



UCD School of Medicine
Scoil an Leighis UCD



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

With best wishes,



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



Prof Catherine Godson PhD MRIA
Deputy Associate Dean for Research
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News

A selection of news in the school is highlighted below. For more news stories please check the website [here](#).

PhD candidate May Loong Tan has published an article titled *What makes a city breastfeeding friendly? A qualitative analysis of interviews with breastfeeding women from Europe and Asia* in *Plos One*. The paper outlines women's perspectives of an ideal breastfeeding-friendly city. May Loong's research is supervised by Professor Fionnuala McAuliffe. Read more [here](#).



PhD candidate Dr Sean Naughton, and his supervisor Professor Mary Clarke, have published *The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on first-episode psychosis presentations in two early intervention in psychosis services* in the *Irish Journal of Psychological Medicine*. A significant increase in first episode psychosis presentations were observed post-pandemic. Find out more [here](#).

Guidelines have been developed for the use of *Metformin for the Prevention of Antipsychotic-Induced Weight Gain*. The guidelines have been published in *Schizophrenia Bulletin* and include clear recommendations about the use of Metformin for people living with psychosis. The development of these guidelines was conducted by the PROGRESS research group, led by Professor Brian O'Donoghue. Read more [here](#).



Research conducted by Associate Professor Oleksii Rukhlenko, Anna Tuliakova and Professor Boris Kholodenko from Systems Biology Ireland, in collaboration with researchers from Yale School of Medicine, has been published in *Science Advances*. The results outlined in the paper titled *cSTAR analysis identifies endothelial cell cycle as a key regulator of flow-dependent artery remodeling* validates the use of cSTAR and identifies key determinants of normal and pathological artery remodeling. Find out more [here](#).



Professor Carel Le Roux co-authored a paper, *Glucagon-like peptide-1 analogues reduce alcohol intake*, which was published in *Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism*. The use of GLP-1 RAs in patients with obesity was associated with a significant reduction in alcohol intake. Read more [here](#).

Associate Professor Kathleen Gorman, Professor Ellen Crushell, Professor Andrew Green and Professor Sally Ann Lynch were part of a team of researchers who published a *Catalogue of inherited autosomal recessive disorders found amongst the Roma population of Europe* in the *European Journal of Medical Genetics*. This data may assist medics in making diagnoses and therefore improve patient care. Further details are available [here](#).

Professor Fiona McNicholas and Dr Blánaid Gavin have published a study *Examining the mental health trajectories of children and adolescents: a cross-cohort analysis* in *Psychological Medicine*. Developmental patterns of youth mental health across different countries were examined in collaboration with colleagues from the University of Cambridge. Read more [here](#).



Professor Gerry Wilson was named a finalist in UCD's Research Impact Case Study competition for his research into Behcet's Disease. Professor Wilson's research has identified an underlying genetic mutation in some patients affected by this disease. Diagnosis of this subtype of disease is possible with a genetic test which will allow more definitive and faster diagnosis. Find out more [here](#).

Opportunities



EP PerMed
European Partnership
for **Personalised Medicine**

The **European Partnership for Personalised Medicine** has launched its second joint transnational call. They are seeking proposals on *Pharmacogenomic strategies for personalised medicine approaches*. Pre-proposal submissions should be made via the Research Management Systems by **10am on 11 February**. Find out more [here](#).



European Research Council
Established by the European Commission

The deadline for support for applications to the **European Research Council Advanced Grant** is **12 February**. Grants of up to €2.5million for 5 years may be awarded to principal investigators with a track-record of significant research achievements. Read more [here](#).

The deadline for support for applications to the **European Research Council Starting Grant** is **28 March**. Grants of up to €1.5million for 5 years may be awarded to researchers with 2-7 years' experience post completion of their PhD. Find out more [here](#).

Applications for both grants must be reviewed, approved and endorsed by UCD Research. Dr Chantal Keijzer is the contact person for the School of Medicine.

Email: chantal.keijzer@ucd.ie.



The **Wellcome Early- Career Awards** provides funding of up to £400,000 for up to 5 years for early-career researchers with innovative projects relating to human life, health and well-being. Applications must be submitted via the Research Management System by **10am on 17 February**. Further information is available [here](#).



The **Cystic Fibrosis Foundation** has a number of open funding opportunities for cystic fibrosis researchers. Applications must be submitted via the Research Management System by **10am on 19 February**. Detailed information is available [here](#).

