



The Charles Institute aims to become a leading international centre of excellence in dermatology research and training.

#### ABOUT THE CHARLES INSTITUTE

Launched in June 2008, The Charles Institute at UCD is the first academic institute devoted to dermatology in Ireland. The Institute's vision is to become a world leader in dermatology research and training, which will lead to improved patient care through the discovery of new treatments and therapies.

#### FUNDING

The new 2,000m<sup>2</sup> institute will be built on the UCD campus at Belfield at a cost of €18 million. €12 million of this funding comes from the Board of the City of Dublin Skin and Cancer Hospital from the sale of their Hume Street Hospital site, and University College Dublin is contributing the remaining €6 million.

#### KEY AREAS OF RESEARCH

The research at The Charles Institute will address common skin diseases such as psoriasis, eczema, skin cancer and rare genetic skin diseases. The research objectives of The Charles Institute are to:

- Understand the fundamental nature of skin disease
- Build translational research programmes that will transform dermatology
- Leverage existing areas of academic, research and clinical excellence at UCD
- Meet national and international training needs in dermatology
- Integrate research and training in dermatology.

The application of frontier biotechnologies will provide exciting opportunities to develop worthwhile new therapies for the ultimate benefit of the patient. These will include:

- Micro-therapeutics – generation of new drugs for clinical research
- Stem cell therapy – regenerative medicine, tissue repair and wound healing
- Tissue engineering – creation of artificial skin
- Nanobiology – the development of nanomaterials for drug and gene delivery.

#### OUTPUTS

The Charles Institute Seminar Series has been running since October 2009, with the aim of bringing together leading international experts to speak on the latest advances in dermatology.

#### COLLABORATION

The Charles Institute is a partnership between the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science; affiliated teaching hospitals, St Vincent University Hospital and Mater Misericordiae University Hospital; and the Board of the City of Dublin Skin and Cancer Hospital Charity.