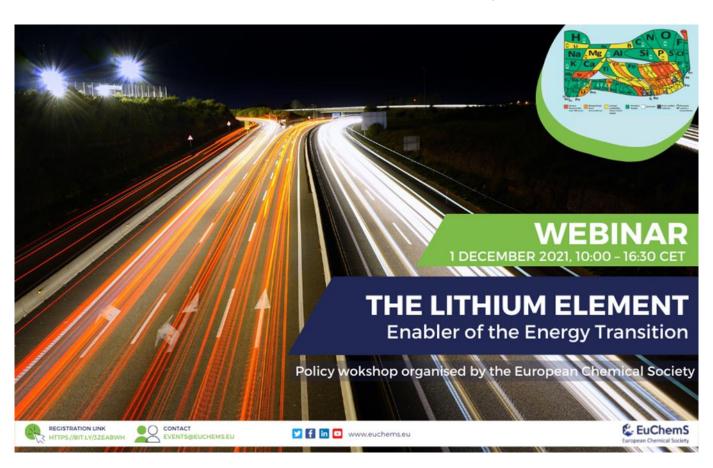


Irish Chemical News

A Journal of the Institute of Chemistry of Ireland



Wednesday 1 December 2021, from 10:00 to 16:30 CET.



Institiúid Ceimice na hÉireann The Institute of Chemistry of Ireland

ICI Centenary 1922-2022

Patron: Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland

The Professional Body Representing Chemists in Ireland

Ravensdale Road, Dublin D03 CY66.

Web: www.instituteofchemistry.org

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New email for the Editor: editor@instituteofchemistry.org

Note: Opinions expressed in this Journal are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Institute.

Sponsors:-





































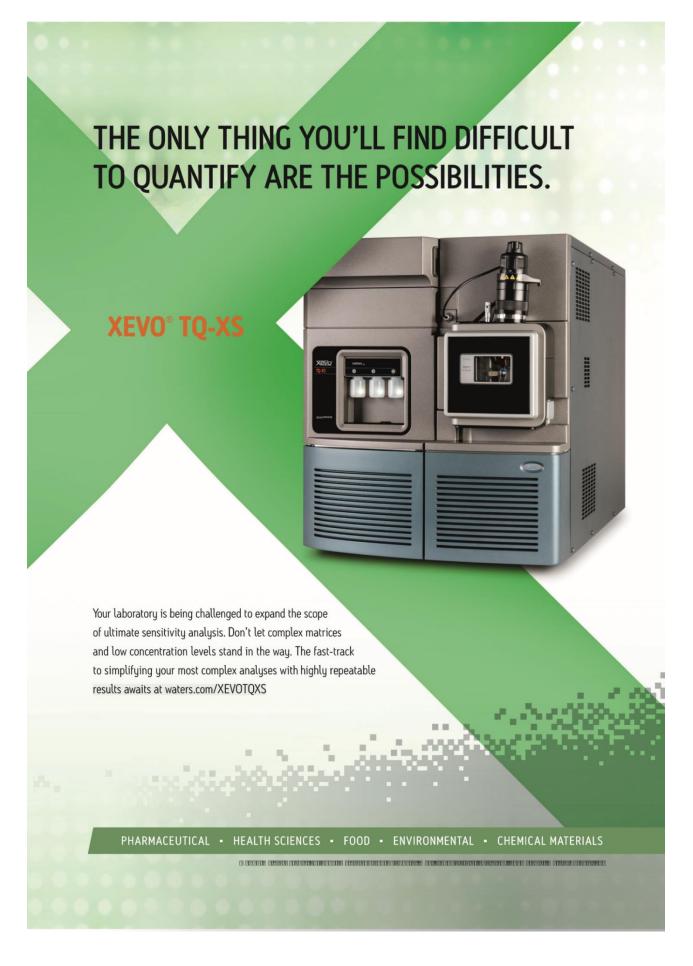


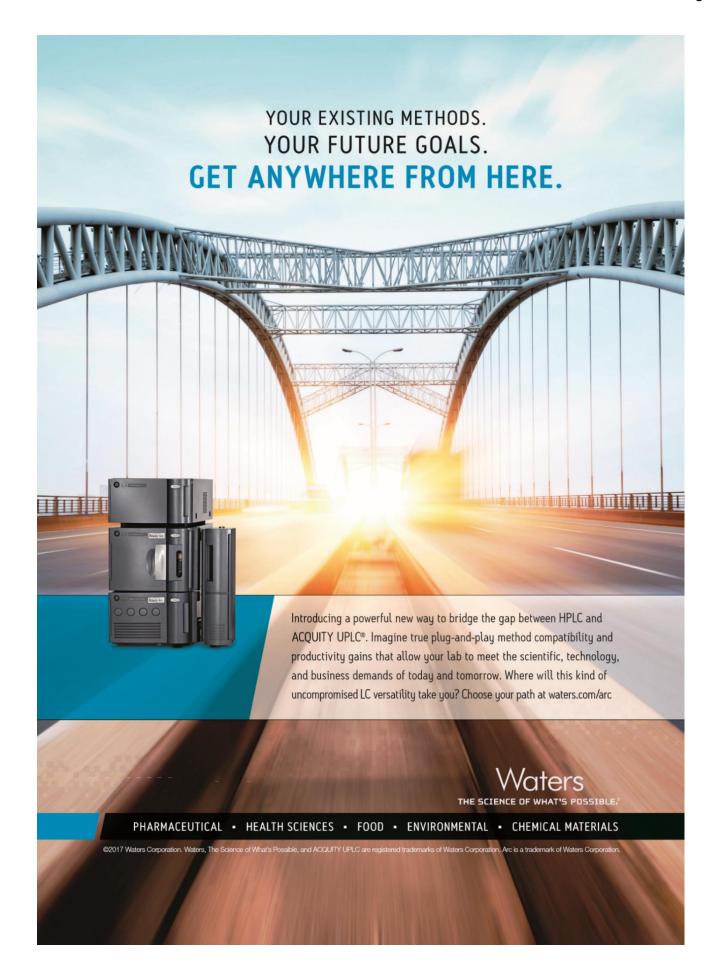
















A Message from the President

Dear Fellows, Members, Graduates and Associates,

I do hope you and your families are keeping safe and well.

May I first congratulate Patrick Hobbs in his long-standing role as editor of the Irish Chemical News. Pat works tirelessly and voluntarily behind the scenes, month in and month out, endeavoring to keep our chemistry community abreast of the latest developments in our respective fields. Pat has put together yet another outstanding issue comprising notifications of our most recent ICI awardees, an update in relation to the ICI Congress, the Inorganic Ireland Symposium and the 72nd Irish Chemistry Research Colloquium as well as a number of reports from Medicinal Chemistry Ireland, SFI, IDA Ireland and Enterprise Ireland. This issue also includes details in relation to EuChemS webinars and awards and numerous 'Siliconrepublic' articles. A feature of the Irish Chemical News publications, since the onset of the SARS CoV-2 pandemic, has been the inclusion of pertinent updates, particularly related to vaccine developments.

A special highlight of this issue is a report featuring four young chemists who represented Ireland at the most recent International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) in 2021. The IChO is an annual competition for the world's most talented chemistry students at secondary school level. In 2021, there were 312 students competing from 85 countries. As you will read later, two students were awarded silver medals, placing them in the top 10-30% of Chemistry students in the world. One student received a bronze medal and the fourth student completed the extraordinary success of Team Ireland by getting an honourable mention award. To put this into context, previous cumulative success of Team Ireland at IChO since 1997 has resulted in a total of 20 bronze medals, four honourable mentions and two silver medals. A special word of thanks to the academic staff from 5 Irish Institutions for giving of their time and expertise in training and supporting these students in preparation for the IChO.

For such a small country, we can be so very proud of the many and varied scientific and professional achievements of our scientific community, across all levels and sectors, both nationally and internationally. A special word of congratulations to Professor Tadhg Begley, an Irish chemist, UCC alumnus, Distinguished Professor, Derek Barton Professor of Chemistry and Robert A. Welch Foundation Chair, at Texas A&M University, who is the recipient of the ICI Boyle Higgins' Gold Medal and Lecture Award 2021. Professor Begley is not only an outstanding and internationally recognised leader in the field of chemical biology and natural product synthesis but he has also inspired generations of chemists both here in Ireland and indeed internationally. We are very much hoping that Professor Begley will be able to deliver his award lecture in person in 2022.

May I also draw your attention to open calls for awards including two EuChemS awards; the EuChemS Lecture Award 2021 and the European Chemistry Gold Medal both with deadline dates of 31st December 2021. The call for nominations for the SFI St Patrick's Day Science Medal Award 2022 is also open with a

more pressing deadline date of 5th November, 2021. May I strongly urge you to submit nominations for these prestigious awards.

May I also draw your attention to the fact that call for the ICI Annual Award for Chemistry (Eva Philbin Public Lecture Series) 2021 is now open. May I please encourage you to nominate a colleague who you feel has significantly raised the profile of chemistry through both the excellence of their work but also their ability to communicate their work effectively. Please refer to the ICI website for further details (https://www.chemistryireland.org/awards-events/#awards). Note the deadline for nominations is Friday, 26th November, 2021.

I had the privilege, alongside Professor Donal O'Shea, of co-hosting the 45th ICI Congress with the ICI Young Chemists' Network (YCN). The Congress theme was 'Impacting Healthcare with Chemistry' in honour of Sir Charles A. Cameron. We are enormously grateful to all who presented for giving of their time and sharing their expertise. The Congress was divided into two parts with the scientific session taking place in the morning and the afternoon session focussing on career enhancing talks and networking opportunities to support our young chemists. A particular highlight of the Congress was the presentation of the ICI Postgraduate Award 2021 to Mr Ioannis Mylonas Margaritis, School of Chemistry, NUI Galway. Warmest congratulations to Ioannis and to his supervisor Dr Constantina Papatriantafyllopoulou and to those, including Professor Patrick McArdle, who have mentored and supported him on his journey to date. We were also delighted that Dr Priyanka Ganguly, one of the 2020 ICI Postgraduate awardees and Dr Saoirse Dervin, the 2019 ICI Postgraduate awardee joined Dr Mark Kelada, the chair of the YCN, in an insightful panel discussion during the afternoon session in which they shared their highlights and challenges on their research journeys to date with the delegates present.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all Council members for their ongoing help and support and also thank you, our ICI Fellows, members, graduates and associates. I am delighted to say that we are seeing an increase in our membership numbers. If you have any ideas in ways in which we can further support you, please get in touch.

In the meantime, I wish you continued success, health and happiness.

Coline Marion

Professor Celine J. Marmion PhD FRSC FICI President, Institute of Chemistry of Ireland 20th October, 2021



Editorial

This Issue has been long is gestation covering the period from the start of May to the end of September. It's bigger than I intended and covers many topics in chemistry in a wide sense and also the Corona Virus pandemic with many interesting links. With the success of the vaccine roll out and new infections now at manageable levels most normal activities are resuming. Nevertheless, caution is needed as we have over 10,000 new cased per week despite over 92 percent of the adult population being "fully vaccinated" and over 12s programme well under way. Hopefully those of us in the older age bracket will get a booster vaccine in the not too distant future as the current vaccines do wane over a 6 month period. It is my intension to drastically reduce or drop this section in the next Issue as the Pandemic wanes and incoming articles have slowed, particularly those with a chemistry focus. Simply it is reaching its natural end and we have for the record the list of evolving knowledge during the pandemic.

Lastly on the much heated debate on the origins of the Corona pandemic as comprehensive as the latest reviews are, the 'lab leak' scenario can't be ruled out conclusively, which leaves room for doubts to creep in. Even the WHO investigation was not conclusive.

They also warn that the focus on a highly improbable lab origin is distracting from more urgent scientific tasks, such as investigating animal sources of SARS-CoV-2, or preparing for the next pandemic – like we should have done for this one. The papers on this topic take up several pages so I have them all together in Addendum 1.

On the home front a number of events have been happening. A first is the major success for Irish Secondary students at the 53rd International Chemistry Olympiad. This is the best ever for Irish students. We had the announcement of the ICI David Brown Award 2021 Recipient: Professor Nicholas P. Farrell. The 72nd Irish Chemistry Research Colloquium in June at University of Limerick. Medicinal Chemistry Ireland had a symposium in July and this relatively new group is working with ICI to improve its profile and communicate the work of its members in this field. This is the first time this group have been highlighted in ICN. Inorganic had their symposium Ireland in May hosted from Galway. The events were on line due to pandemic restrictions.

The 45th Institute of Chemistry of Ireland Congress – took place Thursday, 30th September. The Congress theme was 'Impacting Healthcare with Chemistry' in honour of Sir Charles A. Cameron to commemorate the centenary of his death. A report on Sir Charles work will be presented in the next Issue.

The Institute of Chemistry of Ireland Young Chemists' Network, together with RCSI, University of Medicine and Health Sciences co-hosted the event. The afternoon session was dedicated to the interests of the Young Chemists with several interesting presentations and discussions. Two sessions highlighted "Building Your Career" presented by Thornshaw Scientific Recruitment and "Tips for Early Career Researchers" presented by Dr Kevin Nolan, DCU and Dr Joseph Byrne, NUI Galway.

EuChemS is very active and presented the 2019 EuChemS Lecture Awardee Webinar in June and are organising two further webinars titled "Good Chemistry – Do Chemists Need Ethics?" and "The Lithium Element – Enabler of the Energy Transition" on the 1st of December. Nominations are open for the EuChemS Lecture Award 2021 and European Chemistry Gold Medal. Details in this issue.

In the "Chemistry and related Science around the World" section there is a multitude of topics covered.

There are too many to mention them all but climate change and measures to reduce its impact and technological efforts feature prominently. Many pure chemistry items are also included. Solar cell are getting a lot of press, in particular perovskites and Hybrid organic-inorganic halide perovskites are attractive photoelectric materials exhibiting the advantages of low cost (1) and ease in manufacturing (2) while exhibiting strong panchromatic sunlight absorption (3), long carrier diffusion lengths (4), and adjustable direct bandgaps (5). The power conversion efficiencies (PCEs) of perovskite solar cells (PSCs) achieved within only a few years have reached 25.5% (6–9) using the regular (n-i-p) structure. Solar cells have been surprisingly inefficient in the range (13-low 20s %) with typical panels providing 300 -530 watts not enough to boil a kettle. But progress is being made.

Battery technology is also a major topic and active area. We have many types of battery under development with improved performance such as Li, Na Fe, Ni-metal hydride and even nuclear batteries.

Installation and planned installations of wind farms is progressing and Ireland continued to install these and some solar energy farms are on the way. Ireland has now capacity at max wind to account for 42% of electricity generated here.

There is a big debate about whether electro-voltaic EV or hydrogen will dominate in the transport sector and several papers/reports are included in this Issue. A big concern with hydrogen is safety given its explosivity as a general fuel for domestic cars. There is also the debate between blue and green hydrogen. Will hydrogen be used directly as fuel in a combustion engine or be used to operate EVs via fuel-cells?

Progress is slowly happening and likely to increase for example Germany is closing a coal burning plant after only six years operation, to produce green hydrogen from wind but older plants might be better to close first. The UK will ban gas boilers are banned in new homes from 2025. As gas boilers are banned in new homes from 2025, The Government has said it will install thousands of heat pumps. There is an article on how they work in houses, flats, period homes and new builds.

Increasingly I am getting articles on the hazards of PFASs and REACH Revision and PFAS is coming into play: The European Commission ("Commission") has recently provided an important update on the two key initiatives enshrined in the new Chemicals Sustainability Strategy ("CSS"): the future revision of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals ("REACH") and the ongoing restriction on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances ("PFAS"). Pollutants in our homes, bodies and food such as PFASs are getting more attention in the press so expect to hear more on this topic.

Reports from SFI, ISA, Enterprise Ireland and Siliconrepublic are included.

Last but not least remember 8th EuChemS Chemistry Congress (ECC8) is getting closer - August 28 to September 1, 2022. Plan to attend and support EuChemS and the Portuguese Chemical Society.

Comments and Responses are welcome and can be sent a **new Editor Email address:** -

editor@instituteofchemistry.org

Patrick Hobbs MSc, FICI, CChem, CSci, MRSC. Editor

ICI Congress 2021 was themed "Impacting Healthcare with Chemistry" and was held virtually on Thursday 30th of September, 2021.







Institute of Chemistry of Ireland Congress 2021 'Impacting Healthcare with Chemistry'

in honour of Sir Charles A. Cameron
on the centenary of his death
https://www.rcsi.com/cameron/index.html

Co-hosted by the ICI Young Chemists' Network (ICI YCN) and RCSI, University of Medicine and Health Sciences

Thursday, 30th September, 2021 09.30 – 17.00 Virtually (Zoom)



Sir Charles A. Cameron 1830-1921

Links:

Delegates <u>must register in order to receive the Zoom link to the Congress</u>

https://www.rcsi.com/cameron/index.html

https://forms.gle/NpYGCi5LxmbNyMS5A

youngchemists@instituteofchemistry.org

Email: secretary@instituteofchemistry.org

Morning Session

Please comp	lete the registration form no later than Tuesday, 28 th September, 2021 if you wish to attend: https://forms.gle/NpYGCi5LxmbNyMS5A
	For any queries, please contact: youngchemists@instituteofchemistry.org
09.30-09.45	Welcome, Introduction and Announcement of the ICI Postgraduate Awardee 2021
	Professor Celine Marmion, RCSI, University of Medicine and Health Sciences and
	Institute of Chemistry of Ireland President
09.45-10.15	'Challenges in and solutions towards identifying protective epitopes for the
	development of fungal glycolconjugate vaccines'
	Professor Stefan Oscarson, University College Dublin
10:15-10.45	'Chemistry can transform a nano-onion into a sniper, but how?'
	Professor Silvia Giordani, Dublin City University
10.45-11.00	Coffee Break
11.00-11.30	'Using Chemistry to Highlight the Health Risks of Vaping'
	Professor Donal O'Shea, RCSI, University of Medicine and Health Sciences
11.30-12.00	'Synthesis of Carbohydrate Based Ligands for Proteins and Vaccine Design'
	Professor Paul Murphy, NUI Galway
12.00-12.30	'A Radical Approach to Probing Enzyme Inhibition'
	Professor Joanna McGouran, Trinity College Dublin
12.30-13.00	'Tackling the Challenges of using Surface-Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy for Biological
	Samples'
	Professor Steven Bell, Queen's University Belfast
13.00- 13.10	Closing Remarks
	Professor Celine Marmion, ICI President
13.10-14.00	Lunch

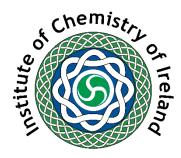
Institiúid Ceimice na hÉireann; P.O. Box 9322, Ravensdale Road, Dublin D03 CY66

Email: <u>secretary@instituteofchemistrv.org</u> Patron: Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland

www.chemistryireland.org/

Afternoon Session

14.00-14.05	Welcome and Introduction
	Dr Mark Kelada, ICI Young Chemists' Network Chair
14.05-14.45	Building Your Career
	Thornshaw Scientific Recruitment
14.45-15.40	Tips for Early Career Researchers
	Dr Kieran Nolan, Dublin City University and Dr Joseph Byrne, NUI Galway
15.45-16.00	Coffee Break
16.00-16.20	Networking Session
	Facilitated by the ICI YCN Committee
16.20-16.50	Panel Interview with Successful Young Chemists
	ICI Postgraduate Awardees
16.50- 17.00	Closing Remarks
	Dr Mark Kelada, ICI Young Chemists' Network Chair
14.45-15.40 15.45-16.00 16.00-16.20 16.20-16.50	Thornshaw Scientific Recruitment Tips for Early Career Researchers Dr Kieran Nolan, Dublin City University and Dr Joseph Byrne, NUI Galway Coffee Break Networking Session Facilitated by the ICI YCN Committee Panel Interview with Successful Young Chemists ICI Postgraduate Awardees Closing Remarks



The Institute of Chemistry of Ireland Awards

The ICI Boyle Higgins Gold Medal and Lecture Award
The ICI Annual Award for Chemistry (Eva Philbin Public Lecture Series)
The ICI Postgraduate Award

The Boyle Higgins Gold Medal and Lecture Award

The Boyle Higgins Gold Medal and Lecture Award, instituted in 1985, is an award for research work carried out in chemistry under the headings: (a) Pure Chemistry, (b) Applied and Industrial Chemistry or (c) Chemical Education. The award recognizes a chemist of any nationality working in Ireland or a chemist who is an Irish citizen working overseas who has made an outstanding and internationally recognised research contribution to the advancement of chemistry. A person nominated for this award must be a member of the Institute at the time of nomination or upon receipt of the award.

