Dear Colleagues,

We want to ensure that you are informed about the School of Medicine’s research news and opportunities. Therefore, we will be periodically collating this information and sharing it with you. Please find several links below that will provide further details to the summaries in this newsletter. If you have content you would like to see included in future versions of this newsletter, we encourage you to contact medicine.research@ucd.ie.

With best wishes,

Prof Catherine Godson PhD MRIA  
Associate Dean for Research Innovation & Impact  
UCD School of Medicine

Prof Cormac Taylor PhD MRIA  
Deputy Associate Dean for Research Innovation & Impact  
UCD School of Medicine

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**School of Medicine Research Retreat**

The School of Medicine will host a Research Retreat on 19 June to highlight translational research activity that is ongoing in UCD, across campus and at our clinical sites. The objective is to develop meaningful collaborations to optimise outcomes of current and future activities. We look forward to welcoming you.

Register here by 2 June

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**Opportunities**
The UCD Research Impact Case Study Competition is accepting applications up to 5pm on 28 July. This competition offers researchers at UCD an opportunity to develop a short case study, highlighting the impact of their research to an external, non-specialist audience. The 2021 winner was a case study from the School of Medicine submitted by the Irish Critical Care - Clinical Trials Network.

Applications for SFI Industry RD&I Fellowship call are now open. The researchers in receipt of this fellowship are provided with an opportunity to be immersed into industry, gain relevant business knowledge and experience and develop innovative solutions to industry challenges. The first submission deadline is 13 June 2023; the second submission deadline is 3 October 2023. Dr Ruth Foley from the UCD School of Medicine, was awarded €86,590 in collaboration with Branca Bunús Ltd, for the following project: “Development of a CRISPR-based gene therapy product for epidermolysis bullosa, targeting new mutations in the COL7A1 gene.”

Applications for the DOROTHIY postdoctoral research programme will be accepted up to 21 June. The programme is co-funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Actions. The Irish Research Council will co-fund the programme with the Health Research Board and Environmental Protection Agency. 25 fellows will be recruited for 36 month fellowships with 18 months spent in a Higher Education Institution outside of Ireland and 18 months within Ireland.

DevelopMed, a Marie Skłodowska-Curie (MSCA) COFUND Action, is offering Precision Oncology Fellowships to experienced researchers with at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience. Fellowships will be 24 months in duration including 3-6 month secondments at any research institution in academic, industry, clinical and/or charity sectors. The application deadline is 11 June. Find out more here.

The European Research Council has published provisional dates for 2024 calls with confirmation expected in July 2023. The announcement also provides details on research assessment, the evaluation process and lump sum funding. Find out more here.

Registration is open for the 15th World Conference on Bioethics, Medical Ethics and Health Law which will be held in Porto from 16-19 October. An extensive programme of lectures, posters, discussions and exhibitions will take place. Topics which will be covered include clinical trials, informed consent, ethics committees and medical research.

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**Support**

We are pleased to advise you of the ongoing support provided by the Grant Advisory Committee at UCD School of Medicine. The Committee will assess grant applications at an early-stage, and provide independent, constructive advice on scientific merit and quality. This review process is designed to complement existing UCD Research support.

We are delighted that colleagues who have availed of this review process have been successful in their grant applications.

**Dr Carol Aherne, Lecturer/Assistant Professor, UCD School of Medicine - SFI Frontiers for the Future project recipient 2022.**

“The input I got from experienced colleagues highlighted key areas that I worked on to improve the understanding and impact of my proposal. I am very grateful for the comments I received which directly contributed to the success of my proposal”.

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**Key Date for Research Student**
Supervisors

PhD, MSc, MD and MCh applications for entry in September 2023 must be submitted by 30 July. Please submit applications to medicine.research@ucd.ie.

Application Forms

News

UCD has signed a partnership agreement with the European Patients’ Academy on Therapeutic Innovation (EUPATI). EUPATI are a patient-led non-profit who provide training and education to patients and their representatives across Europe so they can effectively engage and partner in medicine research and development. The partnership will give UCD researchers connections in key areas including medical devices, clinical research and PPI with industry, particularly pharma, as well as increased access to wider networks of multi-stakeholders in medicines research and development. Read more here.

All four projects awarded the UCD Health Affairs AHSS Grant 2022/23 involve researchers from UCD’s School of Medicine. The AHSS grant aims to enhance the collaboration between IEHG, its affiliated community healthcare organisations, and UCD College of Health and Agricultural Science. Find out more here.

Professor Catherine Godson and Dr Eoin Brennan’s research group from UCD School of Medicine, UCD Diabetes Complications Research Centre and UCD Conway Institute has been awarded €908,860 for a project entitled A functional genomics pipeline for genetic discovery in diabetic kidney disease. The project is a collaboration with Queen’s University Belfast, Harvard Medical School and Mass General Hospital, co-funded by the Health Research Board (HRB) and Health and Social Care (HSC) Research and Development, Northern Ireland.
Four projects from UCD’s School of Medicine have been awarded grants through Science Foundation Ireland’s Frontiers for the Future Programme. The projects are as follows:

- Dr Carol Aherne: ‘Targeting mucin-mediated mechanisms to protect the intestinal barrier.’
- Professor Desmond Cox and Dr Carmen Regan (Children’s Health Ireland): ‘The impact of E-cigarettes on Childhood Health Outcomes (ECHO) study.’
- Dr Jan Miletin and Dr Jana Semberova: ‘Individualized mask for infants requiring nasal Continuous Positive Airway Pressure – tailored Mask (tMASK) feasibility study.’
- Dr Melinda Halasz and Dr Cormac Owens: ‘Understanding and exploiting dysregulated mitochondrial metabolism and epigenetics for the therapy of MYCN-driven neuroblastoma.’

Professor Alistair Nichol, Director of the Irish Critical Care-Clinical Trials Network and Professor of Critical Care Medicine at UCD’s School of Medicine, was involved in a vital article recently published in Nature. This third Nature paper from the GenOMICC study outlined genetic factors which put some people at higher risk for severe illness and disease due to Covid-19 infection. 16 genetic variants which impacted on blood clotting, the immune response and the inflammation response were found in people with severe Covid-19. The study was led by the University of Edinburgh and Genomics England with funding for the Irish component of the study provided by the Health Research Board. Read more here.

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**PhD Q&A Series**

In our PhD Q&A’s we will probe our School’s researchers to find out about their PhD topics, insights and thoughts. This time, we chat with Brendan Dempsey, whose PhD explored the experiences of the healthcare workers involved in providing abortion care following liberalisation in the Republic of Ireland.