by:-
 - A distinguished record of high quality research publications in refereed journals of high international repute and impact.
 - A proven track record in the acquisition of peer reviewed research funding.
 - A proven academic leadership record including the recruitment, supervision, support through to successful completion of research students and/or post-doctoral scientists.

Personal Attributes & Skills

The candidate must have:

- Strong leadership and influencing skills in both academic and clinical environments.
- Proven management skills including previous experience in management of research and teaching staff.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and an ability to self-motivate.
- An ability to communicate effectively with colleagues and work as a team member.

About University College Dublin

University College Dublin

University College Dublin (UCD) is committed to becoming a leading European research-intensive university that drives innovation and discovery within its community of world-class researchers.

Founded in 1854 by John Henry Newman, today UCD is Ireland's largest university with almost 25,000 students. It is the most popular destination for Irish school-leavers and actively promotes university life as a journey of academic and personal discovery through its highly innovative and flexible UCD Horizons undergraduate curriculum.

UCD is Ireland's leader in postgraduate education with almost 7,000 postgraduate students, representing approximately 28% of the UCD student population, and almost 2,000 PhD students. Over 50% of UCD undergraduates progress to postgraduate studies.

UCD is home to almost 5,000 international students and, in addition, places great emphasis on the internationalisation of the Irish student experience – preparing all UCD students for future employment and life that crosses borders, boundaries and cultures.

The role of UCD within Irish higher education is underscored by the fact that UCD alone accounts for over 30% of international students, over 25% of all postgraduate students and almost 28% of all doctoral enrolments across the seven Irish universities.

www.ucd.ie



College of Health Science

The University governance structures have been revised in recent years such that the University now comprises thirty four Schools within seven Colleges.

- UCD College of Agriculture, Food & Veterinary Medicine
- UCD College of Arts & Celtic Studies
- UCD College of Business & Law
- UCD College of Engineering & Architecture
- UCD College of Health Sciences
- UCD College of Human Sciences
- UCD College of Science



Schools comprise a number of subject groupings and represent the fundamental academic unit for resource management purposes within the University. Colleges were designed to promote cross- and multi-disciplinary interaction between academic subjects in both teaching and research.

www.ucd.ie/chs

UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science

Undergraduate Programmes

Founded in 1855 and now one of Ireland's leading medical schools, the *UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science* offers five undergraduate degree programmes in Medicine (direct entry and graduate entry), Physiology, Radiography and Biomedical Health & Life Sciences. Over 450 new students are recruited annually to a cohort of approximately 1,400 undergraduate students.



The School offers both direct school leaver entry and graduate entry to four, five and six year medicine programmes and provides Ireland's only undergraduate training in diagnostic imaging through a four year Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) degree in Radiography.

The School also offers a highly competitive four year B.Sc in Biomedical Health & Life Science which provides a thorough understanding of disease aetiology and pathogenesis and provides graduates with advanced biomedical research expertise. This programme is designed to fuel careers in biomedical and biopharmaceutical research either in academia or in industry and also serves as a strong research basis for those pursuing graduate entry routes to medicine.

All our undergraduate programmes are modularised as part of the University's Horizons initiative and each offers a range of student selected options including national and international research opportunities. Our academic staff also contribute to many UCD Science degree programmes including physiology, pharmacology, and neuroscience.

www.ucd.ie/medicine

Graduate Programmes

The School has over twenty graduate taught programmes ranging from certificate to masters degree awards and a further twenty graduate research programmes at masters or doctoral level with over 400 graduate students. Our portfolio of biomedical, clinical and translational research has over 75 principal investigators, 50 post-doctoral scientists and 250 doctoral students with grants under management worth approximately €35 million and an annual research income of approximately €7.5 million per annum.



Research Focus

Our translational research focus seeks through scientific enquiry to enhance our understanding of human diseases leading to advances in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of human disease and improving human health.

Our research is focused on key thematic areas of

- Inflammation, Immunity and Infection
- Vascular Biology and Diabetes
- Biomarker Discovery & Biological Imaging

using many approaches including cellular and molecular biology, bioinformatics and proteomics, through whole organism disease models to patient-based clinical and population studies.

