



estoday

SPRING 2020



UCD'S RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS

COVID-19 CRISIS 2020

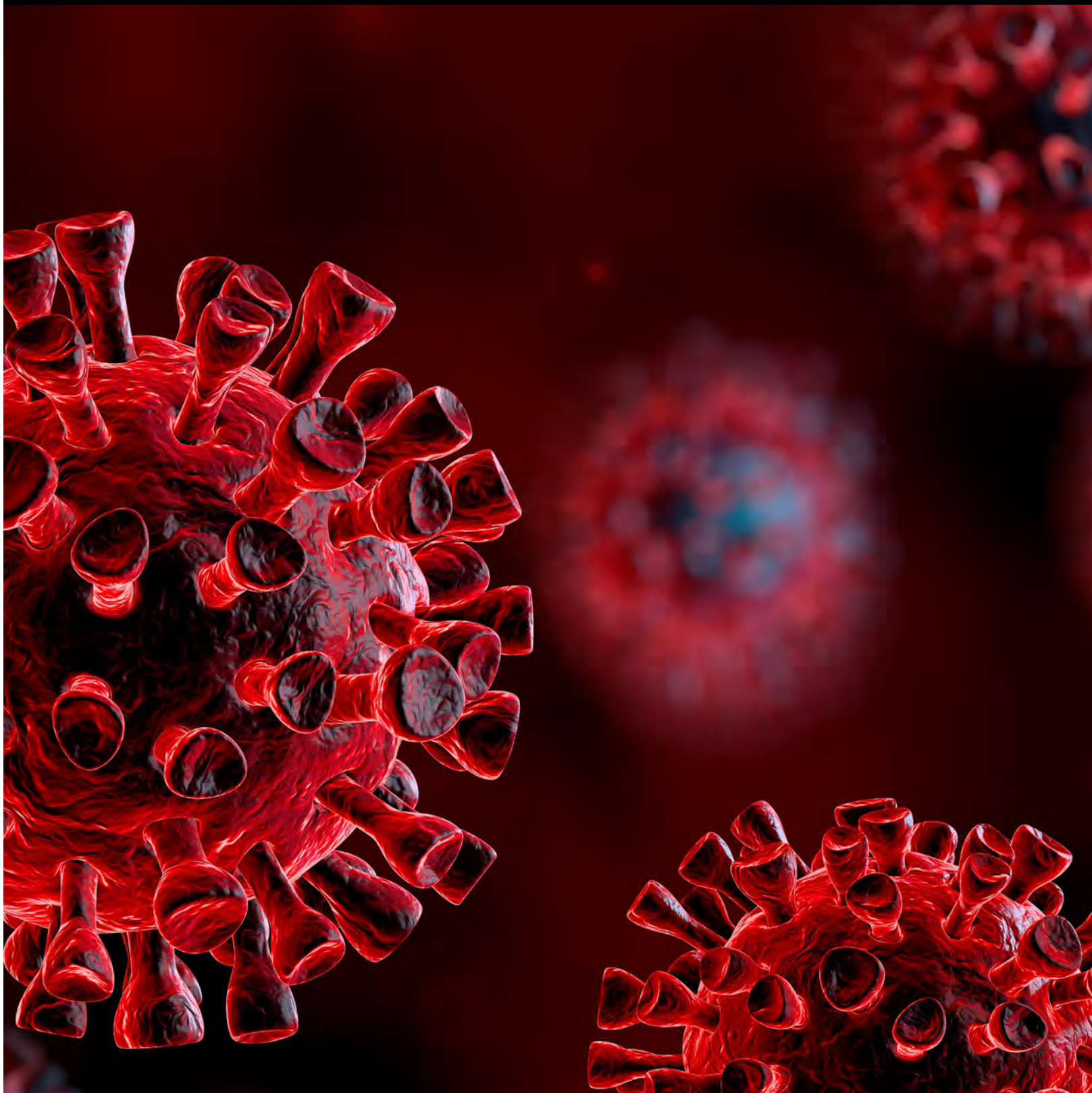
READ MORE



CONTENTS

FEATURES

UCD's Response
to COVID-19



Page 4-10

UCD-led study shines a light
on judge-jury relations in
Irish courtrooms



Page 17

EDITOR'S LETTER

EILIS O'BRIEN DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING



This has been a year of extraordinary challenge as the entire world attempts to cope with the impact of COVID-19.

From as early as January 2020, UCD was making provision to look after students affected by restrictions. Having first looked after students based in China, Hong Kong and Singapore, as well as students from Ireland who were due to travel there, the University moved rapidly to complete the delivery of teaching and assessment at-distance for the remainder of the academic year so that our students could progress academically, while taking into account the difficulties presented by public health restrictions. In this edition of UCD Today, as part of a wider feature on COVID-19, Professor Marie Clarke outlines the mammoth effort involved in transferring to online.

Our COVID-19 feature also covers the work of PJ Barron and the UCD Estates team who kept our on-campus residences open

throughout the entire period so that students could stay and complete their studies. Conscious that not all landlords are as accommodating, we also reached out to students who were faced with accommodation issues and opened the campus residences to them. UCD takes pride in our pastoral care and support for students. Our on-campus health and counselling services, as well as our student advisers and support staff, continue to look after students during this difficult period.

It has been a particularly demanding period for the healthcare schools and Professor Gerard Fealy describes the change for the 700 nursing and midwifery students whose training was dramatically affected as they were redeployed to the frontline by the HSE.

Over in the National Virus Reference Laboratory, Dr Cillian De Gascun took charge of the national testing for COVID-19. His regular media appearances, as well as those of Dr Tony Holohan, Chief

Medical Officer and a UCD graduate, have been consistently solid to the extent that the public recognises, respects and responds to their guidance.

Throughout the University, those with expert skills have been using them to scale up the response to the pandemic. One example is Professor Patrick Wall and Associate Professor Mary Codd – experts in epidemiology, set up the first HSE satellite call centre, reaching out to people who have been tested and tracing contacts of those who are positive.

This issue of UCD Today presents a tiny selection of the work being done here in UCD and by the UCD community. We bring many other stories through our news and social media channels. If you have other examples, please share them with us so that we can share them on.

Stay safe and well.

UCD thanks...

Subscribers: Judith Archbold, John Barry, Jenna Bjorkman, Jennie Blake, Carla Briggs, Caroline Byrne, Damien Dempsey, Holly Dignam, Sarah Donnelly, Emma Donovan, Orla Doyle, Beth Gormley, Helen Graham, Judith Harford, Paul Harkin, Patrice Harrington, Jaythoon Hassan, Una Kelly, Naonori Kodate, Sylvia Leatham, Christine Linehan, Fergus McAuliffe, Clár Ni Bhuachalla, Georgina O'Dwyer, Darina O'Hanlon, Robert Osburn, Elaine Quinn, Mark Simpson, Sinéad Smith, Suja Somanadhan, Ben Tonra and Miceal Whelan.

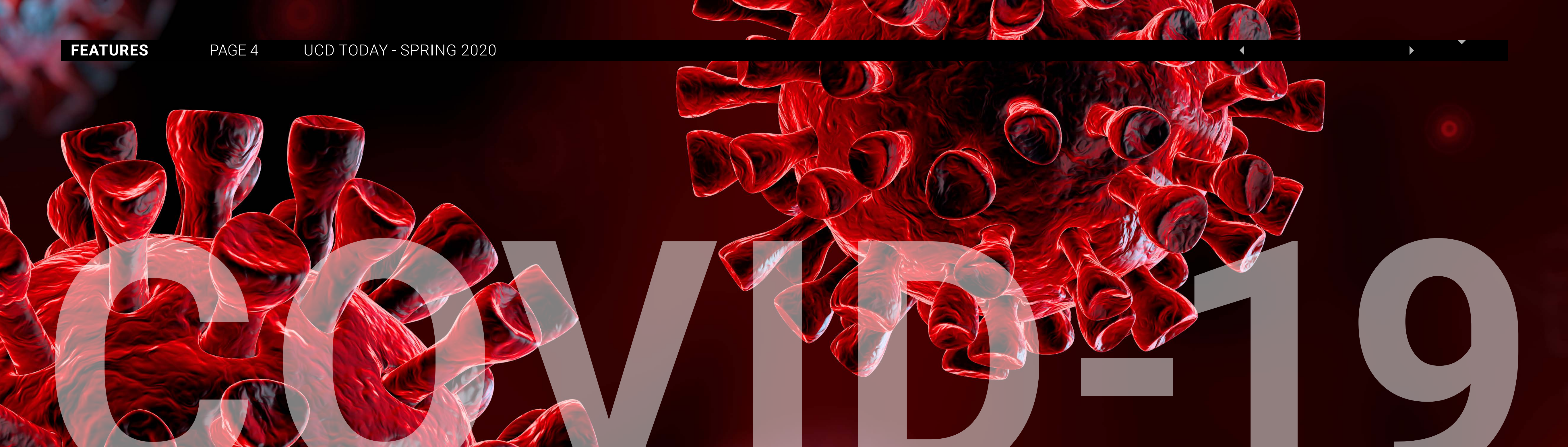
Produced by: Eilis O'Brien, Mary Staunton

Design: Loman Cusack Design Ltd

Thanks to: Diarmaid Ferriter, Pat Guiry, Ann Lavan, Damien McLoughlin, Regina Uí Chollataín

In the compilation of this publication, every care has been taken to ensure accuracy. Any errors or omissions should be brought to the attention of UCD University Relations (ucdtoday@ucd.ie). We also welcome your suggestions for articles in future editions.

Cover image: UCD's Response to COVID-19



UCD'S NATIONAL VIRUS REFERENCE LABORATORY RISES TO THE CHALLENGE

The latest figures from the National Public Health Emergency Team report over 15,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19. For these individuals and the hundreds of thousands more who have tested negatively, their sample has either been processed at the National Virus Reference Laboratory (NVRL) in UCD or processed at a facility overseen by the Lab.

Running at capacity, up to 10,000 diagnostic tests are being processed on a daily basis, which is a huge leap from the Lab's normal business but they have risen to the challenge.

"We're used to diagnostic testing – this is the primary role of the laboratory here and winter is always our busiest time because we're the National Influenza Centre for the country, accredited by the World Health Organisation," explains Dr Cillian De Gascun, consultant virologist, Director of the NVRL, and chair of the Government's Coronavirus Expertise Advisory Group.

At that time of year the Lab sees a significant increase in activity. During an average influenza season from October to March De Gascun says they would typically process between 12,000 and 15,000 samples.

"That's fine because with influenza testing, it is an established pattern on an annual basis so we are prepared. We know what tests we need, we know what capacity we have, we know what staffing levels we require."

"One of the challenges with the novel coronavirus is that when it emerged in January we had to bring in a new test – a WHO assay – and validate it. Initially we started testing in small numbers. 'Back in the day' in early February, we were doing one run a day, which had about 30 samples.

"Then over the course of February and March demand decreased dramatically. We got to a stage where we were doing 14 or 15 runs a day, which brought us up to the region of about 1,400 to 1,500 samples a day."

With this rapidly rising number of samples incoming, the challenge for De Gascun and his team was to increase capacity for COVID-19 testing while putting the kibosh on their other tests because much of the lab's routine diagnostic work had been sidelined by the pandemic.

Equally, it had to be looked at from the perspective of how to best manage Lab staff: "That kind of workload is not really sustainable at an individual level because we don't want our



UCD'S NATIONAL VIRUS REFERENCE LABORATORY RISES TO THE CHALLENGE (CONTINUED)

staff to burn out and get exhausted. We don't know how long the pandemic is going to last," reflects De Gascun.

Logistics were required - and fast. A month ago it was decided to split the Lab staff in half: "In essence we have two teams now that don't overlap so if somebody is unfortunate enough to acquire the infection or to get sick, they don't take out the whole Lab".

For De Gascun and his team, he says it is about trying to get the balance right between providing a robust diagnostic service while behaving as a responsible organisation in the context of a pandemic. And amidst all of this, they are also working with the HSE and the Department of Health to scale up testing capacity elsewhere.

"It has been a project management aspect that we wouldn't usually experience at the Lab. Most of our development work would be internal so if a new test becomes available for a known pathogen, that's a piece of work that we can do locally. But in this situation we've been trying to work with

partners to bring laboratory capacity on stream in other locations."

One of these locations is Enfer in Naas. This laboratory usually supplies products and services to the veterinary diagnostic industry and works closely with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. With their facilities and under the supervision of the NVRL, testing has been able to scale up to numbers the Lab could not handle within the limitations of their own physical space and existing staffing levels. This means diagnostic testing capacity is rising from around 1,500 to up to 10,000 per day, a mammoth achievement that has been possible due to the NVRL's quick response and valuable collaborations.

"The results will still come here to our Lab for review and they will be performed under our supervision, under our governance structure," adds De Gascun while noting that another hurdle has been reassuring the public and communicating to them that much work is going on, unseen, in the background.

"Building capacity doesn't happen overnight and the other challenge is trying to communicate to people that an awful lot of work is being done but these things do take time to come together: it takes time to source equipment, source staff and so on."

Another unforeseen aspect of scaling up diagnostic testing is that normal procedures don't apply: usually, when someone gets a test for, say, influenza or hepatitis B, it is carried out in a hospital or a GP's office. The test request goes across to the NVRL electronically and the result goes back electronically.

"With COVID-19, they have to be tested in the community so we had to set up a third pathway. The National Ambulance Service stepped in and provided a crucial service in conjunction with the Department of Health and HSE. There is a huge number of community sampling around the country now as well, at least 46 at this point."

"From a logistics perspective this is another new component to the system, which didn't exist six or seven weeks ago. Our role at NVRL is to ensure that the samples get here in a straightforward manner, that we have oversight of them and the results go back in a robust, transparent and efficient manner," says De Gascun.



In Brief

From around the University

HSE DOUBLES COVID-19 TESTING CAPACITY THROUGH UCD NVRL

The National Virus Reference Laboratory (UCD NVRL) is growing its capacity to test for COVID-19 following a supply agreement with Genomics Medicine Ireland Limited (GMI). The HSE and UCD NVRL will receive reagents from the company to allow for 900,000 tests to be carried out on people suspected of having COVID-19.

"GMI's rapid response in producing reagents for NVRL will be pivotal in our understanding of the outbreak and help in deciding when we can begin to lift



current movement restrictions," said Dr Cillian De Gascun, Laboratory Director at the UCD NVRL, Consultant Virologist and chair of the Government's Coronavirus Expertise Advisory Group. Diagnostic testing is critical to tracking the virus, understanding epidemiology, informing case management, and to suppressing transmission. Our partnership with GMI will significantly support our efforts to achieve scale in our laboratory."

UCD NURSING AND MIDWIFERY STUDENTS JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

This has been a time of great change and upheaval for all third-level students in universities around Ireland, but no student body has seen such dramatic change as those training to become healthcare professionals. Here at University College Dublin, the UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems has almost 1000 undergraduate nursing and midwifery students, the majority of whom have been redeployed to the frontline health services in the fight against COVID-19.

"Our nursing and midwifery students across all our programmes have been identified as a key resource in the national response to COVID-19," says Professor Gerard Fealy, Dean of Nursing and Head of School.