Nomination process: The nominator shall indicate in writing to the President of the Institute the category which applies to their nominee and they shall submit by email one electronic copy which will include a brief statement outlining the reasons for the nomination, together with a CV (maximum 3 pages) of the nominee. Nominations will be externally reviewed by two independent referees, who are recognised experts in the category and who are not nominators.

The ICI Annual Award for Chemistry (Eva Philbin Public Lecture Series)

This award is for a practising chemist, who has made a significant contribution to the advancement of chemistry and has considerably raised the profile of chemistry through both the excellence of their work and their ability to communicate in an effective and lucid manner. **The recipient, who may be an Irish or international chemist of repute,** will present lectures in three locations in Ireland (including Dublin), which will be open to the public. A person nominated for this award must be a member of the Institute at the time of nomination or upon receipt of the award.

Nomination process: The nominator shall send one electronic copy of their nomination by email to the President of the Institute, which will include a cover letter providing a brief statement outlining the reasons for the nomination, together with a CV (maximum 3 pages) of the nominee. Nominations for this award will be externally reviewed.

The ICI Postgraduate Award

The nominee must be a **registered PhD student in any Chemistry discipline working in an Irish Higher Education Institution**. They must have demonstrated excellence in research through publications. They must also have demonstrated a commitment to supporting and promoting Chemistry within their Institution (e.g., through active participation in public engagement initiatives). A person nominated for this award must be a member of the Institute at the time of nomination or upon receipt of the award.

Nomination Process: The nominator, who must be the student's PhD supervisor, shall send one electronic copy of their nomination

Nomination Process: The nominator, who must be the student's PhD supervisor, shall send one electronic copy of their nomination by email to the President of the Institute, which will include a cover letter providing a brief resume of the reasons for the nomination, together with a CV (maximum 2 pages) of the nominee.

For these awards and others see ICI website https://www.chemistryireland.org/awards-events
Nominations to be sent to the ICI President at: president@instituteofchemistry.org

ICI Postgraduate Award 2021

Winner of the 2021 Postgraduate Award was announced at the ICI Congress on September 30th.

2021 Winner: Mr Ioannis Mylonas Margaritis, School of Chemistry, NUI Galway



National University of Ireland, Galway

Degree Name: Doctor of Philosophy – PhD Field of Study: Materials Chemistry

Dates attended or expected graduation 2017 – 2021

Project: Synthesis and Characterization of Novel Metal-Organic Frameworks as developing sensors for environmentally hazardous species

Supervisor: Lecturer Dr. Constantina Papatriantafyllopoulou



First established in 2018, the ICI Postgraduate Award recognizes a registered PhD student in any Chemistry discipline working in an Irish Higher Education Institution. The student must have demonstrated excellence in research through publications. They must also have demonstrated a commitment to supporting and promoting Chemistry within their Institution (e.g., through active participation in public engagement initiatives).

A person nominated for this award must be a member of the Institute at the time of nomination or upon receipt of the award.

Nomination Process: The nominator, who must be the student's PhD supervisor, shall send one electronic copy of their nomination by email to the President of the Institute, which will include a cover letter providing a brief resume of the reasons for the nomination, together with a CV (maximum 2 pages) of the nominee. Nominations to be addressed to the ICI President and sent to: secretary@instituteofchemistry.org

ICI Gold Medal Award



Professor Tadhg P. Begley

Distinguished Professor Robert A. Welch Foundation Chair Derek Barton Professor in Chemistry.

Tadhg P. Begley is an Irish chemist and Distinguished Professor, Robert A. Welch Foundation Chair and Derek Barton Chair of Chemistry at Texas A&M University, and also a published author of books.

Prof Begley was conferred 16 June 2010, with the Degree of Doctor of Science, honoris causa by Professor Patrick Guiry, Director of the Centre for Synthesis & Chemical Biology, University College Dublin.

Current Activities

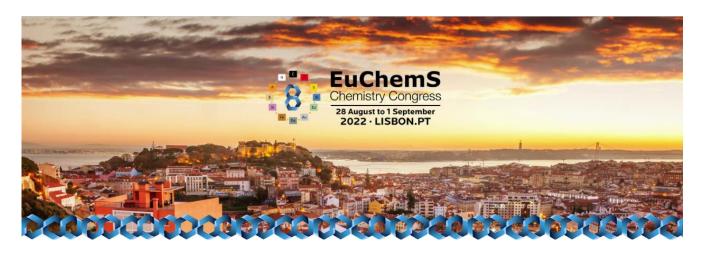
"The Begley Group is interested in the mechanistic chemistry and enzymology of complex organic transformations, particularly those found on the vitamin biosynthetic pathways. We are currently working on the biosynthesis of thiamine, molybdopterin, pyridoxal phosphate and menaquinone. Our research involves a combination of molecular biology, protein biochemistry, organic synthesis and structural studies and provides a strong training for students interested in understanding the organic chemistry of living systems and in pursuing careers in biotechnology, drug design or academia.

Thiamine pyrophosphate plays a key role in the stabilization of the acyl carbanion synthon in carbohydrate and amino acid metabolism. The biosyntheses of the thiamine pyrimidine and thiazole are complex and are different from any of the characterized chemical or biochemical routes to these heterocycles. We are particularly interested in cellular physiology and the mechanistic enzymology of thiamine biosynthesis."

See: https://www.chem.tamu.edu/faculty/tadhg-begley & https://www.chem.tamu.edu/rgroup/begley

The Boyle Higgins Gold Medal and Lecture Award

The Boyle Higgins Medal and Lecture Award, instituted in 1985, is an award for research work carried out in chemistry under the headings: (a) Pure Chemistry, (b) Applied and Industrial Chemistry or (c) Chemical Education. The award is made for an outstanding and internationally recognised research contribution to the advancement of chemistry by a chemist of any nationality working in Ireland or by an Irish chemist working overseas.



Postponed to August 28, 2022

"The COVID-19 pandemic that so deeply affects our lives and countries is not expected to end soon, and its consequences will be felt for a long time. In particular, satisfactory conditions for international scientific conferences to take place will certainly not be fulfilled in the next months. We are thus forced to postpone the 8th EuChemS Chemistry Congress. On the 3rd of May, 2020 the Executive Board of EuChemS, in consultation with the Scientific and Organizing Committee in Portugal were able to settle on a new date for the 8th EuChemS Chemistry Congress.

This was no easy decision but was a necessary one, and the only appropriate option, given the enormous material and immaterial compromise already assumed by the local organization. We praise our supporters and all the body of EuChemS, in particular the organizers of the forthcoming event on the series, for joining the Portuguese Chemical Society (SPQ), with the support of the Portuguese Electrochemical Society (SPE), in the announcement of the new date of 8th EuChemS Chemistry Congress (ECC8), to be held in **Lisbon, Portugal, from August 28 to September 1, 2022**".



Congress Program

Loyal to the initial theme, the 8th EuChemS Chemistry Congress will be built under the unifying theme of **Chemistry the Central Science**. The focus will remain on the central role of chemistry at the interfaces with biology, material and environmental sciences, both for the progress of humankind and for the solution of fundamental problems of modern societies. Some changes will be indeed introduced since nothing remains the same after the enormous test to which we are all being submitted. For the time being, we are still working on an exciting scientific program led by world-class experts, that will develop around the main scientific previously selected.

All previously submitted contributions will not be processed without notice to the 2022 ECC8

program. An opportunity for updating your contributions will be announced in due time. We will keep your pre-registration in our files so that we may send you further information in due time. If you do not agree, please let us know (by a simple e-mail to euchems2020@chemistry.pt) and we will delete your full record. Nevertheless, we hope to see you all in Lisbon in 2022, for celebrating the continuation of this regular series of EuChemS Chemistry Congresses.



Cancellation Procedure and Refund policy

Registrations completed before congress postponement, will remain valid for the 2022, 8th EuChemS Chemistry Congress, if desired. Participants who want a refund, **must cancel their participation by June 30** addressing their request to <u>euchems2020@chemistry.pt</u>. Refunds will be handled promptly with no charges.

Registration is temporarily suspended and will reopen during 2021.

(https://euchems2022.eu)



9th EuChemS European Chemistry Congress to be held in 2022 in Dublin, Ireland, deferred to 2024

At the meeting of its Executive Council, The European Chemical Society (EuChemS) executive awarded the 9th EuChemS European Chemistry Congress to Dublin. This prestigious congress is held every two years and brings together the leading researchers and industry partners in all chemistry disciplines from across Europe and the wider international arena.















Ireland Section

The organisers expect over 1,500 delegates from around the globe to attend the event in The Convention Centre Dublin, in 2024. The five-day programme will consist of plenary and parallel lectures, poster sessions, symposia, networking events, and an industrial exhibition.

The European Chemical Society, was official announced at ECC7 in Liverpool, August 2018. Formerly (2004–2018) the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS) and before that (1970–2004) the Federation of European Chemical Societies (FECS).

The European Chemical Society (EuChemS) coordinates the work of almost all the European Chemical Societies. As an organization, it provides an independent and authoritative voice on all matters relating to chemistry, and places chemistry at the heart of policy in Europe. Furthermore, EuChemS seeks to develop its members through various activities, workshops and awards.

Under the new EuChemS the next Congress, ECC8 will be hosted by **The Portuguese Chemical Society** (SPQ), with the support of the **Portuguese Electrochemical Society** (SPE), invites you to attend this must go to series of European chemistry conferences, the **8th EuChemS Chemistry Congress** (**8ECC**), to be held in Lisbon, Portugal, from 28th August to 1st September, 2022.



Chemistry in Europe

Chemistry in Europe is a EuChemS quarterly publication mainly intended for an audience of chemists, but everyone is welcome to subscribe! Its objective is to inform about research in Europe, to provide updates from EuChemS Member Organisations, and to look into policy-related developments.

Chemistry in Europe 2021 – 2

https://www.euchems.eu/newsletters/chemistry-in-europe-2021-2

Read the pdf:

PDF-CiE-2021-2.pdf (euchems.eu)

Chemistry in Europe 2021 – 3 https://www.euchems.eu/newsletters/chemistry-in-europe-2021-3 Read the pdf:

https://www.euchems.eu/newsletters/chemistry-in-europe-2021-3

Major success for Irish Secondary students at the 53rd International Chemistry Olympiad



Report provided by Dr. John O'Donoghue, School of Chemistry, Trinity College

Team Ireland has achieved its best success to date in the International Chemistry Olympiad, which was held from Saturday, July 24 to Monday, August 2, 2021, with all four competing students receiving awards for the first time. Two students, Oisín Ó Feinneadha, from St. Peter's College Secondary School, Wexford and Tong Wu, from Clongowes Wood College, Clane, Co. Kildare got silver medals, placing them in the top 10-30% of Chemistry students in the world. Oscar Despard, from Sandford Park School, Ranelagh, Dublin also received a bronze medal and Aoife Morris, from St. Aloysius' College, Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork completed the extraordinary success of Team Ireland by getting an Honourable Mention award.

Major success of 2nd level students at International Chemistry Olympiad 2021



SILVER MEDAL
Oisín Ó Feinneadha,
St. Peter's College
Secondary School,

Wexford



SILVER MEDAL

Tong Wu, Clongowes Wood College, Clane, Co. Kildare



BRONZE MEDAL

Oscar Despard, Sandford Park School, Ranelagh, Dublin



Aoife Morris, St. Aloysius' College, Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork

HONOURABLE MENTION

IChO 21 was attended by 312 students from 85 countries. Ireland has participated since 1997

Expert training and support was provided by academic staff from 5 Institutions across Ireland:

AIT (Dr. Brian Murphy), **TCD** (Dr. Carl Poree, Dr. John O'Donoghue, Professor Mike Lyons), **UCC** (Dr. Elizabeth Gilchrist, Dr. Tim O'Sullivan), **DCU** (Dr. Pat O'Malley, Dr. Nessan Kerrigan, Dr. Hasim Ibrahim, Dr. Odilla Finlayson) and **GMIT** (Dr. Cormac Quigley)

The International Chemistry Olympiad (IChO) is an annual competition for the world's most talented chemistry students at secondary school level. The International Chemistry Olympiad started in the former Czechoslovakia in 1968. Ireland has participated in the competition since 1997 and has been very successful in the previous 24 years, with a previous bronze medals total of 20, four honourable mentions and two silver medals awarded in 1999 and 2006. However, the phenomenal success of Team Ireland in 2021 surpassed all previous achievements as this is the first year that all four members of the Team achieved awards and the first year that Ireland came away with two silver medals in the same competition, doubling our overall tally from 2 to 4.

The 53rd International Chemistry Olympiad was one of the largest to take place since its inauguration, with 312 student participants from 85 countries competing in 2021. The competition was originally scheduled to take place in Japan but due to the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic, the IChO2021 Japan Committee and the International Steering Committee decided to conduct the competition remotely to ensure the maximum safety of all student participants and international delegations. The competition involved a highly challenging five-hour theoretical examination paper run remotely consisting of nine problems, involving very complex chemistry topics.

The journey for the four students to IChO2021 Japan commenced in the Spring of 2021 where over 210 Chemistry students from across the island of Ireland participated in Round 1 of the Chemistry Olympiad Ireland competition. This was reduced to about 50 who competed for national metals and the highly commended awards. From this group, Team Ireland was chosen after extensive training during the Easter Holidays and further assessment.

The four members of Team Ireland received extensive training for IChO2021 from an expert team of Chemistry Academic Staff from five Irish colleges – Dr. Carl Poree, Dr. John O'Donoghue and Professor Mike Lyons (TCD), Dr. Elizabeth Gilchrist and Dr. Tim O'Sullivan (UCC), Dr. Brian Murphy (AIT), Dr. Pat O'Malley, Dr. Odilla Finlayson, Dr. Nessan Kerrigan and Dr. Hasim Ibrahim (DCU) and Dr. Cormac Quigley (GMIT).

The Irish international delegation consisted of Dr. Carl Poree (TCD), Dr. John O'Donoghue (TCD and RSC), Dr. Elizabeth Gilchrist (UCC) and Dr. Brian Murphy (AIT), who supported the four Irish students throughout the competition in July and who participated in the International Jury. They commented "We are truly delighted with the performance of Team Ireland in IChO2021 Japan and so proud of these four brilliant young chemists. They represented Ireland at the very highest level on the world stage in chemistry and all of them brought home an award! Great credit is due to these remarkable students. Their success also shows the quality of the chemistry teaching that takes place in many of our schools across the island of Ireland. Their schools and chemistry teachers deserve enormous praise also for ensuring that chemistry is offered to secondary level students and for providing such excellent preparation in the chemical sciences within the school curriculum".

Dr. Poree (TCD) and Dr. Murphy (AIT), current Co-Chairs of the Irish Chemistry Olympiad Committee stated that "The Committee acknowledges greatly the continuous support of the International Cooperation Section of the Department of Education which allows the Committee to hold an all-Ireland Chemistry Olympiad annually and which facilitates the participation of Irish students in the International Chemistry Olympiad. Without this support we would not be in a position to showcase the best of our Irish students in a core STEM subject on the international stage".



Team Ireland Award Winners at IChO2021 Japan

L-R: Aoife, Oisín, Tong and Oscar

See pdf below for more details and names of student winners:



Welcome Message from China · · · ICh02022

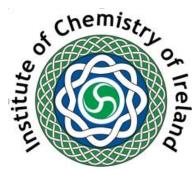
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ICI David Brown Award 2021 Recipient Professor Nicholas P. Farrell

This award was established in 2014 to honor Professor David Brown of University College Dublin in recognition of his enormous contribution to inorganic chemistry both nationally and internationally (https://www.chemistryireland.org/awards-events/#awards)

The ICI David Brown Award recipient is an international leader in this field and delivers their award lecture during the biannual Inorganic Ireland Symposium.

Professor Nicholas P. Farrell is the most recent recipient of this most prestigious award. He very recently delivered his ICI David Brown Award 2021 Lecture: "**Inorganic Drugs - Away from DNA and Back?**" at the Inorganic Ireland Symposium 2021 hosted by NUI Galway on 14th May, 2021.



Professor Nicholas P. Farrell is a graduate of University College Dublin. He obtained his Ph.D. from Sussex University and completed postdoctoral fellowships at Simon Fraser University and The University of British Columbia. He is currently Professor of Chemistry at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU).

His major research is on platinum-based anticancer agents, on which he is acknowledged as a leading international authority. The first genuinely structurally novel platinum drug to enter human clinical trials in thirty years (Triplatin, BBR3464) arose from his research, and is still the only example of a "non-cisplatin" drug to enter human clinical trials.

In November 2017 VCU designated Prof Farrell as University Professor which recognizes Faculty members who "teach or conduct research that crosses discipline boundaries and have an established prominence in multiple fields of study, with national or international recognition in at least one field of study".

He is a member of VCU Chapter of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). Prof Farrell has had extensive international collaborations and in 2013 was Elected Corresponding Member of Brazilian Academy of Sciences: "The Corresponding Members shall be foreign researchers with recognized scientific merit, who have provided relevant collaboration to the development of science in Brazil." He was a Jefferson Science Fellow at the US Department of State for the period 2010-2015.



<u>The Institute of Chemistry of Ireland</u> <u>Irish Young Chemists' Network (IYCN)</u>

After the ICI Postgraduate Chemistry Research Symposium held online in September 2020 was a success, an idea was put forward to establish an Irish Young Chemists' Network (IYCN) as part of the Institute of Chemistry of Ireland (ICI). This initiative was highly welcomed and encouraged by both the postgraduates in attendance of the online symposium and approved by the ICI Council Members during their Council meeting on the 1st October 2020.

