



# UCD School of Medicine

## Scoil an Leighis UCD

### Alumni e-Zine

### Issue 1 Q4 2020

Dear all

It is my pleasure to welcome our alumni, working across the world in a vast range of healthcare settings and academic institutions, to our new quarterly alumni e-zine which we hope will convey a snapshot of key news and developments at our School since the start of 2020.

Through this publication we also invite you to reconnect with your School via the [MGA](#) and [UCD Alumni Network](#) and follow our news via our five social media channels.

We hope you enjoy perusing this first issue and of course we welcome feedback so please feel free to email [comms.medicine@ucd.ie](mailto:comms.medicine@ucd.ie) with your suggestions for themes and topics to cover in future editions.

Finally, we all acknowledge the significant challenges of working in healthcare through this pandemic and continue to recognise and salute our many graduates in the national and international arena, who are making such expert and worthy contributions in the prevention and containment of C-19.

Very best wishes,  
Prof Michael Keane,  
Dean



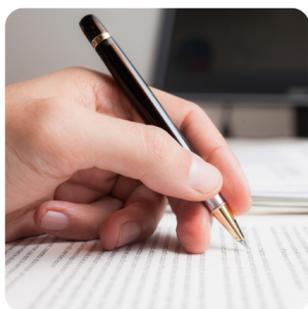
*Michael Keane*

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## Graduation

228 graduates were conferred with undergraduate and graduate medicine (MB BCh BAO) degrees on Friday 1 May 2020. 22 nationalities were represented amongst those graduating including 70 international students.

Read more [here](#)



## Examinations

Over 200 UCD medical students who had completed their psychiatry clinical placements, in St Vincent's University Hospital, and Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, undertook their clinical skills exams (the first in a series of four) online, for the first time, in September 2020.

Read more [here](#)

## New GT Programmes

The School is delighted to continue to offer over 40 programmes at graduate level for HCPs and others working in healthcare settings. All of the programmes, from masters to module, with part-time, flexible and distance and on-line learning options are delivered by specialist

staff across a network of academic and clinical locations. Due to market demand the School was also pleased to introduce four new graduate taught programmes for the 2020/21 academic year, in AI, Primary Care and Neurodiversity. Read more [here](#)



## Take a Tour

Take a tour of the UCD School of Medicine, within the Health Sciences Centre on the Belfield Campus, Dublin. View the vast, inviting and uniquely 'fit for purpose' facilities where 1,900+ undergraduate Medicine, Radiography and Biomedical Health & Life Sciences students, 500+ graduate taught student and 170+

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of their training. Take the tour [here](#)



## Research

### Research in Action

Research, science, and a commitment to enquiry and discovery continue to inform every aspect of the School's mission. Research staff continue to generate substantial academic outputs, with significant research publications attracting strong citations. The School was pleased to finish 2019 with 1,871 publications and the associated studies were aided financially by €25.8m in external research funding, which represented a 46% increase. Read more [here](#)



### Key Funding and Publications with High JIF

#### November

DIGITAL SURGERY at UCD School of Medicine, led by Prof Ronan Cahill, Prof of Surgery, UCD, in conjunction with Prof Kevin Nolan, Assistant Prof, School of Mechanical and Materials

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## September

Following publication in CLINICAL INFECTIOUS DISEASES, the School announced that UCD School of Medicine Research Team had demonstrated that COVID-19 transmission occurs from symptomatic and asymptomatic HCWs to patients. Lead Author: Prof Kirsten Shaffer, Clinical Professor, UCD School of Medicine and Consultant Microbiologist, SVUH. Read more [here](#)

## July

Following publication in RESPIROLOGY, the School announced that a Research Team from UCD School of Medicine had demonstrated that a sub-set of critically unwell COVID-19 patients in SVUH responded to treatment with tocilizumab and avoided the need for mechanical ventilation. Lead Author: Dr Cormac McCarthy, Associate Professor of Medicine, UCD School of Medicine and Consultant Respiratory Physician, SVUH read more [here](#)



## Student Research

### GRAM Launch

The new Graduate Research Association of Medicine (GRAM) was launched on Tues 27 Oct and will provide a supportive network for the 170+ Graduate Researchers (completing a MSc, PhD or MD) linked to the School of Medicine but working across a range of academic and clinical sites. Congrats @UCD\_GRAM read more [here](#)

### SSRA (Student Summer Research Awards) 2020

The SSRA programme is an undergraduate research initiative to support and showcase undergraduate research affiliated within the UCD School of Medicine. Congratulations to the SSRA 2020 gold, silver and bronze medal winners and Alfred Myles Bursary Award recipient. Read more [here](#)

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### **Ned Quirk, Auditor, Med Soc – My Experience of Trimester 1 during the Pandemic**

As we approach our end of Trimester exams and I reflect on the last number of weeks, it's hard to fully appreciate the changes that we've seen this year to the way that we live our lives. As social distancing now presides over everything we do, its effect on our college experience has been stark. Academically it has been challenging. Read more [here](#)



### **Med Soc 'Fitness to Practice' campaign**

As we were all living through L3 and getting ready for L5 and even more stringent restrictions, where it is easier than ever to find ourselves between computer, couch and kitchen, the always dynamic UCD MedSoc was plotting the very clever 'Fitness to Practice' campaign. Read more [here](#)

## Alumni Life

### **Class Acts**

In mid-October, our colleagues in Alumni Relations published UCD Connections featuring a number of CLASS ACTS at the forefront of the national response to the pandemic leading the public health response, clinical research, policy development and public communication. See more [here](#)



### **Relaunch of Distinguished Graduate Award series**

The MGA is working in partnership with the Alumni Relations Office to redesign the Distinguished Graduate Award initiative and potentially relaunch it as a series of short evening virtual seminars in Q1 2020. These awards are traditionally presented to outstanding graduates, as nominated by alumni, in recognition of their lifelong achievements in medical education, research and/or clinical practice and in appreciation of their drive, leadership, commitment and desire to make a difference to society. More to follow.

