



UCD School of Medicine

Scoil an Leighis UCD

Alumni e-Zine

Issue 6, Q3

Dear all,

As the new academic year is almost upon us, and while the final weeks of summer come to a close, it is with pleasure that we celebrate a selection of UCD School of Medicines' recent highlights.

Themes across our Alumni e-Zine include the influence of patient support and its impact on patient outcomes which is central to the recent phase 2 launch of thisisGo.ie, the online Gynaecology Oncology information and support platform. Professor [Donal Brennan](#), Professor of Gynaecological Oncology, UCD, speaks to us about how better supports for women and their families amongst advances in clinical research are delivering significantly better outcomes for women.

While Covid-19 continues in its endemic phase and the new round of public health vaccinations are underway, we are very pleased to see our own UCD Professor [Alistair Nichol](#), Chair of Critical Care Medicine UCD School of Medicine, Consultant SVUH & Director of [Irish Critical Care-Clinical Trials Network](#), lead the Irish chapter of the GenOMICC consortium. Read more about this powerful '*global genetics in critical illness*' study in this Alumni e-zine issue.

Finally and most recently, UCD School of Medicine and [College of Health and Agricultural Sciences \(CHAS\)](#) hosted the 2022 [Universitas 21 Health Sciences Group Summer School 4 – 15 July](#). 31 students travelled from Universitas 21 Health Sciences Group partner institutions, for the first in-person international event that the UCD School of Medicine has hosted since COVID-19, March 2020.

This is a very special time in the School as we look forward to welcoming our new undergraduate and postgraduate students, our academic, research and professional staff, on clinical sites from August and from September on our Belfield campus.

As always we invite you to connect with the UCD Medical Graduates Association (MGA) and view/update the list of Class Reps [here](#). If you would like to suggest an item for coverage in a future edition of this e-Zine, please email comms.medicine@ucd.ie.

Very best wishes,



Michael Keane

Professor Michael P. Keane, MD, FRCPI, FRCP

Dean of Medicine, Head of School
UCD School of Medicine

Alumni/Community Life



UCD alumnus, Professor Ronan Cahill receives the **2022 Nova UCD Innovation Champion of the Year Award - Digital Innovation & Solutions in Surgery**.

Professor Cahill has great interest in surgical innovation & new technologies and is active in forging research partnerships, both nationally & internationally, focused on clinical and medical device development via phase 1, 2 and 3 trials.

At the Mater Hospital, he has led the establishment of a *Clinical Anatomy Centre* with Professor James Jones, UCD School of Medicine, the only in-hospital Advanced Surgery Training, Research & Development unit in the country which has provided over 1,000 training days for undergraduates and postgraduates through consultant level masterclasses. Click [here](#) for more information on Professor Cahill.

UCD & RCSI Malaysia Campus June 2022 First In-Person Conferring in the Endemic Era

After two years of conducting graduation ceremonies virtually, 92 doctors from the Class of 2022 took their oaths and received their National University of Ireland (NUI) medical degrees in early June 2022.

Read more [here](#) about the conferring in our Malaysia Campus.

This year, the ceremony was graced by the presence of the Guest of Honours, Her Excellency Hilary Reilly, Irish Ambassador to Malaysia and YBhg. Datin Azizah Binti Ab Manan, Timbalan Pengarah (Kesihatan Awam) who were also joined by Professor David Whitford, President & CEO of RUMC, and Professor Dr Premnath Nagalingam, Dean of RUMC.



UCD School of Medicine is pleased to announce the appointment of 105 adjunct faculty appointments under the *UCD Medicine Clinical Pathway 2021/2022* scheme, making UCD School of Medicine's largest ever clinical faculty. Read more information [here](#).

For anyone who graduated in 1972 or 1962, the **UCD Golden and Diamond Jubilee Reunion** will be taking place on Friday, September 23, 2022. To book your ticket and get more information, please click [here](#).



News



UCD Centre for Emergency Medical Science (CEMS) donated its ambulance to Medical Help Ukraine

In April 2022, in response to the War in Ukraine the UCD Centre for Emergency Medical Science (CEMS) donated its ambulance, filled with clinical equipment, to *Medical Help Ukraine*.

The ambulance has been much valued by staff and students in the UCD School of Medicine for the last 5 years but, while we are sad to see it go, it now serves a different and important operational function in Ukraine.

Next phase of development of ThisisGO.ie (Gynaecology Oncology Information and Support Platform)

The online platform was developed 'by patients for patients' in partnership with healthcare professionals, is changing the landscape in how we support those with gynaecological cancers, including cervical, ovarian, endometrial, vulval and vaginal cancers. For more information, please click [here](#) for more information.



GenOMICC consortium including UCD School of Medicine involved in genome sequencing reveals host factors underlying critical Covid-19

The world's largest study of the genetics of critical COVID-19, involving more than 57,000 people, has revealed fresh details about some of the biological mechanisms behind the severe form of the disease. This study conducted by GenOMICC consortium - was led in Ireland by Professor Alistair Nichol, *Chair of Critical Care Medicine, UCD School of Medicine, Consultant at St Vincent's University Hospital, and Director of the Irish Critical Care-Clinical Trials Network*, based at UCD. For more

information on the findings, click [here](#).

The UCD School of Medicine and College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (CHAS) hosted the 2022 Universitas 21 Health Sciences Group Summer School 4 – 15 July.

The theme of the Summer School was titled: **‘One Health | How can a One Health approach improve our pandemic preparedness?’** For more information on the event, click [here](#).



UCD St Vincent’s University Hospital study shows that D-dimer measurement combined with Machine Learning (ML), can improve & rule-out of PE (Pulmonary Embolism)

Associate Professor **Cormac McCarthy**, *Consultant Respiratory Physician, SVUH, Associate Professor, UCD School of Medicine* is the Senior Author of a study which investigates if D-dimers combined with clinical factors in a trained machine learning model, improves prediction of PE (Pulmonary Embolus) in moderate-risk patients who have a CT scan to detect PE. This single-centre study was conducted by the *Department of Respiratory Medicine, St Vincent’s*

The study’s co-author, Assistant Professor **Dr Kathleen Curran**, *Diagnostic Imaging, UCD School of Medicine and Director, UCD Machine Learning in Medical Imaging Research Group* said, *‘These exploratory results demonstrate that, modern analytical methods combined with readily available clinical information can be used to improve patient care and healthcare efficiency in common, high-stakes areas such as the investigation and management of venous thromboembolism.’*

See more here on [UCD Machine Learning in Medical Imaging and](#)

University Hospital (SVUH) Dublin and was published in the European Respiratory Journal [here](#).

[Diagnostics](#).

Research



[UCD Newman Fellow](#) and infectious diseases specialist **Dr Brendan O'Kelly** is working with colleagues at UCD School of Medicine and Dublin's Mater Misericordiae University Hospital to improve outcomes for patients with symptoms of long Covid. Dr Kelly is supervised by UCD Professor [Jack Lambert](#).

The findings of a pilot study into the safety and efficacy of low-dose naltrexone as a treatment for patients experiencing symptoms for at least 3 months post-infection with the virus were published in the journal [Brain, Behaviour, & Immunity – Health](#). You can read more information on this work [here](#).

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Find connections
through University
College Dublin's
global community

START NETWORKING

Connect with the [UCD Alumni network](#) and hear about reunions, events, courses and activities on campus.

Learn more about the UCD Medical Graduates Association (MGA) [here](#) and build professional and social networks and maintain old friendships with classmates.

Get Social

You can follow the School of Medicine via our social media pages and like, comment, share and re-tweet our posts.



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