



The Reproductive Biology Research cluster is a Science Foundation Ireland Strategic Research Cluster that comprises a group of internationally recognised scientists from UCD and Teagasc whose research interests focus on fertility in domestic animals using cutting edge technologies.

IMAGE: Waiting to Develop  
by Claire Moran

#### **ABOUT THE REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY RESEARCH CLUSTER**

This research group comprises over 60 members and research is conducted at UCD's Belfield Campus and Lyons Research Farm, and at Teagasc's research centres. The cluster is led by Professor Alexander Evans of the UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine.

#### **FUNDING**

The Cluster has recently been awarded a multi-million Euro grant from Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) to address specific aspects of female infertility, focusing on events in the days immediately before and after fertilisation.

#### **RESEARCH**

The overall objective is to identify genes, proteins and other complex molecules, and their expression patterns, in bovine ovarian follicles that are responsible for, or are markers of, infertility. Particular focus is on those molecules that are responsible for failure of the initiation and establishment of pregnancy in the days following fertilisation.

#### **OUTPUTS**

The knowledge generated will provide opportunities to develop new diagnostics and therapeutics to improve reproductive efficiency in cattle, in the short term, and other mammalian species in the longer term.