"The undergraduate students were identified pretty early on as a national resource in the crisis. To that end, I've been working directly with the Department of Health, the HSE, the Nursing and Midwifery Board and the other heads of nursing and midwifery schools to achieve a standard approach to ensuring that the School and its students are able to respond to this national crisis in the way that the Department of Health, and the government in particular, has sought to do."

Since 10 April, the students have been redeployed as healthcare assistants, principally in the acute hospitals around Ireland but also in community health organisations and in residential care where they are needed. The consequence of this is that their scheduled clinical placements, which are a key part of their academic programme, have been suspended during the COVID-19 crisis.

"Key to my responsibility as Dean and Head of School is to ensure that in the post-COVID crisis situation all of our students are facilitated to continue on their academic programme," explains Fealy.

"We want to be very sure that we will continue to work with these state agencies to ensure that



Gerard Fealy

when things are back to normal, our students are in a position to go forward for their honours degree and their professional registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Board."

For these students, there can also be a sense of apprehension around taking on a new role and new position, albeit temporary. Fealy says he, along with his School colleagues, are working very hard to communicate with students and allay any fears.

"We want to support them any way we can, and we do this through personal tutor arrangements, individual student advice and the other campus supports available. We are very mindful of concerns and anxieties that students have,

especially around their own health and safety, and that of their families."

Meanwhile, COVID-19 related research funding calls are opening up and the UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems, like all others in UCD, has submitted a number of applications with a view to making meaningful contributions to research in this area.

"Our school has particular research expertise in examining how the health system itself responds, both in terms of organisational and resourcing elements, and how healthcare professionals experience the crisis at the coalface," notes Fealy.

"This will certainly be a part of our research agenda going forward. While study of the epidemiology and pathogenesis of COVID-19 is critically important at this time, we will also need to study the human experience, and the organisational and systems responses, to inform future health policy and practice in this field."

In Brief

From around the University

97 HOMEMADE MASKS FOR A LOCAL DUBLIN NURSING HOME

University craft group UCD Purl Jam was asked by the nursing home to produce colourful face masks for staff (worn over their surgical masks), to help ease their residents' anxiety.

"They are made and sent with all the love in the world" – amazing work from Cathriona Keane, Niamh Nestor and the volunteers from UCD Purl Jam.

Fealy says the School is also interested in research around the lived experience of people who have contracted COVID-19, including what it was like to experience this acute, and for many, life-threatening illness and how healthcare professionals have experienced this new situation in terms of the threat to their own health and wellbeing in the course of their work.



FROM CLASSROOM TO ZOOM IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC

As the cherry trees bloom across campus staff and students alike are reminded not only that spring has sprung but that exam season is fast approaching. This year, in the words of Yeats: *all changed, changed utterly*. There will be no exams. No revision classes. No studying by the lake in groups. So how has UCD managed to adapt to this new situation?

"We've had to move online so quickly, develop teaching and learning resources, provide IT services, support teaching and learning assessments; the speed at which all of this took place was overwhelming in lots of ways because we are talking about an adjustment period of two weeks. But everybody rose to the occasion and worked really hard to make it happen," notes Professor Marie Clarke, Dean of Undergraduate Studies and Director of the UCD Centre for the Study of Higher Education.

With an undergraduate student population of around 17,000 this was no mean feat and involved faculty and staff across all disciplines as well as valuable input from the Students' Union.

In order to ensure students could continue with their studies and complete their academic year, the first challenge was to adjust to online only.

"This meant working closely with the UCD teaching and learning team who have been amazing in developing resources for both students and faculty in online teaching, learning and assessment. They created materials and provided guides on alternative assessment approaches, conducting online and open book exams, and developing an accompanying integrity and honesty policy," says Clarke.

"IT Services have been really amazing too. I have been liaising with them, in particular, Trish Mountjoy, Head of Educational Technology Services. They are providing support for students and faculty including managing the virtual learning environments and running clinics for faculty supports.

"We also have the cross-institutional Educational Technology Advisory Network (ETAN) that I chair and they have been terrific in terms of education technology support that is provided virtually to their colleagues, whether it's recording a lecture or learning how to collaborate in online classroom environments."

Another important factor that Clarke says had to be taken into account is the circumstances of the individual student or staff member. Naturally, it has been a very stressful time for everyone in terms of their health and that of their family members. In addition to this, staff were now working from home offices or the living room, many students moved home, and this brought with it new issues including broadband disruption, lack of privacy, lack of necessary equipment, increased caring responsibilities and changes in their economic circumstances.

"So it's a very different landscape and trying to

make that change to online so as to ensure that every module was adapted to provide remote learning and assessment also involved putting mechanisms in place to make it flexible. This has been done with Brightspace, our new VLE (virtual learning environment) platform. We were lucky to have already transitioned to this platform pre-COVID," says Clarke.

Naturally, one of the biggest concerns for undergraduates, in the absence of exams, is the grading process. To this end, Clarke and her colleagues established a working group (of which she is Chair) to support student assessment during COVID-19. Crucially, this includes members of the Students' Union including the President, the Education Officer, and the Graduate Officer. Also on the working group are Associate Professor Niamh Moore-Cherry, UCD School of Geography, a member of the Royal Irish Academy Social Sciences Committee, Associate Professor Tara McMorrough, Associate Dean of Science, Karen McHugh, Director of Assessments and Trish Mountjoy from IT Services.

"We set up the group to work in partnership with our students in order to provide reassurance around assessment and grading in this particular trimester. It was to formalise the guidelines that examiners and module co-ordinators have always been using but ensure it is clear and transparent to students and faculty in terms of how things are done.

"We had our extenuating circumstances policy

In Brief

From around the University

UCD ENGINEER LEADS IRISH EFFORTS IN GLOBAL RACE TO BUILD VENTILATORS

The hunt to source ventilators is a major obstacle in the fight against Covid-19, and as many work on creating open-source versions of the much-needed medical device a UCD-led team has created several prototypes using 3D-printed parts and inexpensive components.

Colin Keogh, a research engineer at UCD, is co-founder of Open Source Ventilator (OSV) Ireland, and this team of volunteers released a low-cost emergency ventilator system that works by automating "ambu-bags", the pumps often used in ambulances and urgent care.

The device is aimed at helping patients in places experiencing critical ventilator shortages, and in emergency cases where standard ventilator equipment is unavailable.

applied to all students in the context of COVID-19 and made temporary amendments to our academic regulations with reference to grading and opportunities for module remediation.

Key to all of this, says Clarke, is that the focus is on each individual student's performance both in this trimester and their results profile during their time at UCD: "It was very important to take into account the challenges that this trimester has presented for all students on an individual level. And the working group was a wonderful opportunity to work closely with the Students' Union."



TEAMWORK ALL THE WAY FOR UCD'S CONTACT TRACING CENTRE

It's all hands on deck at the very busy COVID-19 contact tracing centre based in UCD O'Brien Centre for Science. This was the first satellite centre in Ireland, i.e. the first centre directly outside HSE headquarters, and it is now one of the busiest operational centres in the country. Not only is the centre carrying out contact tracing but it is also a training hub for new operators for other centres, for occupational health professionals in hospitals and is road testing the new IT system used by HSE to connect with satellite units.

Additionally, the call centre provides epidemiological and monitoring data to inform government policy decisions, say Professor Pat Wall and Associate Professor Mary Codd who are co-ordinating the centre in conjunction with Professor Joe Carthy, UCD Dean of Science.

"To effectively halt transmission of the virus we need i) comprehensive testing, ii) timely tracing of cases and their close contacts and iii) isolation of these to prevent spread. UCD is in the



Prof Pat Wall and Assoc Prof Mary Codd with some of the Centre team.

vanguard in the war against the virus," explains Associate Professor Codd.

It's a team effort, say Wall and Codd: "The call centre is just phenomenal. To date over 180 people have been trained to work on the phones and as support staff. It is manned completely by dedicated volunteers - students and staff - who are unpaid and yet we almost have to drag them out of the place in the evenings!"

Wall explains how contact tracing works: "When people get infected with coronavirus, first, they have to be contacted to tell them they are positive and that they need to self-isolate. Secondly, we ask them for a list of their close contacts, also explaining clearly to them what a close contact is."

In turn, every one of these close contacts are phoned and advised that they may have been exposed to the virus, may be in the incubation period, and to isolate for 14 days. This takes a

lot of work and the 180 plus volunteers operate in shifts of 50 to run at full capacity. This takes place in four rooms in the O'Brien Centre for Science (with plenty of space to ensure adequate social distancing).

Naturally those working the phones are given a script. As the first satellite centre outside of the HSE, this is where scripts have been piloted and Wall says that army cadets were initially used as callers in the HSE headquarters in Dr Steevens' hospital to develop the methodology.

All in all, there were three main phases involved: "First, we set up the call centre. Then we set up training for people to work in other call centres. Finally, we started testing the IT system designed to connect all these centres."

"Initially it was a paper-based system, but then an IT system was built to link the peripheral call centres around the country with the main HSE centre in Dr Steevens," he explains.

In Brief

From around the University

UCD VOLUNTEERS USE 3D PRINTING TO PRODUCE PPE FOR FRONT-LINE STAFF

A group of UCD researchers and engineers produced 600 face shields to be used by front-line medical staff using the University's advanced manufacturing research facility. Using their expertise in 3D printing, a group of engineering volunteers have been working with colleagues in I-Form, the SFI Research Centre for Advanced Manufacturing based at UCD, to provide the much needed PPE.

They are now looking to create other needed PPE, such as protective goggles and ventilator-related technology aids, for HSE Covid-19 testing centres and hospitals.

UCD is still contributing to the improvement of the brand-new IT system and busy working out any glitches with HSE HQ. UCD computer science students have also become involved: they are troubleshooting the new system, identifying and suggesting solutions to bugs as they find them.

"Mary and I would also like to acknowledge the support of Professor Joe Carthy and Elaine Murphy and their staff in the O'Brien Centre for Science and PJ Barron and his team in UCD Estate Services. Professor Carthy has been sustaining us with cake he baked himself!" adds Wall. We would also like to thank the *Feed the Heroes* initiative and the Mosque in Clonskeagh for sending in great meals for the volunteers."

With so many UCD students and staff members working together to help flatten the curve, there is no better way to sum it up than with the old Irish saying: "Ní neart go chur le chéile."

BUSINESS AS UNUSUAL FOR CAMPUS OPERATIONS (CONTINUED)

BUSINESS AS UNUSUAL FOR CAMPUS OPERATIONS



The Twitter account for UCD Estates offers a glimpse into the hard work going on in the background to keep essential campus buildings and services up and running during the COVID-19 crisis. With the apt hashtag #UCDlife, you can see that, as much as possible, everyone is aiming for business as usual: the Irish flag at the front entrance is raised every day at sunrise and the waste management operatives, Daniel and Bogdan, turn up daily at 5:30am.

"It's all hands to the pump, we just do whatever's necessary. Everyone wants to help and do the best they can," says PJ Barron, Director of Campus Operations.

Suzanne Shorten, a member of the UCD Estates team is documenting these activities and sharing them across the Unit's various social media channels, differing slightly from her usual role in overseeing the Summer at UCD team!

In the early days of COVID-19, what seems like years ago now, Shorten was told that some students had come back from abroad and were concerned they had symptoms: "I literally went down to the pharmacy in Donnybrook and bought every thermometer they had. When I brought them back someone said that we probably wouldn't need all of those, put them in the 'Doomsday cupboard' - but little did we know what was coming."

"What was coming was met with an

enormous effort right across the University," says Barron. "Our team was on phone calls at two or three o'clock in the morning, on Friday and Saturday nights, trying to sort out problems as they arose. Everything from students needing last-minute access to the Library to international students leaving their belongings behind to return home. And this is not to mention feeding those still living on campus and making sure buildings are cleaned regularly and secured at night."

"From our point of view the effort has been predominantly around student residences: making sure that it is as comfortable as possible for everyone who is going through this, whether for students who are self-isolating or not," says Barron.

"Before the current restrictions came into force, for example, we had one international student who returned from a trip to Europe only

to be contacted a few days later by a tracing centre. They advised that, having been in the vicinity of a confirmed case of COVID-19, the student should self-isolate. Naturally this was a distressing time for them and their family on the other side of the world but they were given practical assistance and reassurance by our community liaison officer, Aisling Kennedy-Dalton in conjunction with our catering team and our colleagues in the Student Advisors team. We offer as much support as we can to students who are naturally experiencing stress."

"For other students living on campus, catering outlets remain open, and the Centra supermarket too. Those who have signed up for a catering package in our Residences are still getting full service as usual. We have been trying to facilitate normality as much as possible while everybody is going through this," adds Barron.

In Brief

From around the University

UCD CENTRE FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SCIENCE FILLS IN PPE KNOWLEDGE GAP

The UCD Centre for Emergency Medical Science (EMS) is helping to train front-line doctors on how to correctly use Personal Protective Equipment. As Community Assessment Hubs open around the country, the GP Registrars who will staff these centres have been receiving classes at UCD on how to use PPE properly.

Professor Gerard Bury, Director of UCD EMS, and his team are providing this training – which aims to ensure those doctors using PPE understand how to put it on and off without contaminating themselves or others.

"PPE is an important part of infection protection, and many doctors in Ireland will not have had much experience using it before the COVID-19 outbreak," said a spokesperson for UCD EMS. It's very important that healthcare staff having access to PPE are familiar with it and trained in its use. For example, some items must be changed every two hours, while in other cases a person must be aware that they're limited in what they can and can't do once they've put PPE."



BUSINESS AS UNUSUAL FOR CAMPUS OPERATIONS (CONTINUED)

One constant throughout all of this, adds Shorten, is that student residences have remained open despite An Taoiseach making the lockdown announcement right in the middle of Reading Week: “We have approximately 3,000 students, domestic and international, living on campus. When the closures happened initially it was Reading Week - and Spring Break for some students! In the case of the American students holidaying abroad, their home universities called and told them to return to the US. They may have been in Italy or France or wherever and went directly home. As a result of that, their belongings

were still in the student residences. One of the things that’s happening right now is that those belongings will be shipped back to those students.”

Rooms were also made available for any students who needed to self-isolate adds Barron: “We have had 15 at this stage but so far we still don’t have a positive COVID-19 case on campus. That may change at some time in the future but that’s where we are now.”

Peripheral issues also had to be taken care of: the residence’s support office has remained open around the clock, there is a duty manager system in place 24/7 mobile patrols of

campus still take place, cleaners and technical services staff are working on rotation, and PPE equipment along with social distancing has been deployed. Every single process down to First Aid protocols had to be reconsidered.

“One of the initial queries was about mouth-to-mouth resuscitation,” says Barron. “If somebody is having a heart attack our duty managers are all trained on First Aid. But if someone is in say, cardiac arrest, what type of resuscitation do we go about doing? A new protocol was developed because we didn’t want to put our own staff at risk just by doing their job.”

“At the end of the day, UCD made a commitment to our students at the beginning of the year that we would provide a safe residence and support them however possible and this is still being done , not only through ourselves, but also through our colleagues in other units such as Student Services and the Library. It makes me very proud that the team here is continuing this support through an unprecedented time for everyone”, said Barron.



In Brief

From around the University

UCD PROFESSOR LEADS IRISH CLINICAL TRIALS AS PART OF GLOBAL EFFORT

Critically ill Irish patients with Covid-19 are to take part in a UCD-led clinical trial as part of global efforts to find potential treatments for the virus. Professor Alistair Nichol, Chair of Critical Care Medicine and an intensive care consultant at St Vincent’s University Hospital, will act as the Irish lead on the research network.