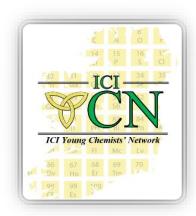
The committee of the online research symposium was made up of postgraduate students from various institutions in Ireland. As this committee worked in great harmony together, and had already established connections while organising the symposium, it was suggested to keep this committee for the IYCN. The members were all happy and motivated to be part of the IYCN committee. Together, we have summarised some of the benefits of establishing the Irish Young Chemists' Network to include:

- 1) Community, network and connection of young chemists
- More opportunities for collaboration between early stage researchers
- 3) Organisation of conferences and events for young chemists
- Opportunity for postgraduate students to present and discuss their work
- 5) A platform to promote upcoming positions suited for young chemists

The committee feel strongly about the first benefit especially during these times. We feel that the mental health of young chemists, including postgraduate students, is critical and essential. A sense of community and closeness, particularly during moments like these, would surely be beneficial to their mental health. As the chair of the committee, I will work together with the wonderful team of postgraduate students to establish the IYCN, while liaising and updating the ICI Council periodically as well as continue to avail of their expertise and support.

Mark Kelada, B.Sc. MICI Ph.D.

ICI Young Chemist Representative and Chair of Irish Young Chemists' Network



The Institute of Chemistry of Ireland's YOUNG CHEMISTS' NETWORK

Are you a chemist in Ireland aged between 18-35 years old? Want to be part of a new exciting network of young chemists and be part of a growing community? Join us today by emailing <u>youngchemists@instituteofchemistry.org</u> with your name, age, and where you study or work. If your institution is not listed below, you could even be part of our incredible committee.

Name	Position	Representation
Mark Kelada	Chairperson	Industry
Fionn Ó Fearghail	Secretary	TU Dublin/Industry
Joseph Byrne	Advisor (Non-Voting)	NUIG
Siobhán O'Flaherty	PRO	RCSI
Jessica O'Neill	PRO	DCU
Colm McKeever	Committee Member	MU
Niamh O'Mahoney	Committee Member	UCC
Syl Byrne	Committee Member	NUIG
Lukas Hallen	Committee Member	TCD
Lauryn Bracken	Committee Member	AIT
Keiran Logan	Committee Member	Ulster Uni
Nicolás Rojas Sanabria	Committee Member	UL
Ciara Davis	Committee Member	LIT
Eilidh Matheson	Committee Member	QUB





The University of Limerick is delighted to host the 72nd Irish Chemistry Research Colloquium on the 17th -18th of June as a Virtual event, hosted by the Department of Chemical Sciences & Bernal Institute.

Thursday 17th June

09h15 Welcome Address Professor Kerstin Mey, President, University of Limerick

09h30 Keynote Talk Prof David Cole-Hamilton University of St Andrews, UK

'The Role of Chemists In a Sustainable World'

10h15 Materials Chemistry (Each talk 15 mins + 5 mins questions)

<u>Daniele Costa da Silva Alves, NUIM:</u> Development of chitosan/carbon nanotube sponge adsorbent to remove pollutants from H_2O

Daniela Tomasino, RCSI: Glycosylated Nanoparticles via SET-LR-PISA

Natalia Garcia Domenech, TCD: Development of new nanofiltration membranes using 2D nanomaterials

11h15 Coffee Break

11h30 Inorganic Chemistry (Each talk 15 mins + 5 mins questions)

Aoibhín Cullen, DCU: Singlet Fission in BODIPY copolymers; a photophysical, TD-DFT, electrochemical and hydrogen evolution study

Adrian Sanz Arjona, TCD: Mild Hydrothermal Synthesis of Zircon-type Silicates (MSiO₄) as Analogues to Radioactive Species Conor Kelly, UCD: The Trigonal Prism: An Atypical Geometry for Mn^{II}

12h30 'Thesis in 3' Session 1

Dan Kerr (DCU), Elliot Murphy (NUIG), Colm McKeever (NUIM), Chunchun Li (QUB), Cathal Caulfield (RCSI), Lorna Doyle (TCD), Erika Mooney (TUD), Louise Cooney (UCC), Georgios Papoutsidakis (UCD), Seamus Killian (UL), Abdulmoez Elkhbuli (NUIG), Yuanting Qiao (QUB)

13h15 Lunch Break

14h00 Organic Chemistry (Each talk 15 mins + 5 mins questions)

Luke Marchetti, NUIM: Amidosquaramides: Towards New Horizons in Anion Recognition

Kevin Sheehy, UCC: Rationalising Ambident Reactivity using Marcus Theory

Christopher Murnaghan, QUB: Synthesis of advanced biomass models

15h00 Nanochemistry (Each talk 15 mins + 5 mins questions)

Sean Hennessey, NUIG: A Prototype Pyrene-Ruthenium Molecular Complex for the Creation of Innovative Photoactive Materials

Gavin Irvine, QUB: Biocompatible cross-linked star polymer model networks for drug delivery applications prepared by aqueous polymerisation

Madhuri Dandamud, WIT: Topical ocular drug delivery through surface-modified nanoparticles to treat age related macular degeneration

16h00 Break

16h15 'Thesis in 3' Session 2

Dan (Chau Thuy) Nguyen (WIT), Michal Bartowski (DCU), Syl Byrne (NUIG), Stephen Barrett (NUIM), Anne McGrogan (QUB), Sheila Fitzgerald (RCSI), Adrian Sanz Arjona (TCD), Rory Whelan (TUD), Gerard Pareras (UCC), Jennie O'Loughlin (UCD), Vanya Petseva (UCD)

17h00 Close of Day 1

Friday 18th June

09h30 Keynote Talk Prof Tomislav Friscic, McGill University, Canada "Promoting Green Chemistry and Sustainability through the Solid State: Sky is the Limit"

10h15 Analytical Chemistry (Each talk 15 mins + 5 mins questions)

Fionn O Fearghal, (TUD): Exploring Shellfish By-Products as Sources of Blue Bioactivities

Niamh O'Mahoney, (UCC): Characterisation of Pharmaceutical Formulations using the novel technique Broadband Acoustic Resonance Dissolution Spectroscopy (BARDS).

Esther Adegoke, (UL): In situ TEM Studies of Nanocrystal Composition, Structure, and Phase.

11h15 Coffee Break

11h30 Physical Chemistry (Each talk 15 mins + 5 mins questions)

Tanushree Mandal, (NUIG): Mediated electrochemistry on electrodes with defined surface area for peroxidase-based sensors

Eva Clemente, (RCSI): Probing the glycans accessibility of the biomolecular corona

Dorottya Krizsan, (UCD): Dual Emitting Silica Coated Carbon Dot Probes for DNA Detection

12h30 'Thesis in 3' Session 3

James Flynn (UL), Stephen O'Reilly (DCU), Ioannis Titilas (NUIG), Carl Fogarty (NUIM), Yaoguang Song (QUB), Niamh Curtin (RCSI), June Lovitt (TCD), Kate Byrne (TUD), Alex Lonergan (UCC), Niamh Geoghegan (UCD), Dan O Hearn (UL), Nataly Rey Munoz (UL), Eadaoin Casey (UCC)

13h15 Lunch & Business Meeting

14h00 Biochemistry (Each talk 15 mins + 5 mins questions)

Melisa Finnegan, (DCU): Wearable colorimetric sensors for biodiagnostic applications

Kim Shortall, (UL): Immobilization of aldehyde dehydrogenase employing cofactor regeneration for use in biocatalysis

Hollie Jenkins, (TUD): Cytotoxicity of Copper(II) Complexes under Varying Oxygen Conditions

15h00 'Thesis in 3' Session 4

Fernando Otero (UL), Kavnen Tseke (WIT), Miren Ruiz De Eguilaz (DCU), Ahmed Ahmed (NUIG), Roberta Pacifico (RCSI), June Lovitt (TCD), Eimear Heffernan (UCC), David Mulrooney (UCD), Ashutosh Sharma (WIT), Caytlin Boylan (NUIM), Samantha Bann (QUB)

16h00 Prizes & Close of Day 2





MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY IRELAND

Report provided by Prof Isabel Rozas, TCD

In 2016 a number of Irish based researchers, passionate about Medicinal Chemistry, got together to organise the first Medicinal Chemistry Ireland conference which was held in Trinity College Dublin. Thus, academics from Trinity College Dublin, Maynooth University, The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, University College Dublin, Dublin City University, Dublin Institute of Technology, University College Cork, NUI-Galway and Queen's University Belfast were involved in this first adventure. Due to its success (six excellent international and national speakers from academia and industry, sponsorship from the European Federation of Medicinal Chemistry, Royal Society of Chemistry, Catalent and SSPC, and over 200 national and international participants), this meeting crystallised in a bi-annual event. Accordingly, in 2018, this conference took place, at Dublin City University with similar success in participation, quality of academic and industry talks and the support of Almac among other institutions.

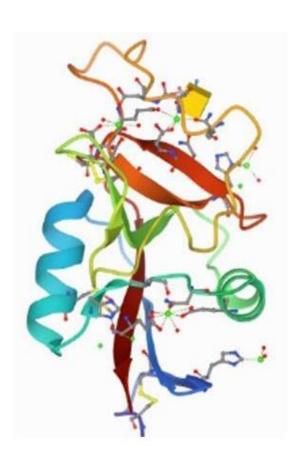
This event was to be repeated in 2020 at NUI-Galway; however, due to COVID-19 it was cancelled with the idea of running it on 2021. COVID-19 restrictions changed our plans once again, and instead Paul Murphy (NUI-Galway), Gerd Wagner (decided to run a half-day econference that took place this last July 1st. This time the format of the event changed thus hosting not only already established researchers, but also young investigators all from Irish institutions (RCSI, NUI-Galway, TCD, UCD, QUB and Maynooth University). More than 150 attendees registered to the event actively participating in the questions and answers times. Kurt Hoogewijs (NUI-Galway) started the meeting discussing his studies on structure-affinity relationships using microscale thermophoresis found for a series of peptides with potential as treatments for MELAS. Irina Tikhonova (QUB) introduced us in the modelling of allosteric sites for membrane proteins. This presentation was followed by Joanna McGouran (TCD) who talk about her work in probing DNA damage repair. Next, Trinidad Velasco-Torrijos (Maynooth U.) gave an overview on multivalent glycoconjugates as inhibitors of fungal adhesion. Darren Griffith (RCSI) presented his work on targeted delivery and tracking of oxaliplatin a known Pt-based anticancer drug. Finally, Elaine O'Reilly explained her findings on cascading towards new biocatalytic amine shuttling methodology. All these excellent talks were well attended waking up high interest among the participants of the e-conference.

Our Medicinal Chemistry Ireland group is now in the process of establishing a more structured organization aiming to be integrated into the ICI. Hopefully, we will meet again this summer in NUI-Galway in the third Medicinal Chemistry Ireland conference which we are certain that will be a full success as in the previous event. We hope to see all Ireland-based researchers interested in Medicinal Chemistry in Galway this July!

Medicinal Chemistry Ireland

Online Symposium





Speakers

Darren Griffith – RCSI - Dublin
Kurt Hoogewijs – NUI Galway
Joanna McGouran – TCD – Dublin
Elaine O'Reilly – UCD – Dublin
Irina Tikhonova - QUB
Trinidad Velasco-Torrijos – Maynooth

Date - July 1st 2021

Time - 9am-1pm

Registration

Registration is free but those wishing to attend must register at EventBrite (click link or scan the QR code on this page). Details with agenda and titles

Scientific Programme

	Time	Title	Speaker	Institution
	9.00-9.05	Opening Comments & Chair of Opening Session	Paul Murphy	NUI Galway
	9.05-9.35	Structure-affinity relationship study of a potential therapeutic peptide for the treatment of MELAS using Microscale Thermophoresis	Kurt Hoogewijs	NUI Galway
	9.35-10.05	Prediction of allosteric sites in membrane proteins	Irina Tikhonova	Queen's University Belfast
	10.05- 10.35	Probing DNA damage repair	Joanna McGouran	Trinity College Dublin
	10.35- 11.15	Break		
		Chair of 2 nd Session:	Gerd Wagner	QUB
	11.15- 11.45	The sweet spot: multivalent glycoconjugates as Inhibitors of Fungal Adhesion	Trinidad Velasco Torrijos	Maynooth University
E	11.45- 12.15	Targeted delivery and tracking of the Pt-based chemotherapeutic, Oxaliplatin	Darren Griffith	Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
	12.15- 12.45	Cascading towards new biocatalytic amine shuttling methodology	Elaine O'Reilly	University College Dublin
	12.45- 13:00	Closing comments	Isabel Rozas	Trinity College Dublin

Biographies

Kurt Hoogewijs obtained his M.Sc. (2009) and Ph.D. (2014) at Ghent University in the lab of Prof. Annemieke Madder. After a short postdoctoral stay at Karolinska Institute in Stockholm with Prof. Roger Strömberg (2014), he became a research associate in the lab of Prof. Robert Lightowlers at Newcastle University and Wellcome Trust Centre for Mitochondrial Research, and a visiting research associate in the labs of Dr. Michael Gait (MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology) and Dr. Michael Murphy (MRC Mitochondrial Biology Unit, 2014–2017). In 2017, he received an FWO [PEGASUS]² Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship to return to Ghent University to work on peptide-RNA interactions. In 2020 he became a Lecturer in Medicinal Chemistry at NUI Galway.

Structure-Affinity Relationship study of a potential therapeutic peptide for the treatment of MELAS using Microscale Thermophoresis.

Abstract: Mitochondrial diseases are a group of rare diseases caused by a multitude of mutations in the nuclear and mitochondrial DNA, with 1/4300 adults affected or at risk, though as many as 1/200 have been estimated to carry a pathogenic mutation. They typically impair oxidative phosphorylation (OXPHOS), resulting in insufficient ATP production. Because of this, high energy demanding tissues (brain, skeletal muscles and heart) are often affected the most. There is currently no treatment for mitochondrial disorders.

One such disorder, MELAS (Mitochondrial encephalomyopathy, lactic acidosis, and stroke-like episodes), accounts for almost one third of all mitochondrial diseases. It is caused by a mutation in the TRNL1 gene, which encodes the mitochondrial tRNA-Leu(UUR). Recently, it was shown that overexpression of the cognate tRNA synthetase LARS2, its isolated C-terminal domain, or peptides derived thereof can rescue OXPHOS and respiration when overexpressed in cybrid cell lines containing mutations in tRNA-Leu(UUR), tRNA-Lys, and tRNA-Val (Perli et al., Hornig-Do et al.).

Here, we present the first steps towards converting the LARS2 derived peptide beta32_33 into a peptidomimetic drug. A SAfiR study was performed using microscale thermophoresis (MST) to characterize the interaction of synthetic tRNA and in-house synthesized LARS2 beta32_33 peptide analogues. A single MST experiment consumes only 12 pmol of labeled tRNA and 2 nmol of peptide per replicate, making it compatible with small scale chemical synthesis and relatively expensive RNA. The manipulations are relatively straightforward and can be performed with a minimal training, making the technique accessible for researchers of all levels.

Irina Tikhonovais a Reader in Molecular Modelling, working in the School of Pharmacy, Queen's University Belfast. Much of the focus of her research activities over the past 10 years has been to improve and apply computational methods to integrate chemistry, biology and medicine of GPCRs and other targets. She has been working on understanding ligand-protein interactions and activation in the free fatty acid, bioamine, cholecystokinin, gastrin, purine and GIP receptors. Her current research aims are to explore drug selective polypharmacology, functional selectivity and allosteric regulation in GPCRs using computer simulations and chemoinformatics techniques. Prior to moving to the independent research career, Irina had trainings at NIDDIK, the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, USA and Institute of Molecular Medicine, Toulouse, France. She holds PhD in medicinal chemistry from Moscow State University supported by the presidential studentship.

Title: Prediction of allosteric sites in membrane proteins

Abstract: G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) are the most successful druggable targets in the human genome. Targeting GPCRs through allosteric sites offer advantages over orthosteric sites in identifying drugs with increased selectivity and structural novelty. However, the discovery of allosteric drugs has been largely serendipitous, achieved through random screening. The recent crystal structures of GPCRs in complex with allosteric modulators have opened new opportunities to develop computer-aided strategies to identify allosteric sites. In this study, we have developed a probe confined dynamic mapping approach that allows to detect allosteric sites at the GPCR extracellular and intracellular sides, as well as at the receptor-lipid interface. Three case receptors, i.e., the M2 muscarinic, β2adrenergic and P2Y1 purinergic receptors were used to explore our protocol in retrospective and predictive settings. The protocol was next

validated prospectively to locate the binding site of an allosteric modulator at the D2dopamine receptor and subsequent mutagenesis confirmed the prediction. Our computational framework provides fast and efficient prediction of key amino acid residues of allosteric sites in GPCRs and, in general, in membrane proteins, for mutagenesis and aids in the discovery of allosteric drugs for the treatment of GPCR-related diseases.

Prof Joanna McGouranis currently the Schuler Assistant Professor in Translational Organic Chemistry in Trinity College Dublin. Prior to her appointment in 2016 Joanna obtained her degree and PhD in Chemistry from the University of Oxford, where she also gained postdoctoral experience in chemical biology and medicine.

Research in her group focuses on bio-molecule modification to create new tools to study biological systems. The group chemically modify proteins, oligonucleotides, peptides and nucleosides to introduce new functionality and assess the biological effects of this modification. The group currently has a specific focus on DNA damage repair and deubiquitinating enzymes.

Title: Probing DNA damage repair

Abstract: SNM1A is a zinc-dependent nuclease involved in removal of inter strand crosslink lesions from DNA. Inhibition of inter strand crosslink repair enzymes such as SNM1A is a promising strategy for improving the efficacy of crosslinking chemotherapy drugs. Initial studies have demonstrated the feasibility of developing SNM1A inhibitors, but the full potential of this enzyme as a drug target has yet to be explored.

DNA damage repair enzymes play crucial roles in cell maintenance. Key roles of 5'-3' exonucleases include facilitating DNA double-strand break and mismatch repair. SNM1A and related MBL fold containing exonucleases are by far the least characterised in this class, despite their critical roles in DNA repair, immune system development and telomere maintenance.

We have synthesised and evaluated probes for SNM1A, working towards tools which can be used in cellular systems. There is a dearth of tools to study these key enzymes, and indeed any DNA damage repair enzymes, hindering progress in this exciting field of research. Chemical probes which can be used to examine enzymatic activity in a cellular context have proven to be highly useful tools for many classes of enzyme, accelerating drug discovery efforts, and diagnostics as well as biomarker discovery and identifying new enzymatic functions.

Trinidad Velasco Torrijos graduated in Organic Chemistry from Universidad Autonoma de Madrid and received her PhD from University of Bristol in 2002 She then took postdoctoral stays in Ghent University and University College Dublin. Trinidad joined Maynooth University in 2007 where she is currently Associate Professor and coordinator of BSc Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Chemistry. Her research interests include the development of carbohydrate-based modulators of cellular adhesion and supramolecular soft materials

Title: The Sweet Spot: Multivalent Glycoconjugates Inhibitors of Fungal Adhesion

Abstract: Chronic fungal infections affect over 150 million individuals. These infections can have a huge impact on people's lives and, in certain circumstances, can also be fatal. The yeast *C albicans*.is an opportunistic fungal pathogen which induces superficial and systemic infections in immunocompromised patients.[1]Adherence to host tissue is critical to its ability to colonise and infect the host. We have evaluated anti-adhesion glycomimetics[2]grafted onto several multivalent scaffolds as inhibitors of *C. albicans* adherence to buccal epithelial cells (BECs, Figure 1).[3], [4]The results showed that scaffold valencyand structure strongly influence anti-adhesion activity, with the best performing glycoconjugate capable of inhibiting over 60% of yeast adhesion to the BECs.

