

AUTUMN 2018

# UCD Veterinary Community News

Nuacht Phobal Tréidliachta UCD



**Reflecting on the Past...  
Looking to the Future**



The Newsletter of the  
UCD School of Veterinary Medicine

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## About the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine

The UCD School of Veterinary Medicine is the only school of Veterinary Medicine on the island of Ireland. Accredited by the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) and the Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI), our MVB degree programme is one of only six in Europe fully accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). We have a track record in education that is second to none and our excellence in teaching & learning, research and clinical endeavour is internationally recognised.

## Contributors

Many thanks to the following: Gerald Barry, Marijke Beltman, Rory Breathnach, Brian Cloak, Dan Collins, Robin Farrell, Nicola Garvey, Steve Gordon, Vincent Hoban, Aidan Kelly, Amy Koterbay, Simon More, Alison Reynolds, Rob Shiel, UCD News. Thanks also to GAA.ie for allowing us to use the photo of the 1917 Dublin (Collegians) Hurling Team in our piece on 'Vet Sporting Greats.'

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→ A chairde, cuireann sé  
gliondar croí orm ár gcéad  
irisleabhar a sheoladh!

Dear colleagues, I am  
delighted to launch the  
very first edition of 'Nuacht  
Phobal Tréidliachta UCD /  
UCD Veterinary Community  
News.'

**PROFESSOR MICHAEL DOHERTY, DEAN & HEAD OF SCHOOL**

# Dean's Welcome



→ **A chairde, cuireann sé gliondar croí orm ár gcéad irisleabhar a sheoladh!**

**Dear colleagues, I am delighted to launch the very first edition of 'Nuacht Phobal Tréidliachta UCD / UCD Veterinary Community News.'**

The past year has seen some exciting developments in the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine, with the opening of our new Clinical Skills Centre, the installation of state-of-the-art computed tomography (CT) for both equine and small animal patients in the Veterinary Hospital, as well as the announcement of a major €3.2 million development of the small animal wing of our hospital, which will include suites for oncology, neurology and animal rehabilitation. Thanks to the efforts of all of the staff of the School of Veterinary Medicine and the Veterinary Hospital, we are also delighted to report that the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine is now proudly ranked 24th in the world in the latest QS World University Subject Ranking and veterinary science sits as the highest QS World University-ranked subject both in UCD and in Ireland. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our alumni and members of the veterinary professions who play such an important role in the training of our students of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Nursing.

Best wishes  
le gach dea-ghuí

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Doherty'.

**Professor Michael Doherty**  
Dean & Head of School

Follow the Dean on Twitter: [@DohertyVetDean](https://twitter.com/DohertyVetDean)

# Message from the Communications Manager



**Dr Helen Graham, Communications Manager**

The focus of this first edition of UCD Veterinary Community News is very much one of looking back to look forward. The School of Veterinary Medicine in UCD is unique in terms of its history and development, and this is particularly evident in a snapshot of life in the old Vet School in Ballsbridge in our 'From the Archives' piece featured in this edition. The Vet School on the Belfield campus has developed as a vibrant and dynamic environment that has retained the friendly informality of Ballsbridge, and it's this unique atmosphere which makes it such a special place to work and learn. With this in mind, we

also take a look at more recent events in the School, including the launch of our new Clinical Skills Centre and ongoing developments in the UCD Veterinary Hospital, whilst looking forward to a bright future with features on up-and-coming researchers and our Summer School for secondary school students interested in a career in Veterinary Medicine. We are particularly excited to announce a plan for an event celebrating veterinary sporting greatness, both past and present, to take place in July next year, and would appreciate your help in gathering information for our 'Hall of Fame' - please see p. 23 for more information. There is a very particular and positive sense of community that permeates all we do here in the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine and across the UCD Veterinary Community, and this has been central to the development of this publication and the stories contained within - we hope you enjoy it and we look forward to keeping in touch with you in the future.

**Dr Helen Graham**  
Communications Manager  
Email: [helen.a.graham@ucd.ie](mailto:helen.a.graham@ucd.ie)



# UCD Veterinary Science ranked 24th in the 2018 QS World Rankings

→ The QS World University Rankings were released in February this year and we were delighted to see that Veterinary Science in UCD is now ranked 24th in the world. This places Veterinary Science up a massive 16 places since it first ranked at number 40 in 2015, and makes it not only the highest ranked subject in UCD, but also sees us achieve Ireland's highest ranked subject overall. Veterinary Science in UCD scored particularly well on citations per research paper and employer reputation.