The trial, facilitated by the HRB, started enrolling willing patients in intensive care units in April and will test the effects of different treatments on Covid-19. The international project aims to ensure any findings are shared quickly with others working on possible treatments, and involves research teams in UK, Ireland, Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, Singapore, New Zealand, Australia and Canada.

Our UCD colleagues featured in these pages were in conversation with Marie Boran (UCD Computer Science BSc 2002, DCU MSc Science Communication 2012, NUIG MSc by research (Insight Centre for Data Analytics, NUIG) 2015), a freelance journalist.



Pictured at the award ceremony are (l-r) John Barry, Director of Major Strategic Partnerships, UCD; Bernie Capraro, Research Manager, Intel Research and Development Ireland Ltd; Ciaran O'Sullivan, Kallum Doyle; Stephen Sherin; Kyle Flynn; Séan O'Braonain; Claran McNamara; Brandon Blacoe; Emily White; Prof Andrew Deeks, UCD President; Eamonn Sinnott, General Manager Intel Ireland; Andrew Donohue; Ruth Quinn; Adam Atouani; Hazal Beceriklian; Janet Tsang; Briji Mary Joseph; and Chyna de los Angeles.

■ UCD-Intel Major Strategic Partnership

The annual UCD-Intel Major Strategic Partnership Ceremony was held at UCD University Club in March. UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks welcomed Eamonn Sinnott, Vice-President Technology and Manufacturing Group and General Manager, Intel Ireland and his colleagues to campus.

The ceremony recognised the achievements of 15 outstanding UCD students in science and engineering who were awarded a UCD-Intel Masters Student Scholarship.

A new memorandum of understanding between Intel and UCD was signed on the day, broadening and deepening the strategic partnership between the two organisations.

Professor Deeks said: "Over the next few years this partnership will support the education of a further 48 UCD students in science and engineering through an Intel Scholarship Programme, supporting economic and social development in Ireland and globally. It will see the appointment of an Intel Adjunct Professor at UCD and will provide substantial investment in the new UCD Centre for Creativity."

■ UCD CHiLD Research Centre Annual Conference

UCD Childhood and Human Development (UCD CHiLD) Research Centre held its annual conference in the Fitzgerald Chamber in November. The theme of the conference was 'Children's Rights for a Healthy World' and it featured presentations from six different schools across UCD College of Social Sciences and Law and UCD College of Health and Agricultural Sciences. The conference also included a performance on climate change and its impact on children by Ad Astra Performing Arts Scholar, Ryan O'Donnell, as well as a talk by representatives from the Youth Advisory Council.

The event was opened by Professor Orla Feely, Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact, followed by the Ombudsman for Children, Dr Niall Muldoon. The Centre team was particularly delighted to welcome two international keynote speakers - Professor Lisa Gibbs from the University of Melbourne and Professor Lucy Bray from the Edge Hill University in the UK who led two exciting workshops on ethical issues and playful research activities with children.

UCD CHiLD Research Centre was established in 2013 with the aim of bringing together researchers from across the University working in the field of human development. The Centre currently has 60 members and aims to promote UCD's excellence in the area of children's research, as well as support interdisciplinary collaborations on research projects.



Pictured are (l-r) are: Dr Niall Muldoon; Prof Lisa Gibbs, UCD Visiting Professor of Child Health, University of Melbourne; Dr Suja Somanadhan, UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems; Prof Ellis Hennessy, UCD School of Psychology; Grainne Bauer, Chief Nursing Officer, Children's Health Ireland; and Prof Orla Feely.



College Principal Prof Colin Scott, Gillian Harford (30% Club Ireland), Dr Gráinne Healy, Molly Lamb (UCD PME student & Dublin Ladies Footballer) and Prof Judith Harford (College Vice Principal Equality, Diversity and Inclusion)

■ UCD College of Social Sciences and Law celebrates International Women's Day

International Women's Day 2020 was celebrated by UCD College of Social Sciences and Law in collaboration with the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Unit, with a panel discussion event that took place on Friday, 6 March and the launch of a new initiative entitled 'A Space to Write'.

Professor Colin Scott, College Principal and UCD Vice-President for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion welcomed guests to the panel event which was organised and chaired by Professor Judith Harford, College Vice-Principal for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. The #EachforEqual discussion panel included Dr Grainne Healy, equality activist, Gillian Harford, Country Executive for 30% Club Ireland and Molly Lamb, Dublin Ladies Gaelic Football All-Ireland winner and current UCD postgraduate student.

The speakers discussed issues relating to gender inequality in Irish society, leading change and creating a more inclusive culture for women in higher education, government and workplaces. In addition, as part of the activities around International Women's Day the College launched a new initiative A Space to Write, organised by Professor Judith Harford. This initiative will see the College Boardroom made available one Friday a month for women within the College to provide a dedicated writing space whereby academic colleagues come together to support and prioritise scholarship.

■ Dr Rhona Mahony addresses students on leading through adversity

On 6 February, Professor Gerardine Doyle, Director of UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School, hosted Dr Rhona Mahony, first female Master of the National Maternity Hospital, as part of the IMPACT MAKERS: UCD Smurfit MBA Speaker Series. Professor of Business and Society Andrea Prothero interviewed Dr Mahony on the topic of leading through adversity.

She discussed how her motivation to have a positive impact on national healthcare drove her to persist through extraordinary challenges in advancing the future of Ireland's leading maternity hospital.

During a busy seven-year term, the deep challenges of the role in the public eye amplified the



Prof. Andy Prothero; Dr Rhona Mahony; Liam Fitzgerald, Chair of the UCD Smurfit School Advisory Board; and Prof. Gerardine Doyle.

themes of strategic leadership through adversity, the impact of public scrutiny on personal identity and the dynamic of conflict and hierarchy.

Dr Mahony also discussed why she believes the best vehicle to make essential changes to current healthcare systems is through medics equipped with strong business and leadership skills.

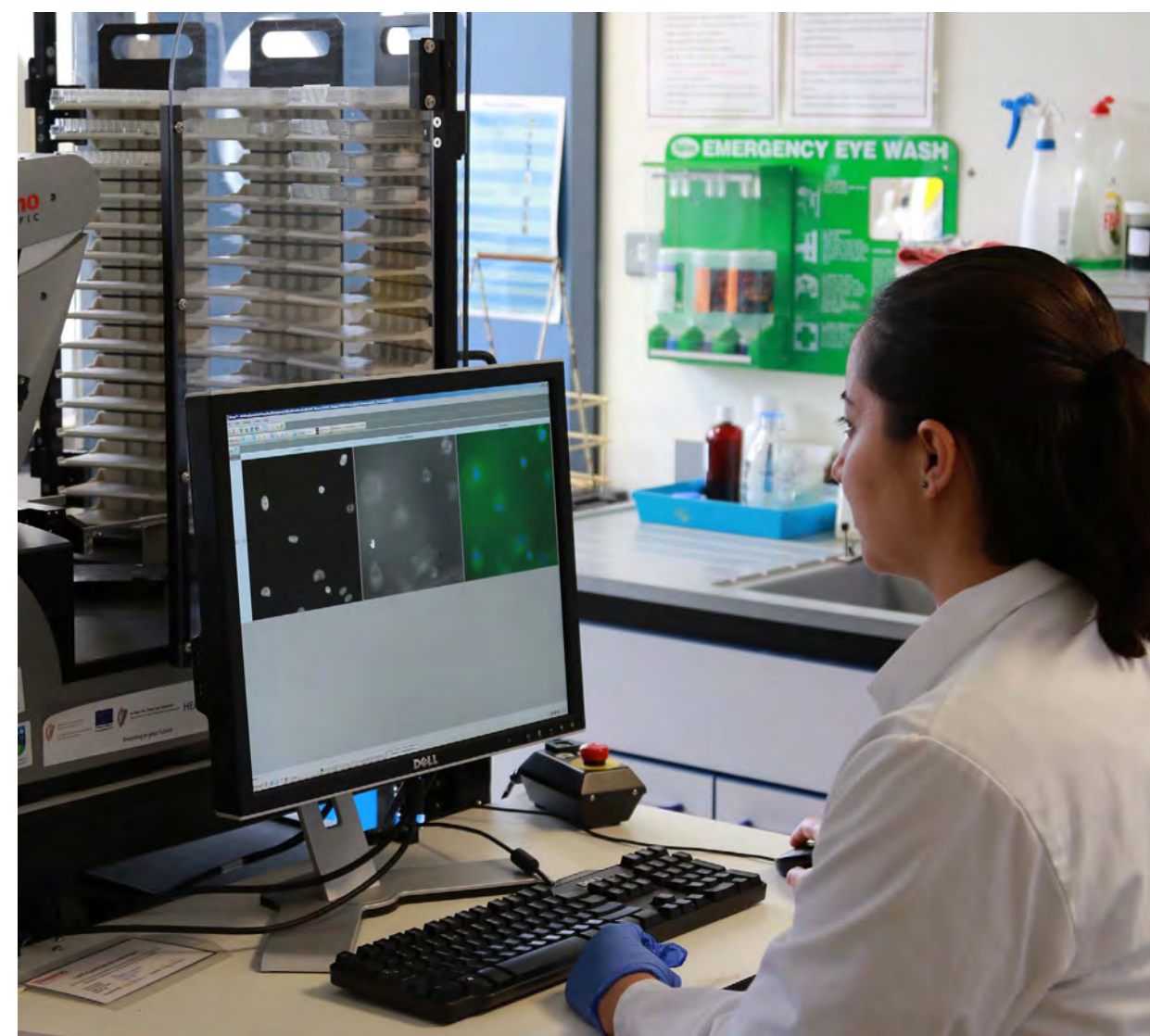
She explained how fundamental business skills influenced her success and why she believes that there should be early engagement between the disciplines of business in third-level education and of medical professionals, as a way to effect positive healthcare change.

■ UCD Veterinary Microbiology Diagnostic Laboratory

The UCD Veterinary Microbiology Diagnostic Laboratory (VMDL), based in the UCD Veterinary Hospital, was recently granted approval as a Training Centre of the European College of Veterinary Microbiology (ECVM).

The ECVM is a recently established constituent college of the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation and has specialists registered throughout Europe, including UCD Associate Professors Bryan Markey and Finola Leonard.

The VMDL forms an essential part of the UCD Veterinary Hospital and provides a high-quality diagnostic service to both the hospital and to veterinary practices throughout Ireland. The laboratory also provides facilities to train final



UCD Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories

year veterinary undergraduate students on their paraclinical rotations and assists in the training of postgraduate students working on research studies involving microbiology. It has the facilities, expertise and commitment required to train specialists in veterinary microbiology.



Prof. Maria Baghramian (front) with attendees at the launch.

■ Multi-million euro 'Trust' project launched

In March, the Policy, Expertise and Trust in Action (PErITia) project was formally launched at the Museum of Literature Ireland. The international consortium of philosophers, social and natural scientists, policy experts, ethicists, psychologists, media specialists and civil society organisations gathered for a one-day symposium to discuss core themes of the project, such as: trust and trustworthiness in the digital age; and experts and the environment. The project will use trust in climate science as a test case for its theoretical and empirical findings.

Leading the project, Professor Maria Baghramian, UCD School of Philosophy said: "The most ambitious feature of the current project is the application of its theoretical and empirical findings to active attempts at establishing trust, where warranted, between the general public and actors with a central

role in the decision-making processes of governance".

Since the beginning of the global Coronavirus pandemic members of the PErITia consortium have turned their attention to understanding trust in expertise in times of COVID-19. Fellow UCD contributor Professor Liam Delaney, Chair of Behavioural Economics, UCD School of Economics is also a member of the Behavioural Change Advisory Group to the National Public Health Emergency Team tackling the crisis in Ireland.

Research in UCD will be conducted through the UCD Centre for Ethics in Public Life and UCD Geary Institute for Public Policy. Other key partners include Professor Luke Drury from the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, Professor Bobby Duffy of King's College London, Professor Gloria Origgi of CNRS in Paris, and Professor José Van Dijk of Utrecht University. Eminent Professors Onora O'Neill, Cass Sunstein, Susan Owens, and Dan Sperber are among the advisory group, while ALLEA (All European Academies) is communications partner for the project.

Due to run from 2020 to 2023, PErITia is funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 Research Programme with a budget of €3 million.



Pictured are Prof Keith Murphy, Prof Judith Harford and Prof Joe Carthy.

Showcasing Inspirational Women in STEM

Funded by Science Foundation Ireland, Professor Judith Harford and Rachel Farrell, UCD School of Education and Assistant Professor Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin, UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics have been working with a range of primary and post-primary DEIS schools (delivering equality of opportunity in schools) and their associated feeder and follow-on schools, with a view to exploring girls' attitudes towards STEM and possibilities for increasing their engagement with the field.

Redress of the systematic absence of women from the STEM narrative and the absence of prominent female role models were key motivations for this research. Presenting STEM as a creative process which fosters inquiry and personal connection changes not only the narrative of STEM but the propensity for

girls to relate to it. The research team worked with pupils at the upper end of primary and lower end of post-primary schools, focusing on the public and personal stories of a range of female STEM pioneers, both historical and contemporary.

The research culminated in a shared learning day at the O'Brien Centre for Science in December, at which over 300 students from a range of DEIS schools showcased their own research on inspirational women in STEM. The event was officially opened by Mrs Sabina Higgins, and included inputs from Professor Joe Carthy, Principal, UCD College of Science, Professor Keith Murphy, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science and Dr Sharon Shannon, UCD School of Physics.

Participating schools included:

Laois: Portlaoise College, Coláiste Íosagáin, Portarlinton, Presentation Primary School, Portarlinton; Offaly: Tullamore College; Sacred Heart School, Tullamore, St. Mary's Secondary School, Edenderry; Killina Presentation Secondary School and St. Colman's National School; Dublin: St. Paul's Secondary School Greenhills, St. Tiernan's Community School, Balally and Hartstown Community School.

UCD Spin-in Company to trial Drone Food Delivery

Manna, the world's first aviation-grade B2B drone delivery 'as-a-service' platform will commercial pilot its airborne logistics platform 'in-a-box' at UCD with partners, premium food brand Camile Thai and Ben & Jerry's ice cream, via food ordering and delivery platform Just Eat, delivering to a large customer base with a sub three-minute delivery promise from vendor to customer.

Manna, a UCD spin-in company is headquartered at NovaUCD with offices in Wales, closed a \$5.2 million (€4.6 million) seed funding round at the end of 2019.

"It's clear that drone delivery provides a faster, cleaner, safer, cheaper and higher quality alternative to road-based delivery. We are excited about how that will improve the world."



Bobby Healy, CEO and Founder, Manna

He added, "This technology will transform online food marketplaces, restaurants, dark kitchens, and communities globally. The Irish Aviation Authority has been a tremendous help and guide over the past three years, working together we have ensured that our drones are extremely safe in all operating conditions."

"We look forward to working with regulators around the world as we bring this innovative technology to customers across the Globe."

