

Spring/Summer 2022



# UCD today

## CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREES

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# EDITOR'S LETTER

**EILIS O'BRIEN** DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING



The national day for Ireland – St Patrick's Day, 17 March – has to stand as one of the best international marketing propositions by a national tourism board. The evolution of the Dublin parade into a festival week has meant that Dublin has become a 'destination' outside the normal summer season. The lighting up in green of landmarks throughout the world has raised awareness of and interest in Ireland.

This year The Department of Foreign Affairs shared their St Patrick's Day 2022 video. The footage opened with the predictable scenes of Irish coastal beauty. It quickly changed to footage from a century ago when Ireland emerged to build an independent, democratic, sovereign state, and took our place among the nations of the world. The video message moved on to Ireland's efforts for international justice, human rights and peace. And then came the moment of meaning: as Paul Brady's line from The Island played "They're showing pictures on the television, women and children dying in the street..." the images switched to Ukraine as people struggled with the violent terror rained down on them by Russia.

The University had already reached out to support our 34 UCD students from Ukraine. Supports were put in place for students who have family and friends living there. Students from Russia and Belarus were also caught up in the impact of the conflict and were also offered support. UCD has 30 faculty and staff from Ukraine and Russia working here in Dublin and they too were offered support to help them deal with the impact of the war.

Through a National Student and Researcher Helpdesk hosted by Maynooth University, UCD is offering assistance to Ukrainian refugee students and researchers who are seeking to continue their higher education work and studies in Ireland.

As our own students finish their studies and leave the campus residences, we are now making these available to the Government as short-term accommodation for refugees fleeing Ukraine.

As part of the tribute to Irish Folk music, UCD held a special honorary conferring for musicians on 18 March – see our feature article on page 4. Originally planned for December 2020, this was to be the closing event of the Belfield 50 programme. Coincidentally,

Paul Brady was to receive the Ulysses Medal for his outstanding contribution to Irish culture. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, he was unable to attend on that date but will be presented with the Medal at a ceremony later this year. Through his music and poetry, he has tapped into every facet of emotion and his classic, The Island, resonates with us as we reach out to help our sisters and brothers in Ukraine.

Now I know us plain folks don't see all the story.  
And I know this peace and love's just copping out.  
And I guess these young boys dying in the ditches.  
Is just what being free is all about.  
And how this twisted wreckage down on main street.  
Will bring us all together in the end.  
And we'll go marching down the road to freedom....  
Freedom

## UCD thanks...

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In the compilation of this publication, every care has been taken to ensure accuracy. Any errors or omissions should be brought to the attention of UCD University Relations ([ucdtoday@ucd.ie](mailto:ucdtoday@ucd.ie)). We also welcome your suggestions for articles in future editions.  
Cover image: UCD Honorary Doctorate Participants



Live @Belfield

UCD House Band

# UCD AWARDS HONORARY DOCTORATES

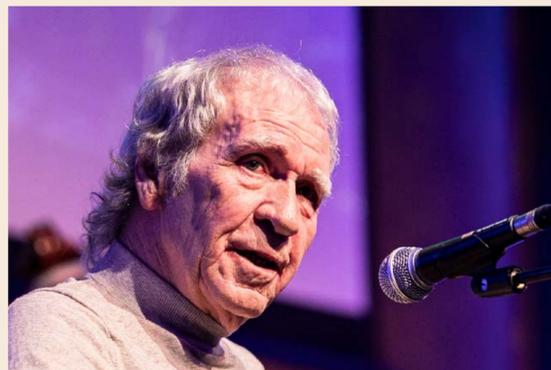
UCD awards honorary doctorates to Mary Bergin, Mary Black, Finbar Furey, Paddy Glackin, Andy Irvine, Triona Ní Dhomhnaill and Mary O'Hara

*Celebrating some of the stellar talents in Irish music and in recognition of their outstanding contribution to arts and culture, on 18 March, the University awarded honorary doctorates to Mary Bergin, Mary Black, Finbar Furey, Paddy Glackin, Andy Irvine, Triona Ní Dhomhnaill and Mary O'Hara. The Ulysses Medal (our highest honour) was due to be awarded to Paul Brady but sadly he was unable to attend and the Medal will be awarded at a future date.*

## UCD AWARDS HONORARY DOCTORATES (CONTINUED)



Dr Mary O'Hara



Dr Finbar Furey



Dr Triona Ní Dhomhnaill



Dr Andy Irvine



Dr Mary Bergin and Dr Paddy Glackin



Donal Lunny

The awards were conferred by UCD Acting President, Professor Mark Rogers at UCD O'Reilly Hall and celebrate the outstanding contribution these artists have made to Irish music and culture, and the central role they played in the Irish folk music revival. Professor Rogers drew on the powerful words of Paul Brady's iconic song 'The Island' in his closing speech, the words of which resonate with all of us at this time.

**“While we are just a small island on the western edge of Europe, we want to reach out to our sisters and brothers in Ukraine...**

**Now I know us plain folks don't see all the story.**

**And I know this peace and love's just copping out.**

**And I guess these young boys dying in the ditches.**

**Is just what being free is all about.**

**And how this twisted wreckage down on main street.**

**Will bring us all together in the end.**

**And we'll go marching down the road to freedom....**

**Freedom”**

A number of the distinguished artists honoured an invited audience of 700 with a performance that evening in UCD O'Reilly Hall. They were joined by special guest Donal Lunny and by a talented 'house band' of UCD students and alumni, the future of traditional Irish music is indeed safe!

It was a night to remember, expertly compered by Associate Professor PJ Mathews, Director of UCD Creative Futures Academy. There wasn't a dry eye in the house after Dr Finbar Furey's closing number – the inimitable *Sweet Sixteen*.

## ■ Appointment of Acting President

**Professor Mark Rogers has been appointed Acting President of UCD, following the departure of Professor Andrew Deeks. Professor Rogers will hold that role until the Governing Authority appoints the next President.**

In his first message to the UCD Community, he said: "Stepping into the role of Acting President as society emerges from two years of COVID-19, I am acutely conscious of the extraordinary efforts put in to ensure our students could progress academically and our research could continue. The flexibility, resilience and agility displayed across UCD meant that our classes continued, our assessments adapted, our operations transformed and our campus remained open. We remain in the shadow of the pandemic and I know all too well the personal toll this has taken on everyone but I hope that we can now take this opportunity to re-energise.

"This is a good time to reassert our purpose



and to consider what we do, and why. The purpose of a university is higher education and scholarship. Through these, our mission is to make a difference to society. Whether directly involved in teaching or research or in an area that supports and enables these activities, we all have a role in ensuring these are delivered."

## ■ Appointment of UCD Acting Registrar, Deputy President and Vice-President for Academic Affairs

Professor Barbara Dooley has been appointed UCD Acting Registrar, Deputy President and Vice-President for Academic Affairs. She is responsible for the University's academic affairs, education strategy and academic planning. She also has responsibility, inter alia, for the regulation and development of courses and programmes, assessments, teaching and learning standards, and academic policy. She will work in collaboration with College Principals and Heads of School and closely with the Acting President, acting as his representative when required.



Professor Dooley said: "As a graduate of UCD, I'm very excited to have been appointed to this important position. It's a privilege for me to further serve this great University, and to support its ambition in delivering an excellent education and student experience. I'm passionate about bringing my expertise in student mental health to the role as I believe that well-being is key to students' achieving their potential. And as a psychologist, for me people are really important. In my new role, I very much look forward to working with colleagues and students across the University".

## ■ Farewell to Professor Andrew Deeks



**In December 2021, UCD President, Professor Andrew J Deeks announced his intention to resign as President to take up the role of Vice-Chancellor at Murdoch University, Perth, Western Australia.**

Professor Deeks, the first Australian to lead an Irish university, became President of UCD on 1 January 2014.

Professor Deeks said: "I have greatly enjoyed my time at UCD, despite the various challenges Irish universities have faced over these eight years. I have been constantly impressed by the dedication and commitment of our faculty and staff, by the talent and achievement of our students, by the generous support we have received from alumni and philanthropists, and by the productive partnerships we have formed with companies and organisations.

"My family and I have felt very welcome and at home here in Ireland, and we have built some great

friendships. However, my ten-year term as President is rapidly coming to an end, and the opportunity to return to my hometown to lead a university which is well-positioned to thrive in this time of disruption and opportunity, a time where the need to build a sustainable global society is increasingly recognised was one I could not pass up.

"I will leave UCD and Ireland with great memories and will look back on my time here with warmth and affection. I hope to return at some point."

A number of farewell events were held with faculty and staff; the members of the current and immediate past Governing Authorities; the University Management Team, past and present; and donors and supporters. At each event, good wishes were conveyed to Professor Deeks, his wife Dr Linda Yang and their daughter Pearl as they leave to start their new life in Perth.

Speaking at the Farewell Events, Professor Mark Rogers said: "One of the first things that struck me when I first met Andrew eight years ago was



*University Management Team, past and present: back row (l-r) Prof Gerry Byrne, former Principal, UCD College of Engineering and Architecture; Prof Tony Brabazon, Principal, UCD College of Business; David Kelly, UCD Bursar; Gerry O'Brien, former UCD Bursar; Tristan Aitken, UCD Chief People Office and Director of SIRC and Legal Services; Prof Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact; Prof Sarah Prescott, Principal, UCD College of Arts and Humanities; Prof David FitzPatrick, former Principal, UCD College of Engineering and Architecture; Prof Ciarán Ó hÓgarthaigh, former Principal, UCD College of Business. Front row (l-r): Prof Michael Monaghan, UCD Vice-President for Campus Development; Prof Cecily Kelleher, Principal, UCD College of Health Sciences; Prof Aoife Ahern, Principal, UCD College of Engineering and Architecture; Prof Andrew Deeks; Prof Michael Bruen, former Interim Principal, UCD College of Engineering and Architecture; Assoc Prof Niamh Moore-Cherry, former Interim Principal, UCD College of Social Sciences and Law; Prof Joe Carthy, former Principal, UCD College of Science; and Prof Maeve Conrick, former Principal, UCD College of Arts and Humanities.*

his clarity of mission and vision. That clarity and a determination to do the very best for UCD during his tenure have brought the University to where we are today".

Marie O'Connor, Chair of the UCD Governing Authority, said: "After the acknowledged successes of the Strategic Plan 2015-2020, Andrew turned his mind to conceiving and bringing the Strategy from 2020-2024, Rising to the Future to life. The

four themes truly cover the spectrum of challenges facing society locally and globally and challenge us to continue to contribute to the flourishing of Ireland and the world. The strategic themes and enablers map out a clear path for UCD for the period to 2024. Indeed we are seeing green shoots from those themes now as the University moves to implement advanced systems and services to transform operations."



## IN PROFILE: PROFESSOR MARK ROGERS

**Professor Mark Rogers, Acting President at UCD talks about his priorities for the coming year**

Sitting in his office in UCD Tierney Building, Professor Mark Rogers outlined his vision for re-engagement within the UCD community.

The new Acting President has spent his career as a pioneering educator. Prior to this appointment, he was Registrar and Deputy President for the past 11 years and before that, he was Dean of Science, overseeing the transformation of the Science programmes.

When former President, Professor Andrew Deeks finished his term early, the UCD Statutes provided for the Deputy President to step in as Acting President, taking up the role until the appointment by the UCD Governing Authority of a permanent President for the next ten-year term.

## ■ In Profile...

### Education and Research

*"One of my first activities as Acting President was to visit as many faculty and staff as possible across campus through a series of town hall meetings. I was accompanied by Acting Registrar and Deputy President, Professor Barbara Dooley and Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact, Professor Orla Feely. Together we listened to people," says Professor Rogers.*

*"What we heard was a strong, communal belief that the primary purpose of the university is education and research for the benefit of society, for the public good. We have a strategic plan in place which is still pertinent to what we do and what we need to achieve. But, as long as we're focussed on the two primary purposes; on the education and holistic development of our students and the scholarship and research impact of our faculty, then everything we do is in the right space."*

### Emerging from COVID

In a post-pandemic educational setting, Professor Rogers acknowledges that reimagining the university experience is one of the biggest challenges he now faces.

Looking out across the quad, he began by explaining some of the challenges the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to bring to the life students once knew on campus.

*"We have a significant number of students who have not experienced the University in the same way as students before COVID-19. Some of those are probably entering third year now and they are the ones who have missed out the most because of the pandemic. They have been studying from their bedrooms often isolated from their peers and we must help them to re-engage with campus life."*

**"It is all about the community. That is the faculty, the staff, and the students. A university is only as good as all the people that are in it. They are its lifeblood, they define it."**

*"We need to make sure that everything that we do here on campus has a purpose. Our teaching is not just student-facing, delivered front-of-class but we want the engagements to be interactive and students to be actively involved in these learning activities, so that it is not just a listening exercise."*

Professor Rogers stressed the value of a campus-based education: "Campus is a fabulous place to be and we now need that peer-to-peer interaction and the engagements between students in their clubs or societies – all those activities which were hybrid over the past two years – to get back to being fully face to face. Then the real benefit of the on-campus experience becomes evident," he says.

The Acting President is strongly supportive of the on-campus experience and classroom-based face-to-face learning, as well as incorporating online learning into the mainstream, based on pedagogical best practice. However, he notes, we must be careful not to try to do too much, to support all modes of delivery, often called hyflex, where students are either in the classroom or watch and engage through a live stream. This places a huge load on the teacher and, without additional technical capability in the classroom, can lead to a poorer experience for those attending the class in-person."

**"It is important that we also get our faculty and staff back on campus – the experience is not just about students, it's about the overall UCD community and bringing this back to life in a meaningful way."**

*"We've just opened the UCD Student Village, a welcoming hub adjacent to our newest on-campus residences, with a vibrant range of food outlets, a gym, dance studio and adaptable spaces. This provides a central location for students to meet, talk, study and collaborate on a whole range of activities.*

*"It is intended to be open into the night; and to be used by all students. I am not sure if it will be a 24/7 operation, but it will provide a hub for students with a much broader range of opening hours than the rest of the campus," Professor Rogers notes.*

*"Students should feel welcome on campus and have access to facilities that allow for study, whether it is in our libraries or using informal study capacity for in-person and virtual group work.*

*"And it is important to focus again on that collegiate experience, because as we know, there have been heightened levels of pandemic-related anxiety for many people. If we can get that vibrant atmosphere going again, then people will really see the rationale, the benefits, the reasons for coming back."*

One of the other things that Professor Rogers wants to ensure is that student facilities and supports are readily available.

*"We're very aware of the national trend of students facing mental health and other challenges. We're working hard to ensure that our facilities, our supports, our student advisors,*



our counselling services, are all geared up to best support the kind of issues that students will have as they re-engage with, not just a different way of learning, but a re-entry to the social scene which is such an important aspect of university life.

*“As well as facilitating the return of students to campus, we know the impact the pandemic has had on our faculty and staff, professionally and personally. Over the past two years, faculty have worked hard to deliver their teaching in a virtual environment and to improve engagement. They have had to deal with delivering lectures to a zoom screen, with cameras often turned off, unable to gauge the level of engagement in their class. I know they strongly support the return of the on-campus experience which will bring the collegiality which will benefit students and faculty alike.”*

#### **The role of the new technological universities**

When asked about the advent of Ireland's Technological Universities, Professor Rogers says that they have an important role to play in further education in Ireland.

*“The Government has recognised the importance of higher and further education, establishing a Minister responsible for the sector and its research and scholarship. They want to see a holistic system approach and there is opportunity for all universities to deliver student education, driven by excellent research. There is a particular role for the technological universities in terms of that applied activity. Their establishment presents a new opportunity, but we have to make sure that each aspect of the higher education system is delivering on its objectives, with an equality of esteem across all areas, so that there isn't any perception of hierarchy in terms of what education is perceived to be 'better'.”*

*“It's that mix that will make it possible for all students to choose what works best for them in their own circumstances.”*

#### **Looking after new faculty and staff**

As well as the regular influx of students, UCD is currently experiencing an increase in faculty recruitment under the Ad Astra Fellows Programme. Some who have already joined have not had significant on-campus experience and will need to be properly inducted and get used to the collegiality that is part and parcel of what UCD is all about.

*“We're recruiting new faculty and staff all the time, and that can be a challenge. Generally people do want to work in academia, including a significant number of early-career researchers, so we are not surprised to have received over 2,800 applications for the 30 Ad Astra Fellow posts from all over the world - literally the UK, Europe, Australia, India, and America. There's a lot of interest in working at UCD, in joining us at an exciting time in our history.”*

#### **Looking ahead**

Looking ahead to his own legacy at UCD, Professor Rogers said that community engagement is his top priority for the next academic year.

*“Given the period we've just been through, the immediate future is all about making sure COVID-19 and its legacy are left behind, that we all, faculty, staff and students alike, come back and re-engage with campus, fill the empty spaces that COVID left behind. Everyone can be a part of the next chapter of our UCD story.”*

*“There will be a significant effort around making the campus a really vibrant, active place for everyone, and making sure that the research and scholarship that have been going on throughout the pandemic are brought back up to full speed, engaging in a level of activity that fully supports the University's strategy of delivering impactful teaching, learning and research.”*

*“I want our students to receive an impactful education, not just in their own discipline, but also in their personal and professional development. I am enormously proud of our*

*students, our future graduates – the future world and academic leaders who pass through these doors. Making sure that we are very focused on the impact and quality of our teaching, learning and research is of the utmost importance.*

*“Education is a balance – students should leave UCD ready to tackle the problems the world faces on both an academic and personal level.”*

*Professor Mark Rogers was in conversation with Seán Dunne, Senior TV Producer, The Tonight Show, Virgin Media*





# THE PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS THAT SAVED THOUSANDS OF LIVES IN ICU

FOR ALMOST A DECADE, PROFESSOR ALISTAIR NICHOL QUIETLY PLANNED AND OVERSAW A CURIOUS, ANNUAL DRILL AT ST VINCENT'S UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL (SVUH). HE AND HIS TEAM WOULD SIMULATE A 'DRY RUN' OF GATHERING DATA ABOUT CRITICALLY ILL PATIENTS IN A PANDEMIC.

