



Grúpa Ospidéal  
Oirthear na hÉireann



**UCD - IEHG**

## **ACADEMIC HEALTH SCIENCE CENTRE**

eNewsletter - November 2019 - Issue 03

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### ACADEMIC HEALTH SCIENCE CENTRE LECTURE SERIES

UCD HEALTH AFFAIRS

Grúpa Ospidéal Oirthear na hÉireann  
Ireland East HOSPITAL GROUP

<b>21st Nov</b>	<p><b>Professor Bill Watson &amp; Professor David Galvin</b></p> <p>St Vincent's University Hospital, Lecture Hall Education Research Centre</p> <p><b>Starting at: 12pm</b></p> <p><i>Scientific and Clinical dilemmas in the diagnosis and treatment of early stage Prostate Cancer</i></p>	 
	<p><b>Professor Walter Kolch</b></p> <p>Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Fintan Gunne Lecture Theatre</p> <p><b>Starting at: 1pm</b></p> <p><i>What systems biology can do for precision oncology</i></p>	<b>28th Nov</b>
<b>3rd Dec</b>	<p><b>Professor Helen Heneghan</b></p> <p>University College Dublin, Conway Institute Lecture Theatre</p> <p><b>Starting at: 1pm</b></p> <p><i>Metabolic Surgery: Clinical Perspective to Molecular Insights</i></p>	
	<p><b>Professor Owen Smith CBE</b></p> <p>Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, Fintan Gunne Lecture Theatre</p> <p><b>Starting at: 1pm</b></p> <p><i>Commonest Childhood Cancer: From Fatal to Curable via a vital amine</i></p>	<b>12th Dec</b>

**- LUNCH PROVIDED -**

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## Clinical Academic Directorate - Spotlight on Genomics and Research

This transformation journey to an Academic Health Science Centre using the CAD structure will pool resources and expertise across our hospitals and increase communication and collaboration with UCD to enable world-class research and innovation in 7 key areas. *The sum of the parts will be greater than the individual components.*



### GENOMICS

*Genomic Research:* The Clinical Research Centre is developing a portfolio of research collaborations in partnership with Genomics Medicine Ireland (GMI). This collaboration is part of a large-scale population research programme across many diseases. The studies open to date are multiple sclerosis, diabetes, inflammatory bowel disease, asthma and liver disease. An extensive process was undertaken to deliver a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA), that included engagement with the Data Protection Commissioners office, to ensure that the data is used and managed appropriately. The Ireland East Hospital Group and UCD have agreed to form a working group to develop recommendations on Clinically Significant Findings (CSFs) identified through genomics research. The working group will develop a position paper on the return of CSFs to patients and their clinical teams. Any recommendation from the group that the return of CSFs should proceed, should also be accompanied by a framework to enable the reporting back of CSFs in a responsible manner.

*Genomics Education:* An education programme in precision medicine is being developed by Prof Brendan Loftus of UCD, in conjunction with Genomics Medicine Ireland (GMI). The programme is aimed at participants from a wide range of backgrounds, from basic scientists to all levels of healthcare professionals. It will provide a flexible, multi-disciplinary perspective in the application of genomics to clinical practice and medical research and will be delivered in three forms:

- MSc in Precision Medicine
- Graduate Diploma in Precision Medicine
- Certificate in Precision Medicine

The proposed MSc in genomic/precision medicine aims to educate participants on the advances in genomic medicine using examples within the Irish healthcare framework. The development of this programme will provide significant benefits including:

- Advance the education of the clinical workforce in genomics.
- Increase the ability of the hospital group to leverage the benefits of a genomically characterised patient population.
- Build a skilled workforce for deployment in research and clinical practice.

### RESEARCH

***Clinical Research Centre at Wexford and Kilkenny***



Through the partnership of the IEHG and UCD the Clinical Research Centre (CRC) has expanded its research programme to St Luke's and Wexford General Hospitals. This is part of the IEHG and UCD's joint commitment to ensure all patients in the hospital group, regardless of geography, are provided access to cutting edge research and care. Research Oversight Committees have been formed in both hospitals and have now met. Two potential studies have been filed with the South-East Ethics Committee with a view to launching early in 2020, in both hospitals. In October, a positive site assessment was held in Wexford General Hospital with a view to the hospital being part of a teenage obesity study. The team are also assessing the potential for other studies that are run within the CRC to be extended to both hospitals.

### ***Education***

The capability of the Clinical Research Centre to deliver career-spanning relevant and innovative educational programmes is evident through facilitation of education and training opportunities for both students and staff. We have recently initiated an expansion of these programmes at Wexford General Hospital and St. Luke's. Good Clinical Practice (GCP) training has already been delivered to over twenty participants at WGH and will take place at St. Luke's in November. Plans for delivery of a Clinical Trial Masterclass at both hospitals are underway with the aim of fostering participants' curiosity in pursuing research activity. Additionally, an online course in Biostatistics Methodology, designed to provide introductory-level statistical training to staff will also commence in early 2020 and expansion of the UCD research quality management system across the new research sites.