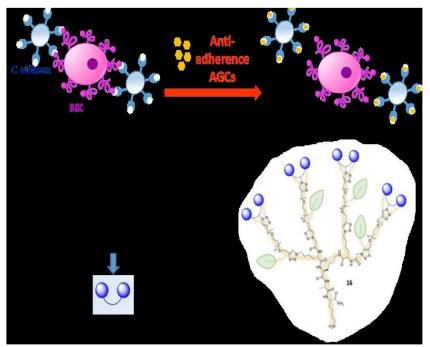


Fig.1.Graphical representation of the anti-adhesion approach, structure of lead compound and example of multivalent glycoconjugate

[1]Martin H; Kavanagh K; Velasco-Torrijos T; (2021) Future Med. Chem. 13: 313-334.

[2]Martin H; Mc Govern M; Abbey L; Gilroy A; Mullins S; Howell S; Kavanagh K; Velasco-Torrijos T; (2018) Eur. J. Med. Chem.160: 82-93.

[3]Martin H; Goyard D; MargalitA; Doherty K; RenaudetO; Kavanagh K; Velasco-Torrijos T; (2021) *BioconjugateChem*.32: 971-982. DOI:10.1021/acs.bioconjchem.1c00115

[4]Martin H; Masterson H; Kavanagh K; Velasco-Torrijos T; (2021) Pathogens 10: 572.

Darren Griffith graduated with a BSc in Chemistry from University College Dublin in 2000 and later completed a PhD in 2004 in Medicinal Inorganic Chemistry with Dr. Celine Marmion at the Department of Chemistry, Royal College of Surgeons (RCSI) in Ireland. Following a Post-doctoral Research Fellowship in the School of Chemical Sciences, Dublin City University (2004-2005) with Professor Robert Forster and Dr. Tia Keyes, held a temporary lecturing position in chemistry (2005-2006) in RCSI. Appointed a Post-doctoral Research Fellow in chemistry in RCSI in 2006. Appointed as Lecturer in chemistry in RCSI in 2010 and Senior Lecturer in chemistry in 2018. Darren is a funded investigator at The SFI Research Centre for Pharmaceuticals, the SSPC. Research interests lie broadly in medicinal inorganic chemistry and include for example:

- ☐ Functionalisation of platinum complexes with (i) active targeting agents and/or (ii) fluorescent reporters to selectively deliver and track platinum anticancer drugs
- ☐ Development of novel bismuth and gallium-based antibacterial agents that target multidrug resistant infections
- □ Development of metal-based complexes that target neglected tropical disease such as leishmaniasis.

Title: Targeted Delivery and Tracking of the Pt-based chemotherapeutic, Oxaliplatin

Abstract: Oxaliplatin is one of three Pt-based drugs approved worldwide as an anticancer agent. Though platinum (Pt) drugs have played a very important and well documented role in treating cancer, the clinical efficacy of Pt drugs is limited by resistance and adverse side effects. Therefore, novel methods are required to deliver cytotoxic Pt drugs more accurately to tumours to enhance efficacy, reduce off-target toxicity and improve the tolerability of the treatment.

The development of (i) platinum(IV) oxaliplatin—peptide conjugates targeting memHsp70+ phenotype in colorectal cancer cells1 and (ii) a single microbubble formulation carrying 5-fluorouridine, irinotecan and oxaliplatin to enable FOLFIRINOX (folinic acid, 5-fluorouracil, irinotecan and oxaliplatin) treatment of pancreatic and colon cancer using ultrasound targeted microbubble destruction2 will be discussed.

Furthermore, it is becoming increasingly clear that the exact mechanisms of action of Pt drugs have not been fully revealed. It has been demonstrated recently for example that oxaliplatin, in contrast to cisplatin and carboplatin, does not primarily kill cancer cells by binding to DNA but by inducing ribosome biogenesis stress. Trackable drugs which incorporate a fluorophore (fluorescent reporter) facilitate real-time imaging of important biological processes in cells and providing vital information concerning the biodistribution, cellular transport, subcellular localization, and mechanisms of action of drugs and mechanisms of resistance to drug treatment. An account of recent work undertaken to develop an oxaliplatin derivative with a click handle will be provided.

References [1.] A. M. McKeon, J. Noonan, M. Devocelle, B. M. Murphy, D. M. Griffith, Chem. Commun. 2017, 53 (82), 11318-11321.

[2] J. Gao, K. A. Logan, H. Nesbitt, B. Callan, T. McKaig, M. Taylor, M. Love, A. P. McHale*, D. M. Griffith*, J. F. Callan*, submitted for publication.

Elaine O'Reilly, University College Dublin, Ireland completed her BSc and PhD at University College Dublin before moving to the Manchester Institute of Biotechnology to work with Prof Nicholas Turner and Prof Sabine Flitsch. She began her independent career in 2014 at Manchester Metropolitan University, and from 2015 2019 her research group was based in the School of Chemistry at the University of Nottingham In 2019 Elaine moved to her current position as Associate Professor of Chemical Biology at University College Dublin, where her group are interested in the development of enzymes and biocatalytic methodology for synthetic applications

Title: Cascading towards new biocatalytic amine shuttling methodology.

Abstract: Catalytically reversible reactions, including alkene metathesis and transfer hydrogenation, have had an enormous impact on the development of synthetic strategies for the synthesis of bioactive compounds and important materials. However, the vast majority of chemically catalysed processes are non-reversible In contrast, many enzyme catalysed processes are freely reversible and displacing the reaction equilibrium towards product formation is often achieved (both in Nature and synthetically) by performing cascade reactions, where the product of one biocatalytic step becomes the substrate/reactant for the next transformation The reversible nature of enzymes means that they can be exploited for mediating reactions in either the forward or reverse direction, and this adds a significant level of flexibility to the development of (chemo)enzymatic routes.

An unexplored aspect of biocatalysis is using enzyme reversibility to 'shuttle' functionality intra or intermolecularly. Such an approach has the advantage of enabling single product isolation from complex mixtures of reactants, and can act to mask reactive functionality My group are exploring the area of 'shuttle biocatalysis using a number of widely used transformations, including the Pictet-Spengler, aza-Michael and Mannich reactions





INORGANIC IRELAND SYMPOSIUM 2021

14th May, 2021

The Inorganic Ireland 2021 took place virtually on 14th May. It was a one-day meeting, which was organised by the NUI Galway. The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen the interaction of inorganic research groups within the island and to foster synergies and opportunities. The symposium attracted many attendees and hosted a series of talks, oral flash presentations, and posters, demonstrating the full breadth, diversity, and high quality of inorganic chemistry in Ireland. The symposium also hosted high profile international speakers with Irish connections, including Prof. Serena Corr, University of Sheffield. Plenary talks featured Dr Alison Parkin (University of York, winner of the 2019 RSC Sir Edward Fellowship), Prof. Nicholas Farrell (Virginia Commonwealth University, ICI David Brown Award 2021) and Drago Prof. George Christou (University of Florida, USA).

Report provided by Prof Celine Marmion, RSCI

1 st session; o	hair: Constantina Papat	riantafyllopoulou
9:00-9:05	Welcome	
9:05-9:40	Serena Corr , University of Sheffield	Designing synthetic strategies and in situ monitoring for next generation batteries
9:40-10:05	Guillaume Lefevre , CNRS	Key stereoelectronic requirements in Fe-catalyzed cross-coupling involving Fe ^{II} /Fe ^{III} electron-transfer chemistry : a two-part redox tale.
10:05-10:20	Amir Abdo , NUI Galway	The reactivity of Iron(III)-Porphyrin Complexes Against Nitric Oxide
10:20-10:23	Adrien Szucs, TCD	New insights into the formation of rare earth carbonates via mineral replacement reactions
10:23-10:26	Neville Murphy , NUI Galway	Metallacarboranes as TNBC therapeutics
10:26-10:29	Sean Hennesey , NUI Galway	Highly Selective Photocatalytic Oxidation of Useful Organic Substrates
10:29-10:32	Rosy Polisicchio , NUI Galway	Rational design of lanthanide-functionalized vitamin B12 probes for targeted tumor bio-imaging
		Poster Session 1 -Coffee break
2 nd session;	chair: Luca Ronconi	
11:10-11:55	Alison Parkin, University of York	2019 RSC Sir Edward Fellowship Lecture
11:55-12:20	Joseph Byrne , NUI Galway	Carbohydrates and metals: antimicrobial and catalytic activity and towards sensor applications
12:20-12:35	<i>Lorna Doyle</i> , TCD	Activation of a Mn ^{III} -Peroxide with relevance to the catalytic cycle of Ib RNRs.

Metal Oxides 16:20-16:35 Nikolaos Tsoureas, University of Sussex Synthesis and Reactivity of Actinide Sandwich Complexes supported by the cyclo-butadienyl ligand. 16:35-16:50 Karmel Gkika, DCU Osmium(II) Bridged Polyarginine Conjugates: From 2D Cell Imaging to in depth Penetration of 3D Multicellular Tumor Spheroid Poster Session 3 - Coffee break 5th session; chair: Celine Marmion			
Complexes: Standard Schlenk Technique Vs. Ion Exchange Route 12:41-12:43 Clara Evans, MU Novel Silver-based Therapeutics: Biological Activity and Stability Lunch break 3rd session; chair: Pau Farras 13:45-14:10 Veronica Sofianos, UCD Self-supported Ni@MOF cubes on carbon cloth as binder-free architecture for supercapacitor application 14:10-14:25 Gita Singh, UCD Self-supported Ni@MOF cubes on carbon cloth as binder-free architecture for supercapacitor application 14:25-14:40 Chakadola Panda, TCD 14:40-15:05 Paul Kavanagh, QUB Ferricenium decorated colloidal gold particles: synthesis, characterisation and applications. Poster Session 2 -Coffee break 4th session; chair: Grace Morgan 15:45-16:20 George Christou, UF Molecular Chemistry as a Route to Ultra-small Nanoparticles of Important Metal Oxides Nikolaos Tsoureas, University of Sussex Viniversity of Sussex Synthesis and Reactivity of Actinide Sandwich Complexes supported by the cyclo-butadienyl ligand. 16:35-16:50 Karmel Gkika, DCU Osmium(II) Bridged Polyarginine Conjugates: From 2D Cell Imaging to in depth Penetration of 3D Multicellular Tumor Spheroid Poster Session 3 -Coffee break 5th session; chair: Celine Marmion 17:30-18:15 Nicholas P. Farrell, Virginia Commonwealth University Luca Ronconi, NUI Gold-based dithiocarbamato glycoconjugates: a suitable strategy to target tumor glycolysis?	12:35-12:38	Hollie Jenkins, TUD	Cytotoxicity of Copper(II) Complexes in Normoxic and Hypoxic Cells
Lunch break 3rd session; chair: Pau Farras 13:45-14:10 Veronica Sofianos, UCD Diverse Morphologies of Zinc Oxide Nanoparticles and their Electrocatalytic Performance in Hydrogen Production 14:10-14:25 Gita Singh, UCD Self-supported Ni@MOF cubes on carbon cloth as binder-free architecture for supercapacitor application 14:25-14:40 Chakadola TCD Panda, TCD 14:40-15:05 Paul Kavanagh, QUB Ferricenium decorated colloidal gold particles: synthesis, characterisation and applications. Poster Session 2 -Coffee break 4th session; chair: Grace Morgan Molecular Chemistry as a Route to Ultra-small Nanoparticles of Important Metal Oxides 16:20-16:35 Nikolaos Tsoureas, University of Sussex Synthesis and Reactivity of Actinide Sandwich Complexes supported by the cyclo-butadienyl ligand. 16:35-16:50 Karmel Gkika, DCU Osmium(II) Bridged Polyarginine Conjugates: From 2D Cell Imaging to in depth Penetration of 3D Multicellular Tumor Spheroid Poster Session 3 -Coffee break 5th session; chair: Celine Marmion 17:30-18:15 Nicholas P. Farrell, Virginia Commonwealth University ICI David Brown Award 2021 Lecture: "Inorganic drugs - away from DNA and back?" 18:15-18:40 Luca Ronconi, NUI Gold-based dithiocarbamato glycoconjugates: a suitable strategy to target tumor glycolysis? <td>12:38-12:41</td> <td><i>Erika Mooney</i>, TUD</td> <td></td>	12:38-12:41	<i>Erika Mooney</i> , TUD	
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Galway tumor glycolysis?	17:30-18:15	Virginia Commonwealth	ICI David Brown Award 2021 Lecture: "Inorganic drugs - away from DNA and back?"
18:40-19:00 Presentation Awards, closing remarks	18:15-18:40	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	18:40-19:00	Presentation Awards,	closing remarks



Webinar: Good Chemistry – Do Chemists Need Ethics?

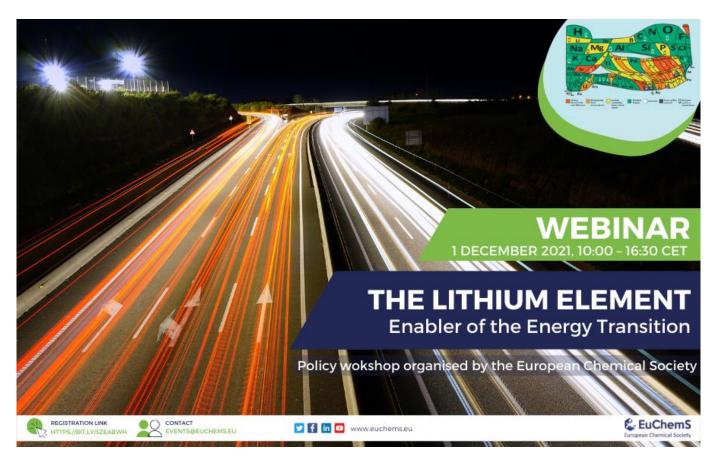
The European Chemical Society, EuChemS, is pleased to invite you to the webinar "Good Chemistry – Do Chemists Need Ethics?" that will be held on Thursday 7 October 2021 (10:00 a.m. CEST).

Register now CLICK HERE

Please note that online registration for this event is mandatory.

This online event is organised in collaboration with the EuChemS Working Party on Ethics in Chemistry. This event will be chaired by Dr. Jan Mehlich (recipient of the 2020 EuChemS Award for Service and member of the EuChemS Working Party on Ethics in Chemistry).

For more details go to: https://www.euchems.eu/good-chemistry-webinar



The Lithium Element – Enabler of the Energy Transition

The European Chemical Society, EuChemS, is organising the webinar 'The Lithium Element – Enabler of the Energy Transition', which will be held on **Wednesday 1 December 2021**, from **10:00** to **16:30 CET**.

Register now **HERE**

Please note that online registration for this event is mandatory.

This online event is an initiative designed by the EuChemS Periodic Table Task Group. The Task Group is chaired by Nicola Armaroli and its members are David Cole-Hamilton, Christophe Copéret, Nineta Hrastelj, Rinaldo Poli, Floris Rutjes, and Alessandra Quadrelli as a guest. The webinar is organised by the EuChemS Secretariat, Laura Jousset being the coordinator.

This webinar echoes the successful workshop on the Carbon Element organised by EuChemS on 22 April 2021 (read more about it here). See Webpage https://www.euchems.eu/lithium-element-webinar

Programme outline MORNING SESSION

10:00 to 12:00 CET

WelcomeFloris Rutjes, EuChemS PresidentMEP SpeechMEP Speaker

AFTERNOON SESSION

13:30 to 16:30 CET

- Alternatives to Lithium-ion batteries Philipp Adelhelm, Humboldt-University of Berlin
- Recycling Lithium-ion batteries
 Paul Anderson, University of Manchester
- Lithium in ceramics

- Developments of the EuChemS periodic table

David Cole-Hamilton, University of St. Andrews 10 MIN BREAK

issues

Fernando Rocha, University of Aveiro 10 MIN BREAK

- Lithium-ion batteries in the automotive sector

Kristina Edstrom, University of Uppsala - Lithium batteries and the stationary applications

Luigi Lanuzza, Enel X

- Panel discussion

led by Katharine Sanderson, Science Journalist and Editor

John C. Cochran, Corning Inc., Lexington, KY, USA

- Lithium: reserves, resources and geopolitical - The role of Europe in the expanding battery industry

Speaker from EC

- Panel discussion

led by Nicola Armaroli, CNR/EuChemS

- Closing

Floris Rutjes, EuChemS President



The European Chemical Society, EuChemS, was pleased to organise the 2019 EuChemS Lecture Awardee Webinar. The online event was held on Wednesday 23 June, from 15:00 to 16:30 CEST. During this event, David Portehault, EuChemS 2019 Lecturer, gave a talk on "From water to molten salts: geoinspired syntheses and reactivity of nanomaterials".

For more details go to: https://www.euchems.eu/2019-lecture-awardee-webinar

You can watch the even and David's presentation on YouTube:

https://youtu.be/UkMC9Kp1Fjo



EuChemS Lecture Award 2021

Nominations for the EuChemS Lecture Award 2021 are now open. Please fill in the below form to submit a nomination. The deadline for submission is 31 December 2021 at 18:00 CET.

Please carefully read the guidelines for the EuChemS Lecture Award.

For application form go to: https://www.euchems.eu/awards/lecture-award

EuChemS Lecture Award - EuChemS Awards Information Session can be viewed here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYlY7hoDd6Q or

https://youtu.be/oYlY7hoDd6Q

Jury Nomination - European Chemistry Gold Medal 2021



European Chemistry Gold Medal – Call for Nominations

Every two years, the exceptional achievements of one scientist working in the field of chemistry in Europe will be rewarded.

Nominations for Members of the International Award Committee of European Chemistry Gold Medal (IACM) are now open. Please fill in the below form to submit a nomination. The deadline for submission is 31 December 2021 at 18:00 CET.

Please carefully read the guidelines for the European Chemistry Gold Medal.

For Application go to: https://www.euchems.eu/awards/european-chemistry-gold-medal

See European Chemistry Gold Medal - EuChemS Awards Information on YouTube at:

https://youtu.be/pSV9wk5k9cw

Recipients of the European Chemistry Gold Medal



Dame Carol Robinson – 2022

The 2022 European Chemistry Gold Medal has been awarded to **Professor Dame Carol Robinson** for exceptional achievements in the field of chemistry in Europe.





The 2020 European Chemistry Gold Medal will be awarded to Professor **Michele Parrinello** for exceptional achievements in the field of chemistry in Europe.

Irish University & 3rd Level Chemistry News

Note:

The source material for the following section is taken from the institutions web site, general the news section of the web site for this part of ICN covering Universities and Higher Institutes of Education.

I will be endeavouring to improve this section of ICN by getting timely update feeds from the institutions.

This section is still under development and should be in place for the next Issue hopefully.

Midlands & Mid-West Technological University Status Granted to Athlone and Limerick Institutes of Technology



Irish University & 3rd Level Chemistry News

Irish University & 3rd Level Chemistry News



RCSI

Irish University & 3rd Level Chemistry News



School of Chemistry Scoil na Ceimic Irish University & 3rd Level Chemistry News



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Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Leitir Ceanainn Letterkenny Institute of Technology

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Support our Institute by publishing your new research results in the prestigious peer reviewed journal.