**“Every year we would dust down this system and the team would put it through its paces. Then we would put it back to sleep again,” says Professor Nichol, Chair of Critical Care Medicine in UCD School of Medicine, who leads the Irish Critical Care-Clinical Trials Network (ICC-CTN). “And I was the guy with the tinfoil hat, leading the exercise.”**

**But then COVID-19 arrived, and the ‘peace-time’ preparation quickly paid dividends. Teams within the ICC-CTN hit the ground running, harmonising COVID-19 pandemic research in ICUs in Ireland as part of an international network that forged new, evidence-based standards of care and saved thousands of lives in the process.**

In 2022, the ICC-CTN won the UCD Research Impact Case Study Competition for its report on ‘Improving outcomes of critically ill patients with COVID-19’, and Professor Nichol received a special commendation from the Irish Research Council for his ‘exceptional contribution’ in the field of medical research, notably in the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic. “It was an overnight success that we had worked on for 12 years,” he says.

#### **Lost opportunity leads to change**

The origins of that ‘overnight success’ lay in the H1N1 or swine flu pandemic of 2009. Professor Nichol, a native of Belfast, was training in intensive care medicine in Australia at the time and was part of the research effort there. But without an existing harmonised international system to collect and analyse data from patients with H1N1, it was not possible to mobilise large-scale research in ICUs before that pandemic eased.

“We felt we missed an opportunity with H1N1, and that globally in critical-care medicine we would need to be better prepared next time,”

says Professor Nichol. “So across a network in Ireland, the UK, Canada, Europe and Australia we developed a common approach for data collection and analysis that could be quickly adapted to a pandemic situation. That project became part of a larger, more ambitious EU-funded program of research, PREPARE, the Platform for European Preparedness Against (Re-)emerging Epidemics.”

Their initial, non-pandemic target was community-acquired pneumonia, which is a relatively common problem in ICU, and the consortium put the structures in place to pivot when a pandemic arose.

Then, when the new coronavirus burst onto the scene in 2020, the PREPARE machine swung into action, studying critically ill patients with COVID-19 around the world, including in 18 hospitals in Ireland that were co-ordinated through the UCD Clinical Research Centre at SVUH.

“With H1N1, globally in critical-care medicine we managed to recruit around 100 patients for clinical studies,” says Professor Nichol. “Today, more than 700,000 COVID-19 patients across more than 1,600 hospitals in more than 60 countries have been involved in the observational studies and over 12,000 patients in the interventional clinical trials, in over 350 hospitals in 32 countries carried out by this consortium.”

#### **Genes and medicines**

As well as capturing important information about patients’ journeys through critical care with

COVID-19, PREPARE is identifying better ways of supporting and treating patients with the condition in ICU.

One avenue is through genetic analysis, explains Professor Nichol. “People had been asking for 20 years if patient genetics can be used to identify risk in ICU, but you typically had patients presenting in ICU with different problems - maybe they had been hit by a bus or they had a serious operation or an infection,” he says. “Now in the pandemic we were seeing almost everyone coming to ICU with the same illness - COVID-19 - and this offered an environment to explore the potential impact of patient genetics.”

The ICC-CTN led in Ireland on the Genetics Of Mortality In Critical Care project spearheaded by Professor Ken Baillie in the University of Edinburgh, and the consortium published their findings in the prestigious journal *Nature*.

“We were able to show there were some genetic markers linked with a higher risk of death,” says Professor Nichol. “We could also use genetic markers of the inflammatory response in COVID-19 to point to existing medications that could target the disease.”

That went hand in glove with another strand of PREPARE - the REMAP-CAP clinical trial that to date has evaluated 11 drug regimes to treat patients with COVID-19 in ICU.

“We were able to show that some treatments that were being widely suggested for use, like Kaletra [a HIV medication] or convalescent plasma did not work in general for ICU patients, and that some treatments could even be harmful,” says Professor Nichol. “And we showed that some treatments worked well, for example we saw that steroids combined with a drug that blocks an immune molecule in the body called IL-6 improves COVID-19 outcomes in ICU, with a 10 per cent reduction in death. That has become a standard of

care globally, saving thousands of lives.”

#### **Team effort**

The two years so far of the COVID-19 pandemic have been ‘truly awful’ and an enormous challenge for healthcare staff, says Professor Nichol, who like many of his colleagues in emergency medicine self-isolated from family and friends to help protect them from the virus.

But now that the success and impact of this global initiative is becoming apparent, it is a good juncture for them to reflect, he adds.

“We had been preparing for so long, when the pandemic hit we leaned into it, it was crisis mode, there was an amazing spirit of collegiality and we wanted to have as big an impact on patient outcomes as we could,” he says. “We got funding from the Health Research Board, which was pivotal for us escalating at the time of the pandemic, and we are indebted to the patients and their families for their willingness to participate in research during a hugely challenging time for everyone. We are humbled by the results it has produced, and the impact on society as a whole.”

#### **The work continues**

The ICC-CTN Pandemic programme may have transformed how research is carried out in the ICU, but this is just the start, says Professor Nichol. “There are many more questions to answer with COVID-19, and we will see patients in ICU with this disease for years to come,” he says. “We are also continuing to refine our preparedness plans in ICU for influenza, to be prepared for future crises. Because pandemics will be around for a long time yet.”

*Professor Nicholl was in conversation with Dr Claire O’Connell, BSc Hons (1992), PhD (1998), journalist with the Irish Times and Silicon Republic and Irish Science Writer of the Year 2016.*

## Academic Health Science System (AHSS) in Ireland

UCD Health Affairs has developed a video animation explaining the concept and benefits of an Academic Health Science System (AHSS) in Ireland. The video can be viewed [here](#).

An AHSS is a fully coordinated partnership between a university and a healthcare system, designed to deliver quality care hand in hand with teaching, training, research and innovation. Most importantly, the change from the traditional hospital model to an integrated Academic Health Science System will improve patient care in local communities. It offers a real prospect of achieving greater levels of productivity and efficiency, sustainable improvements in patient care, better patient safety and outcomes, as well as world-class research and innovation in healthcare.

UCD Health Affairs works with Schools across UCD Health Sciences to provide a formal channel for cooperation and collaboration between the Ireland East Hospital Group (IEHG) and UCD, the Group's primary academic partner. This includes developing and implementing the strategic vision and direction for healthcare education, research and innovation across the Group and ultimately the successful creation of the AHSS.

To find out more about the Academic Health Science System in Ireland and the collaborative work being undertaken between UCD Health Affairs and IEHG, [please visit the UCD Health Affairs website](#).

## Recipients of NovaUCD's 2022 Innovation Awards Announced

NovaUCD has announced the recipients of its annual innovation awards which highlight successes made in areas of knowledge transfer, consultancy, entrepreneurship and the promotion of an innovation culture by members of the UCD research, innovation and start-up community.

A total of eight awards, including the main 2022 NovaUCD Innovation Award, were presented by Professor Barbara Dooley, Acting UCD Registrar and Deputy President during an event held in the UCD University Club.

Professor Dooley said, "The NovaUCD Innovation Awards, which have become a key annual event at UCD, were established to recognise and highlight the successes being achieved by members of our research, innovation and entrepreneurial communities across the University. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all those who have received awards today and I wish them ongoing successes in the years ahead as they continue to deliver impact for the economy and society through their commercialisation, consultancy, entrepreneurial and innovation activities."

The 2022 NovaUCD Innovation Award, which recognises excellence in innovation or of successes achieved in the commercialisation of UCD research or other intellectual activity over a number of years, was awarded to Professor Dominic Zerulla, UCD School of Physics.

Since he joined UCD in 2014, Professor Zerulla has disclosed eleven inventions to NovaUCD, five of which have been patented, and founded PEARlabs, a UCD spin-out company. PEARlabs has developed a novel photonic chip which enables ultra-high spatial resolution at video rates in optical microscopy, far beyond the diffraction limit of visible light and has the potential to aid early diagnostics, precision medicine and the delivery of improved drug treatments.

The recipient of the 2022 NovaUCD Invention of the Year Award is Dr John McCallig, UCD Lochlann Quinn School of Business and the UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School. Dr McCallig's invention is to use privacy preserving analytics to collect and share commercially sensitive



Prof Dominic Zerulla, UCD School of Physics, recipient of the 2022 NovaUCD Innovation Award.

information about VAT obligations and payments.

The recipient of the 2022 NovaUCD Spin-out of the Year Award is BioSimulytics, focused on using artificial intelligence to digitise key steps in how new drug molecules are designed and developed. The company was founded in 2019 by Professor Niall English, Dr Christian Burnham, and Peter Doyle as a spin-out from the UCD School of Chemical and Bioprocess Engineering.

The recipient of the 2022 NovaUCD Consultancy of the Year Award is Dr Sarah Cotterill, UCD School of Civil Engineering and UCD Dooge Centre for Water Resources Research, for a consultancy study entitled 'A Framework for Improving Domestic Water Conservation in Ireland', commissioned by An Fóram Uisce (the Water Forum) through ConsultUCD.

The recipients of the 2022 NovaUCD Founder of the Year Award are Sheena Bailey and Louella Morton, co-founders, TestReach. TestReach, headquartered at NexusUCD, provides a cloud-based online assessment solution that enables end-to-end management of exam authoring, test assembly, exam delivery, marking, moderation and reporting.

The recipient of the 2022 NovaUCD Innovation Champion of the Year Award is Professor Ronan Cahill, Professor of Surgery at UCD School of Medicine and at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital where he is championing digital



Pictured are Prof Barbara Dooley and Dr Sarah Cotterill, UCD School of Civil Engineering, recipient of the 2022 NovaUCD Consultancy of the Year Award.

innovation and innovative solutions in surgery.

The recipient of the 2022 NovaUCD Licence of the Year Award is Professor Andrew Keane, UCD School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Director, UCD Energy Institute. Professor Keane is also a co-founder and CTO of NovoGrid, a UCD spin-out and a pioneer in Grid Edge intelligence software that optimises energy delivery.

The recipient of the 2022 NovaUCD Outstanding Achievement Award is Aidan Corbett, co-founder, Wayflyer, which earlier this year became Ireland's sixth tech unicorn on securing a \$150 million Series B funding round. Wayflyer was co-founded in 2019 by Aidan Corbett and Jack Piere as a spin-out from Conjura, a NexusUCD-headquartered company which Aidan Corbett had previously co-founded.

## ■ Arthur Cox UCD Women in Leadership 2022

After a break for a virtual event in 2021, it was wonderful to be back in person for the seventh Arthur Cox UCD Women in Leadership conference on Tuesday 22 March! Over 400 members of the UCD community enjoyed keynotes, panels and breakouts in UCD O'Reilly Hall and the UCD University Club, followed by an opportunity to reconnect and reflect in online mentoring circles the next day.



Noeline Blackwell delivering her keynote address

The conference started with a wonderful Opening Address from Professor Aoife Ahern, Principal, UCD College of Engineering and Architecture. Highlights of the day included an interview by Andrea Dermody with UCD alumnus David McRedmond, CEO of An Post, a panel session on Effective Sponsorship, curated by Arthur Cox, and keynotes from both Lorna Conn, CEO of Cpl, and Noeline Blackwell, CEO of the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, who all delivered inspiring addresses.

Empowering panel discussions included industry experts who discussed women in sport, women in tech, women in finance, and the importance of community. Lunchtime breakouts in the UCD University Club were especially lively with sessions on getting onto boards, managing work/home responsibilities, the importance of intersectionality, navigating your career and smart working. The vibrant day of networking was guided by UCD alumna, PhD Researcher and CEO of the Alpha Project, Nana Nubi as MC for the day.

On day two, taking inspiration from the virtual



Effective Sponsorship Panel, sponsored by Arthur Cox: (l-r) Orla O'Connor, Chair and Partner, Arthur Cox; Avril O'Hehir, GFO, Lidl Ireland; Nicola McCracken, Head of Group Human Resources, DCC Plc; Simon Hannigan, Partner, Arthur Cox; and Paula Neary, MD, Communication Media and Technology, Accenture.



Prof Aoife Ahern delivering the opening address.

conference last year, attendees were invited to online mentoring circles at which they could join a small virtual audience with inspiring leaders. The mentoring circle leaders included: Dee

Forbes, Director General of RTÉ; Stephen Howell, Accessibility Pillar Lead at Microsoft; Dr Mary Doherty, Founder of the Autistic Doctor; Joy Tendai Kangere, barrister and writer; and Aisling Finn, Agile Coach Jaguar Land Rover amongst many others.

Special thanks to our corporate sponsors, Arthur Cox, KPMG, ESB, Aldi, Jaguar Land Rover and Abbott, who all contributed massively to the event and without whom the conference would not be possible.

The conference was organised by UCD Alumni Relations and UCD Societies Council.

Watch the highlights video and see more photos [here](#).



Nana Nubi was MC for the day.

## Irish Student Health Association Educational Conference

**The 2022 Irish Student Health Association Educational Conference and AGM was hosted by UCD Student Health Service team on 18 February 2022.**

Dr Fiona Thompson and Moira O Loughlin were the lead organisers and the UCD Student Health Team included Nurse Patricia Brady, Nurse Geraldine McDermott, Sharon Lane and Head of Service, Dr Eadaoin Lysaght.

The conference is normally a two-day event, an occasion where doctors, nurses, psychiatrists, physiotherapists, and administration staff working in Student Health Services in third-level colleges meet and share ideas and promote best clinical practice to ensure they are meeting the needs of our diverse student populations. In late December, due to the omicron variant, the UCD team decided to run the event virtually.

The President of the ISHA, Moira O Loughlin opened the event and welcomed the delegates. She is the first non-clinical President of the Association and brings a different perspective

and set of skills to the role.

Professor Jason Last, UCD Dean of Students joined Moira in the welcome address outlining what he called the three pandemics.

1. Sexual violence and harassment
2. Mental Health and Well-being
3. COVID-19 Pandemic

Professor Last presented measures put in place by UCD to address the areas outlined and his support for student collaboration and multidisciplinary teams in the role of addressing student mental health.

Minister Harris addressed the conference via video link and thanked delegates for their dedication to delivering frontline care to student in third-level. He outlined his thoughts on mental health and well-being interventions and initiatives introduced since the formation of the Department of Further and Higher Education in 2020, which

included a range of multidisciplinary and non-traditional mental health initiatives. The Minister referenced the framework document for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention launched in 2020 and outlined additional funding given by the HEA to support mental health in the sector. He welcomed an informed discussion on how investment leads to improved outcomes.

Among the speakers were Dr Michele Hill, Consultant Psychiatrist, UCC; Ruairi Power, President, UCD Students' Union; Dr Deirdre Lundy, specialist in Womens Health and Resident Expert for GP Buddy; and Professor Patrick Wall, UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sport Science.

The webinar then moved to the AGM and the President's Closing Address which reviewed the achievements for the year and welcomed Dr Serena O'Connell to the role as New President of the Association.



Dr Fiona Thompson, UCD Student Health – lead organiser



Moira O Loughlin, Administrative Officer, UCD Student Health and President of the Irish Student Health Association.

## UCD Librarian Appointed

Dr Sandra Collins has taken up her post as University Librarian, replacing former Librarian Dr John B Howard (2009-2021). Sandra was formerly Director of the National Library of Ireland (2015-2022), and Director of the Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI). Her career includes leadership roles in research, industry and public service, with prior positions in Royal Irish Academy, Science Foundation Ireland, Ericsson telecommunications and Dublin City University.

"I am absolutely delighted to begin my new role as University Librarian. This is an exciting time to be joining the fabulous team at the UCD Library - with the launch of a new strategy and many opportunities ahead in cultural heritage, research services, collection curation, digital leadership, and enhancing the student experience including a major refurbishment of Level 3 in the James Joyce Library.



Dr Sandra Collins

"More than 25 years ago I graduated from UCD with a PhD in nonlinear fluid dynamics. I loved studying in UCD, and it is an honour to be returning now, I can't wait to get started!"

## UCD signs MOU with QUB to strengthen collaboration

**A new Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between UCD and Queen's University Belfast (QUB) to strengthen collaboration between both universities. The partnership will enhance cooperation in research and innovation, with the aim of co-developing solutions to shared global challenges in areas such as climate and sustainability, energy, and food and agriculture, as well as in healthcare and cancer, manufacturing and digital technologies.**

Each institution will also explore opportunities for collaboration in emerging areas of expertise, and in academic and postgraduate student mobility.

"This agreement formalises a significant and close partnership between the two institutions and expresses our ambition to jointly contribute our expertise to co-develop solutions to shared global challenges," said Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact.

"UCD looks forward to participating in future all-island and international funding programmes with Queen's University Belfast, together with

other Higher Education Institutions and industry partners, which will have transformative impacts for citizens and support talent for the jobs of the future on the Island of Ireland."

QUB Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor Emma Flynn said: "Working together to advance cooperation, academic exchanges and research is a positive and important way to blend our expertise for the benefit of society as a whole. The enhanced connectivity delivered to our universities and communities through these projects will ensure that our cutting-edge research continues to make a real difference to our society."

# How Dogs can Pollute our Rivers and Seas



**NOT CLEANING UP AFTER YOUR DOG CAN RUIN SOMEONE ELSE'S DAY. ONE WOMAN - WE'LL CALL HER SHARON - ONLY LEARNED SHE HAD COVID-19 AFTER HER FAMILY GAVE OUT TO HER FOR TRAIPING DOG DIRT ALL THROUGH THE HOUSE; SHE HADN'T REALISED IT WAS ON HER SHOE BECAUSE SHE ALSO HADN'T REALISED THAT SHE'D LOST HER SENSE OF SMELL!**



But dog dirt isn't just a health and hygiene nuisance when it ends up on our shoes and in our homes. Researchers at UCD have gathered evidence showing that even small amounts of dog dirt can pollute our coasts and make beaches and sea swimming dangerous.

Professor Wim Meijer, Head of UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science has been working with PhD candidate Niamh Martin on Acclimatize. This is a major EU-funded project involving Irish and Welsh researchers, with UCD as the lead partner, which looks at the relationships between humans, animals and water pollution. In particular, the project looks at how faecal pollution can affect the quality of water in areas where people swim and bathe. This pollution can come from a number of biological sources, including dog fouling, sewage spills, and wild birds.

"My project aims to calculate how much pollution each source is contributing to beaches," says Niamh. "It involved collecting faeces samples, from big and small dogs and from dog shelters. We then weighed the samples and determined how many bacteria were in each gram. I worked with PhD candidate, Jayne Stephens to carry out dog fouling surveys at beaches at Merrion and Sandymount in south Dublin, and Portrane and Donabate in north Dublin. In just one day, we picked up over two kilograms of dog faeces. When not collected, dog faeces wash out to sea, polluting the water with E. coli and other potentially dangerous bacteria.

"In these two kilograms alone, there were over 88 billion E. coli, and this is what we are introducing to the water. Water with over 250 E.

coli per 100 millilitres significantly increases the likelihood of making a person sick."