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### **The case of Charles Byrne in the Hunterian Museum**

In mid September 2020, Dr Cliona McGovern, Head of Subject, Forensic & Legal Medicine, was approached by a freelance journalist who was researching an ethical and legal related piece focusing on the case of Charles Byrne, the Derryman and so-called 'Irish Giant', whose skeletal remains have been displayed for 200 years in the Royal College of Surgeons of England's (RCS Eng.) Hunterian Museum in London, against Byrne's living wishes. The journalist's interest was shared by the English writer, Dame Hilary Mantel (who has researched and written on this issue). Find out more [here](#)



## **Congratulating and Celebrating**



### **Clinical Pathways Scheme**

In early November 2019, the School announced details of first-time appointments, re-appointments and promotions under the 2019/2020 UCD Medicine Clinical Pathway Scheme through which 53 first time appointments were made and 32 promotion applications were considered from a total of 93 applications. Special congratulations to the four new full time Professors. [More here](#)

### **Nine new Newman Fellows**

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appointments. [More here](#)

### **Nine new Ad Astra Fellows**

In 2019, UCD launched the Ad Astra Fellowship Scheme, to bring some of the best early career academics from around the world to UCD for an initial five-year contract at Lecturer/ Assistant Professor Grade and research support for these five years. Since the start of 2020 nine new medicine academic fellows were appointed under the Ad Astra strategic initiative. [More here](#)

### **New Honorary Consul in Sultanate of Oman in Dublin with jurisdiction in Ireland**

Congratulations to Dr Patrick Felle, VPI, UCD College of Health and Agricultural Science and Associate Dean of Medicine, who was appointed as the Honorary Consul of the Sultanate of Oman to Ireland in October. [More here](#)

### **Prof Mary Horgan Re-elected as 142nd RCPI President**

Congratulations to Prof Mary Horgan, 1986 Graduate, 2019 UCD Alumni Awardee in Health and Agricultural Sciences, and specialist in Infectious Diseases on her re-election by Fellows of the RCPI as President, to serve a second term of office, from October 2020 – October 2023. [More here](#)

### **New Chair of Medicine at Rochester University**

Congratulations to Prof Ruth O'Regan, 1988 Graduate & current Chief in Haematology, Medical Oncology and Palliative Care, University of Wisconsin, on her appointment as Chair of Medicine at Rochester University on 28 September.

### **New CEO and President, Cleveland Clinic, Florida**

Congratulations to Prof Conor Delaney, 1989 Graduate and Colorectal Surgeon, on his appointment as CEO and President, Cleveland Clinic Florida which includes five hospitals, state of the art research centre, and numerous OPD centres in five counties across Southeast Florida.

### **2020 Verna Wright Prize winner**

Congratulations to Prof Oliver Fitzgerald, 1978 Graduate, Consultant Rheumatologist, SVUH & Newman Clinical Research Prof, Conway Institute, on receipt of the 2020 Verna Wright Prize acknowledging significant research on psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis. [More here](#)

### **The Language of Illness**

Congratulations to Prof Fergus Shanahan, 1977 Graduate, Prof and Chairman, Department of Medicine, UCC, on the publication of his book, The Language of Illness. The book, for a lay audience, looks at how language can act as a barrier between patients and their carers, and proposes practical ways for dismantling the distancing effect of medical language. [More here](#)

### **U21 (Universitas 21) HSG Meeting (25 – 28 August 2020)**

UCD College of Health and Agriculture Science was selected to host the four-day virtual 20th U21 HSG Group Annual Meeting under the ONE HEALTH theme. Key international speakers included Prof Jeffrey Sachs, Prof and Director for the Centre for Sustainable Development, Columbia University, Prof Jonna Mazet, Professor of Epidemiology and Disease Ecology and Exec. Director, One Health Institute, UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, US and Prof John Gilbert, Founding Director and Prof Emeritus, School of Audiology and Speech Sciences, University British Columbia. [More here](#)

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our understanding of psychological distress presented by this pandemic. In May 2020, the team designed a weekly one hour Mental Health and C-19 webinar series, which is aimed at clinicians and other HCPs working in the mental health sector. [More here](#)

## Connect with Us

### UCD Alumni Network

When you graduate from UCD, you are automatically part of a worldwide alumni network and will receive regular communications relating to reunions, events, courses, and activities on campus, and in your local area. Please see benefits [here](#) and reconnect with us [here](#)

### Global Alumni Ambassador Programme

If you studied at UCD as an international student, you are eligible for the Global Alumni Ambassador Programme, which connects alumni with international prospective students who are looking for advice from graduates like you. [Sign-up here](#)

### UCD Medical Graduates Association (MGA)

The MGA plays a vital role in keeping you in touch with your fellow alumni and with UCD. The Association offers opportunities to build professional and social networks and to maintain old friendships and contacts. The MGA is always seeking class representatives to assist with disseminating reunion information to other class members.

If you are interested in volunteering as a representative for your class, please contact [mga@ucd.ie](mailto:mga@ucd.ie).



UCD UNIVERSITY CLUB

**The UCD University Club Restaurant is open for lunch and dinner this festive season**

OPENING DATES: 10, 11, 17 AND 18 DECEMBER 2020  
Lunch: 12:00 to 14:00 Dinner: 17:30 to 20:00

MAKE A RESERVATION: 01 716 2622 or [club.reservations@ucd.ie](mailto:club.reservations@ucd.ie)

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

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