Scope

PCCP (*Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics*) is an international journal for the publication of cutting-edge original work in physical chemistry, chemical physics and biophysical chemistry. To be suitable for publication in *PCCP*, articles must include significant new physical insights; this is the prime criterion that referees and the Editors will judge against when evaluating submissions.

The journal has a broad scope which includes spectroscopy, dynamics, kinetics, statistical mechanics, thermodynamics, electrochemistry, catalysis, surface science, quantum mechanics and theoretical developments play an important part in the journal. Interdisciplinary research areas such as polymers and soft matter, materials, nanoscience, surfaces/interfaces, and biophysical chemistry are especially welcomed whenever they include a physico-chemical approach.

PCCP is proud to be a Society journal and is co-owned by <u>19 national chemical societies</u>. The journal is published by the Royal Society of Chemistry on a not-for-profit basis for the benefit of the whole scientific community.

Impact factor: 4.493*

Publishing frequency: 48 per year

Indexed in MEDLINE and Web of Science





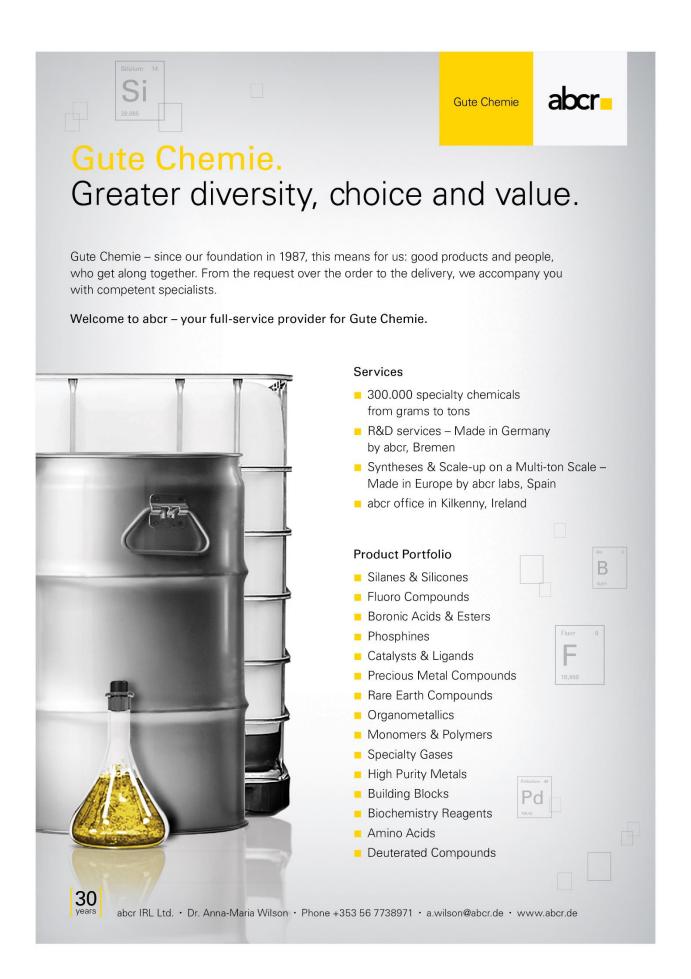
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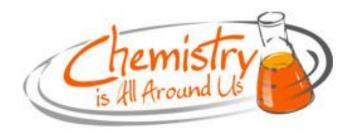
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- Biotechnology
- Life Science Research
- Microscopy
- General Laboratory

- Analytical & Weighing Solutions
- Industrial & Vacuum Solutions
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Chemistry Updates 1st May 2021 ~ 31st August

Scientists Harness Molecules Into Single Quantum State – Could Open New Fields in Quantum Chemistry

1 May 2021

<u>Scientists Harness Molecules Into Single Quantum State – Could Open New Fields in Quantum Chemistry</u> (scitechdaily.com)

Identifying Individual Molecules: How to Build a Better "Nanopore" Biosensor 2 May

<u>Identifying Individual Molecules: How to Build a Better "Nanopore" Biosensor (scitechdaily.com)</u> <u>https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/7/17/eabf5462</u>

Toward Improved Solar Cells With Active Learning

3 May 2021

Toward Improved Solar Cells With Active Learning (scitechdaily.com) https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-22611-4

Nuclear power: how might radioactive waste water affect the environment?

30 April

Nuclear power: how might radioactive wastewater affect the environment? (theconversation.com)

Look inside this lab where scientists are recreating the energy of the sun to produce nearly unlimited clean energy

30 April

Photos: Inside TAE Technologies lab and nuclear fusion machine (cnbc.com)

Scientists Discover That the Shape of Light Changes Our Vision

2 Мау

<u>Scientists Discover That the Shape of Light Changes Our Vision (scitechdaily.com)</u> <u>https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/7/18/eabe1911</u>

Amorphous thin-film oxide power devices operating beyond bulk single-crystal silicon limit

3 May

Amorphous thin-film oxide power devices operating beyond bulk single-crystal silicon limit | Scientific Reports (nature.com)

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-88222-7

Physicists Just Found The Lightest Known Form of Uranium, And It Has Unique Behaviors

4 May

Physicists Just Found The Lightest Known Form of Uranium, And It Has Unique Behaviors (sciencealert.com)

A Strange Effect of Aspirin May Help Protect Against Air Pollution, Scientists Say 4 May 2021

A Strange Effect of Aspirin May Help Protect Against Air Pollution, Scientists Say (sciencealert.com)

COVID-19 Test Detects Antibodies in a Drop of Blood

4 May

<u>COVID-19 Test Detects Antibodies in a Drop of Blood | Technology Networks https://www.pnas.org/content/118/18/e2025289118</u>

Are chemicals shrinking your penis and depleting your sperm? Here's what the evidence really says

3 May

Are chemicals shrinking your penis and depleting your sperm? Here's what the evidence really says (theconversation.com)

Chemical 'nose' sniffs critical differences in DNA structures

4 May

Chemical 'nose' sniffs critical differences in DNA structures (phys.org)

Atomic-scale ion transistor could lead to better brain-computer interfaces – Physics World

4 May

Atomic-scale ion transistor could lead to better brain-computer interfaces - Physics World

Designing and controlling the properties of transition metal oxide quantum materials 3 May

 $\underline{Designing\ and\ controlling\ the\ properties\ of\ transition\ metal\ oxide\ quantum\ materials\ |\ Nature\ Materials\ https://doi.org/10.1038/s41563-021-00989-2$

https://scitechdaily.com/alternative-to-conventional-fertilizers-fungi-could-manipulate-bacteria-to-enrich-soil-with-nutrients

4 May

Alternative to Conventional Fertilizers: Fungi Could Manipulate Bacteria to Enrich Soil With Nutrients (scitechdaily.com)

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41396-021-00920-2

Microplastics are everywhere — but are they harmful?

4 May

<u>Microplastics are everywhere</u> — but are they harmful? (nature.com) https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-021-01143-3

The DNA Industry Is Going Cell-Free – SynBioBeta

4 May

The DNA Industry Is Going Cell-Free - SynBioBeta

How to detect, resist and counter the flood of fake news

6 May

How scientists are fighting fake news and misinformation | Science News

Good research begins long before papers get written

29 April

Good research begins long before papers get written (nature.com)

https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-021-01167-9

'It's like the embers in a barbecue pit.' Nuclear reactions are smouldering again at Chernobyl

5 May

'It's like the embers in a barbecue pit.' Nuclear reactions are smoldering again at Chernobyl | Science | AAAS (sciencemag.org)

GridScale: Storing Renewable Energy in Stones Instead of Lithium Batteries

6 May

GridScale: Storing Renewable Energy in Stones Instead of Lithium Batteries (scitechdaily.com)

Nanoscale defects could boost energy storage materials

30 April

Nanoscale defects could boost energy storage materials | Cornell Chronicle

Improving mRNA Packaging for Better Medicines

4 May

<u>Improving mRNA Packaging for Better Medicines | Technology Networks https://doi.org/10.1016/j.omtn.2021.03.008</u>

"Molecular Glue" Boosts Efficiency and Makes Perovskite Solar Cells Dramatically More Reliable Over Time

6 May

"Molecular Glue" Boosts Efficiency and Makes Perovskite Solar Cells Dramatically More Reliable Over Time (scitechdaily.com)

DOI: 10.1126/science.abf5602

First nanoscale look at a reaction that limits the efficiency of generating clean hydrogen fuel

6 May

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Scientists Just Revealed How High The Emissions From Animal Farming Really Are

14 September

Scientists Just Revealed How High The Emissions From Animal Farming Really Are (sciencealert.com)

The tangled history of mRNA vaccines

14 September

The tangled history of mRNA vaccines (nature.com)

https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-021-02483-w

New Nanomaterial Produces Clean Energy Hydrogen Fuel From Seawater

14 September

New Nanomaterial Produces Clean Energy Hydrogen Fuel From Seawater (scitechdaily.com)

https://doi.org/10.1002/adma.202101425

The European Unified Patent Court - is it Finally within Reach?

8 September

https://www.lexology.com/r.ashx?l=9K7G3WJ

Solar Paint Transforms Your Entire House Into a Source of Clean Energy

13 September

https://interestingengineering.com/solar-paint-transforms-your-entire-house-into-a-source-of-clean-energy

Technion researchers discover cheap way to extract hydrogen fuel from H2O

14 September (Note there are a lot of ads with this publication)

 $\underline{https://www.israelhayom.com/2021/09/14/technion-researchers-discover-cheap-way-to-extract-hydrogen-fuel-from-h2o}$

RIA, IRC report shows how research can inform public policy

16 September

RIA, IRC report shows how research can inform public policy - TechCentral.ie

Full Report: research-for-public-policy-outline-map.pdf

New Nanomaterial Produces Clean Energy Hydrogen Fuel From Seawater

14 September

New Nanomaterial Produces Clean Energy Hydrogen Fuel From Seawater (scitechdaily.com) https://doi.org/10.1002/adma.202101425

Superconductivity Breakthrough: Stepping Stones to "Goldilocks" Superconductors

15 September

<u>Superconductivity Breakthrough: Stepping Stones to "Goldilocks" Superconductors (scitechdaily.com)</u> https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.127.117001

MIT Superconducting Magnet Breaks Records - Major Advance Toward Fusion Energy

15 September

MIT Superconducting Magnet Breaks Records - Major Advance Toward Fusion Energy (scitechdaily.com)

Hydrogen Demand: Hydrogen Is Not A Growth Market, It's A Diminishing One (Part 1 of 3) | CleanTechnica

16 September

 $\frac{https://cleantechnica.com/2021/09/16/hydrogen-demand-1-3-hydrogen-is-not-a-growth-market-its-a-diminishing-one}{one}$

Hydrogen Demand: There Is Only One Growth Hotspot Through 2100 (Part 2 Of 3) | CleanTechnica

17 September

Hydrogen Demand: There Is Only One Growth Hotspot Through 2100 (Part 2 Of 3) | CleanTechnica

Hydrogen Demand: And Now The Contentious Disappointments (Part 3 of 3) CleanTechnica

19 September

https://cleantechnica.com/2021/09/19/hydrogen-demand-and-now-the-contentious-disappointments

BT Young Scientist winners to represent Ireland at European Union Contest

17 September

BT Young Scientist winners to represent Ireland at European Union Contest - TechCentral.ie

Semi-transparent organic solar cell for window applications

16 September

Semi-transparent organic solar cell for window applications – pv magazine International (pv-magazine.com)

When Organoids Meet Coronaviruses: Assessing Potential COVID Drug Targets

17 September

When Organoids Meet Coronaviruses: Assessing Potential COVID Drug Targets (scitechdaily.com)

Game-changer for clean hydrogen production

17 September

Game-changer for clean hydrogen production (phys.org)

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.nanoen.2021.106463

Antidote Developed for Nerve Agent Poisoning

21 September

Antidote Developed for Nerve Agent Poisoning (scitechdaily.com)

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-94963-2

Building Blocks For Life Have Been Found Within Planet-Forming Dust Clouds

17 September

Building Blocks For Life Have Been Found Within Planet-Forming Dust Clouds (sciencealert.com)

The First Delivery of 'Green Steel' Suggests Its Future Is Not Far Off

22 August

The First Delivery of 'Green Steel' Suggests Its Future Is Not Far Off (sciencealert.com)

Extensive Chemical Composition Mapping Reveals Carbon-Rich, Organic Birth Environments of Planets

18 September

Extensive Chemical Composition Mapping Reveals Carbon-Rich, Organic Birth Environments of Planets (scitechdaily.com)

Chemical discovery gets reluctant seeds to sprout

17 September

Chemical discovery gets reluctant seeds to sprout | News (ucr.edu)

A New Role for "Feel-Good" Hormone Dopamine

20 September

<u>A New Role for "Feel-Good" Hormone Dopamine | Technology Networks https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2021.08.052</u>

Cocoa's Flavor Profile Determined Quickly and Precisely

20 September

<u>Cocoa's Flavor Profile Determined Quickly and Precisely | Technology Networks https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jafc.1c01987</u>

Two Cork teens win first prize in EU science awards

19 September

https://www.rte.ie/news/regional/2021/0919/1247682-young-scientist-eu

COP15: Planning positive change for global biodiversity

2 September

<u>COP15: Planning positive change for global biodiversity (nature.com)</u> (links to multiple articles)

Hate Broccoli? Your Oral Microbiome Might Be the Reason

22 September

<u>Hate Broccoli? Your Oral Microbiome Might Be the Reason | Technology Networks http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/acs.jafc.1c03889</u>

Harnessing the Power of the Sun on Earth: Major Advance in Stellarator Performance for Fusion Energy

23 September

 $\underline{https://scitechdaily.com/harnessing-the-power-of-the-sun-on-earth-major-advance-in-stellarator-performance-for-fusion-energy}$

Seed-inspired spinners ride the wind and monitor the atmosphere

22 September (Nature video & Paper)

https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-021-02588-2 and

Three-dimensional electronic microfliers inspired by wind-dispersed seeds | Nature (subscription)

A New Approach for Recycling Plastics

23 September

A New Approach for Recycling Plastics (scitechdaily.com)

DOI: 10.1002/adma.202104581

18 tonnes of liquid hydrogen could get an A320 plane from Stuttgart to Melbourne, fcell hears

15 September

18 tonnes of liquid hydrogen could get an A320 plane from Stuttgart to Melbourne, f-cell hears (h2-view.com)

Sneak peek: Airbus seeing a convergence towards hydrogen

20 September

Sneak peek: Airbus seeing a convergence towards hydrogen (h2-view.com)

Single-cell proteomics takes centre stage

20 September

Single-cell proteomics takes centre stage (nature.com)

https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-021-02530-6

A hop, a SCIP, and a jump: New EU database gives consumers access to information on hazardous chemicals in products

23 September

A hop, a SCIP, and a jump: New EU database gives consumers access to information on hazardous chemicals in products - Lexology

Novel technique to prevent fires in lithium-ion batteries – pv magazine International 22 September

https://www.pv-magazine.com/2021/09/22/novel-technique-to-prevent-fires-in-lithium-ion-batteries

Everyday Exposure to Obesity-Promoting Chemicals Represents a Significant Risk to Public Health

24 September

Everyday Exposure to Obesity-Promoting Chemicals Represents a Significant Risk to Public Health (scitechdaily.com)

New High-Performance Solid-State Battery Surprises the Engineers Who Created It 24 September

New High-Performance Solid-State Battery Surprises the Engineers Who Created It (scitechdaily.com) https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abg7217

Carbon Dioxide Reactor Synthesizes Martian Fuel

25 September

<u>Carbon Dioxide Reactor Synthesizes Martian Fuel (scitechdaily.com)</u> https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-25640-1

New cancer research centre for University of Limerick

23 September

New cancer research centre for University of Limerick (rte.ie)

Extremely Efficient New Method for Removing Heavy-Metal Contaminants From Drinking Water

27 September

Extremely Efficient New Method for Removing Heavy-Metal Contaminants From Drinking Water (scitechdaily.com)

https://doi.org/10.1021/acsestwater.1c00234

New all-solid-state battery is safe, long-lasting, and energy-dense - Inceptive Mind 25 September

New all-solid-state battery is safe, long-lasting, and energy-dense - Inceptive Mind

New all-solid-state battery holds promise for grid storage and EVs

26 September

New all-solid-state battery holds promise for grid storage and EVs (newatlas.com)

Structure of 3He

23 September

Structure of 3He | Scientific Reports (nature.com)

Unified Physics Theory Explains How Materials Transform From Solids to Liquids

29 September

<u>Unified Physics Theory Explains How Materials Transform From Solids to Liquids (scitechdaily.com)</u> https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.126.218002

UCSD, LG team creates solid-state battery with all-silicon anode - Green Car Congress

24 September

UCSD, LG team creates solid-state battery with all-silicon anode - Green Car Congress

New electric vehicle battery technology can charge 'quicker than refuelling an IC car' - Electric & Hybrid Vehicle Technology International

22 July

New electric vehicle battery technology can charge 'quicker than refuelling an IC car' - Electric & Hybrid Vehicle Technology International (electrichybridvehicletechnology.com)

Social inclusion of women by male colleagues in STEM fields can improve their workplace experience | Waterloo News | University of Waterloo

29 September

Social inclusion of women by male colleagues in STEM fields can improve their workplace experience | Waterloo News | University of Waterloo (uwaterloo.ca)

Renewables vs. Nuclear: 256-0 – pv magazine International

28 September

https://www.pv-magazine.com/2021/09/28/renewables-vs-nuclear-256-0

A Tool To Interrogate a New Class of Reactive Electrophile Drugs

30 September

<u>A Tool To Interrogate a New Class of Reactive Electrophile Drugs (scitechdaily.com)</u> <u>https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-25466-x</u>

This is what a solid made of electrons looks like

29 September

This is what a solid made of electrons looks like (nature.com)

https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-021-02657-6 and

Imaging two-dimensional generalized Wigner crystals | Nature

Ammonia decomposition for hydrogen economy, improvement in hydrogen extraction efficiency

6 April 2021

Ammonia decomposition for hydrogen economy, improvement in hydrogen extraction efficiency (phys.org)

Storing hydrogen with silicon-carbide nanotubes – pv magazine International

30 September

https://www.pv-magazine.com/2021/09/30/storing-hydrogen-with-silicon-carbide-nanotubes

Solar Cells: Three Crystal Layer Produces Thousand Times More Power | Off Grid Energy Independence

21 July 2021

Solar Cells: Three Crystal Layer Produces Thousand Times More Power | Off Grid Energy Independence

Hydrogen should be key part of sustainable energy system, says leading academic

30 September

https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/arid-40709567.html

Researchers identify and clear efficiency hurdle for organic solar cells

29 September

Researchers identify and clear efficiency hurdle for organic solar cells (techxplore.com)

Ireland's newest university formally established

1 October

Ireland's newest university formally established (irishtimes.com)

World-first artificial synthesis of starch from CO2 outperforms nature

27 September

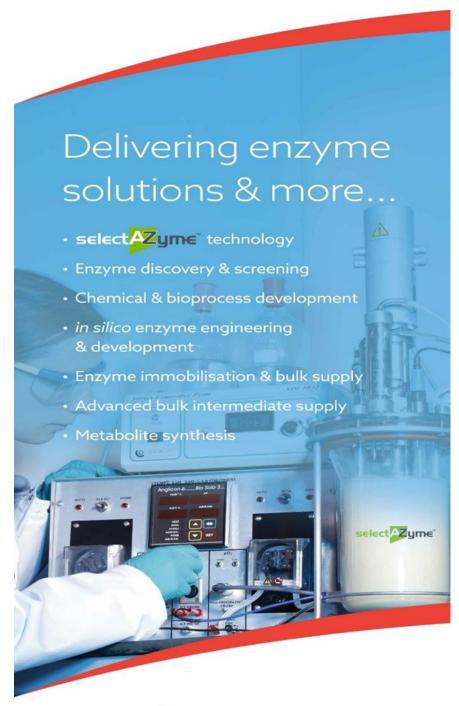
World-first artificial synthesis of starch from CO2 outperforms nature (newatlas.com)

The race to replace persistent chemicals in our homes

28 September

The race to replace persistent chemicals in our homes - BBC News





almacgroup.com



Ministers Harris and Foley announce new partnership to support education and public engagement in science, technology, engineering and maths

18 May 2021

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris TD and Minister for Education Norma Foley TD have today announced details of a new partnership between Science Foundation Ireland and the Department of Education to support education and public engagement projects in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) across the country.