The QS World University Rankings by Subject ranks the world's top universities in 48 different subjects. UCD offers 45 of those subjects and was ranked in 34 across the five broad subject areas. The rankings are compiled on an annual basis, and their purpose is to help prospective students identify the leading universities in a

particular subject. Research citations, along with the results of major global surveys of employers and academics are used to rank universities.

Professor Michael Doherty, Dean & Head of School, acknowledged this exceptional achievement and noted the contribution and huge team effort made by all of our staff over many years. The news has been positively received across the School by staff and students alike, and also by our colleagues across UCD.



# 13th Annual UCD Veterinary Hospital Conference

→ The 13th Annual UCD Veterinary Hospital Conference took place on 22 June and we were delighted to welcome so many of our colleagues from the veterinary professions to UCD for the day. We had a fantastic turnout, with over 500 delegates in attendance. The day began with our Business Talk, from Mark Butler, Managing Partner at HLB Sheehan Quinn. Mark spoke on 'Growing your Practice: How to Incentivise Vets to Join your Business & Secure it for the Future,' an important topic for all practice owners, which was particularly evident by how well attended the talk was.



→ Delegates attending the UCD Veterinary Hospital Conference

This year's conference saw a diverse range of presentations organised across five streams, delivered by highly qualified national and international speakers. Some of the highlights included Bryan Fraley, an Equine Podiatrist from

the USA, and Richard Hepburn, an Equine Internal Medicine specialist from the UK, on our Equine stream.

The Small Animal Medicine stream, with a focus on cardiology and oncology, proved to be extremely popular. Professors Anne French and Adrian Boswood featured here, as did Dr Amy Koterbay, who runs the recently opened oncology clinic at the UCDVH. Small Animal Surgery, Diagnostic Imaging and Anaesthesia were combined into a single stream, with many of our own clinicians presenting.



→ Professor Adrian Boswood addresses the Small Animal Medicine stream

Our ever popular Veterinary Nursing stream covered topics from Rabbit Anaesthesia to Oncology, and Complementary Medicine to Equine Ambulatory Nursing. The Farm Animal stream completed the line-up, with a focus on diagnostics.

Our new Clinical Skills Centre (CSC) was open to conference delegates throughout the day, with students on hand to explain how this important resource works for students of Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Nursing. The Commercial Exhibition took place in O'Reilly Hall, giving delegates the opportunity to review and examine new equipment, products and services and also catch up with suppliers and companies they're already working with. The conference also provided delegates with the chance to meet with colleagues at the breaks and also at the social reception, held after the talks had ended.

The conference was, as always, an important day for the School of Veterinary Medicine, as it allowed us to meet a large number of valued colleagues from many different areas of our profession. We see the day as a small way of saying thank you to the profession for case referrals and the immense effort our colleagues in practice make in supporting our student Clinical EMS programme - a huge thank you to all of the delegates who attended, we look forward to seeing you again in 2019.

# Conferring Ceremony

→ The School's annual Conferring Ceremony took place on Friday 15 June this year. UCD O'Reilly Hall played host to the classes of Bachelor of Science (Veterinary Nursing), Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine, Professional Certificates, Graduate Certificates (Dairy Herd Health, Equine Sports Medicine, Small Animal Medicine), a number of Masters and PhD students and also our Doctorate of Veterinary Medical Specialisation (DVMS) graduands; almost 250 students were conferred with awards this year.



→ Our 2018 graduates leave O'Reilly Hall after their Conferring Ceremony

It was a beautiful, sunny day on the Belfield campus, which only served to make the occasion even more special for all of our new graduates and their families and friends. The conferring ceremony was led by UCD President, Professor Andrew Deeks, the College Principal of the College of Health and Agricultural Sciences, Professor Cecily Kelleher, and the Dean and Head of the School of Veterinary Medicine, Professor Michael Doherty. Academics from across the School and School and Programme Office staff were also in attendance. After being conferred with their degrees and receiving their parchments, the new graduates were addressed by Professor Deeks and by the President of the Veterinary Council of Ireland, Dr Peadar O'Scanail.

Conferring day is always one of the most popular days in the School's calendar, and we were delighted to see such a great turnout. Congratulations to the Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Nursing classes of 2018 and to everyone else who graduated - we wish you every success in your future careers.