Most people pick up after their dogs but, despite many public information campaigns, a significant minority still don't. In 2021, a survey carried out for Dublin City Council by polling firm Behaviour and Attitudes saw 96% of people claim to pick up after their dog.

Niamh, however, is doubtful. "I also surveyed how many dogs were on the beaches while I was there," she says. "On some days, it was as high as 200, and on average I would find about 20 dog poos. This means that perhaps one in ten is not picking up after their dog."

"If a dog goes on the beach, and the owner picks it up, there is often still a signature left on the sand which gets into the water and pollutes it", says Professor Meijer. He suggests that dog owners make sure to remove as many traces as possible - an easier task on the sand, where they can scoop up the sand underneath the offending article.

**"IT IS QUITE STARK: IF YOU TAKE AN AREA THE SIZE OF A TENNIS COURT, FILL IT WITH HALF A METRE OF WATER AND ADD JUST ONE DOG POO, THAT WATER WILL FAIL QUALITY TESTS AND WILL NOT BE SAFE FOR PEOPLE TO SWIM IN."**

Both researchers say that dog waste - or even fragments of it - left on the sand can also harm children, especially as they are more likely to play in the sand.

Professor Meijer says: "Many people don't quite realise the impact of dog fouling on

beaches. They think the sea will wash it away, but we are providing scientific evidence to the public and to local authorities that dog fouling is a serious problem - and one that is sometimes directly responsible for failing water quality. With this information, we are giving the local authorities the tools to do something."

The team at UCD, working with three Dublin local authorities and Dublin Bay Biosphere, have produced an [animation](#) to help educate people on the problem.

**"THE IDEA IS NOT TO POINT FINGERS BUT TO CREATE AWARENESS THAT EVEN A SMALL DOG POO ON A BIG BEACH HAS A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND CAN CONTAIN HARMFUL BACTERIA, VIRUSES, WORMS, PROTOZOA WHICH, IN EXTREME CASES, MAY CAUSE BLINDNESS," SAYS NIAMH. "AND, ULTIMATELY, WHO WOULD WANT TO SWIM IN WATER THAT HAS DOG POO IN IT?"**

The Acclimatize project is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the Ireland Wales Programme 2014-2020. See [Acclimatize.eu](http://Acclimatize.eu) for more information

*Professor Meijer and Niamh Martin were in conversation with Peter McGuire, BA (2002), MLitt (2007), freelance journalist and regular contributor to the Irish Times.*

## Microbiology at UCD

**Professor Wim Meijer** began lecturing in the department of microbiology in the University of Groningen, the Netherlands in 1991, and moved to UCD in 1997. "I've been involved in researching infection biology caused by pathogenic bacteria since then, and my work has traced the sources of pollution, particularly in water, back to their source," he says.

In 2020, he set up the National SARS-CoV-2 Wastewater Surveillance Programme in partnership with Irish Water, the National Virus Reference Laboratory (also based in UCD and which played a pivotal role during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in the early days), the HSE, the Health Protection Surveillance Centre and the Health Intelligence Unit. This involves the surveillance of 68 treatment plants nationwide, monitoring the levels of SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater; unsurprisingly, levels are higher when the virus is at high levels in the population.

**PhD candidate Niamh Martin** graduated from Trinity College Dublin with a BA (Mod) in Zoology before obtaining her MSc in Wildlife Conservation and Management from UCD - is looking to expand this wastewater surveillance to include other viruses that are found in the community. "My research examines the link between biodiversity and water quality and their impact on human health," she says. "The surveillance of waterborne pathogens is an important tool to reduce the risk of illness".



*Pictured (l-r) are: Paula Carroll, New Frontiers Programme Enterprise Ireland; Cormac Finn, SideTeams; Fiona Kiernan, Zeumed; David Smith, President, IADT; Jennifer Carroll MacNeill TD; Lisa Geoghegan, Sonalife; Tom Flanagan, NovaUCD; Rachel Gallagher, IADT Media Cube; and Conor Duggan, TaxZap.*

## ■ NovaUCD and IADT Media Cube Launch €1.6 million New Frontiers Programme

**NovaUCD and The Institute of Art, Design and Technology Dún Laoghaire (IADT) has welcomed its first cohort of thirteen entrepreneurs to its Enterprise Ireland-backed New Frontiers programme.**

Programme participants are working on early-stage business concepts ranging from fintech, medtech, digital media, innovation in healthcare and food products, and software to help organisations embed diversity and inclusion.

Enterprise Ireland has committed €1.6 million in funding over the next five years on this New Frontiers programme to support up to 265 entrepreneurs in the greater South Dublin area incorporating Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and North Wicklow. The programme will see each participant receive financial support of €15,000 scholarship to cover full-time participation in the six-month course, as they focus on moving their business from concept to market. Programme participants will be hosted in the IADT Media Cube and in NovaUCD.

Speaking at the launch of the Programme at IADT, Jennifer Carroll MacNeill TD said, "One of the striking elements of this intake is the diversity of sectors they are working on. I wish all the participants the best of luck as they begin the programme."

Tom Flanagan, Director of Enterprise and Commercialisation, NovaUCD, said, "I am delighted that our first joint New Frontiers Programme with IADT Media Cube has such fantastic participants. We look forward to working with them to further develop and grow their start-ups into companies with the potential to scale on an international stage."

## ■ UCD Smurfit Graduate Business School Awards

**Congratulations to Professor Anthony Brabazon and his team at UCD Smurfit Graduate Business School who have scooped a number of awards recently.**

### **CEMS School of the Year**

The School was named the 2020/2021 CEMS School of the Year for the first time. CEMS is the global strategic alliance of 34 leading business schools, over 69 multinational organisations and eight NGOs that together offer the CEMS Masters in International Management.

Earlier this year, the School's CEMS Masters in International Management Programme was ranked third globally by the Financial Times - the highest ever ranking of one of the School's programmes.

### **Executive Development wins InBusiness Recognition Award**

This was the second year in a row for this award, run in partnership with Chambers Ireland.

The InBusiness Recognition Awards aim to honour and celebrate success, achievement, and ambition within Irish business and acknowledge individuals' contributions to grow business in this country.

### **Three AMBA and BGA Excellence Awards**

The School achieved top accolades at the 2022 AMBA and BGA Excellence Awards, winning silver for both Best Culture, Diversity and Inclusion Initiative and Best Innovation Strategy (Alumni Relations), and bronze for Best Business School Partnership.

It is the highest number of awards won by the School in a single year in this prestigious competition which brings together leaders of the global business education community to celebrate excellence among business schools, students, graduates, suppliers and employers that share AMBA and BGA's values

of ambition, impact and integrity.

In the Best Culture, Diversity and Inclusion Initiative, the School's Intercultural Development Programme (ICD), achieved a silver award.

In the Best Innovation Strategy 2022 the School's well-being and health initiative, UCD Business Alumni Challenge – Around the Globe in 30 Days, was awarded silver.

In the Best Business School Partnership UCD Smurfit School's entry is Their Lives Matter – Tumaini La Maisha (TLM). This is a compelling initiative highlighting the positive impacts of humanitarian aid supported by business strategy. Through this project, a donor-dependent charity organisation from Tanzania, was able to access comprehensive, market model consultancy for rolling out its innovations to low-income markets, whilst keeping with its desire to remain a social enterprise. Students were led by senior faculty mentors to develop strategies to support TLM to scale two IT clinical innovations, 'CleverChart' and 'CleverChemo' to enhance the treatment effectiveness of paediatric oncology.

### **CFA Research Challenge 2022**

The School participated in the CFA Research Challenge represented by students from the MSc in Finance programme. The Challenge took place in Davy Stockbrokers where Trinity College, UCC, NUIG, QUB and TU Dublin also took part.

The team was ably mentored by Dr Cormac Mac Fhionnlaioich, Academic Director, MSc in Finance and Marie Gillespie, CFA, Director, Senior Equity Analyst, Davy.

The focus company was Kerry Group, the world's leading taste and nutrition company. The team's report and presentation concluding with a BUY recommendation. The team will now go on to represent the School, UCD and Ireland at the EMEA Sub Regional Final.



## Stories of Discovery and Discovery Podcasts

**The Stories of Discovery and Discovery Podcasts highlight and promote emerging interdisciplinary research in our UCD community.**

UCD Discovery recently spent a morning with Professor Aidan O'Sullivan and Dr Brendan O'Neill, co-directors of the UCD Centre for Experimental Archaeology and Material Culture.

They gave a tour of their outdoor site, featuring students smelting bronze as part of their Making the Past module. All of the activity onsite made for a fascinating podcast. Students gathered around a hand-built clay furnace to recreate how metal tools were made in the Bronze Age. They each had a role: some took turns sitting on a chair for the laborious task of working the bellows, pumping air into the furnace to keep the charcoal lit. Others kept that charcoal topped up around the crucible; a vessel inside

which the copper is smelting in the heat. Finally, one student used a tongs to take the crucible of liquid metal out of the furnace, bring it to the casting pit and pour it into a clay mould. A spontaneous round of applause erupted.

Meanwhile Masters students excavated the site of the early mediaeval round house under reconstruction after an arson attack. A new mediaeval round house is under construction beside it.

Stories of Discovery and Discovery Podcasts also recently featured Professor Hugh Campbell, UCD School of Architecture, who spoke about redeveloping Ireland's 'fraught' Magdalene Laundry sites. In August 2018 news broke that Dublin City Council planned to sell the two-acre Magdalene Laundry site on Sean McDermott St to a Japanese hotel chain for €14 million. A public outcry ensued.

**"This is what sparked my interest in this whole world," he said. "Many people felt that this was an inappropriate and hasty act that would simply result in the entire disappearance of the building and all that had gone on there."**

## Ireland-Wales research partnership on sustainable tourism for uplands regions

**Researchers from UCD School of Geography are partnering with academic colleagues in Aberystwyth University on a new European project to boost tourism in rural areas of Wales and Ireland. The €3 million project – Coastal Uplands: Heritage and Tourism (CUPHAT) – is led by Aberystwyth, in partnership with UCD and the Dyfed Archaeological Trust, supported by the European Regional Development Fund through the Ireland-Wales Cooperation programme.**

Funded for two years, the project will examine cultural and natural heritage assets to promote sustainable forms of tourism in the Cambrian Mountains and Preseli Hills in Wales, and Wicklow Mountains and Blackstairs Mountains – led in Ireland by co-PIs from UCD School of Geography Dr Christine Bonnin and Dr Arlene Crampsie.

The Ireland-Wales scheme will explore several elements, including: Use of technology to enhance visitor experience; Creating a tourism network and joint marketing strategy; and Working with schools and other groups to record local cultural histories.

Dr Christine Bonnin and Dr Arlene Crampsie said: "Drawing on the rich natural and cultural heritages of the coastal uplands bordering the Irish Sea, this project offers local communities and tourism stakeholders an exciting opportunity to develop sustainable, locally appropriate tourism offerings.

Combining existing and new heritage tourism initiatives, the project will showcase the shared and unique aspects of our joint heritages to a diverse tourist audience, helping to build sustainable tourism through community development."

The initiative also aims to bring economic benefits. Specifically, the goal is to increase the number of tourists in these areas, and their spending, by 5% and create or expand eight local microenterprises.

Professor Rhys Jones from Aberystwyth University said: "The four coastal upland areas of the Cambrian Mountains, Preseli Hills, Wicklow Mountains and Blackstairs Mountains have historically been reliant on traditional industries such as agriculture and forestry. Each of the areas possesses some tourism infrastructure in



addition but, at present, this is relatively under-developed, especially when compared with the mass tourism taking place along the coasts of both Ireland and Wales.

**"In Ireland and Wales, Brexit is likely to have an impact on tourism. However, unexpectedly, Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic may encourage more people to holiday at home. This creates opportunities for more regions to benefit from new types of domestic tourists wanting to actively explore the less commercialised coastal upland areas."**

## UCD School of Medicine endorses DOCTORS FOR VACCINE EQUITY campaign



Professor Michael Keane

**UCD School of Medicine has added its name to the range of academic institutions and healthcare organisations, which include TCD, UCC, RCSI, the IMO, the People's Vaccine Alliance of Ireland and the Irish Global Health Network in support of the Doctors for Vaccine Equity campaign.**

In partnership with these organisation, UCD School of Medicine is advocating for the Irish government to support WHO recommendations on global vaccine equity, especially the TRIPS waiver to enable vaccine production in the Global South as a sustainable solution and facilitation of urgent global redistribution of current vaccine supplies and commitment to rational purchasing to avoid vaccine hoarding and wastage.

Speaking about this formal support from UCD School of Medicine, Professor Michael Keane, Dean and Head of School (and Consultant Respiratory Physician, SVUH) said "77.3% of eligible people living in Ireland have now received three doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. This vital part of the public health response to the pandemic has reduced virus transmission, significant illness and deaths and has allowed for the recent lifting of most restrictions in our everyday lives.

**"The WHO Global COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy is aiming for vaccination of 70% by mid-2022. So, while Ireland is faring incredibly well in this regard, by comparison, only 8.1% of people living in low-income countries have received even one dose of a COVID-19 vaccination. High levels of transmission among unvaccinated populations, risks viral mutation and the emergence of vaccine resistant strains which is putting entire global vaccine programme in jeopardy."**



*Pictured (l-r) are: Lynn Goedecke, GIZ, German Development Agency; Caltriona Devery, UCD Earth Institute; His Excellency Ambassador Cord Meier-Clodt; Prof Tasman Crowe, Director, UCD Earth Institute; Prof Orla Feely; Fatima; Assoc Prof Siofra Pierce, Head of UCD School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics; and Prof Andrew Keane, Director, UCD Energy Institute.*

## Energy Transition Exhibition

**On 22 February 2022, the Energy Transition (Energiewende) exhibition in UCD O'Brien Centre for Science was officially opened by UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact, Professor Orla Feely; German Ambassador to Ireland, HE Cord Meier-Klodt; and Professor Andrew Keane, Director of the UCD Energy Institute.**

This state-of-the art exhibition, organised by the German Federal Foreign Office and hosted by the UCD Energy Institute and the UCD Earth Institute, explores topics including renewable energy, mobility and transport, and a "just transition" in an accessible and engaging way.

At a reception attended by researchers, energy industry professionals and members of the diplomatic community, Professor Feely spoke about how Ireland and the world need to learn from Germany and their energy transition. She also noted how the Energy Transition exhibition connects with UCD's strategic goal of creating a sustainable global society and

provides inspiration for multidisciplinary teaching and research at UCD.

German Ambassador to Ireland, HE Cord Meier-Klodt spoke about how the exhibition marked his first visit to UCD and the first step of friendship with UCD. He also noted the timeliness of the exhibition, that the "just transition" to self-sustaining energy is the most important and urgent challenge we face today. It requires, he said, broad international consensus and actions, in which Ireland and Germany could play strong roles.

The exhibition ran from 22 February to 14 March was visited by groups from across UCD and beyond. It was used for undergraduate teaching and as a catalyst for research meetings; a number of classes from our neighbours in St Kilian's German/Irish School in Clonskeagh visited to find out more about climate change and energy; and the UCD Sustainable Energy Community hosted a meeting in conjunction with the exhibition for Sustainable Energy Community groups in the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown area.

# Citizens' Assemblies – Time to Revitalise?



**PROFESSOR DAVID FARRELL, UCD SCHOOL OF POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE INTRODUCTION OF CITIZENS' ASSEMBLIES IN IRELAND – BUT HE NOW BELIEVES THE PROCESS NEEDS TO BE REVITALISED.**

**The citizens' assembly is a simple but effective tool that has the power to bring the public into debates surrounding constitutional and political reform. When used correctly, they can be a powerful tool for change.**

Professor Farrell first came across the idea of a citizens' assembly around 2004 when a Canadian friend asked him to talk to a group of citizens about electoral reform. It turned out to be the world's first citizens' assembly, and David was an expert witness. "I had never come across this before, actually involving ordinary citizens in debates about big questions like how to vote", he says.

It was in 2009 after he moved to Dublin, having worked in Manchester for 20 years, that he started to think about how the citizens' assembly model could be used in Ireland. Public anger at that time was palpable – the economy had collapsed, and austerity was the word of the day.

"A bunch of us in the political science community started to mobilise and argue that, in the midst of this crisis, we should have a debate about how we can improve how the political system operates here," he explains. "At the heart of that, we said, let's have citizens' assemblies."

That led to the Government of the day setting up the constitutional convention in 2012. Four years later, the citizens' assembly was established to consider a number of key issues such as abortion, fixed-term parliaments and climate change.

Ireland has been seen as a trailblazer in this space – but that doesn't mean our processes are perfect. Professor Farrell is now hopeful

the Government will start to look at how other countries are running citizens' assemblies to establish what international best practice looks like.

"We're in a situation today where I fear where we've developed what I'm calling an 'Irish model' which is not quite perfect. With each new citizens' assembly, they pull a manual off the shelf, they give it to the civil servant who's now in charge, and they say, 'This is how we run it, let's go run it.' Because they're focused only on how we do it here, they're not following best practice in other countries nearly as much as they could."

Thankfully, change is on the cards. Two innovations have been made for the upcoming citizens' assemblies on biodiversity and the question of a directly-elected Dublin mayor.

The first change lies in the way citizens are recruited. Until now, a polling company has been hired to go door to door asking people to sign up to take part in the assembly – they keep recruiting until they get 99 citizens.

**"The problem with cold calling is, people are less inclined to want to engage and then when they do, there's a greater risk of them dropping out", Professor Farrell explains. "One of the great weaknesses of Irish processes is we have poor turnout – we have some meetings where maybe only 70 per cent of the members are showing up, and we have high turnover, so members have to be replaced regularly."**

Other countries use a two-stage process where letters are sent out to thousands of people inviting

them to self-nominate. They can then apply online and are randomly selected. This method – which is now also being used in Ireland for the next citizens' assemblies – is much more coherent and it results in less turnover and higher turnout.

The second innovation is that experts on deliberative processes will be included in upcoming citizens assemblies. Dr Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin, UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics will chair the citizens' assembly on biodiversity, while former Dublin GAA manager Jim Gavin will head the Dublin mayoral assembly.

"With the last two Irish processes, there was a lack of deliberative experts," Professor Farrell says. On this occasion, they will be included.

These innovations are important because the citizens' assembly itself is important. When used correctly, it can help shape the future. Unfortunately though, it doesn't always work out that way. Professor Farrell points out that a number of citizens' assembly recommendations have been entirely ignored by Government – impacting on the legitimacy of the process.

