Science Foundation Ireland

Three Park Place

Hatch Street Upper

Dublin 2

Date September 2024

**Re: Letter of Support for UCD Co-Lead [Title and name] for the SFI and Irish Aid SDG Challenge Call 2024 (SDG 2: Zero Hunger)**

Dear Science Foundation Ireland,

On behalf of UCD, I wish to confirm our full support for submission of this proposal [“title*”*] ledby *[Lead Applicant Name, institution],* with Partner Country Team Co-Lead *[Lead Applicant Name]* and UCD Co-Lead *[Co-Lead name]* to the SFI and Irish Aid SDG Challenge Call 2024 (SDG 2: Zero Hunger). The proposed research programme meets a core strategic objective of the UCD Rising to the Future Strategy 2020-2024 which is to *increase the quality, quantity and impact of our research, scholarship and innovation* and isin full alignment with our strategic theme <*select relevant theme/s: Creating a Sustainable Global Society, Transforming through Digital Technology, Building a Healthy World, Empowering Humanity and provide a line on how your research aligns with this theme>*.

[Please provide a brief description of the project, highlighting how it is novel, disruptive and transforming. What national and/or global challenge will it address?] The impact of this research will be considerable. <*1-2 lines in relation to what you see the impact of the research being – think about the end result – for example: how will society change due to this research, particularly* *if you are successful in reaching the final deployment phase of this award?*>

The Team Co-Lead applicant, <*applicant name*> is a <*position, applicant contract status i.e. permanent or temporary, if temporary state end date – Head of School confirmation of contract status is required*> in the UCD School of <*name*>.

[A brief discussion of the team and the backgrounds of the Co-Lead referring to how their skills and experience will complement the project and contribute to its completion. Include knowledge, practice and methodology contribution of Co-Lead where relevant.]

[Will this team member be transferring from another active SFI research grant? If so we need a description of how this will be managed in relation to both awards.]

As Host Institution for <*proposal title>*, UCD will afford full access to the required research infrastructure, along with research management services and other supports as detailed below:

**Access to Advanced Research Infrastructure: <***Detail here the equipment, laboratory, computing, animal or other facilities available, including specifications where appropriate and access plans. Identify if there is technical support available to operate this equipment. Also detail the office and local administrative supports (research managers etc) available to you*. *Confirm that you will have and independent office and research space available to you for which you will be fully responsible for at least the duration of the funding*>

**Research Management Services and Other Supports:** UCD has a very extensive portfolio of large-scale national and international research programmes ([www.ucd.ie/research/](http://www.ucd.ie/research/)). The proposed research team will be fully supported by the wider administrative infrastructure at UCD. UCD Research provides research supports for funded research activity at UCD. UCD’s post-award Research Finance Office (RFO) provides support for financial administration at all stages of university research projects and will assist researchers in the preparation of cost statements/statements of expenditure. Research IT Services provide a range of services designed to support and facilitate researchers in their use of IT as an enabler for their research activities. The UCD Human Resources (HR) Office will fully assist with all HR management, including orientation and provision of other practical assistance for incoming researchers. In addition, Post-Doctoral Fellows will be supported by the UCD Research Careers Framework (RCF), which establishes a structured and supportive skills and early career development model for Post-Doctoral Fellows at UCD. PhD students will participate in UCD’s structured doctoral programmes*.*

The UCD Animal Research Ethics Committee (AREC) and Humanities and Science Human Research Ethics Committees (HRECs) conduct ethical reviews using an internationally recognised approvals system. The Research Ethics Committee (REC) oversees and advises on policy regarding the work carried out by these three main sub-committees. UCD is committed to the promotion of the highest standards of Research Integrity, provides education and training to prevent breaches of Research Integrity, and promotes a collaborative and collegiate research culture throughout the institution. UCD’s Gender Equality Action Plan, which is linked to the university’s Athena SWAN Bronze Institutional Award, seeks to deliver changes in related policies and procedures along with everyday behaviours and attitudes. The university stresses the exploitation of research findings through academic-industry engagement and licensing, with management of intellectual property and commercialisation available through the technology transfer office, NovaUCD.

**Management of Conflict of Interest:** UCD researchers must comply with UCD’s published Policy on Conflict of Interest - *UCD is committed to the promotion of an environment which maintains the highest standards of integrity. It is the policy of UCD that all persons engaged in UCD activity have the obligation to manage or avoid ethical, legal, financial or other conflicts of interest and to ensure that their activities and interest do not conflict with their obligations to the University or its welfare.*

In summary, it is without hesitation that I support this application by *[*Co-*Lead Applicant name]* to the SFI and Irish Aid SDG Challenge Call 2024 (SDG 2: Zero Hunger).

Yours sincerely,

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**Professor Kate Robson Brown**

**Vice President for Research, Innovation and Impact**