



UCD School of Medicine

Scoil an Leighis UCD

Alumni e-Zine

Issue 2 Q1 2021

Dear All,

We are delighted to present the second issue of our new ezine for alumni in Ireland and across the world and as normal, we had no shortage of news to incorporate into this issue and share with you.

We therefore hope you enjoy perusing this issue where we outline key developments in education, highlight the work of some of our most prolific researchers and their research outputs, give you a taste of student life and invite you to review our new Strategic Plan titled 'Tomorrow's Medicine'.

In this issue we also tell you about other activities and achievements within the School community that we would like to acknowledge and celebrate and we remember graduates who have passed away over the last five months.

We welcome any feedback you might have on content and suggestions for themes and topics to cover in future issues so please feel free to email comms.medicine@ucd.ie with your ideas.

Finally, we all recognise the significant challenges of working in healthcare through this pandemic, especially as we enter year two. In this regard we greatly appreciate and salute our many graduates in the national and international arena, who are making such skilled and worthy contributions to the prevention and control of C-19.

Very best wishes,
Prof Michael Keane
Dean



Michael Keane

Education

White Coat Ceremony (WCC)

Warm congratulations to the 254, Stage 4 Medicine and Stage 2 Graduate Entry Medicine (GEM) students who made the official transition from medical to clinical science, with the donning of white coats at the annual WCC (White Coat Ceremony) on Wed 10th March.

The virtual ceremony was opened by Prof Michael Keane followed by the recital of the Declaration of Geneva finishing with a closing address from Emeritus Professor Fergus Shanahan of UCC. Prof Shanahan encouraged the students to learn how to speak to their patients and listen to them, as a patient's history is 'marvellously informative' and advised that a doctor equals science, plus emotion, plus passion with an equal measure of curiosity. View the WCC [here](#)



International Partnerships

At a time when global collaboration and communication in the health sciences is crucial, the School is proud of its far-reaching and long-standing connections with some of the world's most prestigious institutions through both direct partnerships and via membership of networks such as the [Universitas 21 Health Sciences Group](#). Our students benefit from these connections via overseas electives opportunities especially in North America and the [Student Summer Research Awards \(SSRA\)](#) which allows them to engage with international colleagues on cutting-edge research projects. These experiences open doors for our graduates to apply successfully for residencies overseas. Students also take the opportunity to take voluntary learning and electives in the developing world with projects such as [Hospice Africa Uganda](#), set up by esteemed UCD Graduate, Dr Anne Merriman.



New Postgraduate Programmes

The School is delighted to continue to offer over 40 programmes at graduate level for healthcare professionals and others working in healthcare settings. All of the programmes, from masters to module, with part-time, flexible and distance and on-line learning options are delivered by specialist staff across a network of academic and clinical locations. Since January 2021 and due to market demand, the school has been offering a range of new programmes in AI Primary Care, Skin and Hair Follicle Science and Neurodiversity. See the full programme listing [here](#).



Accreditation of Ultrasound Programmes

The School's MSc Ultrasound Programme and the Graduate Certificate in Fertility Ultrasound have been accredited by CASE (Consortium for the Accreditation of Sonographic Education) in recognition of their high standards in ultrasound education. The programmes went through a rigorous review process with CASE assessors recognising that both programmes commanded significant respect across clinical departments and among students in how well they students for national practice. **More here**



Research in Action

COVID-19

C-19 Genomic Surveillance

A study, led by Paddy Mallon, Professor of Microbial Diseases, UCD School of Medicine and Consultant in Infectious Diseases, SVUH, across four Irish hospitals highlights importance of C-19 genomic surveillance to inform where virus has originated, how it changes over time and how it impacts on health. The study shows that the second C-19 wave in Ireland was seeded by multiple viruses coming into country and means key to control includes a focus on travel. More [here](#)



C-19 & Improved Survival Rates with Tocilizumab

A global study published in NEJM shows significantly improved survival rates in critically ill C-19 patients treated with Tocilizumab. The trials in Ireland were led at St Vincent's University Hospital by Prof Alistair Nichol, UCD Chair in Critical Care Medicine, Consultant in Intensive Care Medicine at SVUH and Director of the Irish Critical Care-Clinical Trials Network (ICC-CTG). More here

ONCOLOGY



Rise of Immunotherapy in Hepatocellular Carcinoma

In a feature in UPDATE (Journal of Oncology and Haematology) Prof Austin Duffy, Prof of Translational Oncology, Mater University Hospital and UCD, reflects back on an experimental treatment (immune checkpoint inhibitor) his patient with advanced liver cancer received at the NIH (National Institutes of Health) when Prof Duffy was working there in 2013.