"You're spending hundreds of thousands of euro, potentially a million or more. That's a lot of money, and you're asking 99 citizens to give up their weekends once a month. That's a big deal, and it's a huge commitment for those who turn up. If they then discover that most of what they proposed was ignored, what's the point? These are really worthwhile exercises, but I think they're only going to be worthwhile if they produce good outcomes."

Going forward, he would like to see a number of changes introduced to strengthen the process. To start, he would like to see citizens' assemblies continuing to operate after they have produced

their report. Under the current system, the assembly is disbanded once the report is filed.

"When their report goes back to the Oireachtas, members of the citizens' assembly should be invited to meetings to have a proper and robust dialogue about it. If members of the Oireachtas are inclined to think the recommendations are wrong, there should be a meaningful exchange about that. That's the sort of practice we're seeing in some of the Belgian cases where the parliament is required to listen to and debate members of the citizens' assembly. We haven't done that here and I think that's really unfortunate."

He also believes Irish citizens' assemblies are too tightly controlled by Government. Under the current system, a civil servant is tasked with managing the process. "The person who's going to run this next one is Art O'Leary and I have huge respect for him," Farrell says. "He's an extremely talented civil servant, but he's not a specialist on deliberative democracy."

What you find in other countries is that, more commonly, they give it to a professional agency to run. In the UK climate assembly, there was an organisation called Involve that got the main contract – that's what they specialise in, so they know how to run these things." Ultimately, Farrell would like to see Irish citizens' assemblies move away from being led by civil servants. "If you give it to a civil servant, they'll do what they're supposed to do – make sure that this doesn't embarrass the Government, and that's not right. A process like this should be one that on occasions is uncomfortable for a Government."

*Professor Farrell was in conversation with Patrick Kelleher, BA (2015), MA (2017), a freelance journalist.*



Pictured at the official opening are (l-r): Sean McGrath, DLRCC; William Winters, DLRCC; Cllr Lettie McCarthy, Cathaoirleach, DLRCC; Prof Mark Rogers; Ash Middleton, UCD Estate Services; and John Fahey, UCD Estate Services.

## Official Opening of the New UCD Pedestrian and Cycle Entrance

**On 1 April Professor Mark Rogers, in his first public event in the role of Acting President, welcomed Cllr Lettie McCarthy, Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council to Belfield to officially open a new pedestrian and cycle gate near NovaUCD.**

The entrance was constructed as part of an NTA-funded initiative referred to as the Stillorgan Road (N11) Cycle Improvement Scheme and supported as part of UCD's Travel Plan 2016-2026. On the day Professor Rogers noted that: "UCD had set out ambitious targets in our first Travel Plan in 2016 to achieve 81% of journeys taken by sustainable means by 2026. Our most recent survey now confirms that 80% of journeys to and from UCD are by bus, foot or bicycle and by supporting initiatives like this, these goals become a reality".

An Cathaoirleach Cllr Lettie McCarthy noted that: "The Stillorgan Road (UCD Access) Cycle Improvement Scheme will encourage and make it safer for our citizens, and particularly UCD students, to walk and cycle. This scheme further highlights Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown's commitment to promoting Active Travel across the County".

**Overall the scheme provided:**

- **New entrance to Belfield campus and new connections from the entrance to existing shared surfaces on campus;**
- **Upgrade of Stillorgan Rd/Fosters Ave junction with new pedestrian/cycle crossing of the dual carriageway;**
- **Upgrade of Stillorgan Rd/The Rise junction with dedicated cycle lane facilities and upgrade of traffic signals;**
- **New two-way cycle track from Fosters Ave to the UCD footbridge;**
- **Modifications to bus stops.**

UCD would like to thank the NTA who funded the scheme under the Sustainable Transport Measures Grants programme, DLRCC who worked closely with UCD Estate Services to deliver the scheme alongside Moloney O'Beirne Architects and Actavo who designed and constructed the entrance and all related elements.

## UCD Collaborator wins Major Award

**The ACM A.M. Turing Award is an annual prize given by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) for contributions of lasting and major technical importance to computer science. It is generally recognised as the highest distinction in computer science and is often referred to as the 'Nobel Prize of Computing'.**

The 2021 recipient of the award is Jack Dongarra, a Distinguished Professor at the University of Tennessee and a long-time visiting academic and collaborator in the UCD School of Computer Science. Jack received the award for his pioneering contributions to numerical algorithms and libraries that enabled high-performance computational software to keep pace with exponential hardware improvements for over four decades.

In 2003, he was one of the first recipients of the SFI ETS Walton Visitor Award and was hosted by the School of Computer Science for that year. During his stay Jack gave numerous lectures and talks and developed long-term collaboration and friendship with researchers in the School, UCD and Ireland. He influenced the establishment of Irish Centre for High-End Computing (ICHEC) by SFI in 2005. In 2004-2014 he collaborated with the UCD Heterogeneous Computing

Lab (HCL) in several SFI-funded research projects on high performance grid computing and high-performance heterogeneous computing, resulting in scientific software, joint publications, and a joint research monograph.

During that period Jack frequently visited UCD as well as hosting UCD researchers in his Innovative Computing Lab (ICL) at the University of Tennessee and provided access to ICL high-end and always up-to-date hardware resources to HCL collaborators.

In 2008, the School of Computer Science organised and hosted the EuroPVM/MPI conference, the premier annual international meeting on message-passing programming paradigm, established by Jack in 1994. The conference, co-chaired by Jack and his UCD collaborators, Alexey Lastovetsky and Tahar Kechadi, was branded the most memorable by the EuroPVM/MPI community.

## Harnessing Narratives to Foster Inclusion - International Women's Day

**Dr Joe McGrath, Vice-Principal for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, UCD College of Social Sciences and Law hosted a public online seminar on 8 March 2022 to celebrate International Women's Day.**

Three panellists, Ivana Bacik TD, Caitriona Palmer, UCD Social Sciences Alumni Awardee 2021 and Fiona McEntee, UCD Law Alumni Awardee 2021 discussed the theme: Harnessing Narratives to Foster Inclusion.

Acting College Principal Associate Professor Niamh Moore-Cherry opened the event, which attracted attendees from across UCD and externally. The speakers have worked to elevate the rights of women, and blazed trails in



reproductive rights, refugee rights, and climate change, among other areas. The session explored how they harnessed the power of personal stories, transforming them into compelling narratives to stimulate change and action.

# LABOUR HOPSCOTCH: MAKING BIRTH BETTER FOR ALL

What single medical intervention would lead to better outcomes for mothers and babies, not only during labour but in the baby's early weeks and months?





The answer, according to award-winning research from UCD, lies not in more drugs or surgery, but instead in the 'Labour Hopscotch Framework'.

It's all about supporting women in a 'physiological' birth where the innate abilities of the woman and baby - rather than epidurals and caesarean sections - power the process.

The framework was developed in 2015 by Sinéad Thompson, a community midwife at the National Maternity Hospital in Holles Street. Thompson worked closely with UCD's Dr Denise O'Brien, a fellow midwife and now Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies at the UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems, to formally evaluate the research.

"The Labour Hopscotch Framework is based on the practical knowledge and experience of midwives," says Denise. "It is about helping women be physically fit and ready for labour, and it involves their birthing partners. It is focused on nutrition, exercise and physical activity and guided by midwives instead of by medicalisation. Labour is physical exercise and women need to be fit for it.

"This is based on optimal fetal positioning through the use of lunging, squatting and pelvic tilts," says Sinéad. "These are the main positions we ask women to do during pregnancy; they widen the pelvis and, as the baby is small in early pregnancy, it is easier to encourage them into the correct position for birth."

**"Epidural and C-section rates were high, so we came together to design something for all women," says Denise. "Midwives are like coaches who care for women in active labour, and we know what works. A hopscotch approach allows you to jump back and forth between different steps. We explain to mothers why labour starts, why it is important to encourage the baby into the correct position to come through the pelvis. Once they are fit, healthy and recovered from hyperemesis (sickness and nausea of early pregnancy), they can be fit and ready for this approach."**

For some time, health professionals have been concerned about rising rates of epidurals (38.5%) and caesarean sections (31.2%). There are several factors at play, including the average age of mothers rising (which can be related to an increased risk of complications in pregnancy due to increased rates of obesity and diabetes), a fear of litigation and the increased medicalisation of childbirth.

But labour can be challenging and difficult, so shouldn't women and pregnant people have as many interventions as they want?

Both Denise and Sinéad stress that they want mothers to be supported to make the choices they want during pregnancy and birth, but that they deserve accurate information and facts.

**"Epidurals can be life-saving and we are not saying that women should avoid them, but they are associated with more interventions during childbirth," says Sinéad. "Women and their partners need to be fully informed about this prior to deciding and be aware, for instance, that they won't be able to get up and have a shower after birth as they will be less mobile for several hours. Instrumental birth - involving forceps or vacuum delivery - is more associated with having an epidural than other forms of pain relief, as well as reduced bladder sensation, perineal trauma and other risks. The Labour Hopscotch Framework is about using gravity to quicken, enhance and shorten labour, instead of a woman feeling they are pushing up a hill."**

She also points to the risks and downsides of caesarean sections. "It is major abdominal surgery and means a mother can't drive for six weeks. It also increases the risk of deep-vein thrombosis, clots and embolisms - including in subsequent pregnancies - reduces milk supply and may weaken a woman's pelvic floor."

This collaborative research project, carried out with the Joint Research Network and funded by the National Women and Infants Health Programme (NWIP), involved 809 women and 759 partners who attended the National Maternity Hospital, as well as a focus group of eight midwives. The researchers studied the experiences that women and their partners had with the framework, what led them to use it and how it influenced epidural rates.

The results were clear: 40% of women said it influenced their birthing decisions, and epidural rates were lower among women who engaged with the framework (38.5% compared to the overall hospital rate of 57%). Nine in ten women said that the framework had helped them to feel very or somewhat confident to cope with labour.

The research has received national and international recognition. It was published in two international midwifery journals, *The Practising Midwife* in the UK (2020) and the *European Journal of Midwives*, it was a winner in the UCD Research Impact Awards 2021, and it won the 2019 Irish Healthcare Award for research paper of the year.

"The research was open to people from all backgrounds, ethnicity and choice of maternity care including private, semi-private and public patients," says Denise. "We found that it was more likely to be used successfully for younger, first-time mothers, but less likely to be used by women attending privately. This is because private patients were less likely to have contact with midwives, whereas public patients were more likely to hear from midwives about the normal physiology of contractions and the progress of labour - and of course about labour hopscotch."

Sinéad says that their work highlighted the challenges facing older mothers: if they had already had children, they didn't have as much time to train for labour and to concentrate on birth preparations due to busy lifestyles, and they were more likely to have an epidural.

"This highlights the importance of every woman in every pregnancy being prepared antenatally," Sinéad says. "The framework is now being rolled out nationally. COVID-19 did slow it down, but the demand is there, and part of my role now is to get it into other hospitals, in Ireland and abroad. The evidence is clear: this improves labour and the early months of the baby's life, for both children and their caregivers."

*Dr O'Brien and Sinéad were in conversation with Peter McGuire, BA (2002), MLitt (2007), freelance journalist and regular contributor to the Irish Times.*



Professor David Brayden

## Professor David Brayden awarded North-South Grant Award

Congratulations to Professor David Brayden, UCD School of Veterinary Medicine and his team who have been awarded a grant under the North-South Research Programme for their project 'RALA nanocomplexes as a platform to mediate oral delivery of peptides using insulin as a prototype (PEPDELIVER)'. Professor Brayden, Full Professor of Advanced Drug Delivery shares this success with co-applicant Professor Helen McCarthy from Queen's University Belfast and collaborator Professor Nick Dunne from Dublin City University.



Pictured (l-r) at NovaUCD are: Raymond Heneghan, CEO and co-founder, Izario; Jack Cotter and Nick Cotter, co-founders, Cotter Agritech and Dr Jerome O'Connell, MD and co-founder, ProvEye.

## Winners of UCD's Inaugural Accelerator Programme for AgTech and FoodTech Start-ups

**The AgTechUCD Innovation Centre has announced the winners of UCD's inaugural accelerator programme dedicated to early-stage AgTech and FoodTech start-up companies.**

The AgTechUCD Agccelerator Programme, an intensive 12-week virtual programme, included dedicated business development workshops and investor readiness training, mentoring from AgTech and FoodTech experts and business advisors, guest speakers and facilitated introductions to AgTechUCD's venture capital and business angel networks.

Following final pitches to the AgTechUCD Agccelerator Programme judging panel, Cotter Agritech was named the AIB and Yield Lab AgTech

Start-up 2022 and received €10k, ProvEye was named the Ornu Most Innovative AgTech Start-up 2022 and received €10k, and Izario was named the AgTechUCD One to Watch 2022 and received €8k sponsored by Devenish, Herdwatch and Carbery.

Tom Flanagan, Director of Enterprise and Commercialisation, NovaUCD, said, "I would like to congratulate Cotter Agritech, ProvEye and Izario, each with significant global ambitions, as the inaugural winners of our new AgTechUCD Agccelerator Programme. This programme focused on supporting the commercial development of the eight participating start-ups and during the programme we have assisted them to increase their visibility in the marketplace, to attract new customers and investors and to forge new partnerships."

He added, "It was great to see the level of international interest in this programme highlighting Ireland's and UCD's global reputation for innovation in the AgTech and FoodTech sectors and we look forward to running another AgTechUCD Agccelerator Programme."

Cotter Agritech, a Limerick-based start-up, founded by brothers Jack and Nick Cotter, has developed a system that uses advanced algorithms to enable livestock farmers to transition from blanket treating animals with antiparasitic drugs,

to a very precise application by identifying and targeting only the animals that need treatment.

ProvEye, a UCD spin-out, uses first-to-market intellectual property to process and analyse UAV and satellite imagery to obtain insights into the efficiency and sustainability of the agricultural industry. The software gives unprecedented accuracy in the measurement of crop yield, disease detection, productivity, and environmental impact from leaf to field to farm to the national scale.

The company was founded by Dr Jerome O'Connell and Professor Nick Holden, UCD School of Biosystems and Food Engineering.

Izario has developed an autonomous robot that operates in broiler-breeder and commercial egg-laying hen barns. The robot carries out tasks similar to the farmer such as picking floor eggs, monitoring bird health and welfare along with monitoring the shed's environmental outputs. The founders of Izario, based in Galway, are Raymond Heneghan and Stepan Dzhhanov.

AgTechUCD, based at UCD Lyons Farm and part of NovaUCD, is focused on accelerating the launch and scaling of AgTech and FoodTech start-ups in Ireland and has been funded through the Regional Enterprise Development Fund administered by Enterprise Ireland.

## UCD Employee Awards

**After a two-year hiatus caused by the pandemic, March saw two awards lunches hosted by former UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks in the UCD University Club to acknowledge those colleagues who reached their long service anniversaries in 2020 and 2021. In total, 16 colleagues reached their 40-year milestone and 89 colleagues achieved 25 years of service.**



Andrew collecting his award from Prof Andrew Deeks.

**Award Recipient:** Dr Andrew Dickson  
**School/Unit:** UCD School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering (i-Form Research Centre)  
**Year:** 2020  
**Nominator:** Sylvia Leatham

Dr Andrew Dickson, an early career researcher in I-Form, the SFI Research Centre for Advanced Manufacturing, was recognised for his efforts to make much-needed PPE (personal protective equipment) for frontline workers using creative engineering skills.

In March 2020, when a request was made from Tallaght Hospital for face shields, Andrew sprang into action working all weekend to optimise and 3D print 300 face shields for the hospital. Over the next weeks and months, Andrew worked tirelessly and with the help of other researchers produced over 4,000 face shields.

PPE was distributed initially to local hospitals such as St Vincent's University Hospital, Tallaght University Hospital, Beacon Hospital, and St Columcille's Hospital; to HSE COVID-19 test centres; and to community healthcare services. Distribution was then extended to hospitals further afield, to nursing homes, GPs and ambulance services around the country. Face shields were also sent overseas to a mission hospital in Tanzania, and knowledge and expertise were shared with researchers in Namibia.

In addition, he worked on designing and printing ventilator parts, in consultation with doctors in hospitals around the country, and exploring options for alternative breathing devices. All of this voluntary work was undertaken outside of and in addition to his normal area of research. Andrew's application of ingenuity and problem-solving skills to a practical, societal need shows the value of creativity in action.



Pictured is Avril Patterson collecting the award from Prof Andrew Deeks on behalf of the UCD Library team.

**Award Recipient:** UCD Library COVID-19 Response Team  
**School/Unit:** UCD Library  
**Year:** 2021  
**Nominator:** Aoife Bracken - UCD SU

The Library COVID-19 Response Team were recognised for their work in keeping the Library open and accessible for UCD students, faculty and staff throughout the pandemic. This team ensured that students who needed space to take classes, study or just space away from home had a welcoming and safe place to come to. This helped students feel connected to the University and gave them some sense of campus life.

COVID-19 demonstrated just how reliant we are on technology. The pandemic also showed us that for many, access to stable Wi-Fi and technology is not guaranteed. The Library, by providing space with reliable Wi-Fi and access to loan computers and laptops, helped ensure that students could continue to attend college and complete their studies.

In an Students' Union survey on the Library, multiple students took the opportunity to thank the Library staff for all their hard work throughout COVID-19, ensuring students always had somewhere to go on campus. Many noted just how kind, welcoming, and helpful the Library staff are.

The team were recognised for the values of engagement, how the Library, an important community hub on campus, had a major role in helping students remain engaged with the University throughout COVID-19; by continuing to provide the excellent service they have always provided on top of the added difficulties of the pandemic; and diversity by providing a key support for students from all types of backgrounds throughout the pandemic.

In addition, colleagues who received Values In Action (VIA) awards in 2020 and 2021 were presented with their certificates. The VIA awards are peer-nominated awards that recognise individual and team efforts which bring the UCD values to life. Across the two years 22 awards were made from 111 nominations. Below we profile some of the stories behind the awards.



Cliona collecting her award from Prof Andrew Deeks.

**Award Recipient:** Dr Cliona Kelly  
**School/Unit:** UCD Sutherland School of Law  
**Year:** 2021  
**Nominator:** Associate Professor Niamh Howlin

Dr Cliona Kelly was recognised for her efforts to provide sexual well-being education for students.

In recognition of the issue of sexual violence in the Irish higher education sector, the Department of Education launched a framework in 2019 aimed at the creation of an institutional campus culture which is safe, respectful and supportive.

Acting on foot of the framework, and realising that institutional reactions can be slow compared with small-scale interventions, Cliona has been working to provide sexual well-being education for Law students. Her Consent Workshops are integrated into the curriculum on a core module for first year law students.