The **ERA-NET NEURON Joint Transnational Call 2025**, *Interdisciplinary approaches to the neuroscience of pain*, supports transnational collaborative research in pre-clinical and clinical research in neuroscience. Awards will be made for a maximum duration of 3 years. Please contact proposalsupport@ucd.ie if you intend on submitting a pre-proposal. Applications must be submitted via the Research Management System by **10am on 27 February**. Full details are available [here](#).



BROERMANN
MEDICAL
INNOVATION
AWARD

The **Broermann Medical Innovation Award** is open for submissions until **1 March**. An award of €1 million per year is available for researchers whose work has the potential to advance global healthcare. Further details are available [here](#).



UCD Health Affairs
Gnóthaí Sláinte UCD

UCD Health Affairs Academic Health Science System Grant will provide funding up to €25,000 for at least 4 projects. The aim of the grant is to foster collaboration between UCD College of Health and Agricultural Sciences, its clinical partners, affiliated community healthcare organisations and the HSE Dublin and South East region. Applications will be accepted until 5pm on 21 March. Find out more [here](#).

Upcoming Events



The **Royal Irish Academy** will host a *Symposium on fundamental biomedical research* on **5 February at 9.30am** to highlight the importance of fundamental biomedical research and demonstrate the need for increased funding. The event will be geared towards researchers, research funders and policy makers. Register [here](#).



The **UK Research Integrity Office** is hosting a webinar, *Embedding equity in research integrity*, on **5 February at 10am**. Register [here](#).

UCD Research is hosting a coffee morning on **6 February at 11am** with a presentation from the EU Team on their services and remit in UCD's Research Boardroom. Register [here](#).



The **British Mass Spectrometry Society** is hosting a meeting on **18 March** at the University of Leeds titled *Cultivating Inclusivity and Diversity in MS*. The meeting is targeted at all career levels. Find out more [here](#).

The School of Medicine's annual **Research Retreat** will take place in Belfield on **22 May 2025**. Translational research activity which is ongoing in UCD and across clinical sites will be highlighted. The retreat presents a great opportunity to make connections for potential collaborations. Register to attend and present your research [here](#).

Network Highlight



The **Irish Critical Care-Clinical Trials Network (ICC-CTN)**, led by Professor Alistair Nichol, is committed to improving ICU patient outcomes and enhancing critical care quality by reducing mortality and morbidity. Through fostering collaborations on investigator-led studies and industry partnerships, ICC-CTN ensures research directly translates into efficient, high-quality care. This approach optimises ICU resources, ensuring patients benefit from innovative and effective treatments. Find out more [here](#).

Research Q&A Series



In our Research Q&A series we probe our School's researchers to find out about their research topics. **Dr Catherine McNestry's** MD research focused on breastfeeding support in women deemed overweight or obese, and the relationship between breastfeeding, cardiovascular risk and mental health in women of later reproductive age. Read more [here](#).

[Research Q&A](#)

Promoting your Research

The School of Medicine Marketing and Communication Team are here to support and advise on opportunities to communicate your research. Please get in touch when you have a significant paper about to be published as we would love to help promote your work.

Email: comms.medicine@ucd.ie.

Research profiles are listed on the School of Medicine website [here](#). Please ensure that your profile is up to date. For instructions on how to update or create a profile, please see [here](#). If your profile is not listed on the School of Medicine website, please let us know and we will include it. Email: medicine.research@ucd.ie.

Research Student Supervisors Information



The **Student Summer Research Awards (SSRA)** programme is accepting proposals for eight-week laboratory, clinical, Patient Advocate Centred Educational - Research (PACE-R) projects, to be undertaken in summer 2025 by undergraduate students from the College of Health and Agricultural Sciences and the College of Engineering and Architecture. If you would like to submit a project, please upload the details [here](#). Further information on the SSRA programme can be found [here](#).

The School of Medicine will host **two events for research students in March** to provide them with an opportunity to present their research and meet peers.

20 March: 1.30pm Fintan Gunne Lecture Theatre, The Mater Misericordiae University Hospital

27 March: 12.30pm Lecture Hall, Education & Research Centre, St Vincent's University Hospital

Please encourage your students to register [here](#) and supervisors are also welcome to attend.

The School of Medicine Research Office can assist in **advertising PhD, MD, MSc and MCh vacancies**. Please note that adjunct staff members acting as a principal supervisor must have a permanent academic as co-supervisor for their student(s). Please contact medicine.research@ucd.ie if you have a position for which you would like to recruit.

Next Edition: 1 April 2025

UCD School of Medicine

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