# Dr Robin Farrell appointed as Director of Veterinary Nursing Programme



→ Dr Robin Farrell, the new Director of the School's Veterinary Nursing Programme

→ Dr Robin Farrell has been appointed as the new Director of the School's Veterinary Nursing programme. Dr Farrell received her undergraduate degree in Veterinary Medicine from Ross University. Prior to this, she worked as a Veterinary Technician in small animal general practice and intensive care in the US.

Following a period in small animal practice in the US, Dr. Farrell joined the faculty at Ross University, where she took the lead in the development of the Clinical Skills Programme, as Instructor, Manager and Director of the Clinical Skills Laboratory. We are delighted that Dr Farrell is joining our team, and we look forward to working with her when she takes up her new role in October.

# Summer School

→ The School of Veterinary Medicine's annual Summer School for 5th year secondary school students interested in a career in Veterinary Medicine took place at the end of June. The aim of the Summer School, which was ably coordinated by Dr Alison Reynolds, is to give students a taste of what it's like to study Veterinary Medicine in UCD, and also an idea of the reality of life as a veterinary professional.



→ Dr Alison Reynolds and Summer School 2018 participants



→ Summer School students attend a talk at Dublin Zoo

This year's students were paired with undergraduate vet student mentors, and they attended a series of talks from our lecturers and residents across the week they were in UCD. They also had the opportunity to attend practicals, a postmortem and get hands-on practice in our Clinical Skills Centre. We organised trips for the group to The National Stud, Troytown Greyabbey Equine Veterinary Services, UCD Lyons Farm and Dublin Zoo, so that they could see how Veterinary Medicine is practiced or taught in each of these places.



→ Summer School students learning some key veterinary skills in our Clinical Skills Centre

Many thanks to all of our staff and mentors involved in the Summer School, and also The National Stud, Troytown Greyabbey Equine Veterinary Services and Dublin Zoo for all of their help in making the programme such a success. Information on next year's Summer School will be available on our website in early 2019.

# New Clinical Skills Centre Launched

→ The School's new **Clinical Skills Centre (CSC)** was officially opened by Professor Cecily Kelleher, College Principal, College of Health & Agricultural Sciences, on 21 March, with the Dean and Head of School, Professor Michael Doherty, and many of our colleagues in attendance. Formerly the Clinical Skills Laboratory, the new Clinical Skills Centre has been relocated to a larger space and is now based in the main academic building to allow easier access for all students, including those in the pre-clinical years. The CSC is an important teaching and learning resource in the School – it's designed to help Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Nursing students learn and improve their Day One Skills.



→ A selection of teaching models in the Clinical Skills Centre



→ Professor Mark Rogers (Registrar & Deputy President), Professor Cecily Kelleher and Professor Michael Doherty are introduced to some small animal surgical skills

The models and teaching material available in the CSC are used during self-directed learning sessions or practical classes. All the material is linked to UCD Veterinary Hospital procedures and developed with support from our lecturers and clinicians. Practical tasks along with worksheets, videos and a range of multimedia resources are available in the areas of Anaesthesia, Diagnostic Imaging, Equine Medicine & Husbandry, Farm

Animal Medicine & Surgery, Paraclinical & Pathology, Nursing, Small Animal & Equine Surgery, Small Animal Medicine and Anatomy.

Students can work on models and practice simulated scenarios such as taking blood, IV catheter placement, bandaging, setting up an anaesthetic machine, suturing, surgeon & patient prep for surgery, taking a sterile milk sample and they can also make use of a decommissioned portable x-ray machine.



→ **Some of the small animal models students can work on in our Clinical Skills Centre**

The CSC is also a key space for the development of interprofessional education within the School. Interprofessional education is an important concept that can have a practical impact on those working in the Veterinary profession. The CSC has hosted third year Veterinary Nursing and fourth year Veterinary Medicine students together in practical classes on cardiopulmonary

resuscitation (CPR), with teams attempting to resuscitate a model dog in a simulated emergency scenario. The goal was to show the importance of teamwork and communication during an emergency, which is vital in veterinary practice for improved patient outcomes. The new CSC will help the School to build on this successful initiative and introduce further interprofessional education into the curriculum in the future.

