

# An Introduction to UCD Centre for Arthritis Research



## **UCD CENTRE FOR ARTHRITIS RESEARCH**

A guide to our research and researchers investigating rheumatic diseases in UCD

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# Welcome Note

I'd like to introduce you to the UCD Centre for Arthritis Research and the wider UCD community of researchers working to understand rheumatic disease and improve the lives of those who live with it.

It's an exciting time for arthritis research as we continue to grow and adapt, advancing new strategies to tackle rheumatic disease, and developing fruitful multidisciplinary and collaborative approaches.

## A Note of Thanks

I'd like to thank our funding partners, whose confidence and vision makes our research possible.

These include the Health Research Board, Arthritis Ireland, the Irish Research Council, UCD TOPMed10/Marie Skłodowska-Curie COFUND Action, Down Syndrome Ireland, the National Children's Research Centre, UCD and the SFI-HRB-Wellcome Biomedical Research Partnership Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerry Wilson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Prof. Gerry Wilson, Head of UCD Centre for Arthritis Research

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# Overview

## UCD CAR



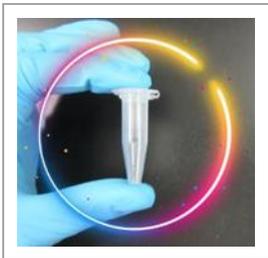
An introduction to the researchers of UCD Centre for Arthritis Research (UCD CAR)

[www.ucd.ie/car/](http://www.ucd.ie/car/)

@UCD\_CAR

<https://throughthemicroscopeucd.blogspot.ie/>

## Our Collaborators



A snapshot of some of the wider research around arthritis from our clinical and academic partners

## Patient Resources



Links to helpful patient information and support groups

# Introducing UCD CAR

## Prof. Gerry Wilson



Gerry is a consultant & Professor of Rheumatology. His research goal is (1) to discover how inflammation is linked to tissue damage in RA (2) Discover markers of response to therapy & build prognostic biomarker score for RA (3) Determine genetic causes of rare rheumatic conditions

## Dr. Emma Dorris



Emma is molecular biologist whose goal is to translate genetic disease associations into pathological targets. She investigates if differences in DNA of individuals with & without disease (1) cause disease (2) can be used for diagnoses & (3) can inform treatment.

## Dr. Stephanie Merrigan



Stephanie is a postdoctoral researcher with a background in pharmacology. Her research focuses on figuring out the physiology of the rheumatoid arthritis susceptibility gene, C5orf30; a gene whose function is currently unknown.

# Introducing UCD CAR

## Dr. Mamoonah Chaudhry



Moonah is a TOPMED10 postdoctoral fellow. We carry out studies comparing the frequency of genetic variations in people with rheumatic disease versus healthy individuals. Moonah is using statistics and computational analysis to identify variants linked with joint damage severity.

## Dr. Charlene Foley



Charlene is a Newman Clinical Research Fellow conducting the largest study to date regarding Down's Arthritis along with her mentors Dr. Orla Killeen (OLCHC), Prof Gerry Wilson (UCD) & Prof Ursula Fearon (TCD). This is a first of its kind study worldwide to define what is driving the disease.

## Dr. Daire O'Leary



Daire is a pediatrician undertaking her PhD at UCD CAR. Daire's research aims to understand the disease-causing pathways of chronic recurrent multifocal osteomyelitis (CRMO) through the identification of genetic changes associated with the disease.

# Introducing UCD CAR

## Dr. Susan Donnelly



Susie is a sociologist with a research goal to understand how people manage rheumatoid arthritis in their everyday lives. She wants to identify the barriers to self-managing the condition and work with patients, their families and health care providers to find ways to overcome these barriers.

## Laura Helbert



Laura is a Rheumatology Research Nurse based in the Clinical Research Centre at the Mater Misericordiae Hospital. She coordinates, recruits and facilitates patient visits for the Arthritis Research Coalition (ARC) Biobank.