Conscious of the need for such initiatives to be student-led, she has supported the Students' Union and Student Law Society in hosting and promoting an Image-Based Sexual Abuse workshop and an awareness-raising campaign. In addition Law students are also asked to read the Harassment, Harmful Communications and Related Offences Act as part of an exercise in 'how to read legislation' on the LAW10420 module. This integrates a discussion about Image-Based Sexual Abuse into the undergraduate Law curriculum.

Cliona voluntarily put a lot of time and effort into developing these resources and supports. From 2020-2021 she undertook significant training in her own time, collaborating with relevant groups such as Active Consent. She voluntarily took the initiative to integrate aspects of the sexual wellbeing education into the curriculum, which has now embedded this important topic in the Law School curriculum for the future.

Among other values, Cliona was recognised for her engagement, creativity and collegiality.



Dr Arun Kumar accepts the award from Prof Andrew Deeks on behalf of the group.

**Award Recipient:** UCD Multicultural Employee Network (MENU)  
**School/Unit:** Chiara Zaccheo and Dr Arun Kumar  
**Year:** 2020  
**Nominator:** Marcellina Fogarty

The Multicultural Employee Network (MENU) was recognised for its role to support international employees, who make up 30% of UCD's total employees. MENU's aim is to make international employees feel welcome and to help integrate them into the UCD Community.

Since its inception, MENU has rapidly grown to 198 members, representing 47 different countries, from 80 different Schools and units across UCD. The group has formed a committee of 12 members to coordinate and organise the wide range of creative events they run for international and Irish colleagues.

The existence of a network such as this has never been so vital as during the period of COVID-19 where many colleagues were working remotely. This presents many challenges for our international colleagues where some felt more isolated, many were separated from their families in other countries and were unable to make trips home. Moreover, new international employees were not able to meet their colleagues in person and build friendships through onsite activities and discussions.

MENU has played a very important role during COVID-19 in connecting international and national colleagues and supporting their mental health and well-being. They have organised many virtual coffee mornings and have been very innovative in engaging its members as well as other UCD groups and networks.

The work of MENU strongly supports UCD's value of diversity but also collegiality, creativity and engagement which are all recognised through awarding of the UCD VIA.



Pictured (l-r) are: Col Nicolas Filser, French Embassy in Ireland; Adm Mellett; HE Vincent Guérend, French Ambassador to Ireland; Dr Marie Luce Paris, UCD Sutherland School of Law; Assoc Prof Niamh Moore-Cherry; and Col Arnel Dirou.

## UCD Law hosts Student Event on The European Strategic Autonomy

In late January 2022, UCD Sutherland School of Law was honoured to host a student event on *The European Strategic Autonomy: Crossed Perspectives* with guest speakers Admiral Mark Mellett (retired), former Chief of Staff of the Irish Defence Forces, and Colonel Arnel Dirou, Deputy Head of Defence Strategy, French Ministry of the Armed Forces. The event was sponsored by the Embassy of France in Ireland and the UCD College of Social Sciences and Law.

Admiral Mellett (retired) and Colonel Dirou offered insightful perspectives on strategic issues in relation to conflicts affecting Europe, how they view the use of their armed forces and how governments and societies perceive the role of their defence forces in the face of different threats.

The Q&A with students covered a wide range of issues including EU defence and security strategy and the role of NATO as well as the issue of the neutrality of Ireland. The audience was made up of students and faculty and a number of other participants including the US and UK Military Attachés.



## Students as catalysts for change in a University for All

**“You can’t be what you can’t see.”**

— Marian Wright Edelman

For a university to fulfil its goals, the contribution of leaders, staff and students matter greatly. The visibility and awareness of access and inclusion is critical. As we continue to implement UCD’s University for All and create an inclusive culture for our diverse student body, ensuring the voice of students is one of the key ingredients. Students are catalysts for change and finding ways to capture their experience and weave their contribution into the implementation process is crucial. Empowering students to tell their own stories is important, and it lends authenticity and credibility. We have deployed a range of

strategies to infuse the voice of students into the rollout of University for All. For example, the Access Leader programme selects access students for leadership development, and on successful completion, they work alongside us to become active and engaged leaders, creating awareness, persuading and influencing change in the University. These Student Leaders play a vital role in assisting the work of access and inclusion. Two Access Leaders have recently been recognised: Lorraine Dunster (BA - English & Irish) and Joseph Walshe (BBL - Business & Law), were awarded the highly prestigious Presidents’ Award in March, recognising their exceptional contribution to campus life. In essence, students like Joseph, Lorraine and the hundreds of other Access Leaders we have worked with can be seen, and heard, and are the role models that inspire and inform others.

Similarly, our University for All Student Roadshow helped to raise awareness and gather feedback: Access Leaders played a starring role. They helped organise the various February events and collaborated with their lecturers to host lunchtime roadshows in each College. Key to the campaign’s messaging is that students are partners and have

responsibility for creating a University for All. A flyer with key information was distributed, as well as branded merchandise including notebooks, pens, pins, masks, and doughnuts to grab the attention of their peers. The Access Leaders spoke directly to students and received positive and insightful feedback. Another example of Access Leader endeavour is their participation in the UCD for All Student Experience Days. We were delighted to again offer an in-person event, to over 200 prospective students from DEIS schools, Further Education colleges, and adult learners. Access Leaders led these visits, and expertly introduced visitors to life as a UCD student. Prospective students enjoyed campus tours, spent time with current students studying their preferred CAO subject choice, and attended lectures, tutorials and labs. The role of Access Leaders in conveying a realistic picture of student life, alleviating fears or concerns about going to college and inspiring future generations is vital.

UCD’s Access Leaders are the role models we can see, and are critical to our ambition to be a University for All.



The Saol Sisters in full voice

## ■ UCD welcomes SAOL Women's Project to campus

**UCD in the Community was delighted to invite the SAOL Sisters singing group to UCD to mark Recovery Month. The singing group is part of SAOL Project, a community project focused on improving the lives of women affected by addiction and poverty. SAOL has worked over the last 26 years to promote the needs of female drug users and their children and has a long-standing relationship with the UCD School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, through Associate Professor Hilda Loughran.**

To mark Recovery Month, the UCD Chaplaincy kindly opened its doors to the SAOL Sisters for a live open-air performance in St Stephen's garden. Led by Ray Hegarty, the women performed a

number of hits, including Stand by Me, Something Inside So Strong and Sing All Our Cares Away. The group was joined by members of the UCD Community Choir who did a special performance of Lean on Me, much to the delight of the crowd. Director of SAOL Gary Broderick spoke about the importance of marking Recovery Month and handed out 'Postcards from Recovery', created by the women themselves, to all those in attendance. He also thanked the UCD Social Work students who made a special effort to attend the event and meet the women from SAOL.

The event wrapped up with tea and pastries, kindly provided by the Chaplaincy team, and the SAOL group enjoyed a guided tour of the Belfield campus to finish off a successful trip to UCD. This event was a wonderful example of community collaboration and partnership in action. Special thanks goes to Associate Professor Hilda Loughran, Fr Eamonn Bourke, UCD in the Community, Caoimhe O'Neill and the UCD Community Choir, for making it all happen and to Vincent Hoban for photographing the event so well.

## ■ UCD Library Strategic Plan 2021-25 - The Library of the Future

**In March 2022 Professor Mark Rogers, UCD Acting President and Lorna Dodd, UCD Associate Librarian launched an ambitious new strategic plan for UCD Library that profiles how the Library will contribute to the goals outlined in the UCD Strategic Plan 2020-2024, Rising to the Future. UCD Library's Strategic Plan 2021-2025 'The Library of the Future' addresses how the Library will meet challenges presented by the rapid changes in the higher education and research landscape.**

The global pandemic reminded us of the central role libraries play in society. Emerging into a post-pandemic environment, this experience has emphasised the growing importance of libraries in higher education and research. Looking to the future, this strategy places the Library at the heart of a growing university, facilitating active engagement with that growth.

'The Library of the Future' lays out five pillars that support a vision of UCD Library that enables communities to connect by providing an inspiring and inclusive learning environment, and is part of an open, equitable global information infrastructure. It is a vision of a library that is engaged as a leader in service development as well as the curation and preservation of our rich,

shared cultural heritage.

These pillars provide a framework for the Library to support University goals by enabling increased research quality and impact by supporting faculty research activity. They also articulate strong ambitions to develop high quality, connected and accessible library spaces that provide students with the opportunity to engage with learning, connect with resources and collaborate with other learners. The delivery of this new strategy will embrace the opportunities presented by digital transformation through the enhancement of services to students and faculty, and by supporting the development of critical digital literacy skills. Furthermore, harnessing the potential of new

technologies and becoming a locus for digital scholarship, the Library aims to claim a space for UCD's unique and world-renowned collections as a resource for research and citizen engagement with science and cultural heritage.

Professor Mark Rogers said: "While often associated with preserving the past, this new strategy shows how UCD Library is focused on preparing for the future, demonstrating the excellence required to attract new students and faculty in a competitive global marketplace. By aligning with the UCD vision of the future UCD graduate, 'imbued with a knowledge of the past, capable of critically interrogating the present and of imagining and realising the future', in that sense, for UCD Library, the future is now."



UCD Associate Librarian Lorna Dodd is pictured with UCD Acting President, Prof Mark Rogers at the launch of the strategy.



Admiring the panoramic view while climbing Lyons Hill.

## ■ Climb Lyons Hill raises over €3,700

**On Saturday, 2 April some 200 UCD employees, their families and members of a local walking group climbed Lyons Hill in support of the national Climb with Charlie initiative. The event aimed to bring UCD colleagues together in a non-work event and raise funds for the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association and Pieta, Ireland's national suicide prevention charity. To date over €3,765 has been donated through the Climb Lyons Hill fundraising page.**

UCD is unique amongst third-level universities in Ireland by having its own teaching and research farm, Lyons Farm situated 35km to the west of the UCD Belfield Campus on the Kildare – Dublin border, near the village of Newcastle. The farm provides students and academics with access to large animal and crop enterprises for the delivery of teaching and research programmes and a platform from which to engage Ireland's agri-food sector.

The event provided an opportunity for colleagues to visit the 600-acre farm, see the 200 dairy cows being milked and some of the new crop of spring lambs from the flock of 350 sheep. The farm also hosts extensive tillage trials and environmental research.

Those who climbed Lyons Hill (the name derives from the Irish language name for an elm tree, Liamhan), saw one of the early royal seats and public assembly places of the kingdom of Leinster, and later chief seat of the Mac Giolla Mo-Cholmógs of Uí Dúnlainge.

In 1962, UCD purchased Lyons Estate from the Winn family, consisting of Lyons House and approximately 1,200 acres of land. In 1990 the University sold Lyons House and about half the land area, with Ryanair businessman Tony Ryan acquiring Lyons House in 1996. He undertook an extensive renovation of Lyons House and gardens to return it to its former splendour, spending a reputed €80 million. UCD continues to develop Lyons Farm as an important asset for agriculture, veterinary and environmental teaching and research. For further information and if you wish to visit the farm, please visit the [UCD Lyons Farm website](#).



Pictured are: Prof Jeremy Simpson, Principal, UCD College of Science and Prof Wim Meijer, Head of UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science, pictured with five of the finalists Elin Strachan, Rebecca Sheridan, Danielle Galvin, Niall Treacy and Niamh Moreton.

## ■ ENGAGE 2022 Accessible Science Grand Final

**The ENGAGE 2022 Grand Final took place on Tuesday 12 April both as an in-person event in the Moore Auditorium UCD O'Brien Centre for Science and online as a live Zoom webinar.**

The ENGAGE Seminars are an annual competition, hosted by the UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science in which late-stage PhD students are challenged to present their research to a public, non-specialist audience in a clear and effective way.

Six PhD student finalists competed for the ENGAGE 2022 trophy and the final was adjudicated by four judges from the arts, innovation and commercial sectors. Our host for the event was Phil Smyth, an award-winning science communicator and broadcaster.

The Winner of the ENGAGE 2022 Grand Final was Rebecca Sheridan for her presentation entitled 'Understanding how cancer hacks our cell communication network' (Supervisor: Associate Professor Margaret McGee).

The Runner-Up for ENGAGE 2022 was Niall Treacy for his presentation 'Keeping it Renal: Growing Kidney Tissue Without Using Animal Materials' (Supervisor: Associate Professor John Crean).



Winner Rebecca Sheridan

We would like to congratulate all our ENGAGE 2022 finalists on their great work and presentations:

- Danielle Galvin: 'Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater - Are herbal remedies just glorified soup?' (Supervisor: Assistant Professor Derek Costello)
- Ciara Lynch: 'Planet Earth III? Can we give David Attenborough a reason to be optimistic?' (Supervisor: Associate Professor David O'Connell)
- Elin Strachan: 'Inherited Blindness Next Top Model' (Supervisor: Assistant Professor Niamh O'Sullivan)
- Niamh Moreton: 'Stroke: Priming the Brain to Survive' (Supervisor: Professor John O'Connor)

As part of the ENGAGE 2022 Grand Final there was a research poster display in the foyer of the O'Brien for Science Centre where each of the PhD students on the school's Public Science Communication module summarised their research. Congratulations to Cara Gaffney who won Best Research Poster Presentation.

# UCD Research Impact Case Study Competition 2021

**In March, Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact announced the winner and runners-up of the 2021 UCD Research Impact Case Study Competition. The annual competition encourages researchers of all disciplines to write a case study that tells the story of how their work has made a positive difference.**

Professor Feely commented: "I am always impressed with the quality of the applications we receive and this year was no exception. As chair of the judging panel, it is a great pleasure to learn more about the many ways UCD's researchers strive to make the world a better place.

"Among this year's finalists we have researchers helping to tackle the ongoing pandemic, protect the environment, enrich people's lives, influence policy, simulate sustainable economic growth, improve health and well-being, and inspire the next generation. I would like to congratulate all of our finalists. Their commitment to ensuring people benefit from their research is admirable and I am delighted to be able to recognise it through these awards."



This year's winner, 'Improving outcomes of critically ill patients with COVID-19,' describes the research and impact of the Irish Critical Care-Clinical Trials Network (ICC-CTN), led by [Professor Alistair Nichol](#), Chair of Critical Care Medicine in [UCD School of Medicine](#). The ICC-CTN Network at UCD has carried out significant clinical research in preparation for, and in response to, the COVID-19 pandemic. Through collaborative

networks in hospitals across 63 countries, this research has had a profound impact on patients with COVID-19, their families, and wider society. The Network's outputs have saved thousands of lives and ICU bed days by identifying treatments that improve patient survival and recovery (as well as identifying treatments that are ineffective or even harmful), and by informing HSE and WHO treatment guidelines for the clinical management of severe COVID-19 infection.

The other research impact case studies recognised in the 2021 competition were:



[Supporting climate action through tree planting](#), by Dr Chiara Cocco, UCD School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy. By showing communities the best location to plant trees, and explaining the benefits of doing so, this project helped to raise awareness of climate change and increase community participation. The Coastal Community

Growing Together (CCGT) online platform offered users a mapping tool, tree carbon calculator, community response dashboard, and interactive educational resources. Over 800 participants were involved, including schoolchildren and citizens' groups in Pembrokeshire, Wales. The project has promoted the uptake of local climate actions, helping to protect the environment and promote biodiversity.



[Girls in STEM: changing attitudes and increasing diversity](#), by Professor Judith Harford and Assistant Professor Rachel Farrell, UCD School of Education, and Assistant Professor Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin, UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics. The team developed and evaluated a new, creative approach to teaching STEM-related subjects to young girls. This initiative contributed to the lives of 1,000 pupils in participating disadvantaged schools in Leinster – making STEM-related subjects more meaningful and accessible to this underrepresented group. In partnership with the Department of Education, the planned expansion of the project will guarantee further impact on a national scale. See [Girls in STEM website](#).



[Helping people cope during COVID-19](#), by Dr Keith Gaynor, UCD School of Psychology. Dr Gaynor and colleagues translated findings of research on the psychological impacts of COVID-19 into a free-to-download workbook for the general public, which gives evidence-based advice on how to cope with the pandemic. It has been promoted through a widespread campaign across national radio, print media, and social media, as well as through webinars to government, mental health charities and the public. This has helped thousands of people deal with the psychological challenges of COVID-19. In addition, clinicians have used the advice to provide mental health services to patients across the country.



[Typhoidland: using the past to inform the present and future of typhoid control](#), by Dr Claas Kirchhelle, UCD School of History and UCD Centre for the History of Medicine in Ireland. Every year, 14.3 million people suffer from typhoid and 135,000 die from it – many of whom are children. Typhoidland is an international research and engagement project that challenges the myth that typhoid is a disease of the past, raises awareness about antimicrobial resistance, and analyses past interventions to inform current efforts to control the disease.

## UCD Research Impact Case Study Competition 2021 (Continued)



AI\_PREMie: saving lives of mothers and babies using AI, by Professor Patricia Maguire, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science, Director of UCD Institute for Discovery. Preeclampsia is a serious pregnancy complication

that affects one in 10 pregnancies and claims the lives of 50,000 mothers and 500,000 babies every year. Professor Maguire and her team have drawn upon cutting-edge biomedical, clinical and machine-learning knowhow to develop a prototype risk stratification tool, AI\_PREMie, for preeclampsia. Their solution will be able to assist clinical decision making in real-time, hopefully enabling more accurate diagnosis and personalised treatment that will save lives.



The Labour Hopscotch Framework: improving outcomes for mother and baby, by Dr Denise O'Brien, Ms Lorraine Carroll and Associate Professor Barbara Coughlan, UCD School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems, and Ms Sinead Thompson, the National Maternity Hospital. The Labour Hopscotch Framework gives women and their partners a series of simple steps to support a physiological birth. The team showed that it is an effective tool for promoting shared, inclusive decision-making during childbirth and, on the back of their findings, the LHF has been rolled out nationally by the Department of Health.



#WeAreNotWaiting: tackling diabetes through patient-led research and open-source innovation, by Dr Shane O'Donnell, UCD School of Sociology. Tech-savvy people with diabetes (and their families) have developed open-source software to automatically adjust insulin dosing in response

to glucose levels – in order to stay within a healthy range and reduce the psychological burden of the condition. OPEN is a patient-led research project that is gathering evidence on the safety and effectiveness of these open-source systems. It has established an international consensus statement with practical guidance for healthcare professionals, and may help overcome clinical and regulatory hurdles so the tech can be used more widely and safely.