Prof Duffy's disease area of interest is hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) where immunotherapy has been paradigm-changing. But when Prof Duffy returned to Ireland in 2017, he was struck by the lack of access Irish patients had to these new treatments, that were readily available in the US. In this feature Prof Duffy tells us about opening the innovative and 'science heavy' NIH study in Dublin, to provide access to immunotherapy for Irish patients with liver cancer. See full article [here](#)



MDT UCD-GOG Surgery Techniques for Ovarian Cancer

A study led by Prof Donal Brennan, UCD Prof of Gynaecological Oncology and Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecological Oncologist at the Mater and SVUH published in the Annals of Surgical Oncology Journal has demonstrated that implementation of a multidisciplinary (MDT) surgical team, comprising gynaecologic oncologists and colorectal, hepatobiliary and upper gastrointestinal (GI) surgeons, results in significantly improved rates of complete resection of ovarian cancer. More [here](#)

Molecular Targeted Therapy in ALCL

A study led by Dr Peter McCarthy, Lecturer in Paediatrics, UCD School of Medicine and published in 'Leukemia and Lymphoma' Journal under the guidance of Prof Owen Smith, Prof of Adolescent and Paediatric Medicine, UCD shows on-going excellent outcomes following integration of molecular targeted therapy in paediatric ALCL (Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma). The data for the study was collected by Dr John Harford, in CHI at Crumlin when he was in Stage 4 Medicine. **More here**



TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

Scientists Focus on CO2 Promise as an Anti-Inflammatory Agent



Researchers at UCD School of Medicine have advanced understanding of how CO₂ is sensed by cells and impacts on body function and demonstrated that CO₂ is not only a waste produce of metabolism, but is an important signalling molecule that can affect multiple processes including inflammation, wound-healing and muscle function. The findings were presented in a collection of [PAPERS](#) published in the Royal Society Journal; Interface Focus on 12th February, following a Dec 2019 Theo Murphy International Scientific Meeting titled 'Carbon dioxide detection in biological systems'. The findings were presented at the meeting by Dr Eoin Cummins, Assistant Professor in Physiology, UCD School of Medicine who was also a co-organiser of the meeting. More [here](#)

Student Life

#HelloUCDMedicine

We invite you to meet Roisin McGrath (Stage 4), Sarah Shanahan (Stage 5), Shauna Galligan (Stage 2) and Ned Quirke (Stage 4), Undergraduate Entry Medicine and find out more their experiences of studying medicine at UCD and the opportunities and supports on offer during the six years of the programme and enjoying a full and vibrant life on campus. Please note that Roisin, Sarah, Shauna and Ned were interviewed for this video in August 2020 and all the footage reflecting campus life was filmed before the pandemic. See #HelloUCDMedicine video [here](#)



Med Week Fundraising

Congratulations to UCD Med Soc especially Ned Quike (Auditor), Roisin McGrath and Maia Springael on their recent tireless fundraising during Med Week 2021 (15th – 19th Feb) for the Bone Marrow for Leukemia Trust at St James Hospital. The Trust provides apartments where patients can comfortably

stay post-operatively, supports the running of the haematology department in St James's Hospital and funds labs which undertake cutting edge clinical research and drug development. Med Soc raised €43k for the Trust without any of the usual street collections, face to face events or group sport challenges so 'fair play' on their innovation.

Alumni Life

2021 Distinguished MGA (Medical Graduate Association) Awards

The MGA awards are presented to outstanding alumni every year in recognition of lifelong achievements in medical education, research and/or clinical practice, in appreciation of their drive, leadership and commitment and to celebrate the success and contribution of our most distinguished alumni worldwide and to celebrate. Congratulations to our Jan, Feb and March 2021 Award recipients who were;



Dr Paul O'Byrne (Class of 1975) Respiriologist & Dean, School of Medicine, McMaster University, Ontario

Sr Marian Scena (Class of 1975) Doctor & Coordinator, Faraja Hospice and Palliative Care Centre, Tanzania