Regulating Bank Culture Conference in UCD

UCD Sutherland School of Law hosted a major conference on 6 February on 'Regulating Bank Culture'. This conference brought together leading academics, regulators and industry leaders to consider contemporary issues in banking culture, including recent developments, international differences, and new directions for generative change. In particular, the conference explored key issues related to the following themes: senior executive accountability; diversity and inclusion; board dynamics; promoting trust; and constructive dissent.

Panellists at the conference included the CEOs of two banks, Jeremy Masding (PTSB) and Peter Roebben (KBC Ireland) and Ireland's Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman, Ger Deering alongside international speakers, including Niel Willardson of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis and Mike Held of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

The Conference was organised by Dr Joe McGrath of UCD Sutherland School of Law,

in co-operation with Professor Claire Hill of the University of Minnesota, and generously sponsored by Eversheds Sutherland.



Peter Roebben, CEO, KBC Ireland (left) with conference organiser Dr Joe McGrath.



An Tánaiste with the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge being greeted by UCD President, Prof Andrew Deeks.

■ A Royal Visit for MoLI

Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge paid a visit to the Museum of Literature Ireland (MoLI), on Wednesday 4 March. Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney TD welcomed the Duke and Duchess, both passionate readers, as part of their historic visit to Ireland.

They were also greeted by Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD President; Dr Sandra Collins, Director of the National Library of Ireland; and Simon O'Connor, Director of MoLI.

The couple spent time walking through the beautiful buildings that were the original home of UCD, hearing of the University's founding by the British theologian, educationalist and now Saint John Henry Newman. They heard how the poet Gerard Manley Hopkins lived and wrote in the house as a Professor of Classics at UCD, how James Joyce was a student there, as well as many other renowned Irish writers such as Maeve Binchy and Flann O'Brien.

The museum's Director, Simon O'Connor, explained to the Duke and Duchess the importance of the role of female and Irish language writers in our literary heritage, and the huge focus the museum places on child education and involving children from

disadvantaged backgrounds in our literary culture.

Colette O'Flaherty, Keeper of Special Collections at the National Library of Ireland, showed the royal couple what is regarded as one of the most significant treasures in the Irish State collections - the famous 'Copy No.1' of James Joyce's Ulysses, the very first copy printed.

The Duke and Duchess met with various political leaders as they walked through the museum, to attend a private reception in the Aula Maxima, MoLI's enchanting contemporary exhibition space located in the University's converted Victorian assembly hall. Speeches were followed by musical performances. The Duke and Duchess completed their visit with a walk through some of the older historic rooms of Newman House – one of the great Georgian gems of Dublin – before departing for Galway.

■ UCD Women in Leadership Conference 2020

We were thrilled to celebrate five years of the Arthur Cox UCD Women in Leadership conference on Thursday, 13 February this year in a packed O'Reilly Hall. The conference has grown, as we could never have imagined, from a conversation in 2015 when we hoped to hold a small classroom panel discussion to address gender inequality issues; coinciding with the UCD Musical Society's production of Legally Blonde. This year over 750 alumni, students, UCD staff and industry partners attended!

Professor Orla Feely's opening address outlined UCD's commitment to gender equality and shared her own journey as a woman in leadership. She was followed by Caroline Casey, UCD alumna and founder of the Valuable 500, who received a standing ovation. One delegate commented: "Caroline Casey's opening presentation was extremely motivational. Amazing personality with so much charisma. Anyone who can make me cry tears of pride at 10am is certainly a leader!"

Over the course of the day, three panels explored Resilience, Women in Tech and Leading the Cultural Change and the facilities in the UCD University Club allowed us to host lunch-time breakout sessions on Networking, Returning to Work and Getting on Boards. To close the day, Caroline Keeling, CEO of Keelings delivered the final keynote and spoke passionately about learning from challenges and how she 'keeps her personal flywheel in motion'.

UCD Women in Leadership is proudly built on a foundation of generous volunteer contribution. Students and alumni volunteers ensure the best event experience for our speakers and delegates on the day. Alumni, corporate partners, UCD academics and friends provide inspiring content. UCD alumna, Eimear O'Flynn, founder of the conference, has voluntarily led it for the past five years. Along with her committee and support from UCD Societies and UCD Alumni Relations, she delivers an ever-improving event which has become a fixed annual highlight in our diaries.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have postponed this year's international launch of the conference which was due to take place at the Science Museum in London in March.



Pictured are the members of the Leading the Cultural Change Panel (l-r): Paul Franey, An Garda Síochána; Dr Ebun Joseph, UCD; Martina Fitzgerald, author and journalist; Margot Slattery, Sodexo; and Sarah Claxton, ESB.

Don't take our word for it! Some feedback from attendees

"Overall a **really powerful** conference - I have attended a number of them over the past few years - and it was great to see how energised any 'newbies' attending were - opportunity to **reengage, reflect, refocus and network**. Thank you - keep up the amazing work!"

"Really great - **LOVED that your panels were balanced.**"

"I thought the **diversity and inclusion panel was one of the best I've seen**. Superb panellists, excellent moderator, great stories and actionable insights to share. A great mix of voices and experiences."

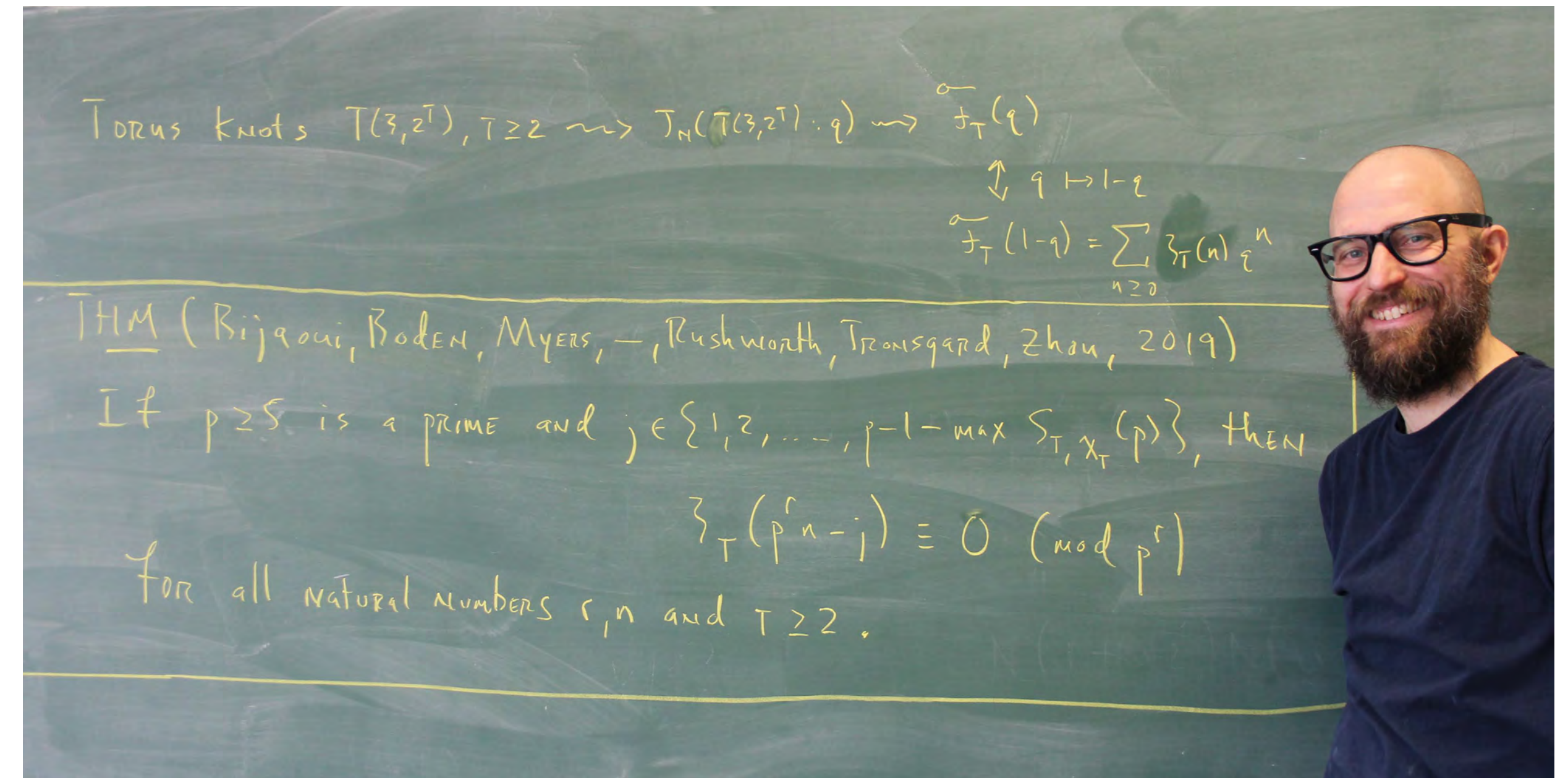
UCD Mathematician wins James M Flaherty Visiting Professorship

Associate Professor Robert Osburn, UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics was awarded the prestigious 2018 James M Flaherty Visiting Professorship by the Ireland Canada University Foundation (ICUF). The Foundation aims to encourage and facilitate links between scholars in Ireland and Canada across all academic disciplines. As part of this initiative, it supports up to two Irish professors traveling to Canada and up to two Canadian professors traveling to Ireland. Professor Osburn is the only mathematician in Ireland to receive this award.

From May 19 to August 9, 2019, Associate Professor Osburn visited McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. The purpose of the visit was to conduct research in the areas of knot theory, quantum topology and number theory.

In addition, he co-organised, with Professor Hans Boden (McMaster) and Dr Will Rushworth (McMaster), a research project as part of the Fields Institute Undergraduate Summer Research Program in Toronto. The resulting paper has been submitted for publication.

During his stay in Canada, Associate Professor Osburn was also invited to visit the Korea Institute for Advanced Study in Seoul, South Korea. This culminated in the one-day workshop entitled '2019 2nd q-day: q-series and related topics'. The aim of this workshop was to encourage synergy among q-series researchers from various backgrounds with a concentration on interactions between physics, quantum topology, geometry and number theory. Finally, he returned to McMaster University to give a public lecture entitled 'Knots, modularity and beyond' on September, 2019.



Assoc Prof Osburn is pictured with his work.

Architectural History Award for UCD Academic

The top prize in British architectural history, the Alice Davis Hitchcock Medallion, has been awarded to Assistant Professor Conor Lucey, UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy, for his book *Building Reputations: Architecture and the Artisan, 1750–1830* (Manchester University Press, 2018).

The prize is the highest honour bestowed by the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain and was announced at a ceremony held in December at University College London.

Building Reputations re-examines the history of the brick terraced house and the artisan communities of bricklayers, carpenters and plasterers responsible for its design and construction. Opening with a cultural history of the building tradesman within contemporary architectural discourse, the book considers the artisan as both a figure of building production and an agent of architectural taste.

The selection committee commended Dr Lucey's book as "a ground-breaking analysis

of the relationship between the professional builder and the brick terraced house", noting that it "overturns the received wisdom that artisans and craftsmen – those who did the actual building – played a diminishing role in the design process in the period under scrutiny".

Commenting on the prize, Dr Lucey said: "Given that so many of the previous winning titles of the Alice Davis Hitchcock Medallion form the basis of my own academic library, I am genuinely delighted and honoured that my book has been awarded this distinction. I am especially grateful to the members and to the selection committee of the SAHGB for this generous endorsement".



Assistant Professor Conor Lucey, UCD School of Art History and Cultural Policy, for his book *Building Reputations: Architecture and the Artisan, 1750–1830* (Manchester University Press) with his award.



The Future of Driving

UCD faculty, staff and students examine a Tesla Model 3 on campus as part of an information session on buying an electric car, organised by UCD Culture & Engagement. Well-known motoring journalist Michael Sheridan gave a rundown on what to consider when buying an electric vehicle (EV), while reviewing current and future models available in the market.



Pictured at the launch are (l-r) Sylvia Leatham, Prof Thilo Kroll, Prof Orla Feely, Dr Fergus McAuliffe, Dr Éidín Ní Shé and Dr Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin.

Launch of UCD Public Engagement Community of Practice

At UCD we have a vibrant community of researchers, educators and public engagement professionals who participate in activities and initiatives aimed at engaging with public audiences, external stakeholders and patients. These initiatives include those with primary and secondary schools, patients, broadcast media, members of the public and many more.

In January 2020, the UCD Public Engagement Community of Practice was launched by Professor Orla Feely, Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact. With over 140 members, the community of practice serves as a network for the advancement of public engagement activities across the full spectrum, from informing and inspiring through to consulting and collaborating.

The community is a grassroots movement that began its

work in 2018. Recognising the immense amount of public engagement already taking place in UCD, the network led the development of a community-agreed UCD definition of public engagement which *describes the many ways that UCD's research, teaching and contributions to society are influenced by and shared with the public for mutual learning.*

Work then focused on a University-wide census of all public engagement activities, identifying over 350 different programmes including: The Science Apprentice which worked with primary school children and teachers; The Patient Voice in Cancer Research which engages cancer patients in decision-making processes for cancer research; The Trial which is a multi-screen visual art installation on healthcare and human rights in the Irish criminal justice system; and HopeFest which is a wellness event for those experiencing homelessness.

The census was then used to create a strategy for the advancement of public engagement activities across the University. This includes upskilling staff in event management and evaluation, enabling methods for those outside the University community to become part of the engaged research process in UCD and the launch of a dedicated website. Further information is available at www.ucd.ie/publicengagement

2019 UCD Values in Action (VIA) awards



Pictured (l-r) are 2019 UCD Values in Action (VIA) award recipients: Dr Conor Buggy, UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science; Catriona Keane and Dr Niamh Nestor, Student Advisors, representing craft group UCD Purl Jam; with adjudication chairperson Professor Joe Carthy. The awards initiated by the Employee Engagement Network recognise colleagues who bring the UCD Values to life through their activities. 65 nominations were received and the panel awarded six VIAs for 2019 which were presented by the President, Professor Andrew Deeks at a lunch held in O'Reilly Hall in December 2019.