## Louise Laing



Louise project manages the ARC Biobank & Rheumatoid Arthritis Biologics Register of Ireland (RABRI).

She administers the UCD CAR team at University College Dublin.

# Some of Our Clinical Partners

## Dr. Alexander Fraser



Sandy is a Consultant Rheumatologist at University Hospital Limerick. His goal is to create improved outcomes for our patients with rheumatological conditions both in the Mid – Western region of Ireland and Internationally.

## Dr. Orla Kileen



Orla is a paediatric rheumatologist at Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin. She focuses on improved understanding, diagnosis and outcomes for paediatric patients.

## Prof. Geraldine McCarthy



Geraldine is a Clinical Professor and consultant rheumatologist. Her research focuses on the biological effects of calcium-containing crystals in degenerative joint disease.

# Our Patient Partners

## **WE WANT TO HEAR FROM PEOPLE LIVING WITH ARTHRITIS**

UCD CAR has begun a public patient involvement (PPI) in research initiative called *The Patient Voice in Arthritis Research*.

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*We want to ensure that the real life experiences of patients and their families are considered in the decision making processes around research*

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PPI is not about recruiting patients for research studies, nor is it solely about raising public awareness of our research. We want to ensure that the real life experiences of patients and their families are considered in the decision making processes around research

We want to allow patients and their families to express the questions and needs that matter most to them. Similarly, we would like to ensure that research studies involving patients are designed to be sensitive to the needs of the study participants.

To get involved contact:

patientvoicearthritis@ucd.ie

01 716 6809

[www.ucd.ie/car/about/patientvoice/](http://www.ucd.ie/car/about/patientvoice/)

# THE PATIENT VOICE in ARTHRITIS RESEARCH

*Embedding patient views on arthritis*

Hosted by the UCD Centre for Arthritis Research

*Funded by the SFI-HRB-Wellcome Biomedical Research Partnership  
Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF)*

*Organised by UCD Centre for Arthritis Research,  
UCD Conway Institute, Belfield, Dublin 4*



[www.ucd.ie/car/about/patientvoice/](http://www.ucd.ie/car/about/patientvoice/)

# Our UCD Research Partners

## Prof Denis Shields



Denis is a Professor of Clinical Bioinformatics. His research goal is to develop computational analyses of large datasets of molecular information about disease to help discover mechanisms of disease and to help discover disease associations.

## Dr Deirdre Hurley-Osing



Deirdre is an Associate Professor in the UCD School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science. Her overall research goal is to design effective and acceptable treatment programmes for people with osteoarthritis and chronic low back pain that are feasible to implement in the Irish health system.

## Dr Jana Haase



Jana is a lecturer in the School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Sciences. Her research focuses on understanding molecular mechanism/pathway underlying depression in patients with chronic inflammatory diseases, such as rheumatoid arthritis

# Our UCD Research Partners

## Maire-Brid Casey



Maire-Brid is a physiotherapist at Mater Misericordiae University Hospital. Her research compares the effectiveness of a combined exercise and acceptance and commitment therapy (ExACT) programme to a standalone supervised exercise programme for individuals with chronic pain

## Dr. David O'Connell



David is a lecturer in the School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Sciences. His research focuses on developing techniques for the more powerful study of protein interactions in cells and tissues. His lab has invented technology employed by UCD CAR to resolve biomedical paradigms in arthritis.

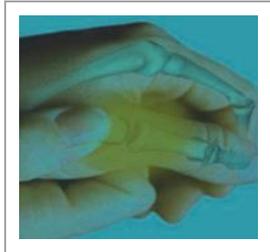
## Dr. Ricardo Segurado



Ricardo is a lecturer in in Public Health Biostatistics. His research goal is to develop scientific methods for investigating how genes increase risk for RA, or increase severity of RA, and which genes. He works on statistical methods, an essential part of scientific deductions.