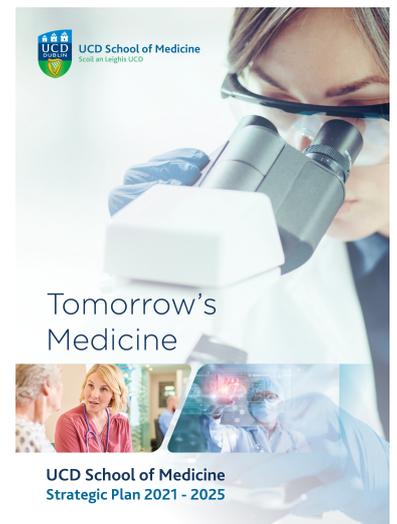
Dr John Donohue (Class of 1967) Retired Consultant Nephrologist, Dublin

See interviews with our Award Recipients [here](#)

Community

Tomorrow's Medicine

The School of Medicine was pleased to launch the School's [STRATEGIC PLAN](#) titled 'Tomorrow's Medicine' in early March 2021. The strategy, underpinned by ten strategic objectives, recommits the School to being a globally engaged, research-intensive Medical School that contributes to discovery and prepares our graduates for practice at home and abroad. It also builds on the considerable achievements of our staff, students and alumni in line with the School's mission to be a community of healthcare professionals and scientists that improves health outcomes through excellence in education, research and patient care.



International Women's Day (IWD) 2021

The theme of IWD 2021 on a global basis is Choose to Challenge, as a challenged world is an alert world and from challenge comes change so let's all choose to challenge and help forge a gender-equal world. The School's EDI Committee created an IWD event on Mon 8th March titled 'The importance of Female Leaders in a COVID-19 World'.

Our guest speaker was Dr Gabrielle Colleran, Consultant Paediatric Radiologist and Vice President IHCA who was interviewed by Dr Fiona McGillicuddy, Assistant Professor, Cardiometabolic Research Group, Diabetes Complications Research Centre, UCD School of Medicine. Their conversation focused on issues including work-life balance, C-19 childcare related challenges, C-19 related issues in the health-care system, the absence of women in C-19 leadership roles and engaging women in leadership roles and achieving those leadership roles. See IWD interview [here](#)

UCD School of Medicine
Scoil an Leighis UCD

Virtual Event - Monday 8th March 2 - 3pm

The Importance of Female Leaders in a COVID-19 World

Guest Speaker: Dr Gabrielle Colleran, Consultant Paediatric Radiologist & Vice President, IHCA

In CONVERSATION with Dr Fiona McGillicuddy, Assistant Professor, Diabetes Complications Research Centre, UCD

Event MC: Dr Marguerite Clyne, Chair, EDI Committee

[Register Here](#)

INTERNATIONAL Women's Day 2021

Athena Swan
GENDER CHARTER

Congratulating & Celebrating

RCPI Traffic Medicine Essay Competition

Congratulations to Jane Fagan, Final Year Med Student for winning joint first prize in the prestigious RCPI Traffic Medicine Mary Ward Essay Competition on 2nd March 2021. Jane's research and worthy essay focused on epilepsy and associated driving regulations. Jane is looking forward to presenting her findings at the Traffic Medicine Webinar in May 2021.

RCGP Case Competition

Congratulations to Jen Bruton and Sarah Fennelly, final year GEM Students who won the RCGP RoI Faculty All-Ireland Case Competition at the Finals on Sat 27th March. Their winning presentation focused on prophylactic macrolide antibiotics for patients with advanced COPD. This is the second year that UCD med students have won in this competition.

Erasmus+ Programme Key Action 226 Partnerships for Digital Education Readiness

Congratulations to Prof Kate Matthews, Associate Professor, Radiography Erasmus Coordinator on obtaining approved funding allocation for her recent application with respect to the Erasmus+ Programme Key Action 226 Partnerships for Digital Education Readiness, 2021-2023 with a consolidated score of 84 marks. This means that the University's application for support under the 'Framework for Online Radiographer Clinical Education' action was successful and awarded a budget for the 24 months' lifetime of this project of €299k.



Remembering

We would like to remember the following UCD School of Medicine graduates who have passed away over the last six months;

Mr Daniel Kelly (Class of 1956) RIP 15/02/2

Dr Pauline O'Connell (Class of 1948) RIP 05/02/21

Dr Keshav Sharma (Class of 2005) RIP 11/01/21

Dr Paul McDermott (Class of 1990) RIP 04/01/21

Dr Michael Donal Mulcahy (Class of 1953) RIP 01/01/21

Dr John Fleetwood (Class of 1977) RIP 08/12/20

Dr Patrick Aloysius Aylmer (Class of 1966) RIP 26/10/20



Dates for your diary

2021 John Fitzpatrick Irish Genitourinary Cancer Conference – Thurs 22 and Fri 23 April Register [here](#)

2021 Congress of Anaesthesiology – 20 and 21 May Register [here](#)

Get Social

You can follow the School of Medicine via our social media pages and like, comment, share and re-tweet our posts.