This multidisciplinary strength provides a stimulating environment in which scientists and clinicians can interact in relevant translational research.

The School is a principal stakeholder in Ireland's premier biomedical research institute, the UCD Conway Institute for Biomolecular & Biomedical Research. In 2010, the School took possession of an €18 million, 2,000 m² research facility (Charles Institute) which will see the creation of Ireland's first academic institute focused on dermatology research and training. It is anticipated that the research within the Charles Institute will address common skin disorders such as psoriasis, eczema, skin cancer and rare genetic skin diseases.



The School has built dedicated state-of-the-art clinical research units on several hospital sites to provide an integrated infrastructure for clinical and translational research. This clinical research centre supports approximately 50 clinical trial, biocollection or observational studies annually with over 5,000 patient contacts.

www.ucd.ie/crc

Clinical Leadership

In 2007, together with Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and St Vincent's Healthcare Group, the School established Ireland's first academic-led health system, *Dublin Academic Medical Centre (DAMC)*. The School has a complement of over 165 academic staff, 230 funded research investigators and, with the creation of the DAMC, an adjunct faculty comprising some 350 hospital consultants and over 300 junior doctors in training.

[More about DAMC](#)

Our clinical training programmes are delivered at six major Dublin teaching hospitals and across the country through sixteen affiliated acute, general or specialist hospitals.

The School also has a nationwide primary care clinical training network comprising over 100 general practitioners. Many of our hospital partners are recognised as regional and national centres of excellence for the treatment of specific diseases. Hence our students have access to best healthcare practitioners and are exposed to the practice of medicine in a variety of clinical settings.

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The UCD Clinical Training Network includes:

- Cappagh National Orthopaedic Hospital, Dublin
- Children's University Hospital, Temple Street, Dublin
- Coombe Women's & Infants University Hospital, Dublin
- Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Dublin
- Midlands Regional Hospital, Tullamore, Co. Offaly
- Mount Carmel Hospital, Dublin
- National Maternity Hospital, Holles Street, Dublin
- National Rehabilitation Hospital, Dublin
- Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin, Dublin
- Our Lady's Hospice, Harold's Cross, Dublin
- Royal Hospital Donnybrook
- Royal Victoria Eye & Ear Hospital, Dublin
- St Columcille's Hospital, Dublin
- St John of God Hospital, Dublin
- St Luke's Hospital, Dublin
- St Mary's Hospital, Phoenix Park, Dublin
- St Michael's Hospital, Dublin
- St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin
- Wexford General Hospital, Co. Wexford

In 2010, as part of a reform of medical intern training by the Health Service Executive, together with its affiliated teaching hospitals, the UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science was given formal responsibility for the delivery of the DAMC Intern Training Programme within the HSE's Dublin/Midlands network. Over 100 medical interns per annum are recruited to formalised training posts which rotate across 8 clinical sites in the HSE Dublin/Midlands region.

www.ucd.ie/medicine/intern

Current Rheumatology Research Themes

Both University College Dublin and Trinity College Dublin boast internationally recognised research competence in rheumatology research and the two Professors of Rheumatology appointed in this competition join a vibrant community of fundamental biomedical researchers and clinician scientists.

The candidates appointed to these positions will enrich this vibrant community by bringing their own particular research interests. They will build upon a number of cross-cutting themes which are emerging in Dublin that include:

- The role of innate immunity in inflammatory and crystal arthropathy
- Linking genotype to phenotype in inflammatory arthritis
- The molecular modelling of inflammation and repair
- Biomarkers of treatment response including a proteomic approach
- Imaging in rheumatologic diseases
- The development of common databases and DNA banks for rheumatology research.

UCD Research Themes

UCD CARE (Centre for Arthritis Research and Education) has an international track record of research and patient registries in Early Arthritis, Osteoarthritis, synovial tissue, psoriatic arthritis genetics and biotherapeutics. This resource is focusing further study in diverse areas including the prediction/induction of remission, identification of biomarkers, quality of life assessment, pharmacoeconomics and biologic therapy evaluation.