# A Snapshot of Our Collaborators

## Clinical Rheumatology Research



Oliver FitzGerald  
Doug Veale  
Eamonn Molloy  
Anne Barbara Mongey  
Suzanne Donnelly

## Basic and Translational Research



Steve Pennington  
Ursula Fearon  
Luke O'Neill  
Sinead Ryan

## International



United Kingdom  
The Netherlands  
Spain  
USA  
Australia

# Patient Resources

## Arthritis Ireland



A key resource for the Irish population with arthritis.

[www.arthritisireland.ie](http://www.arthritisireland.ie)

1890 252 846.

## Health Service Executive



An overview of arthritis, with tips for both carers and people living with disease.

[www.hse.ie/eng/health/az/A/Arthritis/](http://www.hse.ie/eng/health/az/A/Arthritis/)

## Arthritis Research UK



ARUK have recently merged with Arthritis Care (UK). Together, they have extensive patient resources to support people with arthritis to live full and active lives.

[www.arthritisresearchuk.org](http://www.arthritisresearchuk.org)

[www.arthritiscare.org.uk](http://www.arthritiscare.org.uk)

# Patient Resources

## Exercise



[www.arthritisireland.ie/go/exercise](http://www.arthritisireland.ie/go/exercise)

[www.arthritisresearchuk.org/arthritis-information/exercises-to-manage-pain.aspx](http://www.arthritisresearchuk.org/arthritis-information/exercises-to-manage-pain.aspx)

[www.ankylosingspondylitis.ie/news\\_and\\_events#/physio\\_delivered\\_exercise\\_classes](http://www.ankylosingspondylitis.ie/news_and_events#/physio_delivered_exercise_classes)

## Support



Arthritis Ireland HelpLine

Call: LoCall 1890 252 846

Email: [helpline@arthritisireland.ie](mailto:helpline@arthritisireland.ie)

Arthritis Ireland Helpline, Arthritis Ireland, 1  
Clanwilliam Square, Grand Canal Quay,  
Dublin 2.

## Juvenile Arthritis Support



[www.juvenilearthritis.ie](http://www.juvenilearthritis.ie)

[www.icanireland.ie](http://www.icanireland.ie)

[www.arthritisresearchuk.org/arthritis-information/young-people.aspx](http://www.arthritisresearchuk.org/arthritis-information/young-people.aspx)

# Our Charity Funders

## Arthritis Ireland



Arthritis Ireland provide support to people living with all rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (MSDs) and related conditions which affect peoples' ability to live well. They fund pioneering research to increase the knowledge base. [www.arthritisireland.ie](http://www.arthritisireland.ie)

## National Children's Research Centre



The National Children's Research Centre (NCRC) is supported by donations from the Children's Medical Research Foundation and sits at the heart of paediatric research in Ireland. It is part of a global network of research tackling childhood diseases. [www.nationalchildrensresearchcentre.ie](http://www.nationalchildrensresearchcentre.ie)

## Down Syndrome Ireland



Down Syndrome Ireland (DSI) is dedicated to being the primary source of information and support to people with Down syndrome, their families and the professional community, working towards an improved quality of life for their members. <https://downsyndrome.ie>



For more information and an expanded list of our projects and partners please visit [www.ucd.ie/car/](http://www.ucd.ie/car/)

This booklet was prepared by the UCD Centre for Arthritis research with funding from UCD and the SFI-HRB-Wellcome Biomedical Research Partnership Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF)

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## Who we are

The UCD Centre for Arthritis Research is based at UCD Conway Institute and consists of researchers in UCD, the National Children's Research Centre, St Vincent's and Mater University Hospitals.

Our interdisciplinary research covers genetics, stratified medicine, immunology, mechanisms of disease, proteomics, computational biology, sports and exercise medicine, sociology and social dimensions of chronic disease.

## Contact Us

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### *UCD Centre for Arthritis research*

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