The CSC has also contributed to and gained from the international community of veterinary clinical skills, collaborating with TiHo Hannover (Dr Marc Dilly), Bristol Veterinary School (Professor Sarah Baillie) and Cambridge Veterinary School (Professor Jackie Brearley). Medical Device Design Masters students from the National College of Art and Design worked with their lecturers Enda O'Dowd and Derek McGarry on a collaborative project in the CSC also. The CSC was open to UCDVH Conference delegates this year, and we hope to have further opportunities to share this space with colleagues in the future.

Special thanks to **Máire O'Reilly**, the CSC Manager and **Renagh Kelly**, Lecturer/Assistant Professor, CSC Academic Lead, for all of their hard work in preparing the CSC for the launch. Thanks are also due to the Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Nursing students who helped with the set-up before the event and showcased some of the CSC skills to event attendees.

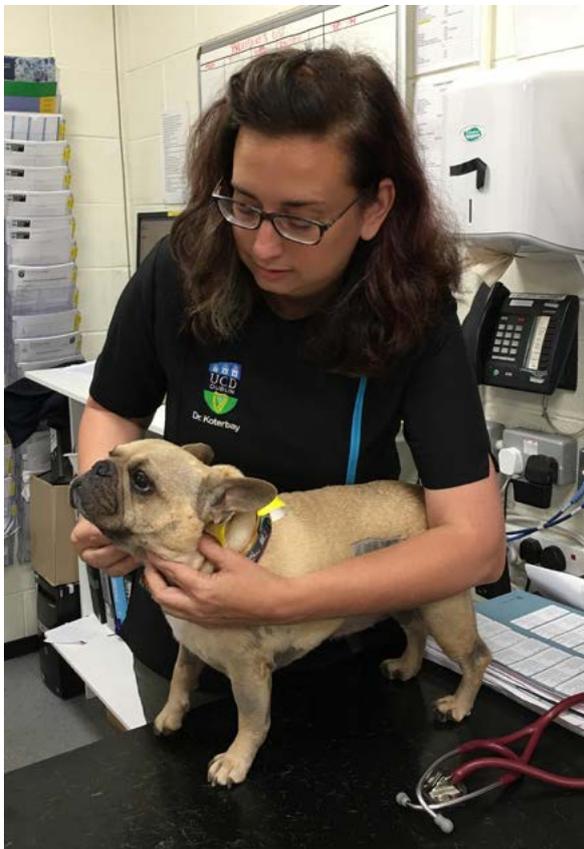


→ Caroline Beckett and Kan Tang treating one of our Small Animal Oncology patients

→ Our ambition is to provide a unique service to clients and the profession that ultimately improves the welfare of all of our patients

# UCD Veterinary Hospital Updates

→ The past year has seen a number of exciting new developments in the UCD Veterinary Hospital and we are looking forward to the next phase in the Hospital's development with an ambitious plan to extend our Small Animal facilities and further enhance our Diagnostic Imaging services. The UCDVH has also recently opened a Small Animal Medical Oncology Department, with **Dr Amy Koterbay** leading this busy unit.



**Dr Amy Koterbay, who is leading the new UCDVH Small Animal Medical Oncology Department**

## Development of Small Animal Hospital Facilities

The School has recently been given the go ahead for an ambitious €3.2 million supplementary development of the small animal facilities within the UCD Veterinary Hospital. The hospital is rapidly out-growing its current space allocation, despite it serving us well since the move to Belfield in 2002, and we are delighted to have the support of UCD Senior Management in this new venture. The increased caseload in small animal medicine and surgery over the past number of years, and the complexity of these cases, provided the impetus for seeking additional investment from the University. In addition, the rapidly expanding case numbers in our joint venture (Belfield Pet Emergency Hospital or BPEH) with the Dublin Area Emergency Clinic has further underpinned the need to expand and provide the BPEH with the extra space and resources it now needs.

The plan is to build new, dedicated units concentrating on oncology, neurology, feline medicine and rehabilitation medicine. A design brief has been agreed with UCD Building Services, and tenders will shortly be placed to appoint professional partners to oversee the project; bearing in mind planning applications and other regulatory hurdles, it's anticipated that work on the project will commence in springtime of 2019.

Whilst any building work will undoubtedly cause some disruption to daily activities, we have been assured that smart planning will minimise such disruption. We look forward to the development of this new space that will allow us to continue to offer a high level of service to the veterinary profession and the animal owning public.