Comórtas Liathróidh Láimhe Aon-Bhalla 2020

UCD's 9th Bilingual One-Wall Handball Tournament

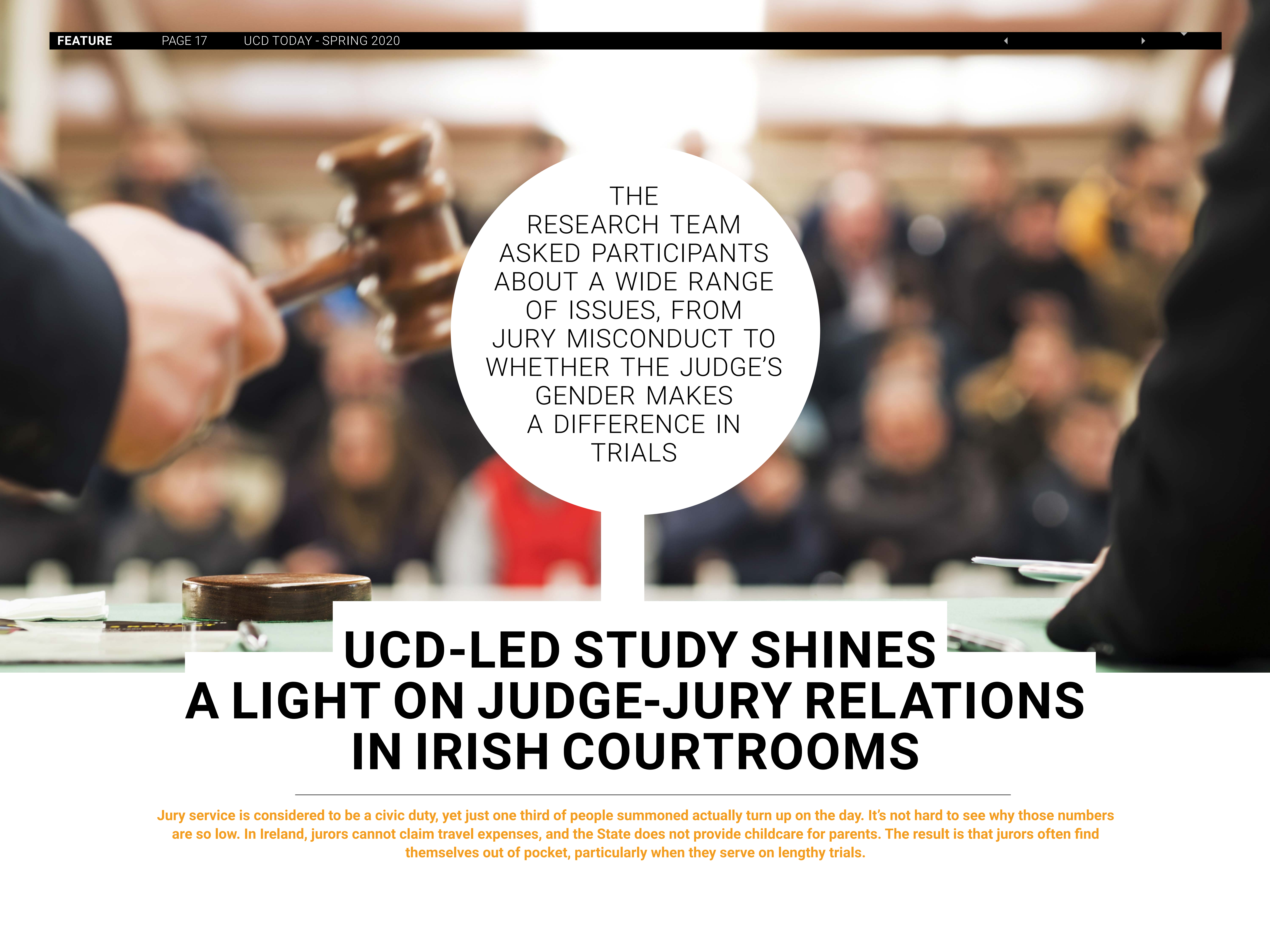
Cuireadh tús spleodrach le Seachtain na Gaeilge UCD nuair a ghlac breis is 70 imreoir páirt i gComórtas Liathróidh Láimhe UCD 2020, 7 Márta. Thaisteal na himreoirí ó chlubanna ó thuaidh agus ó dheas, cuid acu ag tacú leis an gcomórtas seo don 9ú bliain as a céile. B'iad James Prentice agus Paul Donnelly, ó Thiobráid Árann agus ó Thír Eoghan faoi seach, a rug an lá leo le scór 19-15 i gcoinne Terry McElvaney agus a chomhimreoir Conor O'Gorman.

B'í an sár imreoir agus mac léinn Ad Astra Clodagh Nash, a stiúraigh comórtas 2020. Alumnus Máirtín Ó Maolchiarain a bhunaigh an comórtas siar in 2011 agus coinneigh Cumann Liathróidh Láimhe UCD ar a bhfód é ó shin i leith. Táimid ag tnúth go mór le 10 bliain den chomórtas seo a cheiliúradh in 2021.

Student Clodagh Nash, UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics, led the 2020 Bilingual One-Wall Handball Competition, a competition founded by alumnus Martin Mulkerrins, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science in 2011. Both Clodagh and Martin, highly ranked handballers internationally, were scholars in UCD's Irish Language Student Residence Scheme as well as UCD Ad Astra Sports Scholars.



A Cup winners Paul Donnelly and James Prentice



THE
RESEARCH TEAM
ASKED PARTICIPANTS
ABOUT A WIDE RANGE
OF ISSUES, FROM
JURY MISCONDUCT TO
WHETHER THE JUDGE'S
GENDER MAKES
A DIFFERENCE IN
TRIALS

UCD-LED STUDY SHINES A LIGHT ON JUDGE-JURY RELATIONS IN IRISH COURTROOMS

Jury service is considered to be a civic duty, yet just one third of people summoned actually turn up on the day. It's not hard to see why those numbers are so low. In Ireland, jurors cannot claim travel expenses, and the State does not provide childcare for parents. The result is that jurors often find themselves out of pocket, particularly when they serve on lengthy trials.

Another important area examined in the study is jury misconduct – an issue that has become increasingly important in the digital age

These issues, and many more, are examined in a new study published by UCD Sutherland School of Law. The team of researchers interviewed 22 judges and 11 barristers to examine the ways in which judges interact with juries in criminal trials in Ireland. The research team – which includes Dr Mark Coen and Dr Niamh Howlin – asked participants about a wide range of issues, from jury misconduct to whether the judge's gender makes a difference in trials. In particular, judges expressed clear views about how jurors are currently treated, and how they should be treated, according to Dr Coen.

Many judges spoke about what they see as the poor treatment of jurors within the Irish courts system, and some of them made “quite strong comments” about the hurdles they face. “They said things like ‘the current system is appalling’ or ‘it’s grossly unfair’ or ‘jurors are treated very badly’. They were also very conscious of the issues facing self-employed jurors, who often cannot take their place on a jury as they cannot recoup income from any other means,” Coen says.

“It was striking to us how judges, who are often depicted as being out of touch with everyday life, were – without us prompting them – talking about things like a lack of provision of car parking, the cost of petrol, the cost of childcare,” he says. Judges were overwhelmingly of the opinion that jurors should be allowed to claim expenses, but also felt that they should not be paid for their time. Many pointed out that jury service is a civic duty – but several said that people should not be out of pocket for doing that duty.

Elsewhere in the research, judges spoke of the need for pre-trial hearings to be introduced in Ireland. The introduction of these hearings would mean issues like the admissibility of evidence could be debated before the jury is assembled, which would help minimise disruption to jurors' lives.

Notably, there were no major areas of divergence between judges and barristers in the study – however, researchers did find some



Pictured (l-r) are: John Lynch, Dr Niamh Howlin, Mr Justice Frank Clarke, Dr Colette Barry and Dr Mark Coen.

disagreement about whether the gender of the judge makes a difference in a jury trial.

“Some of the judges were surprised they were being asked about gender – they thought it was irrelevant in this day and age,” Coen says. “A couple of the male judges replied and said ‘I think female judges are just as good as male judges’ as if we were casting aspersions on female judges by asking the question, which we weren’t.” Female judges were more likely to point to differences in the way they are perceived by jurors rather than their male counterparts.

“One judge felt that jurors were sometimes surprised that she was a relatively young, middle-aged woman rather than a very elderly man when she walked out on the first day,” Coen says. Conversely, some of the barristers interviewed were “less reserved” when asked about gender. “Some [barristers] said that female judges were more organised and more professional. They also said some of the female judges can go a bit quickly for juries, rattle through the charge. Obviously, these are all generalisations,” Coen says.

Participants were also asked about their views on whether jurors should be given written materials in court. Historically, courtrooms have been firmly rooted in an oral tradition, but today, many countries provide jurors with written materials to aid their deliberations. In England, for example, “route to verdict” documents are “basically mandatory”, Coen says. These documents encourage jurors to address particular issues sequentially in their deliberations to help them reach a verdict.

While written materials are becoming more common in jury trials abroad, this is not the case in Ireland. None of the judges interviewed for this study had ever given written materials to a jury. Furthermore, Dr Coen says judges had “an overwhelmingly negative reaction” to the idea, and many were unaware that the practice is commonplace in other countries. The report recommends that judges be offered educational seminars to help inform them about international developments.

Another important area examined in the study is jury misconduct – an issue that has

become increasingly important in the digital age. Today, most people have access to the internet, meaning jurors can easily research the accused online. The study found that there is significant divergence in judges' handling of the issue. Around half of judges warn jurors about the internet in all cases; a quarter warn jurors in some cases, and a quarter said they never give a warning.

“These figures are concerning because they show that there is no clear practice currently in place for judges to follow,” Dr Coen explains. “Some judges expressed concerns that warning jurors about the dangers of researching the accused online could make them think there is something they should know that is being kept from them.” But Coen says this view is “not very convincing”.

“It’s not a question of putting it in someone’s head; it’s already in their head, and furthermore, it’s now the natural thing to do,” he says. “We’re all programmed to conduct our own research now, so one of our recommendations [in the study] is that there needs to be a standardised direction relating to the internet and it needs to be given in every case.”

There is more work to be done for Coen and the research team. Going forward, they will publish a series of peer reviewed articles based on their findings. But jurors are the “missing pieces” in the puzzle, Dr Coen says – and the full picture of judge-jury relations in Ireland will not become clear until their voices are heard.

Dr Mark Coen was in conversation with Patrick Kelleher (BA 2015, MA 2017), a freelance journalist.



Pictured at the launch are (l-r): Dr Sarah Donnelly, Senator Colette Kelleher and Dr Marita O'Brien.

Falling Through the Cracks

A new report *Falling Through the Cracks - the Case for Change, Key Developments and Next Steps for Adult Safeguarding in Ireland* was launched in December by Minister for Health, Simon Harris TD.

The report has revealed how current law, policy and protections are inadequate to safeguard the well-being of vulnerable adults. The research was commissioned by Senator Colette Kelleher, Houses of the Oireachtas and was carried out by Dr Sarah Donnelly, Assistant Professor at UCD School of Social Work, School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice and Dr Marita O'Brien, Independent Health Policy Analyst. The study involved interviews and focus groups with social workers, Alzheimer Society of

Ireland Dementia Advisors and a SAGE Regional Advocacy Co-ordinator; and included an online survey of 116 social workers.

It identified four key areas that need to be addressed: Adults who can't and are denied the chance to express their will and preference; coercive control; failure to provide any health and social care services; and poor information-sharing with GDPR highlighted as "a significant barrier to effective safeguarding". According to the report "there is a considerable lack of consistency in practice, in terms of available resources, roles and responsibilities and interagency working across HSE Safeguarding and Protection Social Work teams", while "referral process for adult safeguarding was described by participants as being in disarray".

UCD alumni celebrate Grafton Architects at their Royal Gold Medal Lecture in London

Dublin-based Grafton Architects, co-founded by UCD alumni Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara, was named the 2020 recipient of the RIBA Royal Gold Medal. This follows the award of the medal to UCD alumni and Professors (Emeritus) Sheila O'Donnell and John Tuomey in 2015.

On Wednesday 12 February, the evening before the medal presentation, Shelley and Yvonne delivered a public lecture at the Royal Institute of British Architects to mark the occasion. Professor Hugh Campbell, Dean of Architecture at the UCD School of Architecture, Planning, and Environmental Policy, provided an introduction and moderated the post-lecture audience Q&A session.

UCD was able to secure a block of seats at the event, and 70 UCD alumni were in attendance to celebrate Yvonne and Shelley's achievements, and those of the numerous alumni who have contributed to the work of Grafton Architects

since its establishment in 1978.

On 3 March, it was announced that they have also been named the 2020 laureates of the Pritzker Architecture Prize, their profession's highest honour. The pair are the first two women to share the architecture world's most prestigious prize and are the first duo in almost a decade to receive the award.

Shelley and Yvonne graduated from UCD in 1974 and subsequently taught there over many years. More recently, they have served as Adjunct Professors. In 2015, they received UCD Alumni Awards and in 2019, they were awarded the Ulysses Medal, UCD's highest honour.



Prof Hugh Campbell with Yvonne and Shelley.



A video letter sent by Tsuda University's students!

Discovery Module 'Gateways to Japan'

In 2018, an academic-led, multi-disciplinary group called UCD Japan launched a credit-bearing elective module, Gateways to Japan. The module locates Japan, not as a country in the Far East, but as a country lived, experienced, and analysed by Irish and non-Japanese people, as well as by Japanese themselves. Into its second year, the module has reached maximum capacity with 52 students from disciplines ranging from drama, law, politics, economics, social computing, food science, geography, chemistry to genetics.

Module co-ordinator Associate Professor Emma Sokell, UCD School of Physics is working closely with Nobuko Ijichi, UCD Japan and UCD Applied Language Centre and Associate Professor Naonori Kodate, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice who contribute to its teaching and co-ordination. This year we have already welcomed a few guest lecturers who are experts and practitioners in different areas and have seen Japan through different lenses (e.g. Linda Hoey, World Rugby and

UCD alumna (Leadership Management) and Associate Professor Seiichiro Fujii from Daito Bunka University, Tokyo). We have also covered history (Dr Declan Downey, UCD School of History), philosophy (Dr Kenn Nakana Steffensen, formerly UCD School of Philosophy), education (Takanori Miyazaki, UCD School of Physics) and diplomacy (Adjunct Professor John Neary, SPWJ).

Future sessions will deal with 'doing research in Japan/with Japanese researchers' (Professor Brian Caulfield, UCD School of

Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science and Insight Centre for Data Analytics and Professor Stephen Gordon, UCD School of Veterinary Medicine). The themes include language and culture, politics, gender equality, social care and technology. The module is designed in particular to sensitise students to one of the major Asian cultures and to provide those from all disciplines with an opportunity to reflect on Irish society from a comparative perspective.

At a time of global geopolitical transformation, this Discovery Module is offering students the opportunity to access global knowledge about Japan without travelling afar, while learning about intercultural competence (Find more about Discovery Modules: www.ucd.ie/students/electives/discovery).



Pictured are (l-r): Prof Andrew Deeks; Prof Colin Scott, Vice-Principal, UCD College of Social Science and Law; Prof Imelda Maher, Dean and Head of UCD Sutherland School of Law; and Julian Yarr.

Strategic Partnership Agreement between UCD and A&L Goodbody

UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks welcomed Julian Yarr, Managing Partner, A&L Goodbody and his senior colleagues to UCD University Club to sign a Strategic Partnership Agreement in March. Both parties took the opportunity to reflect on achievements so far and the potential for further collaboration for mutual benefit.

A&L Goodbody has built a close relationship with the UCD Sutherland School of Law and UCD College of Business over the years and has been very supportive of a wide range of student activities.

The Agreement gives UCD and A&L Goodbody the opportunity to build on the many successful aspects of the relationship to date and covers: Talent Development; Research, Innovation and Thought Leadership; and Corporate Social Responsibility.



Matt Moran, Judging Co-ordinator, presents the Laboratory Scientist of the Year award to Dr Jaythoon Hassan.

■ Laboratory Scientist of the Year Award

Congratulations to Dr Jaythoon Hassan, UCD National Virus Reference Laboratory, winner of this year's Laboratory Scientist of the Year Award. This award recognises her contribution to innovation, leadership and research, at both a national and international level.