SmartGrass: improving the sustainability of livestock farming, by Associate Professor Helen Sheridan, Professor Tommy Boland, Professor Olaf Schmidt, Associate Professor Bridget Lynch, Assistant Professor Paul Murphy, UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science. Agricultural systems that depend on high levels of chemicals, like nitrogen fertilisers, are not sustainable, nor are they socially acceptable. By investigating new types of grasslands that include different species of grasses, legumes and forage herbs, the SmartGrass project has started a national shift in grassland farming, enhancing productivity while also protecting the environment and climate. The findings of SmartGrass have influenced a rapidly increasing number of farmers to sow these multispecies swards, helping to reduce their reliance on nitrogen fertilisers, support biodiversity, and protect the wider environment.



Promoting policies for sustainable mega-sport events, by Professor Eleni Theodoraki, UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science. Mega-sport events, such as the Olympic Games and FIFA World Cup, have significant long-term effects on the nations

that host them. This research examined the impacts of mega-sport events and the role of different stakeholders in ensuring they have a positive and sustainable long-term impact. Professor Theodoraki's findings informed UNESCO's Action Plan in mega-sport event policy, which led to sport ministers from 97 countries committing to using these events for positive change.



Ending direct provision, by Associate Professor Liam Thornton, UCD Sutherland School of Law. When introduced in April 2000, the Government stated that people would be in the direct provision system for a maximum of six months. Some 22 years later, over 7,000 people are in direct provision, often spending years waiting for their asylum claim to be processed. The Irish Government has finally committed to ending direct provision by 2024. Dr Thornton's research has enhanced legal and policy analysis of the system, assisted protection seekers, activists, civil society and politicians in their advocacy, and informed public discourse on associate human rights violations, and contributed to enabling legal change.

## ■ Dr Niamh Nestor receives the Dean's Inclusion Award

**The UCD School of Veterinary Medicine Dean's Inclusion Award for 2021 was presented to Dr Niamh Nestor, Student Advisor, on 21 February 2022.**

The Dean and Head of School, Professor Michael Doherty, presented the award to Niamh at an event in the UCD University Club attended by staff, students and Niamh's colleagues and friends from across UCD. The Dean's Inclusion Award is awarded on an annual basis to individual students, staff, faculty, clubs or teams that have demonstrated outstanding behaviours in the areas of equality, diversity and inclusion during the preceding college year.

The Award was introduced in May 2019 as one initiative of the School's Athena SWAN Action Plan, promoting the ongoing transformation of culture to consistently drive gender equality, diversity and inclusion for all faculty, staff and students.



*Pictured (l-r) are: Prof Steve Gordon (co-Chair of the School's EDI Athena SWAN Committee); Dr Niamh Nestor; Prof Michael Doherty; and Dr Cliona Skelly (co-Chair of the School's EDI Athena SWAN Committee).*

## ■ UCD Spin-out Company Acquired by US Digital Health Company

**Linus Health, a Boston-based digital health company focused on brain health, has acquired Kinesis Health Technologies, a UCD spin-out company, and a leader in physical function assessment for older adults.**

The two companies share a focus on utilising cutting-edge machine learning and widely accessible digital devices to make proactive health screening more practical and prevalent. Given the established relationship between physical function and brain function, the acquisition will further Linus Health's ability to generate a robust view of an individual's brain health to facilitate early detection of issues.

Founded in 2013 by Seamus Small and Dr Barry Greene as a spin-out from the Technology Research for Independent Living (TRIL) Centre at UCD, Kinesis has grown to offer a suite of objective, evidence-based tools for assessing gait, balance, mobility, falls risk and frailty.

The company has built a robust validation base with over 70 peer-reviewed publications and a network of research partnerships around the world. Its customers – spanning numerous countries, including the US, Canada, the UK and Ireland – have conducted more than 40,000 patient assessments to date with Kinesis' technology.

Kinesis was the overall winner of the 2013 UCD VentureLaunch Accelerator Programme which is managed by NovaUCD.

Kinesis will operate as a subsidiary of Linus Health. Seamus Small, will assume the position of Managing Director, Kinesis and Dr Barry Greene will retain the position of Chief Technology Officer, Kinesis.



*Pictured are (l-r): Dr Barry Greene and Seamus Small, Kinesis Health Technologies.*

## ■ CAO Annual Report 2021

**UCD Health Affairs and the Chief Academic Officer Group have launched the CAO Annual Report 2021. The seven Chief Academic Officers (CAOs) of the Hospital Groups linked to the six university medical schools act as the bridge between the universities, the Hospital Groups and the acute hospitals and their affiliated Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs).**

The CAO Group is currently chaired by Professor Tim Lynch, UCD Vice-Principal for

Health Affairs and Chief Academic Officer, Ireland East Hospital Group. The CAOs work with colleagues across the health sector and medical schools to enhance an academic approach in the hospitals and the community to improve integrated patient care. The CAOs foster partnership for the mutual benefit of both sectors through the pursuit of excellence in education, training, research and innovation.

[The annual report is also available to view online.](#)



*Pictured are (l-r): Dr Sara Delmedico, left, is pictured with Prof Ursula Fanning*

## ■ Maurice J Bric Medal of Excellence

Dr Sara Delmedico, a postdoctoral researcher in the UCD School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics was recently awarded the Irish Research Council's Maurice J Bric Medal of Excellence as the top-ranked postdoctoral fellow in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences under the IRC's 2021 Government of Ireland funding programme.

Dr Delmedico's research project is entitled: "Bad luck' and 'Irresistible Force': Framing Violence against Women in the Italian Press". Her colleagues at the School are immensely proud of her, and delighted at this national recognition of her work. Sara is pictured here with her mentor, Professor Ursula Fanning.



*Pictured are Molly Greenough and Dr Paul D'Alton, UCD School of Psychology taking part in the webinar.*

## ■ UCD LGBTQI+ History Month

**'Intergenerational Friendships and Conversations Amongst LGBTQI+ Generations.'**

**UCD's LGBTI Subgroup celebrated LGBTQI+ History Month in February by hosting an online webinar, titled 'Intergenerational Friendships and Conversations Amongst LGBTQI+ Generations.' The event commemorated LGBTQI+ History Month and provided a platform for intergenerational engagement and solidarity with the continued promotion of inclusivity and acceptance.**

The conversations took attendees on a journey through the lived experiences of four amazing members of the LGBTQI+ community from different ages and backgrounds. The guest speakers, all activists, included Professor Emerita Geraldine Moane, a former Professor of Psychology at UCD; Enda McGrattan, better known as drag queen Veda; Luis Noguera Benitez, journalist and actor from Venezuela; and Matt Kennedy, a doctoral candidate working for BeLonG To.

In a world where we find difference and indifference, it was truly inspiring and insightful to see how different generations came together to share experiences and commit to continue open

conversations on issues affecting the LGBTQI+ community.

Geraldine recalled how being out, visible and joining associations or clubs was an important and significant part of her journey and who she has become today. Matt, the youngest of the speakers, described how meeting other trans people and academic mentors have been vital for him. Veda talked about their first visit to a drag show, travelling around Ireland doing drag shows, marriage equality laws being passed in Ireland, and how their HIV activism and the promotion of U=U have been decisive moments for their life journey. Luis recounted how his arrival to Ireland from Venezuela and being part of the PozVibes podcast have been crucial for him, allowing him to be free and experiment with his sexuality and gender expression.

The UCD LGBTI Subgroup hopes that this event will be the start of multiple conversations. So, on that journey together, let us draw from the inspirational words of our speakers...

"Everything Will Be Fine! Be Bold! Transition! And Live!"

You can view the recorded webinar [here](#).



Noreen with her daughter Kate and Prof Owen Smith.

## #HelloUCDClinicalTrials

### Revolutionising Children's and Adolescents Cancer Treatment and Outcomes Video Launch

In Dec 2022, UCD School of Medicine was awarded €2.5 million by the HRB. This will allow the School, in partnership with the CHI (Children's Health Ireland) Cancer Trials Group, to continue to enhance children's and adolescents' cancer patient-focused research, increase opportunities for children and adolescents to participate in clinical trials and increase the critical support available to investigators from facilities, through to study design and sponsorship.

This funding award will be hosted at and managed through a partnership between UCD and CHI, implemented by the CHI Cancer Trials Group and led by Professor Owen Smith, Professor of Paediatric and Adolescent Medicine, UCD and Consultant Paediatric Haematologist, CHI.

On receipt of this funding award, UCD Clinical Research Centre (CRC) produced a short video titled #HelloUCDClinicalTrials – Revolutionising Children's and Adolescents

Cancer Treatment and Outcomes, featuring interviews with Noreen and her daughter Kate from Kildare, who was diagnosed with leukaemia in 2017 at aged 10 years (following Noreen's son, James' diagnosis of leukaemia at aged two years in 2007). Both James and Kate were under the care of Professor Owen Smith in CHI at Crumlin. We also hear from Professor Owen Smith and Professor Peter Doran, Associate Dean for Research, Innovation and Impact, UCD School of Medicine and Director, UCD CRC.

The video explains the vital, life-saving nature of access to clinical trials in the children's and adolescents' cancer treatment setting and the drive for more access to more cancer trials for children and adolescents diagnosed with cancer by increasing the resources and expertise required to conduct them.

Watch the video [here](#).



## Zoom for Thought celebrates second anniversary

**UCD Institute for Discovery's 15-minute chat series was born in the first lockdown and recently celebrated its second anniversary. Hosted by Professor Patricia Maguire, Director, Institute for Discovery, guests from a broad range of disciplines and industries continue to keep viewers engaged with their insights and expertise. The short format allows for an audience Q&A which often inspires lively and unexpected tangents.**

In recent months the series has welcomed Chantal Line Carpentier, chief of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, New York Office of the Secretary-General, who spoke about, New Economics for Sustainable Development to recover better from the pandemic. Multi-award-winning crime journalist and author Paul Williams spoke about the evolution of organised crime in Ireland.

Experts closer to home featured, included Professor Imelda Maher, UCD Sutherland School of Law (Consentification and Treaties: When are Constitutions Not Enough?), Professor Tasman Crowe, Director, UCD Earth Institute (Interdisciplinary collaboration to inform marine environmental management and policy), Professor Bryan Fanning, UCD Professor of Migration and Social Policy (An Intellectual History of the Welfare State), Professor Denis Shields, Full Professor of Clinical Bioinformatics, UCD School of Medicine (In between small drugs and protein therapeutics: what can peptides offer?) and Assistant Professor Kathleen Curran, Diagnostic Imaging, UCD School of Medicine (Challenges and Opportunities for AI in Medical Image Analysis).

For more information about future guests, see [www.zoomforthought.ie](http://www.zoomforthought.ie)

## Microsoft partners with AI\_PREMie

**In January Microsoft announced its partnership with AI\_PREMie, the prototype AI diagnostic test for preeclampsia developed by UCD researchers that will hopefully save thousands of lives around the world.**

Preeclampsia affects 1 in 10 pregnancies and causes the deaths of at least 50,000 mothers and 500,000 babies worldwide every year. It is a serious pregnancy complication and diagnosis remains a significant challenge.

Using cloud-based technology, our AI Healthcare Hub team is collaborating with scientists and clinicians across UCD and the three main Dublin maternity hospitals to develop AI\_PREMie, a high-quality rapid preeclampsia prototype test born of combined biomedical, clinical and machine learning know-how. It is utilising the SAS Viya analytics engine running on Microsoft Azure to help identify women with preeclampsia.

"AI\_PREMie is a new test that will accurately risk-stratify preeclampsia and facilitate early intervention by the clinicians before severe complications occur," says Professor Patricia Maguire, co-lead on the project. "The only cure right now is to actually deliver the baby which unfortunately sometimes can be very preterm.

Preeclampsia is also notoriously difficult to diagnose. Using artificial intelligence and machine learning we have discovered a new way to find diagnostics in the blood. We are excited to partner with Microsoft on a project that will hopefully save lives and have a global impact."



*Pictured are Laura Mc Loughlin and Joe Curtis from UCD Sutherland School of Law enjoying 'Caiife Sheachtan na Gaeilge'.*

## Seachtain na Gaeilge Faoi Dhó

**Rinne mic léinn agus baill foirne UCD araon ceiliúradh ar Sheachtain Náisiúnta na Gaeilge 2022. Ba faoi stiúir Oifigeach na Gaeilge de chuid Aontas na Mac Léinn UCD '21-'22, Louise Mac Mathúna, a reáchtáladh imeachtaí na mac léinn. Ceann de bhuaicphointí na seachtaine ná seoladh oifigiúil leagan Gaeilge de bhunreacht Aontas na Mac Léinn UCD. D'eagraigh Cumann Gaelach na hOllscoile, mic léinn Theach na Gaeilge UCD agus Cumann Ceoil Thraidisiúnta na hOllscoile go leor imeachtaí spráilúla eile dar ndóigh. Ina measc siúd, bhí malartán teanga ina raibh mic léinn iltheangacha na hollscoile rannpháirteach freisin.**

Cé go raibh béim ar imeachtaí aghaidh ar aghaidh i mbliana, baineadh leas as an taithí a gnóthaíodh le linn thréimhse na dianghlása, sa mhéid is gur leanadh leis an tionscnamh fíorúil 'Dúshlán Gaeilge'. Thug an comórtas seo deis do mhic léinn atá ag foghlaim na teanga

sna Stáit Aonaithe agus i gCeanada teagmháil a dhéanamh lena gcomhscóláirí in Éirinn. Bíonn cúpla céad ball foirne ag freastal ar na ranganna teanga a bhíonn á reáchtáil ag an aonad Gaeltacht UCD gach aon bhliain agus is chuige sin a eagraíodh Maidin Caifé Sheachtain na Gaeilge, le deis a thabhairt dóibh aithne a chur ar a chéile agus ar chainteoirí líofa eile na hOllscoile.

Cé nár leasc le lucht labhartha na Gaeilge cúis cheiliúrtha riamh, ní féidir a shéanadh ach go raibh fulaingt na ndaoine ar mhór-roinn na hEorpa go mór ar aigne gach éinne agus dheonaigh na rannpháirtithe luach a gcaife don charthanacht Crois Dhearg na hÉireann.

Táimid ag tnúth leis an dara seachtain na Gaeilge i mbliana mar go mbeidh fáilte á cur roimh chainteoirí agus foghlaimeoirí Gaeilge ón bpobal chuig Tionól Gaeilge UCD 2022, scoil samhraidh seachtaine a bheidh á reáchtáil ag Gaeltacht UCD ar champas Belfield ó 27 Meitheamh go 1 Iúil '22.

## Chinese New Year Celebration at UCD Confucius Institute

**The 2022 Chinese New Year Celebration at UCD Confucius Institute was held on the evening of 15 February. HE Chinese Ambassador to Ireland Mr He Xiangdong, former UCD President Professor Andrew Deeks, UCD Vice-President for Global Engagement, Professor Dolores O'Riordan, and UCD CII Director Professor Liming Wang were among the 3,500 audience from local Irish and Chinese communities who attended the event.**

The UCD CII building was lit up in red for the night and guests enjoyed traditional Chinese music and dance performances, as well as a lantern and fire flame show outside the building. Nearly a dozen food stalls were set up outside near the lake to give guests a taste of authentic Asian food.

Noting this is the first in-person event held by the UCD Confucius Institute in celebration of the Chinese New Year since the COVID-19

pandemic hit Ireland in early 2020, the Institute's Director, Professor Liming Wang said the event received a warm response from local residents, demonstrating their strong interest in Chinese culture. Since its establishment in 2006, the UCD Confucius Institute has offered different courses to thousands of local Chinese language and culture lovers in Ireland.





## US College Counselors Tour 2022

UCD Global, with staff from the North America Global Centre, hosted 14 High School College Counselors from 10 US states on campus for the first post-pandemic instalment of the annual counselor tour from 27 February to 1 March. Thanks to incredibly supportive

faculty and staff on campus, the group visited each College at UCD to learn key details about UCD degree programmes to share with their students. They also received tours of campus, including the new UCD Village and student residences, the UCD Student Centre with

demonstrations from the Hurling Club and Dance Society, in addition to enjoying cultural excursions around Dublin. The counselors will serve as valuable ambassadors to their students and professional networks on return to the States.

## BT Young Scientist Business Bootcamp

**A team of five students were the overall winners of the 2022 BT Young Scientist Business Bootcamp held at UCD, for a project entitled 'Ahead of the Curve'.**

Taha Fareed Farooqi (age 15), Hannah Walsh (age 17), Sophie Creedon (16), Harry O'Connor (age 16) and Claudine Mulihano (age 17) joined together to further develop this project which is investigating sports related injuries and seeks to design and develop wearable technology to better enable the measurement and recording of head impacts.

The project was developed by Sophie Creedon and was presented at the virtual 2022 BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition held in January. The BT Young Scientist

Business Bootcamp, now in its 13th year, was established by BT Ireland in 2010 and is delivered in partnership with NovaUCD to give students the commercialisation skills they need to develop their BT Young Scientist & Technology project ideas into viable business ventures.

Professor Orla Feely, UCD Vice-President for Research, Innovation and Impact said, "UCD was particularly delighted to welcome participants to campus for this year's BT Young Scientist Business Bootcamp. We are delighted to continue our partnership with BT Ireland, through NovaUCD, to deliver this annual 4-day Bootcamp. I hope that the experience has helped the students to deepen their understanding of technology commercialisation in particular, and



Winners of the 2022 BT Young Scientist Business Bootcamp, standing (l-r): Taha Fareed Farooqi, Sophie Creedon and Hannah Walsh. Seated (l-r): Claudine Mulihano and Harry O'Connor.

entrepreneurship in general, as they seek to translate innovative projects emerging from this year's BTYSTE into sustainable, scalable and viable businesses."

## Aspire Scholarships Open Doors to Emerging Business Talent

**"Receiving recognition for my accomplishments to date has given me the confidence to set new, more challenging goals to become the best version of myself," said Ifeloluwa William Funmilayo.**

Ifeloluwa, an MSc in Finance student at UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School, was awarded the Aspire Scholarship on the basis of her exceptional academic and professional achievements, as well as future potential. The Drogheda native recently graduated from UCD with a first-class honours in undergraduate Economics with a structured elective in French. In addition, she also received a first-class grade in her research project.

The Aspire Scholarship Programme was established after the 2010 financial crisis in order to support the recovery and development of future Ireland. The initiative provides talented graduates from across the country with financial support to complete a postgraduate qualification from Ireland's leading business school. To date, close to 130 graduates have benefitted from the programme and many alumni have gone on to establish their own business ventures or are employed in leading companies.