## Oncology Service

Dr Amy Koterbay has been leading our Small Animal Medical Oncology Department since joining the UCDVH team last year and we are delighted to have her as part of our team. Amy received her master's degree in Veterinary Anatomy and Histology at Auburn University in 1999 before going on to complete her Veterinary degree from the University of Glasgow in 2006. Following her graduation from Glasgow, she completed a rotating internship at a private practice in Pennsylvania, where she then continued onto her medical oncology residency at Michigan State University, passing her Board exams in medical oncology in 2014. She is a member of the Veterinary Cancer Society and the International Association for Animal Hospice and Palliative Care.

Since joining the UCD Veterinary Hospital last year, Amy has worked to build up the Small Animal Medical Oncology Department and the interest in this area has exceeded all our expectations. Key to this service is Amy's approach to patient care; Amy thoroughly reviews the pet's medical history from the referring veterinarian prior to the patient's initial visit. Once seen, a physical exam is performed to help decide on the necessary diagnostic tests and to determine the next best step for the patient in terms of diagnosis and staging. These tests typically include tumour

biopsy, radiographs, ultrasonography or CT scans, all of which can be carried out at the UCDVH. Amy takes a holistic approach to discussing prognosis, treatment options and potential side effects with clients/referring veterinarians, before deciding together on the treatment plan best suited for that patient. Treatments are often multi-modalities and can include surgery, chemotherapy and palliative care. Each patient is different, and the appropriate treatment plan is individualised with the same ultimate goal of providing the pet with the best possible quality of life. By virtue of a specific schedule covering Universities within the Animal Remedies Regulations, UCDVH is fortunate in its ability to obtain authorization for many human chemotherapeutic products not licensed within Ireland. The enhanced availability of additional medicines provides the opportunity to better refine specific treatment protocols to specific patients.

## Diagnostic Imaging Developments - CT and MRI

We have recently upgraded our CT machine (Computed Tomography or "cat scan") and are now one of a few select sites in the world where equine standing CT can be performed.

Our new Siemens CT is a 16 slice machine, with large and small animal capabilities; additional add-on capacity will allow the machine to be upgraded to 32 slice for even greater functionality.

CT allows far more detail to be obtained compared to more traditional radiography and ultrasonography, allowing better detection of subtle causes of pain and disease with a better outcome for the patient, owner or trainer. The

upgraded CT means that examination times are more than halved, with faster scan times for our large and small animal patients.

The standing CT means that horses who would normally need a general anaesthetic for CT scans of their head can now be accommodated standing in our CT suite under sedation. CT offers far superior information than radiography for horses with dental disease, diseases of the paranasal sinuses, nasal disease, chewing disorders, as well as spinal and vertebral diseases of the cranial neck and brain.

With sedation in place of general anaesthesia, these patients can go directly for treatment and may also be discharged in a more timely fashion.



→ An MRI being carried out in the UCD Veterinary Hospital

As well as our own inpatient cases, we also perform outpatient CT scans for routine small animal patients (e.g. investigating elbow or shoulder disease) and external equine cases. All patients can be discharged back to the care of the referring vet that same day with all the advantages of the advanced imaging not available within the referring practice. Our Diagnostic Imaging Team are delighted with the enhanced CT capabilities of the new machine, and the higher quality of the images obtained. Our ambition is to provide a unique service to clients and the profession that ultimately improves the welfare of all of our patients. The particular clinical benefits to equine patients from standing CT have already been observed in terms of more accurate diagnosis and targeted therapy, compared to the limitations previously encountered with other, older modalities.

We hope to be in a position to further enhance our diagnostic imaging facilities in the not too distant future, with discussions at an advanced stage in relation to the proposed installation of a 1.5 Tesla MRI unit within the Hospital. This is the final phase in our plan to provide the complete range of imaging modalities for all small animal and equine patients. If successful, we anticipate being in a position to install within the next 4 to 5 months.



- Top left: The new equine CT in the UCD Veterinary Hospital in action
- Bottom left: Our Equine and Diagnostic Imaging Teams carrying out an equine CT
- Top right: This state-of-the-art equipment is a significant addition to the services offered in the UCD Veterinary Hospital

From the Archives:

# UCD News, February 1978 - 'Practitioners of the Gentle Force'

→ The February 1978 edition of UCD News was dedicated to 'The Vets,' with the publication visiting the Vet School in Ballsbridge and also the Kilkieran and Chantilly Field Stations. The newsletter, which was published for UCD staff and students, featured interviews with the 'New Dean for Merged Faculties,' Senator Justin Keating, and Seamus Moran, President of the Veterinary Students Union.

