Welcome to the School of Medicine's latest research newsletter - keeping you informed about upcoming events, opportunities and news. If you have content you would like to see included in future editions, we encourage you to contact medicine.research@ucd.ie.

With best wishes,

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Upcoming Events

European Radiation Protection Week (ERPW) will be hosted by UCD from 9-13 October 2023. ERPW will have a strong focus on outreach and engagement (with patients and the public) linked to medical applications and environmental applications (e.g. radon gas) in radiation protection research. Register to attend here.

Systems Biology Ireland, UCD, in collaboration with the Quantitative Biosciences Institute, University of California, will host the second symposium on Molecular Networks of Cancer and other Diseases from 16-18 October 2023 in O'Reilly Hall, UCD. The symposium will feature more than 20 speakers. The aim is to bring together health research communities from Ireland and the USA to explore new collaborations and funding opportunities. Register here.

The 2023 Pittsburgh-Ireland International Lung Conference will take place in Dublin at the Royal College of Surgeons on 16 and 17 October. The conference is focused on examining the cellular mechanisms that comprise the lung. Participants from UCD's School of Medicine will include Professor Michael Keane, Associate Professor Eleanor Dunican and Dr Marcus Butler. For more information please see here.
The School of Medicine’s inaugural Research Retreat took place on Monday 19 June in the UCD Student Village Auditorium. The retreat provided an opportunity for university and hospital-based researchers to meet and foster cross collaboration. The event was successful and we look forward to hosting it again next year. Find out more here.

Professor Alistair Nichol, Professor of Critical Care Medicine, is the co-lead author of a new study on cardiac arrest patients admitted to intensive care units which has been published in the New England Journal of Medicine. The study showed that maintaining a slightly elevated CO₂ level for the first 24 hours after resuscitation did not improve outcomes and conversely did not lead to worse outcomes either. The multi-site study included 1700 patients in 17 countries. Read more here.

Professor Carel Le Roux has published research on new drug therapy innovations to treat obesity in The Lancet. Results from a phase 2 clinical trial of survodutide showed up to 18.7% weight loss in overweight or obese individuals through a 46-week timeframe. 387 participants were involved in the study. Professor Le Roux also led the study on tirzepatide in a phase 3 clinical trial involving 938 adult participants with obesity or overweight and type 2 diabetes where 15% weight loss was achieved in a 72-week timeframe. Further details are available here.

PhD candidate Dr Brendan Kelly has published the results of a study using AI and Radiology to make personalised predictions from radiographs, in European Radiology. The approach used has the potential to be applied to cancer screening response and screening programmes. Find out more here.

Two academics from the School of Medicine were among the presenters at the Academic Health Science System Grand Rounds which took place on 30 June. Associate Professor Neil Docherty discussed Renal Functional Reserve Assessment in Obesity and Associate Professor Aisling Mulligan’s presentation was entitled telTaz Digital Mental Health Assessment Tool for Children: a Usability Study. A recording of the presentations is available here.

The latest episode of the Medicine Graduates Association Clinical Influencers Podcast Series features Professor Geraldine McCarthy, Consultant Rheumatologist at Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and Full Clinical Professor of Medicine at UCD. Professor McCarthy’s primary research interest is calcium crystal deposition diseases. The episode, hosted by Professor Pat Murray, Professor of Clinical Pharmacology and Consultant Physician at Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, can be accessed here.
Congratulations to Associate Professor Neil Docherty who has been awarded €99,073 with Dr Martina Wallace from the School of Agriculture and Food Science from the EFSD/Boehringer Ingelheim European Research Programme on “Multi-System Challenges in Diabetes” 2023 for a study entitled Impaired branched chain amino acid metabolism: an effector of insulin resistance-associated kidney disease?

We are delighted to welcome two new academic staff members to the School of Medicine. Professor Adam Byrne has recently joined UCD from Imperial College London as Professor of Respiratory Immunology. Dr Claire Robinson has joined from the University of Galway. Dr Byrne’s area of research interest is oncology. Both Professor Byrne and Dr Robinson are UCD graduates.

Key Dates for Research Student Supervisors

19 September: Summer Student Research Awards (SSRA) Poster Night
Location: O’Brien Centre for Science
Time: 5.30pm - 9pm
All students who have participated in the SSRA programme will present their research to academic panels at the poster night for the chance to be selected as a finalist at the SSRA Gold Medal Night. All are welcome to attend.

27 September: Summer Student Research Awards Gold Medal Night
Location: O’Brien Centre for Science
Time: 5.30pm - 9pm
SSRA 2023 finalists will present their research for the chance to win the gold, silver or bronze medals for excellence in research. All are welcome to attend.

Centre Highlight

The UCD Centre for Arthritis Research is based in the UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular and Biomedical Research with researchers also located in St Vincent’s University Hospital and Mater Misericordiae University Hospital. The Centre conducts interdisciplinary translational research with a focus on rheumatoid arthritis. For further information please see here.
Research Q&A

In our Research Q&A’s, we probe our School’s researchers to find out about their research topics and areas, insights and thoughts. Dr Patrick Swan’s PhD focused on the role of alpha-melanocyte stimulatory hormone in glucose metabolism in humans. Read more here.

Opportunities

Horizon Europe Cluster 1: Health has two-stage calls open with a first stage deadline of 19 September 2023. Nine topics are included in the call. For this first stage call, applicants must submit a short proposal of typically ten pages, reflecting the project’s excellence and impact. For details please click here. An information day for potential applicants was held on 1 June and a recording of this event can be accessed here.

Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) have two calls open which may be of interest. (1) Proposals may be submitted up to 13 September for the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships. The scheme will support researchers with a PhD who wish to carry out their research activities abroad. Find out more here. (2) MSCA and Citizens have funding available for the organisation of events for the European Researchers’ Night with the aim of bringing research and researchers closer to the public. The closing date is 25 October. Further details are available here.

The European Health and Digital Executive Agency has published 12 single-stage calls for proposals with a deadline of 17 October. The topics include healthcare access, mental health, noncommunicable diseases, cancer, substances of human origin and medical devices. Find out more here.

Applications for the Health Research Board Investigator Led Projects Scheme will be accepted from 1 August to 11 October. Funding, up to a maximum of €330,000 direct costs, is available for projects in (1) patient oriented research, (2) population health research and (3) health services research. Please find further information here.

Applications for The Royal Society’s long-term University Research Fellowships opened on 11 July. Applicants may submit a proposal and costs for an eight-year fellowship. Applicants must have between three to eight years of research experience since their PhD. For details, see here.

The Central Remedial Clinic is seeking expressions of interest until 25 August for the current round of the HRCI/HRB joint funding scheme. Up to €100,000 is available for a duration of 12-36 months for projects which make a positive difference to the lives of people with disabilities, their families, and carers and that help people with disabilities achieve their potential and live full lives as equal and valued citizens. Further information can be found here.