Connect with Us

UCD Alumni Network

When you graduate from UCD, you are automatically part of a worldwide alumni network and will receive regular communications relating to reunions, events, courses, and activities on campus, and in your local area. Please see benefits [here](#) and reconnect with us [here](#)

Global Alumni Ambassador Programme

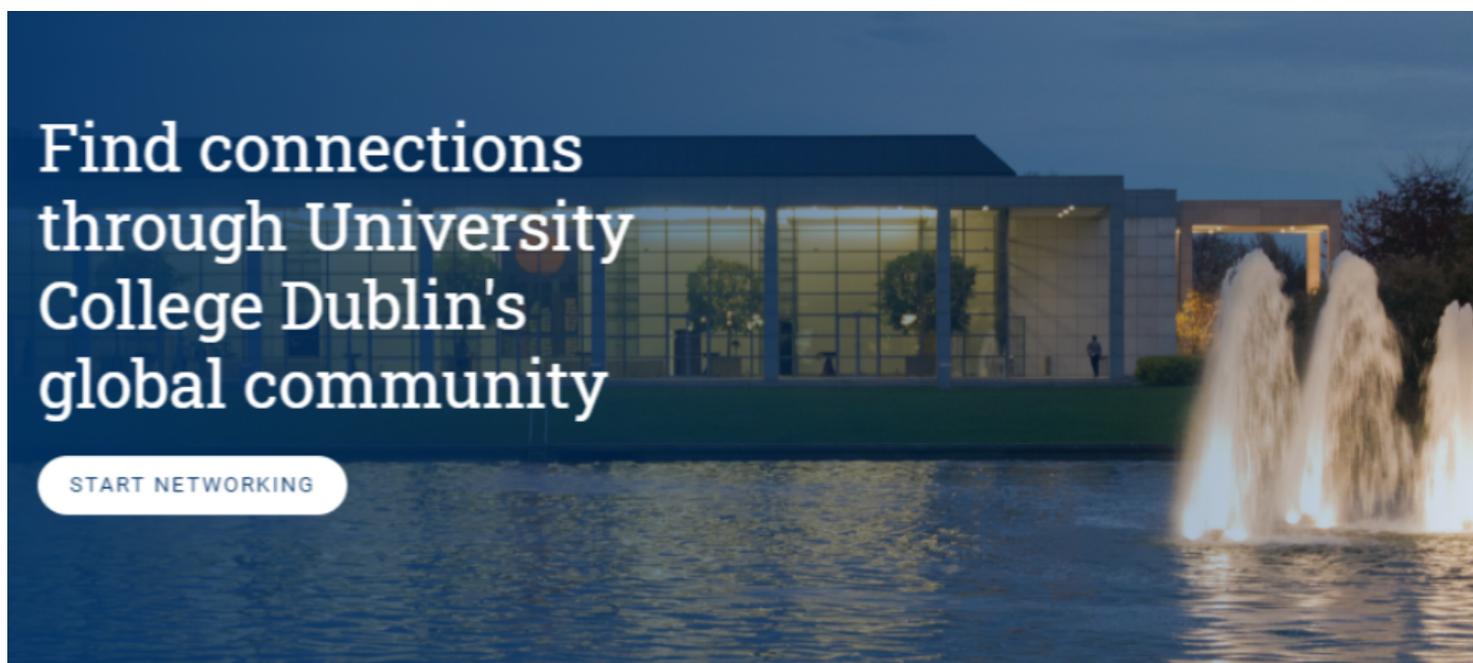
If you studied at UCD as an international student, you are eligible for the Global Alumni Ambassador Programme, which connects alumni with international prospective students who are looking for advice from graduates like you. [Sign-up here](#)

If you would like to find out more about this volunteering opportunity please get in touch with our Global Alumni Relations Coordinator, Michelle Power. [Global Alumni Ambassador Programme Enquiry](#)

UCD Medical Graduates Association (MGA)

The MGA plays a vital role in keeping you in touch with your fellow alumni and with UCD. The Association offers opportunities to build professional and social networks and to maintain old friendships and contacts. The MGA is always seeking class representatives to assist with disseminating reunion information to other class members.

If you are interested in volunteering as a representative for your class, please contact mga@ucd.ie.



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