The Departments and their Heads were described in some detail, and there was also a focus on 'Women Vets' and 'An Increasing Feminine Interest in Veterinary Medicine.' This was at a time when a move to Belfield, to a site near the Owenstown Gate, was in the offing. As we know, however, the move didn't happen for another 24 years and the new Vet School was ultimately located on a site near the main campus entrance.

In the introductory piece to the February 1978 edition, the writer talks about the sense of community, and what he describes as the 'village-like camaraderie' he experienced on his visit to the Vet School. He expresses his concerns that this 'friendly informality' might be lost in the move to the Belfield campus, but he need not have worried, as this is still very much a hallmark of the Vet School and the UCD Veterinary Community today. The title of the piece, 'Practitioners of the Gentle Force,' is a reference to a phrase used in a poem by William Cowper called The Task (Book III, The Garden).

## Practitioners of the Gentle Force



Turning down Shelbourne Road from Ballsbridge, past the post office, one sees the square modern block of IPC House, home of the Irish Productivity Centre. Immediately beyond, modern architecture gives way to that of a previous century as the low-level red brick outline of the main Veterinary Faculty buildings juts out to meet the street.

Outside the gate is a plaque incorporating the coats of arms of the four provinces, surmounted by a horse, surrounded by the words 'The Veterinary College of Ireland.' The title is dated in that the buildings now house the Veterinary Faculty of the College and the horse is no longer the animal of major economic significance that it was when the College was founded at the turn of the century. However, the arms of the four provinces are still of relevance as this is the site of the only third level

institution in Ireland devoted to the education of students in Veterinary Medicine. It is one of just seven in these islands, the others being at Edinburgh, Glasgow, London, Bristol, Liverpool and Cambridge.

On entering the quadrangle, the visitor cannot escape the feeling that he is looking at a small scale model and not real buildings. There is a sense of miniaturisation in the grouping of the small individual buildings all in red brick and none reaching higher than one level above the ground. The towering modern bulk of Hume House on Pembroke Road rising over the quadrangle only serves to diminish the buildings further. But one remembers that the architect who designed these buildings was planning to cater for the needs of only a handful of students. The Dublin municipal

area at the time had a population of just 289,000 and was bounded by the 'Circular' roads. Certainly he could not have foreseen that the buildings would one day have to accommodate almost as many students as were to be enrolled in all faculties of UCD when it was granted its charter eight years later. One shudders to think that a similar fate may yet be in store for other faculty buildings at Belfield!

In its time, it was a very suitable site for a School of Veterinary Medicine. In the immediate vicinity were bakeries, laundries, a tram terminus and other businesses all heavily dependent on horse transport, not forgetting, of course, the grounds of the Royal Dublin Society.

Nowadays, the horse population of the area has virtually disappeared and horses must be brought in from the suburbs – from their surviving role in the recreational and sporting life of the community.

The buildings are now standing on a site which looks ripe for re-development. They appear to occupy more ground space in relation to accommodation provided than is normal in this area. They are overlooked on almost every side by high-rise buildings. One feels the imminence of the demolition hammer.

The long term plan is to move the Faculty on to the Belfield campus to a site adjacent to the Fosters Avenue entrance. More immediate is the move of the common rooms, some laboratories, tutorial rooms, the library and reading rooms, and some staff offices to the newly completed Government-owned block further down Shelbourne Road.

This block also overlooks the older buildings and can be entered from within the grounds. It is expected that all the accommodation currently leased in Hume House will be released as a consequence of the move, planned for March of this year.

Walking through the buildings which house the Faculty both in Ballsbridge and in the Field Stations, there are constant visual, auditory and occasional olfactory reminders that the teaching here has a strong practical side to it. One associates laboratories, lecture rooms, and white coats with the teaching of any science-based subject. In the Veterinary Faculty however,

these facilities are very close neighbours to boxes which house animals, bales of straw, barking dogs and the smells of the farmyard. Without discontinuity, the lab and the horse box, the white coats and the wellington boots, encompass a unified teaching environment.

But the greatest impact is at the human level. The practical links with land and livestock seem to inculcate the informality, directness of approach and sound common sense of the countryman. Linked to these, is a strong sense of identity – an almost village-like camaraderie – fostered no doubt by the manageable scale of this faculty.