UCD CARE with UCD Biological Imaging has developed a novel imaging programme (MRI, PET/CT) aimed at early and more accurate diagnosis of inflammatory arthritis. An SFI-funded study investigating quantitative methods for assessing radiological descriptors of arthritic change is currently being investigated by a team of rheumatologists, a radiologist, radiographers and imaging scientists and this collaboration has led to high quality peer-reviewed publications.

The Wellcome Trust-funded OA collaboration between UCD and Dublin City University examines pathogenesis, specifically focussed on the biological effects of crystals at a molecular level and the development of diagnostics.

The CARE translational research programme aims to define the role of hypoxia in inflammatory arthritis with contiguous clinical, molecular and imaging studies to measure synovial tissue hypoxia, angiogenesis and cell senescence pre- and post biologic therapy to understand mechanisms of disease and remission induction.

These established studies link inflammation and vascular research strands with bioimaging and integrate with new, high-tech platforms for biomarker discovery, validation and biopharmaceutical development. These programmes also demonstrate UCD's commitment to support high quality peer-reviewed inter-institutional applications.

International collaborations are a prominent feature of UCD research, for example, the Rheumatology group is an IMI JU partner in 'BeTheCure' programme, a €31 million academic/industry collaborative consortium. In addition, UCD Rheumatology remains an active partner in the EU FP6 'Autocure' programme partner aiming to develop a cure for autoimmune diseases and a member of METEOR.

In the area of genetics, the rheumatology group together with dermatology colleagues is a significant contributor to the recently funded Wellcome genome-wide screening initiative in psoriasis and to the Psoriatic Arthritis Genetics Europe (PAGE) initiative.

Vascular biology and hypoxia represents a major research interest among a number of researchers within the UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science. This group has published many highly cited publications and has established a number of important international research collaborations.

Research Environment

The research environment in Ireland has been transformed thanks to sustained government investment over the past decade. The Higher Education Authority's *Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions* (PRTLII) has seen the creation of modern state-of-the-art multi-disciplinary institutes at all major higher education institutions. As the same time, Science Foundation Ireland has created a community of internationally peer-reviewed principal investigators who lead well-resourced research teams and who participate in cross-institutional multi-investigator research collaborations. Substantial investment in clinical research infrastructure has also taken place through strategic investments by the *Health Research Board* and the *Wellcome Trust*.

Examples of biomedical, clinical and health research infrastructure within Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin include:

	Trinity College Dublin	University College Dublin
Research Institutes & Centres	Institute of Molecular Medicine	UCD Conway Institute for Biomedical & Biomolecular Research
	TCD Centre for Advanced Medical Imaging	UCD Clinical Research Centre
	Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience	UCD Geary Institute
	TCD Biomedical Sciences Institute	UCD Charles Institute
		UCD Centre for Complex & Adaptive Systems Laboratory
		UCD Institute of Food & Health
		Systems Biology Ireland (with NUIG)
Cross Institutional Collaborations	Irish Drug Delivery Network (in conjunction with UCC)	
	Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology	
	Molecular Medicine Ireland (in conjunction with NUIG, RCSI & UCC)	
	Dublin Centre for Clinical Research (comprising RCSI, TCD & UCD)	
	National Institute for Bioprocessing Research & Training (with DCU & ITS)	

As a result of this sustained period of capital investment, Ireland and, in particular, Dublin is now a highly attractive location for biomedical and clinical research. The physical research infrastructure is complemented by a growing cohort of doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows through strategic investment in thematic PhD programmes, research project and programme grant awards by various funding agencies.

Educational Environment

TCD and UCD academic staff have independently lead the development of several important educational resources for rheumatology in Ireland.

Our staff have developed a national undergraduate curriculum in rheumatology and the national postgraduate curriculum for higher specialty training under the auspices of the *Irish Society for Rheumatology*.

These curricula are being implemented within the individual undergraduate programmes of both TCD and UCD as well as other Irish medical schools and are informing the non-consultant hospital doctor training programmes run by the *Royal College of Physicians in Ireland*.