### ***UCD Clinical Trials Masterclass***

A UCD Clinical Trials Masterclass open to interns from across the intern networks in Ireland was held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in the Catherine McAuley Education & Research Centre. This Masterclass is a formal teaching event facilitated by UCD Intern Network in conjunction with UCD Clinical Research Centre - supporting the UCD Academic Track Intern Programme. The Masterclass covered topics such as Drug Discovery and Development & Preclinical Trials by Dr Deborah Wallace, Knowledge Generation & Trial Principles by Professor Peter Doran, Director, UCD Clinical Research Centre, Statistical Considerations- Hypothesis Testing, Power, Sample Size & Randomisation/ Blinding by Dr Marie Galligan, Designs by Professor Alistair Nichol, Consultant Anaesthetist, SVUH and concluding with a lecture on Endpoints by Professor Patrick Murray, Professor of Clinical Pharmacology, UCD. In addition to this UCD Masterclass, academic track interns will have access to an Introduction to Biostatistics course run by the UCD Clinical Research Centre.

Contributed by Michelle Brady BSc MSc RD

A 3-month research project is a core component of the UCD MSc in Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics and provides opportunities for unique opportunities for collaboration between academic and clinical staff and the development of research skills in students.



Michelle Brady BSc MSc RD, one of the recent graduates from the MSc who is now working as a registered dietitian in the Mater Hospital, completed her research project in the UCD Perinatal Research Centre, National Maternity Hospital. This project was titled “*Blood Pressure in Pregnancy-A Stress Test for Hypertension? Five-Year, Prospective, Follow-up of the ROLO study*”. The ROLO study is a Randomised cOntrol trial of LOw glycaemic index diet to prevent the recurrence of macrosomia and the principal investigator is Prof Fionnuala McAuliffe.

The objective of Michelle’s research project was to investigate if maternal blood pressure (BP) below the diagnostic criteria for hypertensive disorders of pregnancy (HDP) - systolic BP  $\geq 140$  mmHg or diastolic BP  $\geq 90$  mmHg - was associated with maternal BP five years later. Maternal BP was measured during pregnancy and at the 5-year follow-up, as part of the ROLO study. BP was categorised as normal, elevated, hypertension stage 1 or hypertension stage 2 at each timepoint, using the revised 7<sup>th</sup> Joint National Committee Guideline for the Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Management of High Blood Pressure in Adults.

The main finding was that slight elevations in BP during pregnancy, below the diagnostic criteria for HDP, were associated with the development of hypertension stage 1 five years later. Although further observational studies are needed to confirm this finding, it does suggest that females with slight elevations in BP during pregnancy should be considered for annual post-partum BP checks to manage their future hypertension risk. Also, clinical trials to determine non-pharmacological interventions, such as changes to dietary pattern, could provide insight into how to manage or reduce future hypertension risk in this female cohort.

The findings from this short research project have been accepted for publication and are now available in the Early View of the academic journal [Clinical Endocrinology](#).



**MMUH & SVUH Perform Ireland's First Ever Liver & Double Lung Transplant**

Robert Sheahan from Co. Limerick is the first person in Ireland to receive a liver and double lung transplant, thanks to organ donation.

The 29-year-old underwent the long and complicated transplantation operation in June of this year and is now well on the road to recovery. Two surgical transplant teams - one from the **Mater Misericordiae University Hospital's** National Heart and Lung Unit and the other from **St Vincent's University Hospital's** National Liver Transplant Unit worked for around ten hours on this life-saving operation for Robert. Mr Emir Hoti, Director of the National Liver Transplant Programme at SVUH got to work first of all, transplanting the liver. Mr Hoti said 'Robert has benefitted the most of any person I've seen or treated for transplant. The fact that this is a first for Ireland shows how far we have come in terms of our transplant programme. The operation itself, while complicated, was a success and our collaboration with the team at the Mater was superb.'

While Mr Hoti was performing the liver transplant on Robert, Mr Lars Nölke was simultaneously transplanting the heart from the same donor to another transplant patient. When the liver transplant was complete, Mr Nölke and the Mater team took over to transplant first one lung, and then a second. Approximately 15 medical professionals, from anesthesiologists to scrub nurses, were involved in the ten-hour operation. The operation was a success and a few days later, on his 29th birthday, Robert Sheahan came to in the ICU unit. He spent the next two months recovering in the Mater and has now been discharged home, but is making weekly visits to the Mater for follow up.

Professor Jim Egan, Director HSE Organ Donation Transplant Ireland, said, 'Organ donation saves lives. Robert's remarkable journey and recovery and the fact that this is the first double lung and liver transplant in Ireland is only made possible through organ donation. We would ask everyone to discuss this life-saving issue with their families.'