In moving to Belfield, there is no doubt that the Vets would have much to contribute to the life of the main campus. Hopefully, this would not be at the expense of submerging that friendly informality which is very much their current and appealing hallmark.

**→ Without discontinuity, the lab and the horse box, the white coats and the wellington boots, encompass a unified teaching environment**



**€37.6m**

TOTAL VALUE OF CURRENT RESEARCH GRANTS



**52**

PUBLICATIONS TO DATE IN 2018



**43.1%**

OF PUBLICATIONS CO-AUTHORED WITH INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATORS

# School Research: at a glance

## Research grants

The total value of current research grants:  
→ **€37.6 million**, including 18 new externally funded research grants in 2017-18

## Research output

Publications to date in 2018:  
→ **52**, including 41 articles in scientific peer-reviewed journals, 1 edited book and 4 book chapters

## Research collaboration

Close to half  
→ **43.1%** of publications were co-authored with international collaborators (based on the latest data from Thomson Reuters InCites)

## Professor Simon More - new Associate Dean for Research, Innovation and Impact



Professor Simon More was appointed Associate Dean for Research, Innovation and Impact in April this year. Simon takes over from Professor Steve Gordon, who has done a huge amount of work in supporting research and helping the School achieve its excellent research reputation both within UCD and internationally over the past number of years.

Simon is Professor of Veterinary Epidemiology and Risk Analysis and is also Director of the UCD Centre for Veterinary Epidemiology and Risk Analysis (CVERA), Ireland's national resource centre for animal disease control. He works at the science-policy interface, providing scientific advice in support of national policy-makers, both within government and industry, the latter primarily through Animal Health Ireland.

Simon also contributes to the work of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). He is chair of EFSA's Animal Health and Welfare Panel, which provides ongoing scientific advice on a broad range of animal health and welfare issues, primarily to support the work of the European Commission, and a member of the working group on African Swine Fever. He is also a member of EFSA's Scientific Committee, and chair of EFSA's MUST-B working group, which is coordinating efforts towards an improved understanding of the impact of multiple stressors on honey bee colonies in Europe.

Simon is a graduate of both the University of Sydney and James Cook University of North Queensland, working in dairy practice and with beef and sheep farmers before specialising in veterinary epidemiology. He is a specialist within the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists in Epidemiology, and in the European College of Veterinary Public Health and the European College of Bovine Health Management. Simon works collaboratively with many Irish and international colleagues, using a range of epidemiological (population-based) approaches to better understand and to resolve animal health issues.

## Current Research Projects - A Snapshot

**Dr Clodagh Kearney** is working on a project to find better therapies for controlling joint inflammation, the hallmark of arthritis in horses and humans. Working with clinical specialists and researchers in inflammation, drug delivery and medical devices in the School and also with research groups based in the Netherlands, this project could have a significant impact on quality of life for horses, and potentially, human patients.

**Dr Robert Shiel** is carrying out research into potential causes of greyhound meningoencephalitis, a breed-associated neuroinflammatory disorder that has been seen exclusively in young greyhounds in Ireland, working with researchers at the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics (University of Oxford) and Maynooth University.

A project to create high fidelity, anatomically accurate simulated models for teaching veterinary clinical skills is being led by **Dr Niamh O'Donoghue**, working with colleagues in the School of Engineering. The development of such models will help to reduce the numbers of cadavers required to train students to competency, whilst also reducing the stress on students and live patients when mastering these techniques.

Measuring and ensuring animal welfare is of paramount importance while working with clinical, experimental and laboratory animals; the research work of **Dr Arun Kumar** and **Dr David Kilroy** looks at the potential of pupillary diameter as an objective measure of the early phase of stress. A database of species-specific pupillometry is planned to develop a smartphone-based app for point of care measure of animal welfare as an outcome of this research.

**Dr Joris Somers** is the primary investigator on a project aiming to advance the application of sensor technology in dairy farming for the use of lameness monitoring. The project aims to record cow activity and lameness in a dairy herd and examine the relationship between the activity data gathered and lameness, with the ambition of facilitating lameness prediction and the identification of algorithms using data-mining techniques.

Supported by an SFI-HRB-Wellcome Trust Biomedical Research Partnership grant, **Dr Conor McAloon** is investigating the role of the environment in the development of calf pneumonia. The study involves the development of an integrated, real-time monitoring system in commercial calf sheds and it will help to inform optimum shed design and aid in the development of new automatic detection methods for calf pneumonia.