Stuart Garrett, Directorate Services Manager of Ambulatory Care, Out Patients and Clinical Programmes at St James's Hospital, Dublin, is the President of the Aspire Scholarship Programme, as well as a former recipient. "The scholarship ensured that I met and learned from



Pictured is Prof Gerardine Doyle, Director of UCD Smurfit School and Associate Dean of UCD College of Business with Aspire Scholars for the launch of the 2022 application window. Scholars include: Alexandra Doyle (MSc Marketing), Laura Kerin (MSc HR), Ife William Funmilayo (MSc Finance), Oluwademi (Demi) Awosika (MSc HR), Riona Blaney (MSc Finance), Favour Ogundare (MSc Digital Marketing), Rebecca Desmond (MSc Renewable Energy), Jordan O'Connor (MSc Quantitative Finance) and Rhiannon Gilvary (MSc Digital Marketing).

other students and professionals completing Masters and MBA programmes at UCD Smurfit School," said Stuart. "The learning experience and notably, these relationships and networks, have supported me greatly in my career as a leader in the health service."

Professor Anthony Brabazon, Dean, UCD College of Business said at the launch of the 2022 Aspire Scholarship Programme, "For over a decade, we have seen the transformational power that the Aspire Scholarship Programme has facilitated for Ireland's emerging business talent. Studying and learning alongside the country's leading business experts, we have seen our students thrive as the scholarship empowers them to pursue their goals. We thank the donors for their unwavering support in the potential of Ireland's graduates."



Pictured (l-r) at NovaUCD are; Ricardo Simon Carbajo, Head of Innovation and Development, CeADAR; Leo Clancy, CEO, Enterprise Ireland and Mitchell O'Gorman, CEO, xWave Technologies.

## ■ xWave Technologies and CeADAR Announce AI Innovation Partnership

**xWave Technologies, an Irish healthtech start-up headquartered at NovaUCD, and CeADAR, Ireland's Centre for Applied AI, at UCD, have announced the commencement of an innovation partnership project.**

Funded through the Enterprise Ireland Innovation Partnership Programme the project will research the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to predict the best medical diagnostic test for a patient, based on a range of input data.

Medical diagnostics, such as radiology and pathology, perform a vital role in the early identification of a disease in patients and determining the subsequent treatment pathways for the patient. However, medical diagnostics is a field fraught with problems, including the timely and accurate diagnosis of

patients to give them the best health outcomes possible.

In radiology, for example, it is estimated that up to 50% of advanced radiology scans may be unnecessary and not of benefit to the patients that they are performed on. This can result in long waiting lists and poor patient outcomes, including delayed diagnoses, missed diagnoses and unnecessary radiation exposure. It also costs health systems the substantial sums of money spent annually on unnecessary radiology scans.

Central to these problems is the ability to ensure that the patient is referred for the best test for them at the right time. xWave Technologies currently provides a clinical decision support platform to support clinicians in selecting the best test for their patients. Recent advancements in AI provide a significant opportunity to bring a data-driven approach to make medical diagnostic referring more predictive and personalised to the patient's needs and is the focus of xWave's project with CeADAR.

The innovation partnership project between xWave and CeADAR has been facilitated through UCD's knowledge transfer team at NovaUCD.



Pictured (l-r) are Global team representatives Sandro Beiro Antonelli (Liechtenstein), Tim Reusing (Germany), Cillian Mc Caul (Ireland), Rhionnon O'Connor (USA), and Jan Bahl (Germany).

## ■ Smurfit Wins CFA Research Challenge 2022

**The UCD Smurfit School participated in the CFA Research Challenge represented by students from the MSc in Finance programme. The Challenge took place in Davy Stockbrokers where Trinity College, UCC, NUIG, QUB and TU Dublin also took part.**

The team was ably mentored by Dr Cormac Mac Fhionnlaoich, Academic Director, MSc in Finance and Marie Gillespie, CFA, Director, Senior Equity Analyst, Davy. The focus company team was Kerry Group, the world's leading taste and nutrition company.



Pictured is the discussion panel (l-r): Kevin Marshall, Microsoft; Dee Coakley, Boundless; Kate O'Sullivan, LinkedIn; and Pedro Angulo, Brown Thomas Arnotts.

## Convene Enterprise Forum

**UCD Innovation Academy welcomed leaders from enterprise and higher education to its inaugural Convene Enterprise Forum on 30 March. Nearly 100 guests gathered on the day joined by more watching online to hear a discussion on how enterprise and higher education can work together to respond to future skills needs.**

“Close collaboration between higher education and enterprise brings many benefits for our economy and our society. It ensures our universities are responding to emerging skills needs; it allows a free flow of ideas between universities and enterprise and it gives students vital real-world experience that will allow them to hit the ground running when they graduate,” commented Minister Harris who was represented on the day by Fiona O’Byrne of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.

“In less than two years Convene has shown what’s possible when universities collaborate and when higher education and enterprise work together; from groundbreaking new projects using virtual reality to teach undergraduates future skills, to embedding enterprise into university teaching and allowing students of all disciplines to work hands-on with green technologies,” said Minister Harris.

The panel discussion, The Future of Work is Here – How do Enterprise and Higher Education Respond Together moderated by Eleanor Kelly, UCD Innovation Academy, included Kate O’Sullivan from LinkedIn, Pedro Angulo from Brown Thomas Arnotts, Dee Coakley from start-up Boundless and Kevin Marshall from Microsoft.

UCD Innovation Academy’s Convene enterprise partners were also in attendance spanning six different sectors including the ESB, the Irish Exporters Association and start-up The UpCycle Farm, among others. Before the panel discussion, guests had a chance to try out the Innovation Academy’s new Virtual Reality Programme and see some of its MakerSpace technology in action.

“At UCD Innovation Academy, we prepare our students for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, to help them live well in the world and for the betterment of our economy and society – we can only do that through close cooperation with enterprise, ensuring we’re future proofing our graduates with the right skills and experience. Working closely with TU Dublin, we hope Convene will be a model for others in higher education, demonstrating different ways to work with enterprise and the benefits that brings” said Professor Suzi Jarvis, founding director of UCD Innovation Academy and UCD’s Convene Lead.



Dr Anna Visser, Prof Michelle Norris, Director Geary Institute; Prof Dymna Devine, College VP for Research, Impact & Innovation; Prof Oonagh Breen, UCD Sutherland School of Law; and Prof Colin Scott, College Principal, College of Social Sciences and Law.

## COVID-19 and its Societal Impacts

**A COVID-19 Showcase organised by UCD College of Social Sciences and Law, in association with the Geary Institute, took place on 6 April in UCD Sutherland School of Law. The showcase event explored key questions about the wider societal impact of the pandemic, both now and into the future, as researched and examined by researchers from a variety of disciplines across the College.**

As we emerge from the pandemic, when concerns over health predominated public discourse and policy, it is timely to consider the pandemic more broadly and how it has impacted upon, and will continue to impact upon, the everyday lives of citizens. Beyond COVID-19, there is a need for evidence-based insights into the many societal challenges that have arisen.

The seminar considered how the social organisation of our lives – at work, in our homes, communities and schools was altered, alongside the capacities of different members of society to adjust, adapt and respond to the changed circumstances. Eighteen

research projects representing research in most of the Schools within the College were presented across three inter-disciplinary themes related to: Public Trust, Misinformation and Ethics; Equalities and Social Justice; and Health and Well-being. Dr Anna Visser, Head of Research and Evaluation from the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth gave the keynote address. The event was very well attended, attracted considerable interest, and gave rise to lively discussion and debate, showcasing key examples of social scientific research into the societal impact of the pandemic both in Ireland as well as abroad.



*Pictured is Tom Cannon, Enterprise Architecture Manager, IT Services.*

## ■ New Cooling System to live Daedalus Data Centre Environment

**When the Daedalus data centre was originally built in 2006, almost all services were on-premises and the energy load was almost a constant 300KW, in a 150m<sup>2</sup> room. With this high load in such a small space it was necessary to operate an advanced chilled-water cooling system.**

As part of the Future Campus project, it was necessary to relocate the Daedalus data centre's cooling plant. IT Services took this opportunity to re-architect and partnered with a Schneider Electric Elite Partner, to design and install the new cooling infrastructure.

A major consideration was to minimise disruption, maximise the efficiency of the cooling, as well as making it more resilient and scalable. It was essential while installing the new system that the data centre kept running as normal and that there was no downtime. The project plan ensured that the existing chilled-water system

continued to function while the new cooling system was installed, commissioned and tested.

The new cooling equipment has resulted in an inherently more resilient data centre with redundancy to ensure reliable ongoing delivery of all hosted IT services in the event that one of the cooling units fails. It will be a simple matter to scale up when that becomes necessary, as the required power and piping was put in place. The new equipment has also seen the Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE) ratio improve, with initial indications that we have managed to improve PUE from an average of 1.42 to 1.37.

The overall effects of installing the new cooling system are therefore: greater resilience and peace of mind; more efficient use of space for the benefit of the University's main function of teaching; greater efficiency of IT infrastructure and consequently a more sustainable operation into the future.

**The Daedalus data centre hosts over 600+ servers, primarily for UCD's Research High Performance Computing and centralised on-premises IT systems.**

**64.3% reduction in energy consumption in the Daedalus data centre (between February 2012 and February 2022)**



*Pictured are (l-r): Lord Sumption, Dr Niamh Howlin and Chief Justice, Mr Justice Donal O'Donnell.*

## ■ 2022 John M Kelly Lecture at UCD Sutherland School of Law

**UCD Sutherland School of Law welcomed renowned former UK Supreme Court Judge, Lord Jonathan Sumption to deliver the John M Kelly Memorial Lecture in March 2022. The School's distinguished alumnus, the Chief Justice, Mr Justice Donal O'Donnell, introduced Lord Sumption's lecture on the highly topical subject of 'The European Union and the Nation State'.**

The large audience in attendance included members of John M Kelly's family, academics, students and practitioners. Notable alumni included the Attorney General, Paul Gallagher, Senator Michael McDowell and Caoilfhionn Gallagher QC. The lecture honours the memory of Professor Kelly (1931-1991) who was UCD Professor of Jurisprudence and editor of the Irish Jurist, as well as a government minister and Attorney General.



Pictured are (l-r) Ash Middleton, Dainius Klimasauskas, and Saoirse McGlinchey from Estates Services at the Green Campus information Stand during Green Week.

## UCD Green Campus Programme

**The UCD Green Campus Programme aims to encourage students to become actively involved in environmental initiatives while studying in UCD, working with faculty and staff to implement projects that raise the profile of sustainability across the University.**

UCD's annual Green Week forms the centrepiece of our community engagement and following a virtual event in 2021, we are delighted to report that Green Week returned to Campus in March 2022 as part of National Green Week. It was a wonderful success with events hosted by our student volunteers, colleagues from a number of schools and units, visiting climate ambassadors and representatives from An Taisce amongst others.

A wide range of events were held including 'How to Green your Research', 'Make your Scrunchie workshop', 'Forest Bathing', 'Switching to Reusable Nappies', a cycling tour

of Belfield, a tree planting event and a seminar on beach cleaning.

Green Week was also a fantastic opportunity to network with colleagues from other universities through online events such as a panel discussion on 'Improving the Sustainability of your Research' involving UCD, TCD, NUIG and My Green Lab. The events during Green Week generated several interesting ideas for other projects, such as a river cleaning expedition to the river Dodder with 'Flossie and the Beach Cleaners' and the Dodder Valley Action Group. This highly enjoyable event was held in early April.

The UCD Green Campus Team and UCD Estate Services would



Forest Bathing with the Climate Ambassadors (l-r): Katie Martin, Rory O'Sullivan, Christopher Doyle, Gary Tyrell, Ash Middleton, Frank Dargan and Billy King.

like to sincerely thank all those who contributed to organising, hosting, and attending events during Green Week, and encourage you to keep an eye out for Green Campus events at the upcoming UCD Festival 2022! If you would like to learn more and get involved with generating and delivering ideas for sustainable initiatives, please get in touch at [greencampus@ucd.ie](mailto:greencampus@ucd.ie). You can keep in touch with.



Pictured (l-r): Aideen O'Callaghan, Mark Reddin, Gemma Grant, Sean Nolan, Rachel Lee, Jack Carr, Prof Sarah Prescott, Shonagh Farrell, Kirsten Knoeppel, Orla Casserly, Carmel Price.

## Annual Patrick Semple Medal Award

The College of Arts and Humanities was delighted to honour top-performing Stage 1 students (2020/2021) at the annual Patrick Semple Medal award event, held in the Newman Building. The event was hosted by the College Principal, Professor Sarah Prescott. In addition to nine award-winning students, the event was attended by the Associate Dean, Associate Professor Gillian Pye, College Office Director, Brid Reason, the Joint Honours Programme Manager, Colin MacMahon, Heads of Subject, Heads of School and members of the Programme team.

The Semple Medal was established in 1993 to commemorate Professor Patrick Semple, the first Dean of Arts

(1909-1948). The medals are awarded to BA Joint Honours students who come first in their stage 1 subject and who continue with that subject into stage 2. A stage 1 GPA of 3.68 or above must also be achieved.

**Congratulations to the following Patrick Semple Medal recipients:**

**Archaeology - Katie Wyse Jackson**

**Drama Studies - Kirsten Knoeppel**

**English - Rachel Lee**

**Film Studies - Jack Carr**

**French - Shonagh Farrell**

**Geography - Mark Reddin**

**Greek and Roman Civilisation - Gemma Grant**

**History - Aideen O'Callaghan**

**Italian - Teagan Murphy**

**Modern Irish - Orla Casserly**

**Linguistics - Sean Nolan**

**Music - Shonagh Farrell**

**Philosophy - Carmel Price**

**Spanish - Teagan Murphy.**



# SAINT-SAËNS

## ORGAN SYMPHONY

FRENCH CONNECTIONS

## UCD Symphony Orchestra and Philharmonic Choir sell out St Patrick's Cathedral

**On 9 April, the UCD Symphony Orchestra performed Saint-Saëns' spectacular Organ Symphony as part of a programme of French music presented in collaboration with the UCD Philharmonic Choir in the stunning setting of St Patrick's Cathedral.**

Entitled 'French Connections', the concert featured works by Ravel, Fauré, and Passereau, plus a new commission by UCD Composer-in-Residence Peter Moran, debuted by the UCD Philharmonic Choir. The concert drew a crowd of over 800 attendees, resulting in a stunning evening of live music after a hiatus of over two years due to COVID-19.

An excerpt from the concert was recorded and will be showcased in Virtual Reality at the UCD Festival 2022, on 11 June.

The Concert Conductors were: Dr Ciarán Crilly, Artistic Director, UCD Symphony Orchestra, Patrick Rafter, UCD School of Music Conducting Apprentice, Amy Ryan Artistic Director, UCD Philharmonic Choir, with Alex Kelly on the organ.



*Pictured (l-r) are Miriam O'Callaghan, the Rt Hon the Lord Mayor of the City of London, Alderman Vincent Keaveny and Dr Niamh Howlin, Head of UCD Sutherland School of Law.*

## Alderman Vincent Keaveny visits UCD Sutherland School of Law

**UCD Sutherland School of Law was honoured to host the Rt Hon the Lord Mayor of the City of London, Alderman Vincent Keaveny in early March 2022. The Lord Mayor is a UCD Law graduate and the focus of his visit was to engage with the School's faculty, staff and students on a discussion in relation to bringing greater diversity into the professions. He was interviewed by RTÉ's Miriam O'Callaghan, also a distinguished alumna of the school.**

The Lord Mayor began by reflecting on his time at UCD as a student and described his

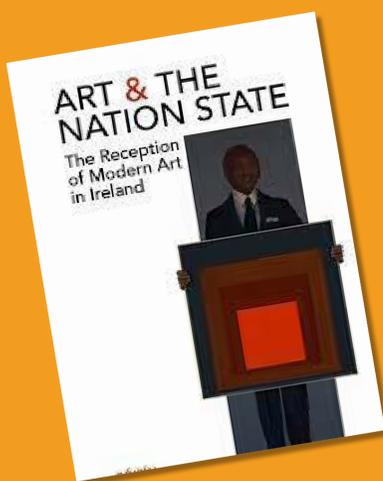
experiences as he progressed as a law graduate and prominent commercial city lawyer and from there to the Mansion House. The Lord Mayor offered insightful perspectives on the issues around social mobility and ideas on what people in the financial and professional industry can do to improve this.

In attendance were UCD Sutherland School of Law students, faculty and alumni from the Lord Mayor's BCL class. A lively question and answer session ensued with everyone engaging extensively with the topic of diversity within the legal profession.

# Books

## Art and the Nation State

**Dr Róisín Kennedy,**  
UCD School of Art History  
and Cultural Policy,  
**Liverpool University Press**  
**ISBN: 978-1-789-62235-5**



Dr Róisín Kennedy's *Art and the Nation State* exposes the machinations of the processes that influenced the evolution and reception of modernist art in Ireland. A period that extends from the foundation of the Irish Free State in 1922 to the end of the modernist era in the 1970s. Kennedy deftly guides us through the decades, giving us a holistic view encompassing the artists, arts organisations, museums, galleries and patrons through to the establishment stakeholders such as politicians and the Catholic Church. In the relatively inward-looking, isolated decades after the foundation of the Free State, the visual arts are co-opted as a means to help create a suitable and unifying image of Ireland for the Irish themselves, to smooth away the

cracks of division and the damage of colonialism. As we move through the post-war period, the visual arts are seen as a useful tool in Ireland's charm offensive on the rest of the world, as the country begins to look outwards, seeking to be included in international affairs and marketing itself as a tourist destination. Kennedy quotes Charles Haughey as noting that for a "tourist country it was important to be identified with the best in contemporary culture".

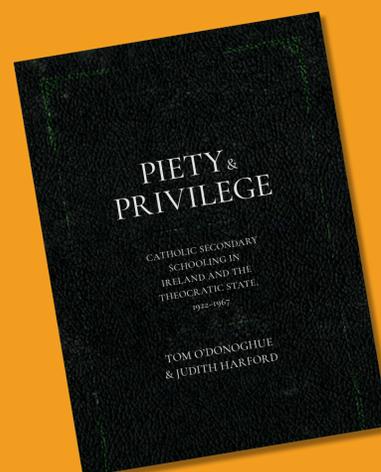
By tracing how stakeholders worked to influence the visual arts for their own interests both at a micro individualistic level and a macro societal level, Kennedy illustrates how Irish modernist art contributed to 'post-independence cultural debate and diverging notions of Irish identity' but also how the cultural debate and differing ideas about Irish identity, in their turn, shaped the development of Irish modernist art.