The Department of Education will contribute up to €500,000 towards successful projects under the SFI Discover Programme, with the aim of supporting effective interventions in the early years STEM education continuum.

Speaking about the programme Minister Harris said: "This is a very welcome partnership between Science Foundation Ireland and the Department of Education. STEM education is critical to our future growth in talent and for economic development. Young people are our scientists and researchers of the future. I am sure that this will benefit many young learners across the country and encourage them to engage with science subjects, and hopefully consider a career in STEM in the future. I look forward to hearing about the projects funded under this SFI Discover programme call in the coming months."

Minister Foley said: "This partnership works towards some of the ambitious goals and actions required to achieve and improve the STEM education experience and outcomes for all learners, from early years to post-primary level, which are set out in my Department's STEM Education Policy Statement 2017-2026. The areas we are funding through SFI's Discover Call are designed to tackle important issues such as diversity, gender balance in education, developing creativity, problem-solving skills through STEM and the Arts, knowledge sharing and equity of access to meaningful information and tools for all regions and community groups. We welcome your ideas."

The new areas in the SFI Discover Programme Call highlighted for consideration under the partnership are:

STEM careers awareness and role-model based programmes that address underrepresented communities and challenge stereotypes in STEM

Proposals that support building county/regional networks for actors delivering STEM engagement activity. The purpose is to build knowledge sharing networks at a regional/county level that will address equity of access for schools/communities in that area.

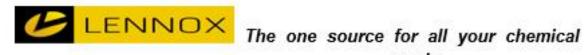
Proposals based on STEM and the Arts approaches that support learners to participate in cross-curricular learning and make connections between STEM concepts and solving problems in new and exciting ways.

The partnership is aligned with the Department of Education's STEM Education Policy Statement 2017-2026 and SFI's new strategy, Shaping Our Future, which has a pillar focused on building a cohesive ecosystem. This new initiative focuses on supporting a joined-up approach to effective interventions in the early years STEM education continuum. The STEM Education Policy Statement 2017-2026 covers all learners from early years to post-primary level.

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Minister Harris announces €23 million investment in Ireland's top post-doctoral researchers

7th May 2021

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris TD has today announced €23 million in funding for a programme for post-doctoral researchers to become research leaders.

The investment, which is a joint initiative between Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) and the Irish Research Council (IRC), will see some 40 early career researchers, across all disciplines, supported to develop cutting-edge projects through awards of up to €550,000 over a four-year period.

The focus will be promoting women researchers in academia, in support of equality, diversity and inclusion across the higher education sector.

Speaking today, Minister Harris said: "I'm delighted to announce this new initiative to help early-career researchers to lead a research project and develop the essential skills and experience necessary to become research leaders of the future. This investment will focus on addressing gender imbalance in academia and we really want to encourage applications from women researchers."

The new joint programme between SFI and IRC and will help ensure greater cohesion across our research performing institutions.

The funding was provided as part of Budget 2021.

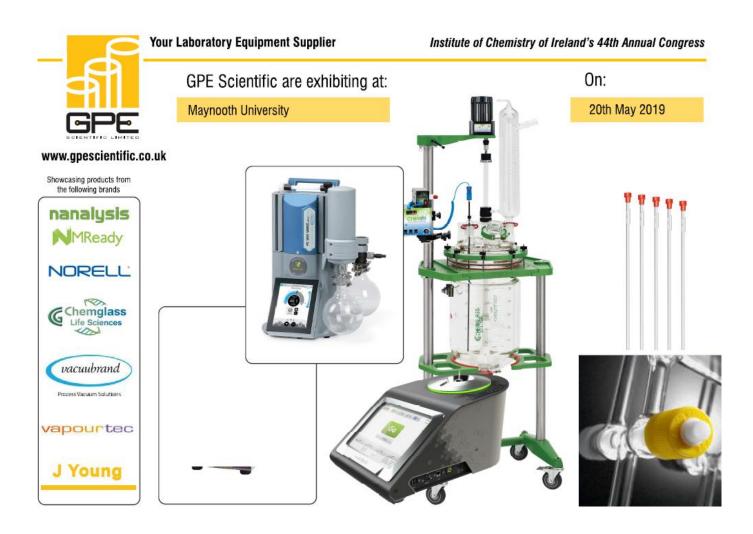
Minister Harris added: "As we seek to rebuild after COVID-19, the work of researchers and scientists will be key to helping the economy recover.

"We have begun to address the shortfall in funding for research but we have much more to do."

Earlier this year, Minister Harris announced the Irish Research Council was to receive additional funding of €3.2 million per annum to support close to 1,300 early-career researchers.

The additional investment saw the IRC post-graduate stipend increased from €16,000 to €18,500 per annum and funding for its post-doctoral researchers also increased.

"I'm pleased to see this new joint programme between SFI and IRC contributing to my department's objective of fostering enhanced collaboration across our research ecosystem. This builds on previous investment into the sector including the additional funding for PhD IRC Stipends."



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Phone: +353(0)861305122

E-mail: info@gpescientific.co.uk

Website: http://www.gpescientific.ie

Company Information:

GPE Scientific Ltd was established in 1962 and is a leading distributor and manufacturer of laboratory equipment, glass blowing products and specialised glass components for the industrial, laboratory and research markets. There are many reasons to choose GPE Scientific above our competitors; we pride ourselves in stocking thousands of products from leading suppliers providing you with the best selection of laboratory equipment on the market. This includes being the exclusive distributors for Chemglass Life Sciences and Chemical Reactors, Norell NMR Tubes and Accessories and the portable Nanalysis NMReady Benchtop Spectrometer.



Climate Neutral farm to be blueprint for sustainable dairy industry

30 June

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris today awarded the SFI Future Innovator Prize to a project that will help a dairy farm achieve net-zero emissions by 2027.

Winner Professor Kevin O'Connor and his Farm Zero C team at University College Dublin (UCD) have been awarded €2 million to help deliver the climate-neutral farm in Cork, with plans to extend the strategy to a further 5,000 farms within five years.

As part of the <u>SFI Future Innovator Prize Zero Emissions Challenge</u>, Farm Zero C, in partnership with dairy producer Carbery Group, studied how planting different types of grasses and clovers on pastures and supporting hedgerows can boost biodiversity and soil health, how using renewable energy that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and how changing what we feed livestock affects how much methane gas they produce.

Farm Zero C is using Shinagh Farm near Bandon, Co. Cork, owned by the farmers of four West Cork Coops, as a demonstrator for this project, with the goal that Shinagh will achieve net-zero emissions by 2027. Wider deployment will be achieved through a mobile app. This will integrate farm and satellite data, habitat mapping and natural capital accounting, to provide users with information on the carbon footprint of their activities and to develop strategies to mitigate these.

Speaking today, **Minister Harris** said: "Congratulations to Professor Kevin O'Connor and the Farm Zero C team. Innovative and disruptive ideas like the Farm Zero C project will become increasingly important as we deliver against the Government's ambitious Climate Action Plan and significantly reduce our carbon emissions. My Department's support for projects like this one, that have real world impacts, really gives me not only pride, but confidence, as we strive to reduce our carbon emissions by 50% over the next decade."

Minister of State with special responsibility for Agri-Food Research and Development, the Bioeconomy, Farm Safety and New Market Development Martin Heydon added: "Congratulations to the Carbery Group and the Farm Zero C team for developing this pioneering and holistic approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the health and resilience of a working farm. This is the Irish bioeconomy in action safeguarding farmer's livelihoods whilst protecting our climate and environment."

Director of the SFI BiOrbic Research Centre in UCD Professor Kevin O'Connor, who collected the award on behalf of his team, said: "Agriculture is a critically important sector for Ireland socially and economically and dairy farms have huge potential to help Ireland to address two existential challenges, climate change and biodiversity loss. Farm Zero C is building a holistic plan to progressively bring farm emissions to net zero, enhance biodiversity, and integrate natural capital and digitalisation into the farm business. We have brought the very best national and international partners together to address the challenge. From the outset Carbery group and the Shinagh farm in West Cork have been incredible societal champions and we look forward to working together to roll out the findings to as many farmers as possible."

CEO Carbery Group, Jason Hawkins added: "Sustainability is one of our core business priorities at Carbery and, as a co-op, has always been intrinsic to how we operate. We work in partnership with our community to solve problems, and our relationship with BiOrbic is a good example of business and academia working together with farmers to create a sustainable future for dairy farming. With Farm Zero C, our emphasis is on the practical – the solutions we find have to be implementable on the typical Irish family farm. With this project, our partners and the support from Science Foundation Ireland, we are confident that we can achieve this aim."

Professor Mark Ferguson, Director General of Science Foundation Ireland and Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government of Ireland, said: "The SFI Future Innovator Prize is part of an approach to cultivate challenge-based funding in Ireland to accelerate and validate excellent and innovative solutions to critical societal and global issues. The Farm Zero C project, led by Professor Kevin O'Connor, epitomises this ethos as it provides a solution that can enable Ireland's important dairy farming industry to become carbon neutral."

As part of the SFI Zero Emissions Challenge, a special prize of €500,000 was awarded to Dr Tony Keene and his team at LiCoRICE, University College Dublin (UCD), in recognition of the potential impact of their project to bring lithium cobalt batteries into the circular economy to decarbonise road transport. Dr David McCloskey's team at Trinity College Dublin (TCD) were also awarded a special prize of €500,000 for their SolarCool project, which is a cost-effective technology that improves efficiency of existing and future solar PV technologies.

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A National Conversation on Research in Ireland

Tell us your idea for what researchers in Ireland should explore to create a better future

What is it?

Creating Our Future is an opportunity for everyone in Ireland to give ideas on how to make our country better for all. From science, the environment, health and education to poverty, the arts, diversity and inclusion - all ideas are welcome that can inspire researchers to help make a better future for Ireland.

Why are we doing it?

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the importance and value of research and innovation in our lives. As a forward-thinking country, we must ask how research can help meet the opportunities and challenges facing our society over the coming years. Creating our Future opens up this question to all. Your ideas will inspire research projects that make a positive impact on our wellbeing.

What is the process?



Submit your Idea:

https://creatingourfuture.ie/submit



The SDG Challenge SFI Future Innovator Prize 2021

DEADLINE

Open 6th October 2021, 13:00 Dublin Local Time

CONTACT

Dr Darragh O'Neill, Challenge Lead

challenges@sfi.ie

The <u>UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</u> are a call to action for all countries, in partnership, to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice.

Achieving the SDGs lies at the heart of Ireland's international development policy, <u>A Better World</u>, as well as being part of SFI's new strategy, <u>Shaping our Future</u>, to deliver tangible benefits for society. With these common goals, <u>Irish Aid</u> (Department of Foreign Affairs) are partnering with SFI to the launch the SDG Challenge.

The SDG Challenge seeks to support diverse, transdisciplinary teams to develop transformative, sustainable solutions that will contribute to addressing development challenges under the UN SDGs in countries where Irish Aid works.

Funding is available for collaborative research teams based in eligible research institutions in Ireland and partner countries. Successful teams will be awarded up to €300k and will work through a series of phases to develop their idea. An overall prize award of €1M will be available to the team that demonstrates the highest potential for transformative impact.

In this initial call, SFI and Irish Aid are seeking solutions that contribute to **SDG 3: Ensure** healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, and related goals and targets. Solutions must demonstrate context-specific impact in one of the eligible partner

countries, but applicants are also encouraged to consider shared challenges where solutions may have wider impact.

Please refer to the <u>call document</u> for details on the Challenge Theme and Eligible Partner Countries.

What is Challenge Funding?

Challenge Theme

What are the objectives of the SDG Challenge?

Who can apply?

Phase Funding & Duration

Call documentation and how to apply?

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SFI Strategic Partnership Programme Supporting strategic collaborations

DEADLINE

Open: Rolling

DURATION

1-5 years

CONTACT: partnerships@sfi.ie

The Strategic Partnership Programme is a flexible mechanism for academic researchers to build strategic collaborations with key stakeholders such as industry, other funding agencies, charities, philanthropic organisations, higher education institutes (HEIs), or a combination of any of these. The scheme aims to support stand-alone research initiatives of scale with strong potential for delivering economic and societal impact to Ireland, in partnership with key stakeholders.

The Strategic Partnership Programme is one strand available to build collaborations with key partners, funding excellent science that benefits society and the economy. If your potential partnership does not appear to fit with the requirements of this programme, please contact partnerships@sfi.ie to discuss whether there may be other opportunities available.

Funding

Programme Objectives

Programme Remit

Eligibility Criteria

How to Apply

Applications for second-term funding

Downloads

Information on Industry Collaborations: https://www.sfi.ie/funding/industry-collaboration

Also See: SFI Strategic Partnership Programme

Tel: +353 (0)1 6073200

Email: info@sfi.ie

www.sfi.ie



Royal Society announces University Research Fellowships for 2021

The Royal Society has announced 37 successful <u>University Research Fellowship</u> (<u>URF</u>) candidates for 2021, three of which are being supported as a <u>Royal Society Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) University Research Fellow</u> The researchers will take up their new posts at institutions across the UK and Ireland from the start of October.

Dame Linda Partridge, Biological Secretary and Vice President of the Royal Society said, "The URF scheme honours high calibre early career scientists throughout the UK and Ireland. The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the research community, and so it is essential that long-term, flexible funding schemes like this are in place to continue to support the careers of researchers pursuing novel and ground-breaking research.

The scheme is central to the Society's commitment to fostering excellence in science by supporting early career researchers who are fundamental to the future of global science. It is gratifying to see the URF scheme expand this year to support the biomedical sciences, a discipline that was vital in the response to the pandemic. This will ensure we continue to support a wide breadth of science through the scheme."

The newly appointed research fellows will be working on research projects spanning the physical, mathematical, chemical and biological sciences. 17 universities across the UK and Ireland will host the University Research Fellows, with 32% of the appointments made to women. The three Royal Society-SFI University Research Fellows are:

Dr Michelle Browne, Trinity College Dublin (TCD), was funded for a project titled: 'New Catalysts for the Oxygen Evolution Reaction'. Dr Browne will design and scale-up new active and inexpensive materials for water electrolysers to allow for the large-scale implementation of this renewable energy route.

Dr Christiana Pantelidou, University College Dublin (UCD), was funded for a project titled: 'Gravitational turbulence in the era of gravitational waves'. Dr Pantelidou will investigate the key concepts and quantities involved in gravitational turbulence and model its consequences on black hole collisions in the universe, which recently became accessible experimentally. The results of this work will deepen understanding of how gravity

and thus our universe work and will also allow a more complete picture from experimental gravitational measurements.

Dr Michael Gibbons, Trinity College Dublin (TCD), was funded for a project titled: 'Loop heat pipe for waste heat recovery in data centres'. Dr Gibbons will harness data centre waste heat to produce usable energy that will reduce data centre energy requirements and carbon emissions. Data centres enable social networking, banking, and online shopping to function, but they also consume 1.1–1.5% of the world's total energy and have one of the fastest-growing carbon footprints. This project will develop innovative waste heat transportation technology by combining numerical simulation, novel material science approaches, and previously unconnected technologies.

The complete list of 2021 appointments can be found at <u>Royal Society announces University</u> Research Fellowships for 2021 | Royal Society.

The University Research Fellowship scheme was established to identify outstanding early career scientists who have the potential to become leaders in their fields and provide them with the opportunity to build an independent research career. After completion, many alumni are offered tenure positions, and receive <u>national or international recognition for their work</u>.

Applications for the URF 2022 round opened on 13 July 2021. The Royal Society - Science Foundation Ireland University Research Fellowship 2022 call will open shortly to applicants based in Ireland and will be announced in due course with an extended deadline. The URF scheme has expanded to include the biomedical sciences, and scientists from the biomedical sciences are encouraged to apply.

For more information visit https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/grants/university-research/.

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www.sfi.ie



SFI St. Patrick's Day Science Medal Award 2022

9 September 2021

Call for nominations now open

The <u>SFI St. Patrick's Day Science Medal</u> is awarded annually to a distinguished scientist, engineer or technology leader living and working in the USA with strong Irish connections.

Nominations must be submitted by 5pm (Dublin local time) on **Friday 5th November 2021**. More information is available here:

The Award

The **SFI St Patrick's Day Science Medal** is awarded annually to a distinguished scientist, engineer or technology leader living and working in the USA with strong Irish connections. Running since 2014, the competition was further developed in 2016 to include a specific award for an industry leader.

Both the industry and academic medals recognize individuals who are not only outstanding in their fields of expertise but who also have demonstrably assisted researchers in Ireland in either academia or industry – via mentorship, supervision, collaboration, industrial development, entrepreneurship or who have made significant contributions to developing the research ecosystem in Ireland.