Arising from the TCD/UCD collaboration in Rheumatological Sciences, it is hoped that appropriate national e-learning resources can be developed for the benefit of other Irish Medical Schools.

An opportunity exists for the incoming Professors of Rheumatology to create an integrated Masters programme in musculoskeletal medicine building on the UCD Graduate Diploma in Musculoskeletal Medicine and TCD's Modular MSc in Molecular Medicine. The structures exist for such a programme to be delivered across both institutions and can be made available to both medical graduates, graduates of other allied disciplines and science graduates. Ultimately both Universities would like to utilise modules contained within our taught Masters portfolio to create a joint PhD research programme in musculoskeletal medicine.

Other educational opportunities which could be led by the Professors of Rheumatology include:

- i) Development of practical modules in diagnosis and management of musculoskeletal disease that can be used in the education of nurses, physiotherapists and other health professionals.
- ii) Development of educational programmes in rheumatologic and musculoskeletal diseases for general practitioners.
- iii) Development of educational and awareness programmes in rheumatologic and musculoskeletal diseases for the general public.
- iv) Development of evidence-based guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of rheumatologic diseases that can serve as the basis for policy and funding decisions in the public and private sectors.

About Arthritis Ireland

Arthritis Ireland is the charity leading the fight against arthritis.

We are working to take the pain away for the 1 in 5 people in Ireland suffering from all forms of arthritis. We help them to remain active and mobile. We provide information so that people can make informed decisions and we campaign to bring about much needed changes to rheumatology services so as to improve the quality of life for those people with arthritis. Everything we do is underpinned by the research we fund to find causes and cures so as to prevent and reduce the pain and disability resulting from arthritis

Our vision

Our vision is for a future free from arthritis

Our Key Focus Areas

At Arthritis Ireland we believe that the little things make a big difference to people living with arthritis, their families and carers. We are dedicated to eliminating arthritis as a major health problem and to improving the lives of those living with this condition. We do this by;

1. Funding High Quality Research into the causes, treatments and cures for arthritis. We do this by initially funding academic chairs of rheumatology through the medical schools in Ireland. This is essential to raise the standards of academic rheumatology amongst medical students and to ensure that Ireland is at the forefront in the continuing search for answers to this disabling condition.
2. Educating and Informing patients, the general public and health professionals on all aspects of arthritis. We do this by providing accurate and accessible information such as our wide range of patient booklets and website, ground breaking courses to help people self-manage their disease and vital support delivered by our national arthritis helpline.
3. Campaigning for better patient services and treatments for all those living with arthritis. We do this through professional and effective engagement with the key decision makers such as the HSE and Department of Health & Children and through strong advocacy work provided by our nationwide network of volunteers. Arthritis is a huge issue in Ireland and set to get worse with the increasing age of our population. Ireland currently has one of the lowest ratios of rheumatologists per head of population in the world (1 per 400k population) and significant under resourcing of important allied health professional support such as nurse specialist, physiotherapists and occupational therapists.

Summary of Appointment Particulars

University :	University College Dublin
College :	College of Health Sciences
Academic Unit :	UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science
Post Type :	Academic
Grade :	Consultant / Professor* Type B Contract
	<i>* University appointments are made subject to defined academic criteria and benchmarks. UCD reserves the right to appoint at a lower academic rank as appropriate.</i>
Duration :	Permanent
Location :	Mater Misericordiae University Hospital & St Vincent's University Hospital
Reports To :	Head of School or nominee
Further Information:	Professor William G Powderly Dean of Medicine & Head of School UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science UCD Health Science Centre, Belfield Dublin 4. Head.smms@ucd.ie +353 1 716 6653
Additional Information:	Professor Geraldine McCarthy, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital gmccarthy@rcsi.ie
	Professor Douglas Veale, St Vincent's University Hospital douglas.veale@ucd.ie
	www.ucd.ie/medicine/rheumatology

How to Apply

Application details are available on the UCD Human Resources website at www.ucd.ie/hr/jobvacancies/ under the category of 'Professorships & Senior Appointments'

Post Reference : *To Be Advised*

Closing Date for Receipt of Applications: *To be Advised*