Dr Hassan's research is focused on viral host-pathogen interactions with a view towards understanding the factors affecting the development of immunity due to vaccine or natural viral exposure. She aims to translate her findings to the development of innovative diagnostic assays to help improve laboratory based diagnostic algorithms. She has recently secured significant research funding from SFI, Temple Street Foundation and the National Children's Research Centre, Crumlin and works in close collaboration with colleagues in the HSE Health Protection Surveillance Centre; CUH Temple Street; St. Vincent's University Hospital, TCD, TU Dublin, DCU and the National Children's Research Centre to facilitate these studies.

Dr Hassan is a member of the UCD Centre for Experimental Pathogen Host Research.



Dr Ariane Watson

■ New study to uncover human genes controlling HIV infection

A map of HIV infection that highlights genetic weaknesses during the infection process has been published in the current issue of the journal *Molecular Cell*. This research used a large-scale genetic approach based on the idea that richer information about the relationship between genes can be revealed when they are tested in pairs rather than one by one.

Dr Ariane Watson, a postdoctoral researcher in Systems Biology Ireland, is co-lead author of the work carried out with researchers in University of California San Francisco (UCSF). This was part of her PhD project supervised by Dr Gerard Cagney, UCD Conway Institute and UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science.

Together with co-lead author, David Gordon (UCSF), Ariane developed a map (vE-MAP) by testing 63,000 combinations of human genes. This map allows them to visualise the many genes and cellular processes that control

HIV growth in human cells. They uncovered a previously unknown set of genes required for the growth of the virus in human cells.

Viruses are parasites that grow by living off their hosts. When viruses infect a human host, they use human proteins to complete their life cycle and often change the human cells to sustain their growth. The human host tries to defend itself by activating mechanisms to withstand infection.

Most current drugs against viral infections target the virus itself. However, scientists are

trying to develop therapies that aim for host proteins instead, or the genes that produce them. This may provide clinicians with therapies that are less likely to cause drug resistance.

To do this, scientists need to know all the host proteins and genes that support or stall a viral infection. They also want to understand the dynamics of the relationships between these host genes and proteins such as whether they work together or independently.

The vE-MAP platform provides an unprecedented view of how HIV hijacks and rewires the cellular machinery in human cells during infection. It will generate many new ideas and avenues to identify and test novel therapies.

Record number of exhibitors attend Careers Day 2020

The UCD Agriculture, Food Science and Human Nutrition Careers Day took place on Wednesday, 12 February 2020 in UCD Ad Astra Hall. A record number of 50 exhibitors were in attendance this year to meet final year students and discuss various available roles. The keynote address 'New Career Challenges in Agriculture and Food' was delivered by Richard Kennedy, UCD alumnus, CEO Devenish and 2019 EY Entrepreneur of the Year. Seamus O'Mahony, President of the Agriculture Science Association (ASA) presented ten prizes to the winners of the ASA Mock Interviews.

This annual event is organised by the Agricultural Science Society (AgSoc) Careers Committee. The chair for 2019/20 is Owen Cashman, final year Animal and Crop Production student from Glanmire, Co Cork.

The UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science team claimed the 5th Great Agri-food Debate title for a fourth time after it was declared overall winner at this year's contest. Team Members were Una Sinnott, Captain and Participant - Food & Agribusiness Management Student, Year 4; Owen Cashman, Participant

- Animal and Crop Production Student, Year 4; Thomas Meade, Participant - Food & Agribusiness Management Student, Year 4; Simon Lanigan, Participant - Animal Science Student, Year 2. Simon won Best Speaker award in semi-final; Stephen Claxton, Participant - Animal Science Student, Year 2; Ciara Byers, Participant - Agricultural Science Student, Year 1; Dathal Kent, Student observer and supporting member - Food & Agribusiness Management, Year 2; and Róisín Scully, Student observer and supporting member - Agricultural Science, Year 1.



The winning team with Niall Browne, CEO Dawn Meats, and Nina Prichard, Head of Sustainable and Ethical sourcing, McDonald's UK & Ireland.



Richard Stephens, Margaret Grayson and Prof Amanda McCann.

Dragons' Den – Involving Patients and Carers in Cancer Research

The second regional meeting of the Patient Voice in Cancer Research (PVCR) was held in Galway on Tuesday, 25 February. This patient involvement workshop was jointly hosted with the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI), a UK-wide partnership of research funders working together to maximise the value and benefits of cancer research for patients and the public.

The aim of this workshop was for researchers to get input on specific questions or challenges that they are facing in their research projects from those individuals with a lived experience of cancer.

This was the first time a Dragons' Den style patient involvement event was held in Ireland. The format is often used by the National Cancer Research Institute during their consumer forum meetings.

Ten research groups from around Ireland were shortlisted to host tables at the event. Each research group presented their specific question

or challenge to a group of seven patients, family members, carers or patient advocates for discussion and feedback.

Topics ranged from developing an eHealth online portal to alleviate the information deficit experienced by cancer patients and survivors; gaining feedback on a home-based device for fluid management in late-stage cancer and improving awareness of cancer associated thrombosis.

In addition, several patient support, advocacy and charity groups attended the event. They included East Galway Cancer Support, Men

Against Cancer, CanCare4Living, WigWorld, Lynch Syndrome Ireland, Precision Oncology Ireland, Breakthrough Cancer and the Irish Cancer Society.

Richard Stephens, former Chair, NCRI Consumer Forum and Margaret Grayson MBE, Chair, Northern Ireland Cancer Research Consumer Forum co-facilitated the event.

Professor Amanda McCann, Director of the UCD Centre in Translational Oncology and PVCR Chair said, "This has been a wonderful opportunity for those who have been on a cancer journey to shape and improve current and future research projects. Equally, it was an incredible privilege for researchers to gain valuable insight on specific questions or challenges facing them in their respective cancer research projects."

■ UCD Sports Technology Spin-out closes €1.3 Million Seed Investment Round

Output Sports, a UCD sports technology spin-out, has closed a €1.3 million seed funding round. The funding round was led by the Atlantic Bridge University Fund, with Elkstone Partners, Enterprise Ireland, and angel investors, John Hearne, co-founder and former CEO of Curám Software and Leinster Rugby players, Adam Byrne and Dan Leavy.

The global sports wearables and sports analytics markets which Output Sports is targeting are multi-billion and rapidly growing. Using advanced signal processing and machine learning techniques Output Sports has developed Output // Capture, an end-to-end solution that can test multiple components of athletic performance and track training programmes with a single wearable sensor. Now for the first time ever, a wearable for exercise analysis can enable coaches to truly understand athletes and optimise their performance in a single, user-centric, fully integrated system.

The company, headquartered at NovaUCD, was co-founded in 2018 by Dr Martin O'Reilly, Dr Darragh Whelan, Julian Eberle and Professor Brian Caulfield as a spin-out from the UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science

and the Insight SFI Research Centre for Data Analytics at UCD following the completion of Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Funding.

Output // Capture systems are already being used by over 40 professional teams including international and premier league football teams, professional rugby organisations and Olympic athletes in Ireland, UK and USA.

The seed funding will support the company's commercial strategy to expand Output // Capture into the elite and sub-elite sports markets in the UK and Europe and to build on key partnerships already established in the US market. The funding will also enable the company to expand its R&D and technology team to develop, Output // Hub and Output // Insights, follow-on products to Output // Capture.

Dr Martin O'Reilly, CEO and co-founder, Output Sports said, "After

6 years of research in UCD it is incredibly exciting to reach this pivotal milestone of seed investment. We are invigorated to be backed by such a diverse set of investors, each bringing their own unique value to the Output mission. As a company we believe greatly in the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration. This funding will enable us to build our team who have skills and expertise in business development, sports science, engineering, data science, strength and conditioning and physiotherapy. In the coming months the company will grow to a team of 9 based at NovaUCD."

Caption: Pictured (l-r) at the UCD Institute for Sport and Health are; Dr Darragh Whelan and Dr Martin O'Reilly, co-founders, Output Sports; angel investors and Leinster Rugby players, Dan Leavy and Adam Byrne; and Julian Eberle, co-founder, Output Sports.



Pictured (l-r) at the UCD Institute for Sport and Health are; Dr Darragh Whelan and Dr Martin O'Reilly, co-founders, Output Sports; angel investors and Leinster Rugby players, Dan Leavy and Adam Byrne; and Julian Eberle, co-founder, Output Sports.



■ €170,000 allocated to 45 UCD Learning Enhancement Projects

€170,000 was allocated to fund 45 creative and interesting Learning Enhancement Projects throughout UCD in January 2020. The purpose of the funding is to support local engagement with teaching and learning enhancement by individuals or small teams of faculty, staff and students. A key feature of the scheme is the requirement for students to actively participate in the implementation projects. The funding is part of €5 million for teaching and learning capacity-building announced in Budget 2019 and came via the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, following a successful application by UCD Teaching and Learning in October 2019. Allocated funds must be spent by December 2020 after which time the projects will be showcased.

UCD Teaching and Learning held a consultation event in November bringing together a broad cross-section of the UCD community including students, faculty and staff to help identify areas within and across schools and units that

could benefit from small-scale learning enhancement funding. An advisory group was set up to advise on and oversee the design and implementation of a University-wide funding call to stimulate small-scale local enhancement projects (LEPs), in line with the criteria set out by the external funder. The consultation event outputs helped to inform the funding call.

Engagement with the Learning Enhancement Projects greatly exceeded expectations both at the consultation phase, which included students, faculty and staff and at the highly competitive applications phase.

Applications were invited for grants of up to €5,000 each. A total of 90 applications were submitted including 14 cross-disciplinary applications. The strong engagement from staff and students with which the call was met was most welcome, particularly in light of the requirement for active student involvement. There were seven adjudication panels, one for each college and a non-college panel.



Pictured are just some of the amazing singers with Miriam O'Callaghan and Marty Morrissey.

Choirs unite in tribute to cancer community

To mark the 20th anniversary of World Cancer Day, more than 300 singers gathered in UCD O'Reilly Hall on Tuesday, 4 February in a community tribute to those whose lives have been touched by cancer. Now in its second year, the 'Choirs for Cancer' initiative brought together cancer patients, advocates, survivors and family members to share the story of their cancer journey.

Cancer researchers spoke of their motivation and progress towards finding new ways to prevent, diagnose and treat this devastating disease. These stories were interspersed with inspirational songs by 10 choirs from across the island of Ireland, many linked with cancer support centres or cancer fundraising efforts.

'Choirs for Cancer' also recognised the tireless work of patient advocates around Ireland, including cervical cancer campaigner, Stephen

Teap who spoke about losing his wife, Irene to this disease in 2017.

There were songs and performances from singers and choirs including St Mary's Newport Secondary School Choir, Tipperary; ARC Angel Choir, ARC Dublin Cancer Support Centre; Healthy Harmony Choir, Ennis; Mount Sion School Choir, Waterford City; Solas Cancer Support Centre, Waterford; Sing for Life Choir, Cancer Focus Northern Ireland; Loreto College, Foxrock; Maria Lane Choir, Tallaght Cancer Support Centre; singer-songwriter Hermione Hennessy; and the UCD Community Choir.

Each choir sang a song with a special meaning to them on the themes of care, hope, strength, love, loss and community, followed by a combined choral performance of 'Something Inside So Strong'.

Organiser Professor William Gallagher, Deputy Director of Precision Oncology Ireland said, "This event provides a fantastic opportunity for those impacted by cancer to tell their story, and for their collective voice to be heard".

RTÉ broadcasters, Miriam O'Callaghan and Marty Morrissey hosted the 'Choirs for Cancer' event, which is jointly organised by Precision Oncology Ireland and The Patient Voice in Cancer Research.



Pictured (l-r) Dr Ellen Rowley; Dee Forbes, Director-General RTÉ; Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact; and series producer, Clíodhna Ní Anluain.

UCD partners RTÉ for stirring radio series

In January and February, RTÉ Radio 1 aired the UCD-sponsored Davis Now series 'Making Home', featuring five fascinating lectures around the subject of where and how we live. The scripted talks were recorded in front of live audiences last summer in iconic venues around Ireland, including the former Callan Workhouse in Co Kilkenny and Nano Nagle Place in Cork City.

Touching on a subject that has dominated public discourse in Ireland – and this year's general election – the five speakers looked at home and housing from different perspectives. Series consultant editor Dr Ellen Rowley, UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy (APEP), gave an architectural history of Irish housing, exploring what the physical evolution of dwellings in Ireland has revealed about our cultural mindset around home. From UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, Professor Michelle Norris' 'Unmaking Home' was a concise history of Irish housing policy and a digest of Ireland's changing circumstances, attitudes and decision-making that led to the modern housing crisis. Professor Hugh Campbell (also APEP), examined the psychology of design and what the spaces we occupy say about us. The series had contributions also from Artistic

Director of Artsadmin London, Roise Goan – on representation of the home in theatre – and Professor of Engineering and the Arts at Trinity College, Linda Doyle, on smart homes.

Dr Rowley told UCD Today: "The Davis Now 'Making Home' lecture series provide a considered and deeper or slower and more thought-provoking space for discussing different aspects of how we live, the home, and housing. For me, as consultant editor, I selected this group of lecturers because I wanted them to be heard by the country at large. Though really successful and busy in their own fields, nationally and internationally, these particular speakers don't often get heard outside of their specialist fields or institutions in Ireland. So, in that sense, the series brought 'new' ideas and voices to the public."

The series was created by RTÉ producer Clíodhna Ní Anluain and is available to listen to on podcast via the [UCD APEP website](https://www.ucep.ie).

AgTech Connector Innovation Hub at UCD Lyons Farm

NovaUCD, the Centre for New Ventures and Entrepreneurs at UCD, has been awarded €3 million in funding to develop an AgTech Connector Innovation Hub at UCD Lyons Farm in Co Kildare

NovaUCD was one of 26 successful applicants, representing all regions of the country, who was recently approved for funding under the third round of the Regional Enterprise Development Fund (REDF).

UCD Lyons Farm is a fully functioning farm comprising of 250 hectares of land, with dairy, beef, sheep, equine, crop and environmental research, teaching and commercial facilities, located between Celbridge and Newcastle.

The goal of the AgTech Connector Innovation Hub is to bring together the AgTech ecosystem in Ireland to accelerate the launch and scaling of AgTech companies by providing them with access to on-farm research collaboration

opportunities, a location to test and trial their products and services in a real-world environment; along with access to dedicated acceleration programmes and incubation facilities.

This project will be led by NovaUCD, in collaboration with AIB, Kildare County Council and Kildare LEO; agri-companies including Devenish, Dairymaster and Glanbia; investors

Finistere, The Yield Lab, and Atlantic Bridge and leading AgTech researchers and innovators at UCD, Teagasc and Wageningen, Netherlands.

Tom Flanagan, Director of Enterprise and Commercialisation, NovaUCD said: "The global AgTech sector is ripe for disruption and Ireland now has a great opportunity to leverage its unique assets to develop innovative, job creating AgTech companies with global ambition.

"With AIB, and the support of our project collaborators, we will now develop a nationwide innovation challenge programme to identify a pipeline of early-stage high-potential innovations, entrepreneurs and new ventures to accelerate through the new AgTech Connector Innovation Hub. The new hub will also act as an international showcase destination for business and investors to view the best of innovation in AgTech in Ireland."

UCD Lyons Farm



Fighting Back: US Litigation in the #MeToo Era

In March, UCD Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice hosted a fascinating lecture by Paul Llewellyn and Ryan Erickson (Lewis & Llewellyn LLP, California) in UCD Sutherland School of Law.