Prof Mark Ferguson explains how a St Patricks Day Medal recipient is considered for the prestigious award:

See St Patrick's Day Science Medal flyer: <u>SFI-SPD-Medal-Competition-Flyer-2022.pdf</u> and more details at:

 $\underline{https://www.sfi.ie/funding/funding-calls/sfi-st-patricks-day-science/\#:^:text=Nominations, Previous\%20 Recipients$

DEADLINE

Open

5th November 2021

CONTACT

sciencemedal@sfi.ie

#BelieveInScience Three Park Place, Hatch Street ← +353 (0)1 607 3200

Upper, ☑ info@sfi.ie

Dublin 2, Ireland

D02 FX65

SARS CoV-2 Virus Updates and Developments

Covid 19 Updates from May 1st to August 31st 2021

COVID-19 Is a Vascular Disease: Coronavirus' Spike Protein Attacks Vascular System on a Cellular Level

2 May

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New Cell Atlas of COVID Lungs Reveals Why SARS-CoV-2 Is Different and Deadly 2 May

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Human Organ Chips Shift Amodiaquine from Old Antimalarial to Promising COVID-19 Treatment

3 May

<u>Human Organ Chips Shift Amodiaquine from Old Antimalarial to Promising COVID-19 Treatment (genengnews.com)</u>

China's COVID vaccines are going global — but questions remain

4 May 2021

China's COVID vaccines are going global — but questions remain (nature.com)

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Tracing COVID Back to Origin: Many Variant Strains Were Already Present Before the First Known Cases Identified in China

4 May 2021

<u>Tracing COVID Back to Origin: Many Variant Strains Were Already Present Before the First Known Cases</u> Identified in China (scitechdaily.com)

and going back

COVID-19 Patient Zero: Data Analysis Identifies the "Mother" of All SARS-CoV-2 Genomes

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Scientists set out to connect the dots on long COVID

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<u>Scientists set out to connect the dots on long COVID | Nature Methods https://doi.org/10.1038/s41592-021-01145-z</u>

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Catalent Acquires Additional Facility at its Gosselies, Belgium Campus for Commercial-Scale Plasmid DNA Manufacturing

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We Finally Have a Simple System For Naming All The Concerning COVID-19 Variants (sciencealert.com) and **Tracking SARS-CoV-2 variants**

Tracking SARS-CoV-2 variants (who.int)

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28 May

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Vaccines highly effective against B.1.617.2 variant after 2 doses

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expert reaction to preprint from PHE on vaccine effectiveness against the B.1.617.2 'Indian' variant

23 May

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https://khub.net/documents/135939561/430986542/Effectiveness+of+COVID-

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1 June

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2 June

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Extensive Study Identifies Over a Dozen Existing Drugs As Potential Treatments for COVID-19

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Extensive Study Identifies Over a Dozen Existing Drugs As Potential Treatments for COVID-19 (scitechdaily.com) DOI: 10.1038/s41467-021-23328-0

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China's Stemirna raises funds for variant-fighting vaccine

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China's Stemirna raises about \$200 mln to fund COVID-19 vaccine development | Reuters

Genetic Link Discovered Explaining Why Some People Who Catch COVID-19 Don't Become Sick

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WHO approval of Chinese CoronaVac COVID vaccine will be crucial to curbing pandemic

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4 June

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COVID vaccines slash viral spread – but Delta is an unknown

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UK COVID cases have fallen dramatically – but another wave is likely

16 August

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COVID vaccines protect against Delta, but their effectiveness wanes

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26 August

Johnson & Johnson says coronavirus booster shot increases antibodies nine-fold | Live Science

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8 September

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COVID-19 Vaccines Effective Against Delta Variant – How Pfizer, Moderna and J&J Compare (scitechdaily.com)

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13 September

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12 September

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Comparator vaccines are needed if vital COVID-19 R&D is to progress – CEPI

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3 September

AstraZeneca and European Commission reach settlement agreement over vaccine supply, ending litigation

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9 September

Moderna to Develop Combined COVID-19/Flu Vaccine (biopharminternational.com)

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15 September

COVID vaccine effects wane over time but still prevent death and severe illness (theconversation.com)

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16 September

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15 September

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17 September

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17 September

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20 September

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Moderna Releases New Clinical Data on COVID-19 Vaccine & more

17 September

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The fight to manufacture COVID vaccines in lower-income countries

15 September

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Hospital Reports a Scary Effect of Severe COVID-19 Is Far More Common Than Thought

23 September

Hospital Reports a Scary Effect of Severe COVID-19 Is Far More Common Than Thought (sciencealert.com)

Cambodian bats could provide clues on COVID origins

21 September

Cambodian bats could provide clues on COVID origins (pharmamanufacturing.com)

A new oral antiviral drug for COVID is being tested in humans – can it make a difference?

23 September

A new oral antiviral drug for COVID is being tested in humans – can it make a difference? (theconversation.com)

"Ultra-Potent" Antibody Against Multiple COVID-19 Variants Discovered

24 September

"Ultra-Potent" Antibody Against Multiple COVID-19 Variants Discovered (scitechdaily.com) https://doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2021.109784

Closest known relatives of virus behind COVID-19 found in Laos

24 September

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Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine generates robust antibody response in children, without serious safety issues, company says

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Pfizer says its Covid vaccine generates robust antibody response in kids (statnews.com)

COVID vaccine immunity is waning — how much does that matter?

17 September

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AstraZeneca to Invest \$360 Million in Advanced Manufacturing Facility in Ireland 21 September

AstraZeneca to Invest \$360 Million in Advanced Manufacturing Facility in Ireland (pharmtech.com)

The Evidence Is in – One Mask Type Stands Out as The Best Protection Against COVID-19

25 September

The Evidence Is in – One Mask Type Stands Out as The Best Protection Against COVID-19 (sciencealert.com)

Preliminary research finds that even mild cases of COVID-19 leave a mark on the brain – but it's not yet clear how long it lasts

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<u>Preliminary research finds that even mild cases of COVID-19 leave a mark on the brain – but it's not yet clear how long it lasts (theconversation.com)</u>

Pfizer trialing new preventative treatment for COVID-19

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Pfizer trialing new preventative treatment for COVID-19 (pharmamanufacturing.com)

Sanofi pulls the plug on COVID mRNA vax

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This Tiny 'Vaccine Patch' Could Prompt Stronger Immune Response Than a Needle 28 September

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Promising Low-Cost Method for Rapid COVID-19 Detection Developed

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Tool Predicts Changes That Could Make COVID Variants More Infectious

30 September

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Pregnant Women Receiving mRNA Vaccine Pass Antibodies to Their Newborns

23 September

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New antiviral pill halves risk of COVID-19 hospitalization, Merck says

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New antiviral pill halves risk of COVID-19 hospitalization, Merck says | Live Science

Addendum 1

Origins of the Corona Virus SARS CoV-2

We Hear How The Wuhan Lab Leak Is Becoming More Credible | Newstalk ??

25 May Podcast

We Hear How The Wuhan Lab Leak Is Becoming More Credible | Newstalk

Here are answers to 3 persistent questions about the coronavirus's origins

27 May 2021

3 questions about the coronavirus's origins and lab-leak hypothesis | Science News

Divisive COVID 'lab leak' debate prompts dire warnings from researchers

27 May

Divisive COVID 'lab leak' debate prompts dire warnings from researchers (nature.com) https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-021-01383-3

Lab or Nature? The Current Evidence For Each of The SARS-CoV-2 Origin Theories

27 May

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The WHO's leader said its investigation into whether the coronavirus leaked from a Wuhan lab was not 'extensive enough'

30 March

The WHO's leader said its investigation into whether the coronavirus leaked from a Wuhan lab was not 'extensive enough' | Business Insider

Ex-CDC director believes COVID-19 escaped from a lab, but cites no evidence

March 2021

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The Covid-19 Lab Leak Theory Is a Tale of Weaponized Uncertainty

28 May

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Was COVID-19 Made in a Lab? An Epidemiologist Reviews The Evidence

31 May

Was COVID-19 Made in a Lab? An Epidemiologist Reviews The Evidence (sciencealert.com)

Biden's new Wuhan lab leak investigation ramps up US-China blame game

1 June

Biden's new Wuhan lab leak investigation ramps up US-China blame game (theconversation.com)

Covid-19: why the lab leak theory must be formally investigated

2 June

Covid-19: why the lab leak theory must be formally investigated (theconversation.com)

And going back earlier

Coronavirus origins: genome analysis suggests two viruses may have combined 18 March 2020

https://theconversation.com/coronavirus-origins-genome-analysis-suggests-two-viruses-may-have-combined-134059

Podcast: Uncertainty and the 'lab leak' theory (16 min listen)

4 June

Coronapod: Uncertainty and the COVID 'lab-leak' theory (nature.com)

Why politicians should be wary of publicly pursuing the Wuhan lab-leak investigation

7 June

Why politicians should be wary of publicly pursuing the Wuhan lab-leak investigation (theconversation.com)

The COVID lab-leak hypothesis: what scientists do and don't know

8 June

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COVID lab-leak theory: 'rare' genetic sequence doesn't mean the virus was engineered

22 June

COVID lab-leak theory: 'rare' genetic sequence doesn't mean the virus was engineered (theconversation.com)

Scientist recovers coronavirus gene sequences secretly deleted last year in Wuhan ^{23 June}

Scientist recovers coronavirus gene sequences secretly deleted last year in Wuhan | Live Science

Deleted coronavirus genome sequences trigger scientific intrigue

24 June

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The Very First Case of COVID-19 Was Much Earlier Than We Knew, New Study Indicates

25 June

The Very First Case of COVID-19 Was Much Earlier Than We Knew, New Study Indicates (sciencealert.com)

Researchers Find COVID-19 Virus Was "Highly Human Adapted" – Exact Origins Still a Mystery

25 June

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Wuhan Lab-Leak Theory: "Rare" Genetic Sequence Doesn't Mean the COVID Virus Was Engineered

7 July

Wuhan Lab-Leak Theory: "Rare" Genetic Sequence Doesn't Mean the COVID Virus Was Engineered (scitechdaily.com)

There's a New Review of Potential SARS-CoV-2 Origins. Here's What Experts Think

There's a New Review of Potential SARS-CoV-2 Origins. Here's What Experts Think (sciencealert.com) and

The Origins of SARS-CoV-2: A Critical Review

7 July

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One mutation may have set the coronavirus up to become a global menace 12 July

One mutation may have set the coronavirus up to become a global menace | Science News

Lab Leak or Zoonotic Transfer? Leading Biologists Review COVID-19 Virus Origin Evidence

16 July

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China Rejects WHO Plan For Second Phase Of COVID-19 Origins Probe

23 July

China Rejects WHO Plan For Second Phase Of COVID-19 Origins Probe (ndtv.com)

Will we ever find COVID-19's 'Patient Zero?'

27 July

Will we ever find COVID-19's 'Patient Zero?' | Live Science

US COVID origins report: researchers pleased with scientific approach

27 August

<u>US COVID origins report: researchers pleased with scientific approach (nature.com)</u> https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-021-02366-0



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IDA IRELAND'S COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN



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Antylia Scientific creates 60 roles in the Midlands with establishment of new state of the art manufacturing facility

6 May 2021

Vernon Hills, IL, US and Westmeath Ireland, 6th May 2021 – Antylia ScientificTM, a global leader in peristaltic and associated fluid path products providing bioprocessing solutions, and a diverse portfolio of life sciences and diagnostic products for the pharma, biopharma, healthcare, and environmental markets, has announced the creation of approximately 60 roles in Co. Westmeath with the establishment of its Masterflex® Bioprocessing facility in the National Science Park, Mullingar.

This project is supported by the Irish Government through IDA Ireland.

Minister for Trade Promotion, Digital and Company Regulation Robert Troy TD said: "I am delighted that Antylia has chosen to establish its new facility in Mullingar, creating some 60 new highly skilled jobs. It is a significant announcement for Mullingar and a strong endorsement of the Midlands as an excellent location for businesses to establish and thrive. Our highly skilled workforce is just one reason why Ireland is recognised as a global hub for leading biopharmaceutical companies like Antylia Scientific. Our mission in Government is to get people back to work and rebuild the economy and a priority focus for me in the Department of Enterprise is to promote balanced regional development across the country. I wish Antylia Scientific every success with its new facility in Mullingar."

The new Masterflex Bioprocessing facility will be used to design and manufacture Masterflex® peristaltic technologies that are used in mission-critical pharmaceutical and bioprocessing workflows for the development and production of vaccines and therapeutics. The facility will also include a large warehouse space to store components and the finished products.

This investment by Antylia Scientific and the IDA in the new Masterflex Bioprocessing facility will expand access to these critical fluid path products and provide customers with shorter lead times, simplified sourcing and validation and increased supply for these critical fluid path products.

"We are grateful to the Irish Government through IDA Ireland for this tremendous opportunity," said Brian Barnett, President of Masterflex Bioprocessing. "We are thrilled to open our first facility in Ireland to produce and house Masterflex® peristaltic technologies and associated fluid path products. These products are in great demand globally. The addition of this site to our Masterflex Bioprocessing family of global sites providing mission critical products and services will help the overall Biopharma industry. It is

a win-win situation that will positively benefit our customers, our Masterflex brand, and the Mullingar workforce and economy."

The jobs being created at the new Masterflex Bioprocessing facility in Mullingar are in the areas of process and medical device engineering, manufacturing as well as logistics and supply chain.

CEO of IDA Ireland, Martin Shanahan said: "Today's announcement by Antylia Scientific is a very positive one for the Midlands and is a strong endorsement in the region's talented and highly skilled Biopharma and MedTech workforce. Antylia Scientific's significant investment in its Mullingar facility based at the National Science Park demonstrates the company's commitment to the Midlands region. I wish Antylia every success with this investment."

To explore opportunities to join the Antylia Scientific team in Mullingar, visit Antylia Scientific on LinkedIn or to learn more about Antylia Scientific and Masterflex please visit www.antylia.com and www.masterflex.com.

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Email: idaireland@ida.ie





Driving Recovery & Sustainable Growth 2021-2024

The global environment in which Ireland competes for foreign direct investment is constantly changing. As part of its new strategy, IDA Ireland plans to partner with clients for future growth through 170 RD&I and 130 training investments, to embrace the opportunities of a green recovery with 60 sustainability investments and to target a 20pc increase in client expenditure in Ireland to maximise FDI impact.

READ MOR

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Pfizer's announcement it is to manufacture Covid-19 vaccine drug substance in Ireland - Welcome Statement

19 May 2021

IDA Ireland welcomes the announcement today by Pfizer that it is to manufacture a Covid-19 vaccine drug substance at its Grange Castle facility in Dublin.

Pfizer is to invest some \$40M in the expansion of the Grange Castle site to allow for the extra production that will be part of the global Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine supply chain network, contributing to the worldwide supply of the vaccine.

75 new roles are to be created as a result.

Commenting today, An Taoiseach, Micheal Martin said: "I'm delighted to welcome today's announcement by Pfizer that it will shortly begin production of COVID-19 vaccine components in Ireland, with the associated investment of c\$40 million and the creation of 75 jobs at Grange Castle in Dublin. This is a historic announcement, which builds on the extraordinary success story of Pfizer's over 50-year manufacturing presence here in Ireland. As we rapidly step-up vaccine roll out, in Ireland, in Europe and across the globe, today's news is a fantastic development that will see Ireland fully play its part in this generational challenge."

Tanaiste and Minister for Business, Enterprise & Innovation, Leo Varadkar said: "Ireland is globally recognised as a centre of excellence for the Life Sciences and this investment is a real vote of confidence in us and our capacity. With this announcement, we will have a central role to play in the Covid-19 response, helping to produce this life saving vaccine in Dublin, creating 75 new, highly skilled jobs. These vaccines have saved countless lives and I'm really happy Pfizer has chosen to produce components of them here."

IDA Ireland CEO Martin Shanahan said:

it underlines the importance of the pharma sector in Ireland and demonstrates the capability of the biological sector here. "This is most welcome news and a strong vote of confidence in the skills, expertise and capability to manufacture this mRNA drug substance here. Pfizer has played an important part to date in the delivery of vaccine to help in the fight against Covid-19 and it is great that the company's efforts will now be assisted by the production of this mRNA drug substance from Ireland. The 75 jobs being created at the Grange Castle facility are also extremely welcome."

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IDA Ireland

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PPD to Expand GMP Lab in Ireland to Enhance Biopharmaceutical Testing Capabilities

28 April 2021

WILMINGTON, N.C. (April 28, 2021) – PPD, Inc. (Nasdaq: PPD), a leading global contract research organisation, is expanding its Athlone, Ireland, GMP (good manufacturing practices) laboratory, significantly increasing the size of its current facility and adding cell and gene therapy testing to the operation's portfolio of services.

The expansion enhances PPD's ability to deliver global scientific and technical expertise to meet growing customer demand in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and the Asia-Pacific region. By offering these services at its Athlone operation, PPD can provide clients in these locations with the same services already available in the U.S. through its Middleton, Wisconsin, GMP lab.

"Our enlarged operations will enhance our capabilities in leading technologies related to biopharmaceutical testing and speciality testing for biologics and small molecules," said Christopher Fikry, M.D., Executive Vice President of PPD® Laboratories. "This expansion will enable PPD to provide customers with additional services aimed at reducing time to market for new drug products in important areas such as cell and gene therapies. We are thankful our expansion has been welcomed and supported by the Irish Government and IDA Ireland, and we're confident these new developments will benefit our customers."

The Athlone GMP lab provides fully integrated analytical services across all phases of pharmaceutical development and commercialisation, helping clients fulfil regulatory requirements for release testing and qualified person (QP) services for clinical and marketed pharmaceuticals, including small and large molecules, inhaled products, and cell and gene therapies.

The current 4,460 sq. meter (48,000 sq. foot) operation will grow to 7,710 sq. meters (83,000 sq. feet) upon completion of the project, which is expected to be fully functional by mid-2022 and is projected to create 180 new jobs over the next three years. The current operation employs nearly 300 highly skilled scientists and project managers who support the demand for PPD's services, which includes testing to support the development of novel and advanced pharmaceuticals and therapies.

Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise Trade and Employment Leo Varadkar TD said: "I'm really pleased that PPD is continuing to invest in its Athlone operations in an expansion that will create 180 jobs over three years and significantly add to the capabilities of the company's current facility. This is a really positive development for Athlone and the Midlands Region."

Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment with responsibility for Trade Promotion Robert Troy TD said: "I am delighted to see PPD announce plans to expand its presence in Athlone. This is a significant expansion, which will result in the creation of 180 jobs for highly skilled scientists. This announcement demonstrates that Athlone and the Midlands region have the skills, talent, people and connectivity that will enable companies like PPD to embed and grow their operations here. Regional job creation is a key priority of this Government and we will be working to secure further investment for all regions in the months and years ahead."

CEO of IDA Ireland Martin Shanahan added: "Today's announcement by PPD demonstrates the company's commitment to Ireland and indeed the Midlands Region where it has been in operation for more than 10 years. It will allow the company to avail itself of the rich talent pool that exists in the Midlands and will provide an economic and employment boost to the local and wider Midlands region. We wish PPD continued success."

In addition to the lab in Athlone, PPD Laboratories includes GMP labs in Middleton, Wisconsin; bioanalytical labs in Middleton and Richmond, Virginia; central labs in Shanghai, China, Brussels, Belgium, Highland Heights, Kentucky, and Singapore; biomarker labs in Highland Heights and Richmond; a vaccine sciences lab in Richmond; and a multipurpose bioanalytical, biomarker and vaccine sciences lab that is nearing completion in Suzhou, China.

END

About PPD

PPD is a leading global contract research organization providing comprehensive, integrated drug development, laboratory and lifecycle management services. Our customers include pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device, academic and government organizations. With offices in 47 countries and more than 27,000 professionals worldwide, PPD applies innovative technologies, therapeutic expertise and a firm commitment to quality to help customers bend the cost and time curve of drug development and optimize value in delivering life-changing therapies to improve health. For more information, visit www.ppd.com.

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Repligen Corporation set to significantly expand bioprocessing manufacturing capacity and create 130+ new jobs in Waterford

26 July 2021

Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Leo Varadkar TD announced today that U.S. headquartered Repligen Corporation is set to significantly expand its manufacturing operations in Waterford, with plans to fit out a 33,000 square foot LEED Silver building that is expected to create 130 new jobs in the South East region of Ireland over the next two and a half years. The facility will serve as a Centre of Excellence for single-use consumable products used in bioprocessing applications, and will complement the existing 10,500 square foot Waterford facility (formerly ARTeSYN BioSolutions, which Repligen acquired in Dec 2020) that currently employs 74 people, a figure well above initial hiring expectations set forth in 2019 (08 November 2019) as Repligen continues to experience rapid growth and increased demand for its state-of-the-art bioprocessing products.