This book is a thorough and original take on the factors that influenced the evolution of modern art in Ireland, the depth and breadth of research is impressive and Kennedy has left no stone unturned. It will be indispensable for scholars of this period and, in this respect, exposes many threads just begging to be unravelled further. It is also readable, entertaining and bracingly challenging in places. A wonderful and illuminating companion to any person who is interested in artworks or artists from the modernist era in Ireland.

**Maria Corbett, Art Historian and Curator**

## ■ Piety and Privilege: Catholic Secondary Schooling in Ireland and the Theocratic State, 1922–67

**Professor Judith Harford,**  
UCD School of Education and  
Professor Tom O' Donoghue, University  
of Western Australia  
**Oxford University Press**  
**ISBN 978-0-19-284316-6**



Judith Harford and Tom O'Donoghue's newly-published *Piety and Privilege: Catholic Secondary Schooling in Ireland and the Theocratic State, 1922-67* examines the provision of secondary school education from the establishment of the Irish Free State in 1922 until the introduction of 'free second-level education in Ireland in 1967.

More than anything, this excellent book is a reminder that nothing reveals the networks of privilege in a society quite like access to education. In independent Ireland, the great inhibiting factor in the development of the state was the nature of its education system.

In short, that system ensured that the great majority of primary and secondary schools in Ireland

were Catholic schools run by priests, religious teaching brothers, and female teaching religious. The state funded the building and maintenance of the schools, and the payment of teachers' salaries. And in return, the national curriculum was State-prescribed and the State also inspected the operation of the schools.

The limitations of the system were most obviously manifest in the limited numbers of Irish children who were able to avail of secondary schooling. This had a devastating impact on the individual lives of the first generations of children born in the Irish Free State and, in turn, had a profound bearing on the nature of Irish society.

But this is not, of course, merely a matter of numbers; it is also about the nature of the education provided. As Harford and O'Donoghue have written, the system allowed the promotion of "unhindered sets of pedagogical, administrative, and leadership practices aimed at the salvation of souls and the reproduction of fellow clerics and a loyal middle class. That situation, in turn, led to the promotion of piety and the upholding of class privilege as core characteristics of secondary schooling".

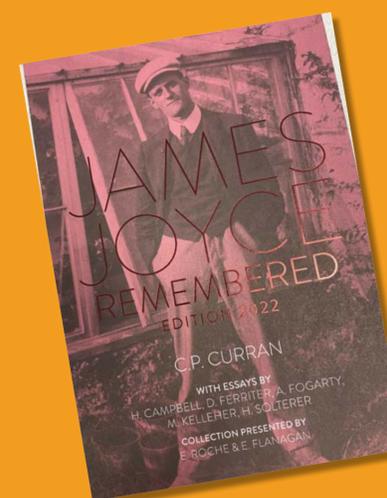
Year after year, decade after decade, the system reinforced itself, apparently considering itself to be beyond questioning. What emerged is documented in compelling detail by the authors and amounted to "feudal privilege in education". This book is essential reading for anyone who wishes to understand the impact of religious education on Ireland, the

nature of class divides across Irish society, and the enduring legacy of the church-state relationship that has defined so much of how people have taught and been taught in Ireland.

**Professor Paul Rouse**

## ■ James Joyce Remembered

**UCD Press**  
**ISBN: 9781910820803**



CP Curran's book is not only an empathetic and nuanced account of Joyce but also, in effect, of a whole galaxy of UCD graduates who contributed to the Irish Revival and to the formation of the state. It is also a necessary and valuable corrective to some of Joyce's over-negative accounts of the UCD from which he graduated. His deserved fame as the leading modernist writer has led some credulous readers to take his valuations of teachers like Fr Darlington at face value and to accept the portrait of his fellow-students in *Portrait of the Artist* as "a frieze of stooges". Curran shows convincingly

how vibrantly his classmates responded to everything new in literature and politics.

Curran provides a loving and detailed account of his friend, and also some necessary correctives - Joyce had poor eyesight and failed to appreciate the beauty of college buildings. His grades were surprisingly low - as was his attendance at classes. But Curran shows how magisterial were his talks to the L and H, whether on the poet Mangan or on Ibsen in *Art and Life*.

Curran proves what Ezra Pound later said: that Joyce was “an injustice collector”. A myth was propounded by James and his brother Stanislaus that the writer had been hounded out of Dublin; but Yeats and Lady Gregory championed Joyce, as did George Moore and three of the young author’s stories were published by George Russell in *The Irish Homestead*. Curran concludes that Joyce’s suspicion and monomania were inherited - once during the Black and Tan war, while travelling on a bullet-scarred train, the writer was convinced that the gunfire was aimed directly at him.

Professor Anne Fogarty rightly notices that Curran was the least self-focussed of all the friends who wrote on Joyce and highlights in a deft, penetrating essay how many gaps there were in Joyce’s awareness of the visual world. Professor Hugh Campbell remarks on the liminal, near-bucolic, locations in which Joyce and Curran lived. He recognises Curran’s candour in admitting how difficult it was to remember people and events with exactitude, because the power with which Joyce wrote of them afterwards tended to overwhelm memory, just as the famous photo taken in front of the Currans’ glasshouse seemed to establish forever the image of Stephen Daedalus. Curran’s other photographs of old Dublin seem similarly laden with ambiguity, between the moment captured and subsequent accounts of it.

Alice Ryan draws attention to just how many details in the Joycean texts are explained by Curran, who was honest and humble enough to admit that there were so many passages that he couldn’t fathom. Eugene Roche and Evelyn Flanagan suggest that the “mental anxiety” to

which Joyce refers in a letter to Curran may arise from his relationship with Nora Barnacle. They correctly suggest it should henceforth be called the Curran\Laird Collection, given the central role of his actor-wife in so many activities, not least their Wednesday night ‘at homes’. They also justly stress how important this collection is to anyone who in future seeks to write a history of UCD.

Professor Diarmaid Ferriter presents a marvellous archival excavation of the commentaries on Ireland, written under the pseudonym Michael Gahan, for *The Nation*, a contemporary English paper. He shrewdly demonstrates how “cautious Conn”, a friend to politicians of different factions, provided balanced commentary which, though critical of the Irish Parliamentary Party, ended with his defence of the Anglo-Irish Treaty. Curran was in these years a collector of a useful range of papers and journals, which add further value to the Collection.

Helen Solterer writes a charming, witty and generous analysis, including a context for the famous Photo (for which she has never enforced her copyright). She shows how the Michael Gahan pseudonym was employed also in literary reviews, e.g. of the work of Colum.

Professor Margaret Kelleher shows how the same nucleus of activists and intellectuals were to be observed at the centre of public and private life. She offers a fuller account of Helen Laird’s stage career than we have had heretofore; and she makes interesting comparisons and contrasts between this memoir and the Colums’ book *Our Friend James Joyce*, while also using Mary Colum’s magnificent *Life and the Dream* to capture the intellectual vivacity of the backdrop.

What comes across most strongly is the mixture of observational shrewdness, personal generosity and practical patriotism of this wonderful family in all its generations - something for which we all are grateful.

**Declan Kiberd**



The cast in full voice on stage.

## ■ G.B.S. “... the most fictitious character I have ever created” - George Bernard Shaw

**George Bernard Shaw, socialist, activist, intellectual, feminist, playwright, author and critic is a fascinating, contradictory and often challenging figure. Infamous for his wit, complexity and sometimes dark and controversial opinions, Shaw was one of only two people to have won both an Academy Award and a Nobel Prize for Literature. The Nobel Prize committee praised his work as “marked by both idealism and humanity, its stimulating satire often being infused with a singular poetic beauty”. With typical Shavian wit, he initially declined to accept, saying “I can forgive Nobel for inventing dynamite, but only a fiend in human form could have invented the Nobel Prize”. He later relented.**

During his childhood in Dublin, Shaw spent many hours wandering the rooms of the National Gallery of Ireland, calling it a place to which he owed “much of the only real education I ever got as a boy in Eire”. Just before his 94th birthday, he completed his last will, leaving one third of his posthumous royalties to the Gallery.

Marking 70 years since Shaw’s death, the UCD Ad Astra Academy Performing Arts scholars presented a new multi-disciplinary work based on the life and works of George Bernard Shaw in February 2022. Developed from selected

plays, literature, letters and news articles, both by and about Shaw, “G.B.S.” was created with the Ad Astra scholars in collaboration with Dr Lucy Collins, UCD School of English, Drama and Film, Kellie Hughes, Ad Astra Artistic Director and Thérèse Timoney, Ad Astra Music Director.

Presented in the National Gallery of Ireland’s stunning Shaw Gallery, “G.B.S.” included performances from both current Ad Astra scholars and recent alumni. This is the second creative collaboration between the National Gallery of Ireland and the Ad Astra Academy.



Darragh McElhinney



Luke McCann



Israel Olatunde



Sarah Healy

## Athletics

The National Indoor Championship saw four UCD Ad Astra Elite Athletes achieve gold medal winning performances. Sarah Healy set yet another new U23 national record of 8:53.67 in the 3,000m. Running in the men's 3,000m, Darragh McElhinney held off expected rival Tyrone teenager Nick Griggs to win the mens title. In the mens 60m, it took 6.62 seconds for Israel Olatunde to claim his first national indoor title. Luke McCann won his first

national indoor title in the 1,500m with a fantastic 3:45:14 performance.

At the Irish Universities Athletics Association Indoor Track and Field Championships, UCD had success in the; Womens 1,500m (Kate Nurse - 2nd, Róisín O'Reilly - 3rd), Womens 3,000m (Danielle Donegan - 3rd), Mens 60m (Israel Olatunde - 1st, Toluwabori Akinola - 3rd), Mens 1,500m (Darragh McElhinney - 1st, Mark Milner - 2nd), Mens , (Conor Maguire - 3rd).

## Colours Boat Races

The 2022 Colours Boat Races returned after a two-year break amid the COVID-19 pandemic, and took place on the River Liffey from O'Connell Bridge to St James' Gate on Friday 18 March. Both the Mens and Ladies Boat Clubs enjoyed success at this year's event. The Ladies Boat Club were winners in both the Corcoran Cup (Senior) and Sally Moorehead (Novice), while the Mens Boat Club took home the Gannon Cup (Senior).



Corcoran Cup (Senior women) UCDBC: Lily Rooney (Cox), Alison Daly (Stroke), Sarah Daly, Meret Sypli, Ava Evans, Orla Hayes, Ellie Scott, Claire Martin, Louise Watson (Captain/Bow).



Sally Moorehead (Novice women) UCDBC: Molly Kennedy (Stroke), Beibhinn O'Neill, Lauryn Roche, Doireann Nyhan, Tara Phelan, Lucy Greene, Orla NiChuir, Isobel Langton (Bow).



Gannon Cup Winners, UCD Senior Men: Orlagh Reid (Coxswain), David O'Malley (Stroke), Cameron Murphy, Andrew Kelly, Thomas Earley, Shane O'Connell, Andrew Goff, Jack Stacey, Rob Brown (Back).

## Rugby

### U20s Six Nations Championship

The Irish Rugby side who claimed this year's Grand Slam title had no less than 11 UCD RFC representatives involved throughout the campaign. They included Fionn Gibbons, Jack Boyle, Rory McGuire, Conor O'Tighearnagh, Mark Morrissey, Michael Moloney, James Culhane, Diarmuid Mangan, Ben Brownlee, Dylan O'Grady and Shane Mallon. James Culhane was also named U20 Six Nations Player of the Championship

### Women's Rugby

UCD Women's Rugby Club won their Colours match against arch rivals Trinity in College Park with an emphatic 17-0 scoreline.

## Ladies Hockey - Jacqui Potter Cup

UCD Ladies Hockey ended a decade-long wait to win the Jacqui Potter Cup in March after a 2-1 win over Old Alex. Emma Young and Ellen Atkinson scored a goal each within the first 10 minutes of the game, while Laura Gunning saved a penalty with just over a minute left to secure the win.

UCD Team: L Gunning, A Elliott, C Byrne, K Egan, E Lavelle, S Cole, A Naughton, E Paul, E Young, E Atkinson, C Cope Subs: R Kelly, E Ryan, S Young, G Keane, C Theunisz.



The victorious UCD Karate Teams.

## Varsity Round-Up

### Swimming

The UCD mens team took top spot with 273 points ahead of University of Limerick (136) and NUI Galway (129). UCD's womens team achieved 221 points to finish second ahead of University of Limerick (164) and just behind NUI Galway with 230 points. The combined score of 494 meant UCD were crowned Irish Swimming Intervarsity Champions.

### Karate

On 2 April the UCD Karate Club stormed to victory at the first All-Ireland Karate Intervarsities to take place in three years. In total UCD took home an incredible medal haul of 17 gold, 18 silver and 11 bronze to secure the title as All-Ireland Karate Intervarsity Champions 2022.

### Table Tennis

UCD hosted this year's Table Tennis Intervarsities and both the Mens and Womens teams were crowned Intervarsity Champions. The Mens Singles consisted of an all UCD podium, while it was a 1-2 finish in the Womens singles.

### Tennis

UCD Tennis Club hosted this year's tennis Intervarsities in February and the Womens team claimed the title for an incredible sixth year in a row. The Mens team finished runners-up.



Pictured (l-r): Assoc Prof Andrew Keating, CEMS Academic Director and Alberto Mondazzi.

## Chasing Greatness

Waking up before dawn to attend classes at the renowned Bocconi University in Milan, Alberto Mondazzi commuted three hours a day while also competing as an elite runner in Italian national competitions.

"Ultimately, I believe it's your passion that drives you to bring out the best in yourself and achieve your goals. Therefore, I tried to focus, not only on the final target, but also on the journey and enjoy it," said Alberto.

His perseverance paid off as he graduated with first-class honours from Bocconi University, one of the world's top ranked business schools. During this time, he also competed for the Italian Athletics National Team winning the Half Marathon National Championship in 2020, which was the third national title of his career.

"As my academic and athletic aspirations became higher, I began to search for a school where I could continue to excel in both areas," said Alberto.

His search led him to him to UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School where he applied for the School's CEMS Masters in International Management Programme. "I chose the programme because of its great international exposure and reputation."

Alberto's outstanding academic

record earned him a place on the renowned programme, but it was his proven dedication outside of the classroom that made him eligible for the UCD Graduate Sports Scholarship Programme. The scholarship programme is specifically for students who are competing and succeeding at the highest sporting level while completing a postgraduate programme at UCD.

"I really appreciate the attention UCD pays to student-athletes and the atmosphere and culture in the UCD Sports team," commented Alberto.

Recently, Alberto topped the table at the elite 'Streets of Clane 5k' clocking in blistering lap times and a final time of 14 minutes and 35 seconds and he competed in the Varsity National Cross Country Championships in Dublin. Alberto's goal for the 2022 season is to run 10,000m under the 28 minute barrier, to medal at the World University Games in China next July and to make a marathon debut in New York next November.

"After graduation, I aim to work for a multinational corporation that is committed to making a remarkable impact on people's lives. I believe that the teamwork, leadership and management skills I'm acquiring at UCD will enable me to make my best contribution to the company's success."



## UCD Quinn School student wins Nobel Scholarship

**Altamash Shaikh, Stage 2 Business and Law candidate at UCD, has been selected as the first UCD Nobel Scholar following a competitive application process. He joins an elite group of 11 students from universities around the world.**

The Nobel Scholarship is a new initiative in UCD Lochlann Quinn School of Business, in partnership with Education First, and the Forum on Education Abroad, to collaborate in a global module supporting a small group of international change makers to work and learn together, and participate in the Nobel Dialogues week, part of the Nobel Prize events in Sweden. UCD Quinn School will be the academic host of this programme for the next three years and will send a scholar each of these years.

Originally from Mumbai, India, Altamash fled his homeland due to religious persecution and arrived to Ireland in 2017. With little more than clothes and a phone, he spent several years in direct provision accommodation in Ireland.

As he progressed through the Irish education system, his hard work and dedication earned him a place at UCD.

“From my experience, I believe the inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in all areas is an ongoing crucial development for our society. Support for higher education for asylum seekers as provided by Ireland enhances the progress of individuals and also advances society and the economy,” said Altamash.

The high-impact student scholarship invited future leaders from around the globe to apply to the prestigious program. Selected students participated in an online project-based course in December 2021 due to COVID-19 travel guidelines. In the future, students will travel to Sweden for an international field study to attend sessions at the Nobel Week Dialogue. The collaborative event brings some of the world’s leading scientists, policymakers, and thinkers together to explore scientific topics through a global lens.

In addition to his BBL studies, Altamash is extremely active in student life at UCD. Altamash is a class representative in the UCD Students’ Union, among many other activities. His commitment to supporting and improving the UCD community earned him the UCD in the Community Award Volunteering Gold Award for completing 77+ hours of volunteering in 2021.

“Altamash is a truly outstanding student, who has taken on a leadership role in many areas of our community life in UCD,” said Associate Professor Maeve Houlihan, Director of UCD Quinn School and Associate Dean of the UCD College of Business. “In his Nobel project, he is giving a voice and offering insight on the experience of Muslims and Human Rights. We’re proud for him to represent UCD as part of the Nobel Dialogues Week in Sweden, and of this initiative as an extraordinary opportunity for student change makers to further learn and grow.”



The Medicine Class White Coat Ceremony.

## White Coat Ceremonies

### UCD School of Veterinary Medicine

After taking place virtually in 2021, the School of Veterinary Medicine’s White Coat Ceremony returned as an in-person event for 2022. On Thursday 3 March, the School celebrated the milestone achievement of the Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Nursing Classes of 2023 as they received their white coats in UCD O’Reilly Hall. The White Coat Ceremony is an important event in the School’s calendar as it marks the students’ transition into clinical practice in the UCD Veterinary Hospital, and beyond, in the final year of their degree programmes. Our guest speaker at this year’s ceremony was Mr Eoin Ryan from our Herd Health and Animal Husbandry Section. The event was live streamed for those who were not able to join us in person.



The Veterinary Medicine (MVB) and Veterinary Nursing Classes White Coat Ceremony.

## UCD School of Medicine

The UCD School of Medicine White Coat Ceremony took place on Wednesday 9 February. This ceremony marks the transition from preclinical to clinical medical education and is a symbol of the professional responsibilities that students will assume throughout their clinical life. At the event, senior academic staff from UCD place a white coat on the students.

Professor Michael Keane, Head of School delivered the opening speech at this in-person ceremony, that was attended by over 530 student guests. 278 students from over 50 countries in the world received their white coats.

The keynote speaker of the evening was Mr Gerry McEntee, Consultant HPB and General Surgeon from the Mater Hospital.