Organised by Dr Deirdre Healy and Professor Ian O'Donnell, the distinguished guest lecture by the two US litigators was entitled 'Fighting Back: U.S. Litigation in The #MeToo Era'. In

the course of their lecture, they described their work pursuing civil lawsuits on behalf of survivors of sexual abuse which has earned them a reputation as two of America's leading practitioners in this area. In 2012, they represented victims in a case against a California school which has since become the largest ever sexual abuse settlement by a school district in United States history.

Since that ground-breaking case, their work has helped victims of abuse find justice and, in the process, helped drive institutional change to prevent future instances of abuse. The lecture was well attended by students, faculty and staff and is part of an extensive programme planned by the UCD Institute of Criminology and Criminal Justice to celebrate the 20th anniversary of its establishment (contact criminology@ucd.ie for details).

Pictured (l-r) are: Dr Deirdre Healy, Ryan Erickson, Paul Llewellyn and Prof Ian O'Donnell.



Pictured at the launch are (l-r): Holly Dignam, Prof Joe Carthy and Theresa O' Leary.

Launch of UCD Community Engagement Report

On International Volunteer Day, Thursday 5 December 2019, UCD in the Community was delighted to launch the UCD Community Engagement Report 2018-19. The report serves two purposes: it highlights the wide array of community engagement activities taking place in Belfield, Smurfit and beyond, while simultaneously aiming to inspire members of the UCD community who are not currently engaged in such activities to become involved.

As Professor Joe Carthy states in the report, "Throughout our long history, UCD faculty, staff, students and alumni have contributed in many ways to thousands of community initiatives and organisations. The purpose of this report is firstly, to celebrate, highlight and record and the many fantastic contributions both outside and within the university." UCD

in the Community acknowledges that the report is just a snapshot of the community engagement activities of the University and does not capture the full extent of engagement taking place. Members of the UCD community who are actively involved in community engagement activities are encouraged to submit to the 2019-20 report.

At the launch, Professor Carthy introduced three contributors to the report to speak about their activities: Dr Daniel Crean, UCD School of Veterinary Medicine; Dr Bridget Hogg, UCD School of Veterinary Medicine; and Associate Professor Hilda Loughran, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice. These case studies demonstrated the range from social outreach projects to volunteering and community engaged learning.

Aligning with core objective 3, *Continue to build our engagement locally, nationally and internationally* of the UCD Strategy 2020-2024: Rising to the Future, UCD in the Community will continue to connect UCD employees and students with the wider community for mutual benefit, and in exchange, empowering the UCD community as socially aware, global citizens.

EU Foreign Policy Discussion

On 3 March 2020, UCD School of Politics and International Relations, as a partner within the GLOBUS H2020 research project, hosted a public policy dialogue to discuss the implications of the present context of global uncertainty and unpredictability for the EU's foreign policy. Scheduled to be held in the European Parliament, the event was an early victim of the Parliament's sudden closure on the evening of 2 March in response to the COVID-19 virus.

With the support of the office of Sean Kelly MEP, the event was relocated to a central Brussels hotel overnight, and brought together more than 80 policy makers from 15 countries to discuss emerging patterns in EU foreign policy. The development of the EU's foreign

and security policy had gained momentum in parallel with the strengthening of multilateralism at the end of the Cold War. The Union's policy initiatives have traditionally been underpinned by a belief in multilateralism and in the ability of this rules-based order to contribute to global justice. That law-based, multilateral, world order can, however, no longer be taken for granted. Its legitimacy is challenged both by emerging powers, who point to the perceived hegemony of Europe and 'the West', and by the domestic politics of EU's transatlantic ally, the United States.

Professor Ben Tonra told UCD Today: "In this policy dialogue, we gathered a dozen MEPs, foreign policy practitioners and civil society leaders to reflect on the research conclusions of the GLOBUS project.

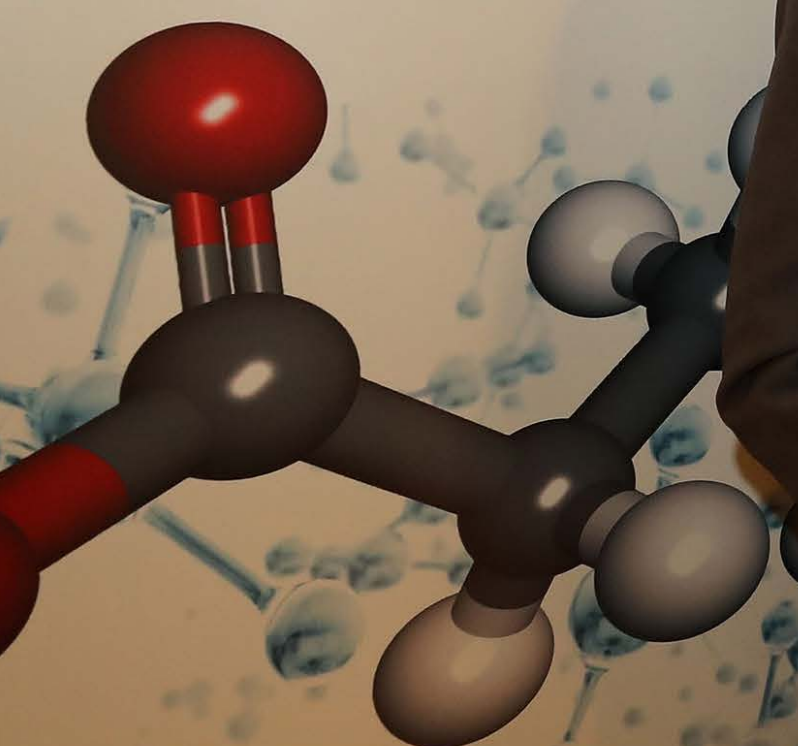
We also discussed, with all those participating, the implications of the present context of uncertainty and unpredictability for the foreign policy of a Union that is also struggling with its own internal challenges. We looked at the extent to which there had already been a shift in the Union's own prioritisation of global values, as well as what the implications of such a shift might be for the value basis of the EU's foreign policy. Through these discussions, we also addressed the ambiguities of the EU's own policies, past and present, with regard to the promotion of global justice, as well as possible scenarios for future developments across our fields of interest; of climate change, migration, development and conflict resolution and gender".



Pictured are (l-r) Barry Andrews MEP; Geert Laporte, Deputy Director, European Centre for Development Policy Management; Pundit Pillay Professor, Wits School of Governance & GLOBUS project; and Johanne D Saltnes, Postdoctoral Fellow, ARENA Centre for European Studies & GLOBUS project.

BioSimulytics

Crystal-structure prediction



Pictured (l-r) are BioSimulytics team members: Peter Doyle, commercial lead with Prof Niall English and Dr Christian Burnham, UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering.

BioSimulytics Wins 2019 Start-Up of the Year Award

BioSimulytics, which is developing a software platform to bring greater speed, certainty and product data quality to a critical part of the drug development process, has won the 2019 UCD Start-Up of the Year Award. The company won the award and a €32,000 prize fund, after being declared overall winner of the 2019 UCD VentureLaunch Accelerator Programme held last November.

The aim of the annual UCD VentureLaunch Accelerator Programme, which is held at NovaUCD, is to support the creation and launch of sustainable and profitable new start-ups emerging from the University.

BioSimulytics is developing a software solution which provides detailed profiles of

all polymorphs of a molecule, ranked by the most stable, with full certainty achieved within weeks, resulting in a 20-50% time saving on the current experimentation method. To do this the BioSimulytics platform uses a powerful combination of molecular chemistry, quantum physics, artificial intelligence and high-performance computing.

The members of the BioSimulytics team, a start-up emerging from the UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering are Professor Niall English, Dr Christian Burnham, Dr Pralok Samanta and commercial lead, Peter Doyle.

In addition to the 2019 UCD Start-up of the Year Award BioSimulytics received a cheque for €10,000 sponsored by AIB, and a professional services package to the value of €10,000 sponsored by Bryan Maguire Business Consulting and Deloitte. The overall winner will also receive incubation space at NovaUCD to the value of €12,000.



The Freshgraze System in action.

Freshgraze in Action

James Drumm is a first-year engineering Ad Astra student at UCD. Over the past year, he has been involved in launching Freshgraze with his father and brother.

He tells us: "Being a young founder of a tech-start up has been challenging but UCD and the Ad Astra programme have aided me significantly on my journey. The Ad Astra programme organised a number of workshops aimed at developing scholars' skills. I have been able to transfer those skills into running the business. Presentation workshops have helped me successfully pitch, leadership and emotional intelligence seminars have enabled me to effectively lead teams in and outside of the company and networking talks have taught me how meet with professionals and grow my business.

"The Freshgraze team is an interesting family dynamic – I develop the hardware and tech, my younger brother Charlie is the software expert and our father Thomas is the farmer. Together, we have designed, patented and prototyped the system and plan to trial it on select farms this summer."

Freshgraze is an automated moving fence and grassland management system. It allocates fresh grass to grazing animals up to 600 times a day, ensuring the animal is optimally fed and the land has been efficiently utilised. This results in a healthier animal, increased production and reduced labour and management. It allows for smart remote farming. This gives the farmer more control of the grass he is giving his cows and they can adjust the settings, removing the fresh grass to encourage cattle to come in for milking or if it is raining.

Freshgraze has won the best agri-tech start-up and best overall start-up in the Enterprise Ireland Innovation Arena at the National Ploughing Championships. They also took part in the Vodafone/Ericsson 5G accelerator in Nova UCD which has helped grow the business.



Pictured are (l-r): Dr Paulina Szklanna, Senior Research Scientist at UCD Conway Sphere; Prof Fionnuala Ni Áinle, Co-Director of UCD Conway SPHERE and Clinical Lead in the Department of Haematology at the Mater Misericordiae hospital; Prof Patricia Maguire, Director of UCD Institute for Discovery and Co-Director of UCD Conway Sphere; and Prof Mary Higgins, Associate Professor, UCD School of Medicine and Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at the National Maternity Hospital.

■ SFI AI for Societal Good Challenge

It has been called 'Dragon's Den for Scientists' with a number of shortlisted teams from UCD going head-to-head in SFI's €2 million AI for Societal Good Challenge throughout 2020. One such team, UCD Conway SPHERE, led by Professor Patricia Maguire, Director of UCD Institute for Discovery, will 'disrupt' diagnostics and save the lives of mothers and their new-born babies.

Reducing maternal and new-born mortality are priority goals under Sustainable Development Goal 3. The World Health Organisation has also said that many such deaths are preventable with effective, timely clinical interventions. Professor Maguire and her UCD Conway SPHERE colleagues – Professor Fionnuala Ni Áinle, Professor Mary Higgins and Dr Paulina Szklanna – set about addressing this challenge.

Professor Maguire told UCD Today: "Pre-eclampsia (PET) is difficult to diagnose and kills 50,000 mothers and 500,000 babies

globally every year. We will develop a new diagnostic test called #AI PREMie to better predict PET severity and help save lives.

"#AI PREMie is a risk stratification tool that identifies women with PET – and also how they will progress. At present delivery of the pre-term baby is the only treatment and the safest option for the mother. But pre-term delivery can lead to long-term neurodevelopmental problems and even death. Our #AI PREMie tool assesses the pre-eclampsia risk based on what are called biomarkers in the mother's blood. Caregivers

will then know if they need to plan for delivery or if the baby can stay in utero and have that precious opportunity to develop more. Every day in utero counts."

Finding PET biomarkers in a mother's blood "is like finding a needle in a haystack. Basically we have developed an algorithm to pull out that needle from the haystack," says Professor Maguire – and the AI for Societal Good Challenge supports interdisciplinary teams to develop novel, potentially disruptive, AI-based solutions that address significant national and global societal challenges.

The #AI PREMie project also includes the 'patient voice', with many women giving first-hand accounts of their own pre-eclampsia traumas.



Pictured are Assoc. Prof. Suzanne Guerin and Prof. Philip Dodd.

■ Improvement through Partnership

UCD Centre for Disability Studies and St Michael's House celebrated their ten-year partnership on International Disability Day, 3 December 2019. The partnership, led by Associate Professor Suzanne Guerin (UCD School of Psychology) and Professor Philip Dodd (St Michael's House), is the first such Memorandum of Understanding between an Irish university and disability service provider. Signed in 2009, it formalised a collaborative approach to disability research. Research activities have included service evaluations, student scholarships, biannual research seminars and presentations at international conferences.

Examples of these evaluations were showcased on the day including presentations by Dr Kevin Tracy, Clinical Psychologist, on Men's Sheds; Person Centred Planning by Elaine Teague, Director of Quality Improvement and Safety Development; and Key-working in Children's Services by Maria Nolan, Early Services Team Leader and Niamh Giltinen, Clinic Manager for Children's Services.

These examples of collaborative research were followed by a keynote address from Professor Angela Hassiotis, Professor of Psychiatry, UCL Centre for Intellectual and Developmental Disability Research. Professor Hassiotis identified areas for collaboration among all stakeholders including academics, disability services and 'experts by experience', individuals with disabilities who provide an essential voice in the development of support services.

UCD O'Reilly Hall

As we find ourselves in these unprecedented times, we take a look back over the past year to busier and exciting times, when the Conference and Events team was in full swing organising the arrival of the 30th European Conference on Operational Research to UCD. Our bustling campus hosted 2,500 delegates with a total of 51 parallel sessions taking place across six buildings in UCD and we were absolutely delighted with the client feedback. The team is currently busy with enquiries for 2021, 2022 and beyond and looking forward with great hope to an exciting few years ahead.

"The UCD Conference and Events team was delighted to receive this feedback from the organisers of the 30th European Conference on Operational Research conference. "We had the pleasure of working with the team in UCD on the 2019 European Conference on Operational Research (EURO 2019), the largest and most important conference for Operational Research in Europe. Such an event requires a significant level of

advance planning and communication between the organisers and the venue. In the 2 years of planning in the lead up to EURO 2019, the team in UCD was incredibly supportive and available at all times to answer any queries and update our meeting room requirements as the conference program evolved.

"Onsite at the event itself, UCD helped deliver a memorable experience for all attendees. Over 2,500 delegates were catered for each day from the kitchen in O'Reilly Hall whilst the Café opened early each morning to offer breakfast for delegates staying on campus. Another key aspect of the EURO Conference is the number of VIP meetings that take place throughout the week. The University Club was a major asset to us for this element of the event. We used The University Club to hold a number of breakfast/lunch meetings for up to 80 delegates at a very high standard and in close proximity to where the conference was taking place, it was perfect!

EURO 2019 is widely regarded as one of the most successful conferences in their 30-year history and this is in no small part due to the wonderful team and the state of the art facilities in UCD. We thoroughly enjoyed working with you all and look forward to the next opportunity to collaborate on an event."



Research Projects to Receive Funding under DTIF

Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Heather Humphreys TD, together with Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Regina Doherty TD, last December announced at an event held at NovaUCD that UCD is a partner in 4 of 16 innovative projects which have been successful under the second round of the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund (DTIF).

QColr Quantum Computing in Ireland, developing a software platform for multiple qubit technologies to explore their potential to address challenging problems arising in areas such as financial services, logistics or drug discovery, is to receive €7.3 million over three years. The members of this project consortium are; Professor R Bogdan Staszewski, UCD School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, with lead partner IBM Ireland Ltd and Tyndall National Institute, Maynooth University, Rockley Photonics Ireland, Equal1 Laboratories Ireland, a UCD spin-out headquartered at NovaUCD, and MasterCard Ireland.