Pictured: **Mr Emir Hoti, Robert Sheahan and Mr Lars Nölke**

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Ireland's National Dermatology  
Research & Education Centre



UCD School of Medicine  
Scoll an Leighis UCD  
Charles Institute  
of Dermatology



## The Charles Institute Seminar Series

Charles Seminar Room,  
Wednesday November 13th 2019 @ 12-1PM



**From Bed to Bench - insulin resistance/obesity in psoriasis & hidradenitis suppurativa (role of iNKT & MAIT cells)**

**Professor Anne-Marie Tobin,**  
MB Bch BAO, BSc Pharm, PhD,  
Clinical Associate Professor,  
School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin.

**Biography:** Prof. Anne – Marie Tobin is a dual-qualified in Medicine and Pharmacy from Trinity College Dublin and completed a PhD in Translational Medicine from UCD. Professor Tobin carried out her doctoral studies on co-morbidity in patients with psoriasis examining the impact of obesity, resulting in an investigator-led clinical trial of GLP-1 analogues in patients with psoriasis. Her clinical interests are inflammatory skin disease (psoriasis and hidradenitis suppurativa) and skin cancer. She runs a systemic clinic for patients with psoriasis and eczema and a hidradenitis suppurativa clinic in Tallaght University Hospital. Her clinical research interests are focussed on insulin resistance in psoriasis and hidradenitis suppurativa. Lab.research is focussed on innate immune cells, incl. mucosal associated iNKT cells in psoriasis and HS.

**Abstract:** Obesity and insulin resistance are recognized co-morbidities and risk factors for psoriasis and hidradenitis suppurativa. Dysregulation of the innate immune system is a key motif in both obesity and insulin resistance, in particular dysregulation of invariant Natural Killer T cells and Mucosal Associated Invariant T cells (MAIT). These findings are replicated in patients with psoriasis and hidradenitis suppurativa.

This seminar will explore insulin resistance and obesity in psoriasis and hidradenitis suppurativa, the role of iNKT cells and MAIT cells in both conditions. The implications of dysregulation of these key immune cells will also be discussed.

\*The Charles Institute Seminar Series is kindly supported by Relife.  
Relife has no input into the content of the Series.



## UCD & Ireland East Hospital Group News

### Stop the Clot Roadshow 2019

IEHG hospitals hosted the Stop the Clot Roadshow in September successfully raising awareness of blood clots to as many as possible. The Big Red Bus made over 25 stops across 11 hospitals and their communities in eight different counties. National and regional radio got on board in each of the regions, Ivan Yates pulled the Bus onto the Hard Shoulder and Ann-Marie and Prof Fionnuala Ni Ainle, Consultant Haematologist at the Mater and Chair of the IEHG VTE Committee, made their TV Debut on Virgin Media's Weekend AM with a viewership of over 750,000.

### John Higgins Speaks on Slaintecare and Hospital Groups

UCD Health Affairs, The Mater Hospital and the Irish East Hospital Group welcomed Professor John Higgins to Medical Grand Rounds at the

### SVUH Stroke Therapy Study Day

Over 100 health and social care professionals with an interest or working in the area of stroke attended the first Stroke Therapy Study Day organised by Ms. Sarah Mc Nally, Clinical Specialist Occupational Therapist and the Stroke Senior Therapy team on the 12th September last in the Education and Research Centre (ERC) at St. Vincent's University Hospital.

The keynote presentation was delivered by Rehabilitation Psychologist Dr. Shirley Thomas from Nottingham University. Presentations were also delivered from HSCP's working all over Ireland and from all of the stroke HSCP team in St. Vincent's University Hospital. A presentation was also delivered by stroke survivor Ruth Carroll on her stroke journey and lessons for those who work in stroke care. We look forward to hosting this day of shared learning on an annual basis following its success.

Catherine McAuley Centre on the 3rd of September.

#### [Cancer CAD Town-hall held at UCD](#)

The IEHG Cancer Clinical Academic Directorate town-hall was held at UCD in October. Presenters included Prof Risteard O'Laoidhe, Prof Liam Gallagher, Prof Donal Brennan and Prof Michael Keane. Prof Timothy Lynch chaired a discussion forum.

#### [IEHG Present at Lean Healthcare Transformation Summit](#)

IEHG presented at the recent Lean Healthcare Transformation Summit in London. This platform provided the opportunity to share the progress, successes and reflections of the IEHG Lean Transformation journey to date, with healthcare leaders from across Europe and the USA.

The IEHG is steadily building an international reputation for initiating and sustaining system level change. They are committed to creating an excellent organisational culture that will thrive on continual change and improvement.

#### [GP Buddy Award Nomination for RVEEH](#)

GP Buddy recently hosted their annual GP Buddy National GP Awards, which recognise the tireless efforts of those working on the ground to improve the lives of patients all over the country.

This year, RVEEH's Ophthalmology in General Practice Seminar was nominated in the 'Best GP & Hospital Collaboration' category and made the final shortlist of three.

#### [UCD Health Affairs Launches New Website and Twitter Account](#)

Over the summer the Health Affairs team designed the new UCD Health Affairs website which is regularly updated with UCD and IEHG news and events. [www.ucd.ie/healthaffairs](http://www.ucd.ie/healthaffairs)

The new Twitter account can also be found at: @HealthUcd

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health.affairs@ucd.ie

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