## Zoetis-UCD<sup>2</sup> Transatlantic One Health Alliance



**University of California, Davis (UC Davis)** is a key international partner for UCD, with a joint 'UCD<sup>2</sup>' MoU signed between the two universities in 2014 to develop education, research, innovation and cultural links. Through funding provided by Zoetis, we are now in a position to deepen our interactions with UC Davis through the creation of a Transatlantic One Health Alliance. Our aim is to develop a world-leading collaboration delivering innovative, outstanding research and training to address global needs and challenges. We will achieve this through collaborative research, training and education to deliver innovative solutions and provide the science-base to underpin policy formulation in the One Health area. November 2018 will see the launch of this initiative with a meeting at UC Davis and a symposium to mark World One Health Day.

## Professor Grace Mulcahy Elected to the Royal Irish Academy

**Professor Grace Mulcahy MVB PhD MYCVS Dip EVPC** was one of three University College Dublin academics among the 28 newly elected members of the Royal Irish Academy in 2018. Professor of Veterinary Microbiology and Parasitology, Professor Mulcahy is a leading international figure in understanding how helminths interfere with protective immunity to bacterial infections. Professor Mulcahy served as Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine from January 2007 to August 2016.



→ Pictured (l-r): **Prof Boris Kholodenko, Professor of Systems Biology; Prof Gerardine Meaney, Professor of Cultural Theory; Prof Grace Mulcahy, Professor of Veterinary Microbiology and Parasitology and Prof Peter Kennedy, President of the Royal Irish Academy**

Professor Mulcahy, Professor Boris Kholodenko and Professor Gerardine Meaney were invited to sign the Academy's members book in recognition of their world-class contribution to science and the humanities.

Professor Peter Kennedy, President of the Royal Irish Academy, said that all those elected had honoured Ireland with the quality of their work: 'We should be proud of these new Members of the Academy for the honour their work brings to this country and the impact of this research on the quality of the higher education provided by our universities.'

# Help us Celebrate our UCD Vet Sporting Greats

→ The School is planning a celebration of veterinary sporting greatness in 2019 and we need your help! There are a huge number of graduates from across all of the School's Programmes - vets, vet nurses, masters, PhDs - who have excelled in their chosen sport(s) and we are looking to gather as much information on this as possible.

There's a great interest in all things sporting across the UCD Veterinary Community, with our graduates represented in a wide range of sports, and the School of Veterinary Medicine would like to mark their sporting achievements. On Friday 19 July 2019, we'll hold a Gala Dinner in the UCD Astra Hall to honour our sports men and women, many of whom we hope will be in attendance. On the night, we'll have a panel discussion with some of our most high-profile sporting greats, and we'll induct all of our sporting heroes into the UCD Veterinary Community Sporting Hall of Fame. We'd like to gather as many names as possible to include in our Hall of Fame and we'd be delighted if you could help us with this.



→ Dr Marijke Beltman from our Herd Health Team competes in a Triathlon



→ The Dublin (Collegians) team who won the 1917 GAA Hurling All-Ireland title. Seán Hyde is in the middle row, 5th from the left. Seán O'Donovan, back row, 4th from the left, also studied Veterinary Science at UCD. (Photo from GAA.ie)

Some examples from past and present include **Seán Hyde**, who played hurling for Dublin. As well as being a veterinary surgeon, he was also a member of Michael Collins' Dublin Squad during the War of Independence. **Noel 'Ham' Lambert** played cricket for Ireland from 1931 to 1947. He also represented Ireland at Rugby Union, before becoming a referee in the sport. In later years, he was a keen golfer, winning the prize for the best front nine at the Lansdowne Rugby Club golf outing in his 90th year.

In more recent times, **Dr Marijke Beltman** has represented Ireland at European level in the triathlon, whilst current student and UCD Ad Astra scholar **Elise O'Byrne White** has represented Ireland in women's rugby, playing in the Six Nations. She has also played for Old Belvedere and Leinster.

Names, sport(s), programme they graduated from and any other noteworthy details can be sent to → [vetsportinggreats@ucd.ie](mailto:vetsportinggreats@ucd.ie). All suggestions are welcome! Details of next year's celebratory event will be available in early 2019.

Thank you  
Go raibh maith agat

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