Pharma Latch, developing a disruptive microneedle drug delivery platform, is to receive €4.4 million over three years. The members of this

project consortium are; Dr Eoin O'Cearbhaill, UCD School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering with lead partner Latch Medical, a UCD spin-out headquartered at NovaUCD, Blueacre Technology and TheraDep.

EyeVU, developing a miniaturised 'eyeball' endoscope camera, which will allow clinicians to see around corners with unparalleled precision is to receive €3.2 million over three years. The members of this project consortium are; Professor Fengzhou Fang and Dr Jufan Zhang, UCD School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering with lead partner Tympany Medical, Genetian Services and NCAD.

Transpire, developing a trained AI platform for regulation, that combines human expertise with artificial intelligence to demystify laws and

regulations making it easier to do business while protecting consumers, is to receive €2 million over three years. The members of this project consortium are; Dr David Lillis, UCD School of Computer Science and CeADAR, with lead partner Corlytics, a NovaUCD graduate company, now headquartered at NexusUCD, and Singlepoint Solutions.

Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact said, "I am delighted that UCD researchers are partnering in four of the successful disruptive projects which will be funded under the second tranche of this highly competitive fund. I am also very pleased to see two UCD spin-out companies, Equal1 Labs and Latch Medical, both headquartered here at NovaUCD, along with NovaUCD graduate company Corlytics, as partners in projects funded under the scheme. This strong involvement of UCD researchers and UCD companies reflects the strength of research and innovation activities taking place across UCD."



Pictured (l-r) at NovaUCD are; Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection, Regina Doherty, TD; Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Heather Humphreys, TD; Julie Sinnamon, CEO, Enterprise Ireland, and Dr Nicky Bertollo, CEO and co-founder, Latch Medical.

Books

■ International Perspectives on Social Work and Political Conflict

Routledge

ISBN: 978-1-138-55730-7

ISBN: 978-1-315-15083-3 (e-book)

Professor Jim Campbell, UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice



Professor Campbell is co-editor of this book, in which he provides a unique insider experience of social work in Northern Ireland at the height of the Troubles.

As someone who was born, brought up and worked for most of his life in Belfast, Jim tells us: "I have had many poignant, painful and rewarding experiences, in personal terms, as a practicing and later academic social worker."

Life went on even in the midst of the worst violence of the Troubles. Despite of the fact that Northern Ireland, for its size, is one of the most researched pieces of land, we know relatively little about the experiences of social work and

other professionals during the last forty years of the Troubles.

"This explains a recent, seminal research project that I was involved in, with Dr Joe Duffy, Queens University Belfast and Professor Carol Tosone, NYU. A mixed methods study examined the views of social workers who practiced at the height of the Troubles, from 1969 to the signing of the Belfast Agreement in 1998. Their powerful stories revealed how the abnormal was made normal, how professional interventions were delivered in the midst of violence and also how practice and personal lives were affected."

These accounts are revealed in this book, the first three chapters explore the role of social work in Northern Ireland, with following chapters examining a rich set of case studies from Israel, Palestine, Bosnia Herzegovina, Cyprus, South Africa, Hong Kong and Tajikistan. Across the chapters we find important issues of comparison and contrast in the role of the state, social work agencies and social movements in shaping how practitioners dealt with the needs of victims and survivors.

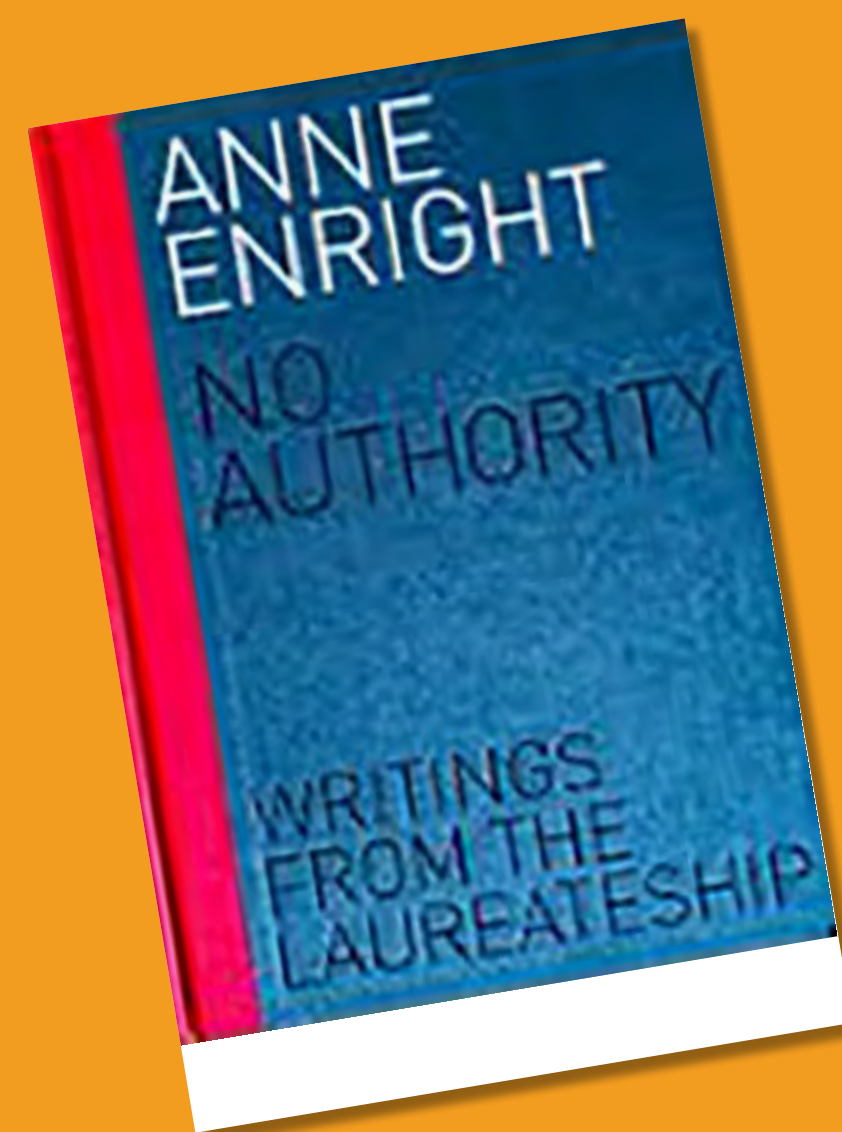
Jim concludes: "One of the many lessons from these narratives is that social workers need to be more politically active, to build alliances with disadvantaged communities and to have a voice in social change and the peace building. Paraphrasing Heaney: Whatever you say, say something." **MS**

■ No Authority: Writings from the Laureateship

Professor Anne Enright, UCD School of English, Drama and Film

Published by UCD Press, with support from The Arts Council

ISBN: 978-1-910-82051-3



The accomplishment of Anne Enright's writing led to her selection as Laureate for Irish Fiction in 2015 and her subsequent appointment as Professor of Creative Writing at UCD in 2018. This slim volume is a journey that tosses between fiction and prose leaving the reader in no doubt about the creativity of her storytelling, the power of her lectures and the questions they provoke.

In her introduction, she calls out Donald Trump's political posturing. His behaviour, "his childishness" is, according to her, "a distraction from more sinister content: an unsayable understanding about whiteness, maleness, dominance and greed". It would be fascinating to hear her opinion of his current behaviour in

the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic as he plays to his electorate in preparation for the US presidential election in November.

While Anne Enright refers to herself as a reluctant feminist, she hones in on the theme of misogyny in *Call Yourself George*, her lecture on gender representation in the Irish literary landscape. She analyses the review pages of the national newspapers. She reminds us of the Abbey Theatre director's "Them's the breaks" response to the criticism of a 90% male playwright schedule for the centenary year of the 1916 Easter Rising. She looks at the posters of famous Irish writers. She highlights the absence of women by pointing out that "The real problem with silence, is that it is also silencing".

Over and again, what she does throughout her lectures is give voice – to women, to children, to those who for so long were kept silent.

In *Antigone in Galway* she uses Sophocles Greek tragedy to elevate the scandal of the Tuam Mother and Babies Home and juxtaposes the State's reinternment and commemoration of Thomas Kent with its "re-membling" of the treatment of women in the Magdalene Laundries.

Her lecture *Oh Canada* is autobiographical. I was in O'Reilly Hall when she delivered it at the "Home" event organised for the visit of Margaret Atwood. The original date had to be postponed as Atwood was snowbound in Norwich (in Norfolk, UK rather than in Ontario,

Canada) and the line-up on the rescheduled night consequently changed. Although the evening morphed from the original theme, Anne Enright treated the audience to share her journey from Ireland to Canada, from child to adult, and from observer to commentator.

No Authority includes two short stories. *The Hotel* has a commonplace feeling in that the narrator has flown from Dublin to New York, then over to Milan. But the environment in which she finds herself is almost dystopian and her experience is unsettling. *Solstice* is more *The Green Road* Enright. The story is of a suburban family described through the lens of the husband/father, coming up to Christmas with nagging irritations that feel real and disappointing. Towards the end there is a softening as father and son share the moment of winter solstice. "They look at each other, full of mischief and amazement. Because it happened. Nothing happened, but they know it was there. The tiny stretch of daylight that will become summer."

EOB

Athletics Round-up

At this year's Irish Life Health National Senior Indoor Athletics Championships, UCD's athletes were out in force and had some brilliant performances over the weekend.

UCD picked up a medal in the men's 3000m with Darragh McElhinney 3rd with a time of 8:06.18. In the 60m Israel Olatunde ran a fantastic championship, finishing 6th in a time of 6.93.

UCD ladies competed very well against a very strong, competitive fielding. Claire Mooney came away with bronze in the 800m in a time of 2:08.06 with Ellie Hartnett finishing 5th in 2:10.34. It was heartbreak for Ciara Everard who led the 1500m final throughout only to be pipped at the line in a time of 4:40.78.

At the Irish Universities Athletics Association Intervarsity Indoor Championships our best performer on the day was Ad Astra Sports Scholar Lystus Ebosele. On her debut in the Weight for Distance event, she finished with a silver medal with her best effort of 7.73m setting a UCD record in the process. In the Women's Shot Putt, she also won a silver medal with her best throw of 11.75m again coming in the final round. And setting another UCD record.

Also competing in the Weight for Distance was John Joe Kelly. He placed 4th with his best effort of 7.85m which was another new UCD record. Then, despite carrying a hamstring strain going into his second event of the day, the Kilkenny man managed to finish 4th in the Shot Putt, just missing out on a medal with a best throw of 11.90m.

In the Women's Pentathlon, Diana Markina picked up a bronze medal, finishing 3rd after five events with a points total of 1,829 racked up from her performances in the five events of 60mH, 800m, long jump, high jump and shot putt.

In the Men's 60m, Israel Olatunde dipped on the line for joint-third place in the final in 6.91. This was a great result for the Ad Astra Sports Scholar in his first intervarsity competition.

In the Women's 1,500m, Rose Finnegan produced a golden performance in a time of 4:40.46; 5 seconds clear of her nearest competitor. Lucy Barrett also put in a good performance in the same final, finishing 7th in 4:56.



The Purcell Cup winning team.

Purcell Cup Champions

UCD Ladies Camogie players were named Purcell Cup Champions after a four point win over rivals Trinity College in the final. Hosted by Waterford IT, with a score line of 1-6(9) to 0-5(5) the win also means that the team will now compete next year in the O'Connor Cup.

UCD's Chloe Foxx was named Player of the Tournament and also named on this year's Third Level All-Star Camogie team.



Pictured is Women's Captain Christine Coffey with UCD President, Prof Andrew Deeks.

UCD Rugby – Daffodil Day Collection

UCD Rugby has become synonymous with the annual Daffodil Day collection in aid of the Irish Cancer Society. This year Daffodil Day was a huge success and with over €7,500 raised on the day.

At the launch of the event, there was a huge number of Collidge representatives from Irish Rugby and Leinster Rugby including Josh Van Der Flier, Garry Ringrose, Luke McGrath and Ross Byrne.

Mark Mellet from the Irish Cancer Society was there in support of the event, with club sponsors Crowe Ireland and Applegreen, UCD Rugby Club President David Carrigy, Men's Captain Jonny Guy and Women's Captain Christine Coffey.

UCD President's Awards for Excellence

The UCD President's Awards for Excellence in Student Activities were presented to students at a ceremony on Friday 6 March in O'Reilly Hall.

In total there were 14 awards presented to students for their work with sports clubs, societies, the Students' Union and in college life. Each year the award provides recognition for those students who excel in extracurricular activities of a kind that make UCD an exciting, interesting, dynamic and humane place to live, study and work.

This year's recipients for Sport were Alix Cunneen and Max Murphy.

Alix has been president of the UCD Women's Rugby Club for three seasons and is an advocate for equality, working hard to ensure the same opportunities are presented to her female peers as her male counterparts. She is also heavily involved with the annual UCD RFC Daffodil Day collection.

Max has served as captain of UCD Boat Club fostering an atmosphere of respect, inclusivity and high achievement and driving the club's culture and accomplishments to new heights. Coupled with serving on various UCD committees including AUC Executive, Student Activities and Healthy University, Max's work has had a significant impact on the UCD community and its benefits will resonate for many years to come.



Alix and Max pictured at the Awards Ceremony.



Pictured is Hilary Gallagher, Stage 3 BSc Economics and Finance, who received a Bachelor of Science (Economics & Finance) Stage 3 Scholarship. Hilary is also an Ad Astra Academic Scholar.

UCD Quinn School Celebration for Award and Scholarship Recipients

UCD Quinn School of Business celebrated the achievements of students at the Celebration of Award and Scholarship Recipients. The night highlighted the outstanding achievements and performance of students at each stage of their degree programme.

Awards and prizes are presented on the basis of performance in a subject area or module and may consist of a monetary award, book voucher or medal. Many of these awards are made possible by bequests and gifts that have been generously donated to the University over the years, or are sponsored by a company.



Clinical Commencement Ceremony 2020

The 2020 UCD Medicine Clinical Commencement 'White Coat' Ceremony took place on Friday 7 February in UCD O'Reilly Hall. A key milestone in our medical students' journey, the ceremony marks the formal transition into full-time clinical training at our affiliated hospitals and general practices.

The proceedings were led by Professor Michael Keane, Dean of Medicine and Head of School, supported by a selection of academic faculty. Students from Stage 4 of direct entry undergraduate and Stage 2 graduate entry medicine programmes took part in the ceremony which was attended by many friends and family. Professor Keane welcomed visiting dignitaries which included His Excellency Zakaria Nasir, Ambassador of Malaysia to Ireland, together with Ms Siti Noralia Mustaza, First Secretary and also Mr Ron Bolger, the Honorary Consul General of Singapore in Ireland.

As part of the ceremony, students are 'robed' with white coats by members of faculty as an important symbol of their transition into the role of doctor in training. Opening the event, Professor Keane noted that this transition represents a landmark in the students' education and one which he felt sure they would look back on fondly. He noted that with the privilege of clinical training comes great responsibility as our students are expected to exhibit empathy, dedication and the highest standards of professionalism.