Known for highly innovative single-use bioprocessing technologies that increase efficiencies in the process of manufacturing biological drugs, Repligen plans to invest in building out the new Waterford plant as an innovation, assembly and production centre for a diverse portfolio of "plug-and-play" consumables, for use with state-of-the-art filtration and chromatography systems. These highly differentiated technologies are utilized by Repligen's customers – primarily biopharmaceutical developers and contract development and manufacturing organizations worldwide – in the production of investigational and commercial-stage biological therapeutics and vaccines.

Repligen's capital commitment to the Waterford expansion is supported by the Irish Government through IDA Ireland.

Available: Waterford - Advanced Building Solution.

Completed to LEED Silver standard, IDA's Advance Building Solution (ABS) is located on a 4.2-acre site in IDA Ireland's Business & Technology Park in Waterford. It currently includes 32,940 sq. ft. of technology and office space with expansion potential for up to 75,000 sq. ft.

Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment, stated, "This is excellent news from Repligen with the creation of 130 new jobs in Waterford. It comes on foot of a major jobs announcement by Bausch and Lomb. Waterford is on the move as a centre for jobs and investment. Ireland is globally recognised as a centre of excellence for life sciences and this significant expansion is a real vote of confidence in us and our capacity. It shows we are succeeding in attracting high-calibre companies and highly-skilled jobs to all our regions. I wish the team the very best with their expansion plans."

James Bylund, Senior Vice-President, Global Operations and Information Technology at Repligen, said, "We are thrilled to continue the collaboration with the Irish Government and the IDA that was initiated by the ARTeSYN team. This buildout is an important step in expanding our capacity and establishing dual manufacturing sites for key single-use consumable products used in manufacture of biological drugs."

Mr. Bylund continued, "The timing is excellent as we are actively expanding our Waterford site with the addition of 40 employees during the second half of 2021 and expect to open the new building as a Centre of Excellence in 2022. With its LEED Silver designation, the facility is closely aligned with our commitment to responsible growth and sustainability."

Dr. Jonathan Downey, Managing Director at the Waterford site, commented, "Having delivered beyond our commitment in 2019 to bring new jobs to the region through our development of high-end manufacturing capabilities, we are energized and excited about our integration with Repligen and this next phase of growth. In addition to our expansion of ARTeSYN products, and the transfer of manufacturing of certain of Repligen's current products to our Irish operations, we expect to be utilising the Irish sites to advance additional Research, Development & Innovation programs."

IDA Ireland CEO Martin Shanahan, said: "This significant investment by Repligen and the creation of more than 130 new jobs is great news. This next phase of growth, coming only two years after ARTeSYN initially expanded its manufacturing and clean room facilities in Waterford, is further evidence that the technological expertise in the region is strong and that the South East is an attractive location in which to invest, work and live. IDA Ireland is fully committed to regional development and ensuring every area benefits from employment gains. We are pleased to partner with innovation-driven companies like Repligen to increase economic growth and employment in the South East region."

About Repligen Corporation

Repligen Corporation (NASDAQ:RGEN) is a global life sciences company that develops and commercializes highly innovative bioprocessing technologies and systems that increase efficiencies in the process of manufacturing biological drugs. Our primary customers are biopharmaceutical drug developers and contract development and manufacturing organizations (CDMOs) worldwide. Our corporate headquarters are located in Waltham, Massachusetts, with additional administrative and manufacturing operations worldwide. The majority of our manufacturing sites are located in the U.S. (California, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York), and outside of the U.S. we have sites in Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands and Sweden. For more information about the company, visit www.repligen.com.

About ARTeSYN

ARTeSYN BioSolutions, now (as of December 2020) a Repligen company, has experienced significant growth over the past few years with a range of innovative offerings, from single-use components through

full bioprocessing systems for filtration and chromatography (purification) unit operations. ARTeSYN® has manufacturing and design/development facilities in the U.S. (California), Ireland and Estonia. The company offers high performance, low hold-up volume systems and is known for continuous innovation in partnership with its biopharmaceutical manufacturing customers. For more information about the company, visit www.artesynbiosolutions.com

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Bausch + Lomb is to invest €90M in Waterford adding 130 additional jobs

21 June 2021

Waterford – July 21, 2021. Bausch + Lomb, a leading global eye health company, today announced plans to invest €90M to expand manufacturing operations at its Waterford facility.

The investment is expected to generate 130 additional jobs when production commences in 2023 and will provide the Waterford facility with additional capacity to meet expected demand for its Biotrue ONEday® range of contact lenses. In addition, approximately 150 additional workers are expected to be employed in the construction phase of the expansion.

The investment will further strengthen the Waterford plant's position in supporting Bausch + Lomb's efforts to increase market share in the contact lens market. This follows a similar announcement in November 2018 in which the company announced it was investing to increase contact lens manufacturing capacity at its sites in Waterford and Rochester, N.Y. by adding multiple production lines at these two sites to support the manufacture of its innovative daily disposable silicone hydrogel (SiHy daily) contact lenses.

Construction of the Waterford facility, announced in 2018, has now been completed, and production of the company's latest contact lenses, Bausch + Lomb INFUSE®, will start by the end of this year. The Waterford site currently employs more than 1,500 people.

Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Leo Varadkar, TD said: "I warmly welcome this news that Bausch + Lomb is investing a further €90 million in Waterford, creating 130 new jobs for the county. The company has already invested significantly in the South East region, employing over 1,500. This decision reaffirms that commitment and is a great vote of confidence in Waterford and all it has to offer. I wish all involved the very best with this new development and thank Bausch + Lomb for the continuing commitment to Ireland."

Mark Hennessy, Site Lead, Bausch + Lomb, Waterford, said: "Our Vision is to be the Global Leader in Contact Lens Innovation and Manufacturing, and this latest investment will enable the Waterford facility to meet the growing demand for our very successful Biotrue ONEday® range of daily disposable contact lenses. The Biotrue lens was developed by the team in Waterford and supported by our commercial colleagues around the world, and it continues to grow in our U.S., European and Asian markets."

"We recently celebrated the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Bausch + Lomb Waterford, and the decision to make this significant investment in Waterford was influenced by our track record in providing high-quality products and excellent customer service to markets around the globe."

IDA Ireland CEO Martin Shanahan said: "IDA Ireland has partnered with Bausch + Lomb for many years. We are delighted with the company's decision to further expand its manufacturing operations at the

Waterford facility, creating 130 jobs. It demonstrates Bausch + Lomb's continued commitment to the South East region, in which, this year, it celebrates its 40th anniversary. This expansion is a welcome addition to the South East Region's thriving MedTech cluster. I want to wish Bausch + Lomb every success with this expansion and assure it of IDA Ireland's continued support."

Recruitment for the new jobs will begin in 2022. However, the facility currently has vacant positions in operations, engineering, quality and other disciplines.

To view these open positions please visit the link below and click on IE - Waterford in the "Location" drop down menu:

https://career2.successfactors.eu/career?company=Bausch&career_ns

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OLED Material Manufacturing, PPG Announce Multi-Million-Euro Investment, up to 100 New Jobs in Shannon

22 July 2021

Universal Display Corporation (Nasdaq: OLED) and PPG (NYSE: PPG) today announced that OLED Material Manufacturing Ltd. (OM²) and PPG are embarking on a multi-million-euro capital investment that is expected to create up to 100 high-tech jobs at a new Shannon manufacturing site. The facility, which was announced in February 2021, will broaden the global footprint and increase the production of Universal Display Corporation's (UDC) energy-efficient, high-performing UniversalPHOLED® materials to meet growing organic light emitting diode (OLED) market demand and evolving industry requirements.

The announcement was welcomed by **Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar TD,** who said, "This major announcement by OLED Material Manufacturing and PPG is a welcome boost to the Mid-West region. It will make a significant contribution to Shannon and the Irish economy in terms of job creation, investment and innovation. Technology is one of the fastest-growing sectors here in Ireland and globally, and I wish the team continued success."

Austin McCabe, Director, OLED Material Manufacturing Limited, said, "Our manufacturing expansion in Ireland allows UDC to strengthen its mission, which centers on enabling our customers and fostering the proliferation of energy-efficient OLED display and lighting applications in the consumer landscape. Leveraging UDC Ireland's presence, the site's infrastructure and the Mid-West region's top-level talent, we are excited about the new Shannon facility. Together with our long-term partner, PPG, this multi-million-euro investment will expand the global manufacturing footprint for UDC's proprietary state-of-the-art phosphorescent emissive materials to meet the substantial growth forecasted for the OLED market."

Gerry Cahill, PPG Plant Manager, Shannon, said, "This project will bring a broad spectrum of jobs, a large number of which are highly skilled, to the Mid-West region. PPG has been producing high-performance OLED materials for UDC for the past 20 years. The expansion into Ireland with the addition of the Shannon facility shows confidence in not only the UDC-PPG partnership but also in Ireland as a place in which to invest and do business. In this regard, we are thankful for the support of the Irish Government through IDA Ireland."

Martin Shanahan, CEO, IDA Ireland, said, "This decision by OLED Material Manufacturing and PPG to invest in Shannon demonstrates the companies' confidence in the availability of a skilled and talented workforce in the Mid-West Region. This announcement is further evidence of IDA Ireland's continued commitment to winning jobs and investment for regional locations. I wish OLED Material Manufacturing and PPG every success as they progress with their manufacturing site in Shannon."

PPG is the longstanding partner and exclusive manufacturer of UDC's UniversalPHOLED emitter materials. OLED Material Manufacturing Limited is a wholly-owned subsidiary of UDC Ireland Ltd., which is a subsidiary of UDC. Facility renovations and regulatory approvals at the Shannon site are

expected to be completed in the next 12 months so that operations can commence in 2022.

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The Ardonagh Group announces 60 new roles as the Ardonagh Global Data and Risk Management Centre is launched

27 July 2021

Global healthcare company Abbott has today announced further investment in its cardiovascular Research and Development Centre based at its Vascular devices site in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, Ireland.

Abbott is the world leader in drug-eluting stents. Both R&D and manufacturing of Abbott's new vascular technologies to treat complex heart disease take place at its Clonmel site. The Irish R&D team spent three years developing the company's market-leading stent, XIENCE Sierra, which is being used worldwide in patients who, because of the nature of their disease, might not previously have been suitable for minimally invasive surgery. Abbott's manufacturing plant in Clonmel manufactures its XIENCE family of stents, including XIENCE Sierra, for global use.

The continued major investment programme in its R&D centre in Clonmel, supported by the Irish government through IDA Ireland, comes as Abbott celebrates 75 years in Ireland this year. Over the next three years Abbott will invest €37.8 million in an R&D programme focusing on the discovery, innovation and development of a number of projects, including next generation drug eluting stents, as well as coronary and endovascular balloon technologies.

Tánaiste & Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Leo Varadkar TD said: "Abbott was one of the first US companies to establish operations in Ireland and is one of our largest med-tech employers, with six manufacturing sites and three corporate services operations throughout the country. Today's announcement reflects Abbott's ongoing commitment to Ireland. It is also a tribute to the management and staff of Abbott's vascular division in Clonmel, who have played a pivotal role in the global success of Abbott's XIENCE Sierra stent. I congratulate the Irish and global teams on this investment."

Deirdre Mullins, site director, Abbott in Clonmel said: "Our market leading XIENCE stents were developed in Clonmel and today's announcement places us at the vanguard of Abbott's global research efforts in cardiovascular treatments. We are very proud that the life changing technologies we design and manufacture in Clonmel are saving lives in Ireland and across the world."

CEO of IDA Ireland Martin Shanahan said: "Abbott has demonstrated real commitment to its Irish operations in its 75 years here, investing and expanding its operations and growing jobs across its manufacturing and shared services sites, employing over 4,000 people in Ireland. The economic and jobs benefit of Abbott's longevity here is substantial. I congratulate the Irish and global teams on this investment and wish Abbott continued success in its operations here."

Over 90,000 Irish people have heart disease and it is one of the most common causes of hospitalisation in people aged over 65 in Ireland. Dr Colm Hanratty, Consultant Cardiologist at Mater Private Network Dublin, is a pioneer in the treatment of patients with complex cardiovascular disease and broadcasts operations all over the world, sharing his knowledge and skills with consultants across the globe.

He said, "Drug eluting stents revolutionised the treatment of cardiovascular disease. But we are starting to see more complex cases. As people get older, the arteries narrow, they become twisted and there is a build-up of plaque. Abbott's XIENCE Sierra stent is a feat of engineering that means we can treat previously untreatable patients."

Dr Diarmuid Meagher, Director of Research and Development, Abbott, explains that the engineering team worked closely with Dr Hanratty and the global interventional cardiology community to understand the challenges that were impacting successful cardiovascular interventions. "We adapted the XIENCE design to develop a stent for older and more complex patients which was smaller, more flexible and physically stronger. Its sophisticated navigation makes it easier to manoeuvre through challenged arteries and obstacles and it's now being used in 90 countries around the world."

One person who knows the life changing impact of Abbott's XIENCE Sierra stent is **Martin O'Connor from Dunmore East in Waterford**, who was diagnosed with cardiovascular disease following an angiogram in September 2020.

"I was told I wasn't a candidate for bypass surgery or for a stent because of the complex nature of my disease. After a number of months on medication, my health continued to deteriorate and by Christmas I couldn't walk from the kitchen to the dining room. I was told nothing more could be done for me. A real low point was when my daughter got engaged at Christmas and I realised I probably wouldn't live to walk her up the aisle."

"Only that my family insisted on a second opinion and found Dr Hanratty and the Cardiac Programme in Mater Private Network, I wouldn't be here today. I walked into the hospital a dying man and I walked back out a few hours later with three new stents and a new life. I'm back playing golf and enjoying precious time with my grandchildren. I cannot praise Dr Hanratty and his team highly enough and I want to thank the employees in Abbott. I have no doubt that together with Dr Hanratty, they helped save my life."

Dr Hanratty added: "XIENCE Sierra is a significant evolution for the treatment of complex cases. Martin is doing so well today because of it. And we know there are many more patients like Martin living with chronic cardiac disease in Ireland today, whose lives could be vastly improved by new treatments like XIENCE Sierra. It's important that they know that there are options available. I am delighted that Abbott is making this additional investment in cardiovascular R&D in Ireland and I look forward to continuing to work closely with the Clonmel team."

About Abbott

Abbott is a global healthcare leader that helps people live more fully at all stages of life. Our portfolio of life-changing technologies spans the spectrum of healthcare, with leading businesses and products in diagnostics, medical devices, nutritionals and branded generic medicines. Our 109,000 colleagues serve people in more than 160 countries.

Connect with us at www.abbott.com, on LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/company/abbott-/, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Abbott and on Twitter @AbbottNews.

Abbott in Ireland

Abbott serves the Irish market with a diverse range of healthcare products including diagnostics, medical devices and nutritional products. In Ireland, Abbott employs almost 4,000 people across nine sites. We have six manufacturing facilities located in Clonmel, Cootehill, Donegal, Longford and Sligo and a third-party manufacturing management operation in Sligo. Abbott has commercial, support operations and shared services in Dublin and Galway. We have been operating in Ireland since 1946.

To explore opportunities available at Abbott in Ireland visit www.ie.abbott/careers

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https://enterprise-ireland.com/en

Tánaiste announces multi-million Euro R&D support of ICON to accelerate decentralised clinical trial technology

23rd September 2021



L-R: Leo Clancy, CEO, Enterprise Ireland, Tom O'Leary, CIO, ICON, Dr. Nuala Murphy, President, Global Speciality Solutions, ICON, An Tánaiste Leo Varadkar, Dr. Steve Cutler, CEO, ICON

ICON secures Enterprise Ireland funding to enhance digital health technology and data analytics solutions

The Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar TD announced today that ICON plc (NASDAQ: ICLR), a Dublin-based global provider of drug development and commercialisation services to pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device industries, has been awarded €4 million in R&D support administered by Enterprise Ireland to further enhance its data solutions and decentralised clinical trial technology.

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the clinical research industry's move to hybrid and decentralised trials, requiring researchers and regulatory bodies to adapt to the ways participants live their connected and mobile lives. As the most advanced healthcare intelligence and clinical research organisation in the industry, ICON will utilise the funding to further invest in the build-out of its world-class technology and data solutions architecture. The support will promote broad clinical research participation while also delivering real-time access to data, higher levels of security, and improved timelines and reduced costs for customers.

The Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar TD said:

"I'm really happy Government is in a position to invest €4m in one of Ireland's best known and respected life sciences companies. This funding will go into research and development in digital health technology and data analytics. The pandemic has brought into sharp focus the importance of both areas. With its roots in Dublin, ICON has grown into a global team of 38,000 dedicated employees. It is a real success story. I wish the team the very best of luck with this project, which I have no doubt will result in better outcomes for patients here in Ireland and worldwide."

The R&D support will help development of tech-enabled systems that provide greater flexibility and reduce the burden felt by clinical trial participants. In addition to visiting sites and meeting with trial investigators when needed, clinical trial participants should also have the choice to utilise virtual visits with their care teams, file eConsent forms, and report outcomes on mobile and wearable devices as part of their clinical trial experience. These options, combined with real-time data availability and analysis, improve participant retention, and reduce the timelines and costs for trial sponsors.

Plans are already in the works to invest in resources such as additional data sources, advanced analytical systems and digitisation, patient-focused mobile technology, and predictive tools that integrate artificial intelligence and machine learning.

"Clinical research has been evolving for many years, but the importance of expanding patient access to clinical research by decentralising many components through technology and data insights was never more apparent than in the last 18 months," said **Steve Cutler, ICON Chief Executive Officer.** "We have to accelerate the adoption of decentralised and hybrid clinical trials to meet participants wherever they are – on their mobile devices and in their homes – while also protecting data security, ensuring the integrity of all trial data, and adhering to regulatory requirements. We are honoured to be the recipient of this R&D funding from Enterprise Ireland, which will help us advance our mission to save and improve patient lives."

"ICON has an exceptional track record, delivering game changing clinical research solutions to the largest global biopharma and medical device companies in the world," said **Leo Clancy, CEO, Enterprise Ireland.** "Enterprise Ireland is delighted to support ICON's R&D and scaling agenda.

Today's announcement further strengthens Ireland's reputation in the global value chain of innovative medicines. We look forward to continuing to work with ICON and wish the team well in their future endeavours."

Ends

About ICON plc

ICON is a world-leading healthcare intelligence and clinical research organisation. From molecule to medicine, we advance clinical research providing outsourced development and commercialisation services to pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device and government and public health organisations. We develop new innovations, drive emerging therapies forward and improve patient lives. With headquarters in Dublin, Ireland, ICON operates from 150 locations in 47 countries and has approximately 38,000 employees as of July 1, 2021. For more information, visit www.iconplc.com.



https://enterprise-ireland.com/en

Minister Damien English announces winners of the 2021 Enterprise Ireland Innovation Arena Awards competition in association with the National Ploughing Association

15th September, 2021



Participants of the Innovation Arena Awards 2021 standing in an equestrian facility Pictured, L-R: Anna May McHugh, MD, National Ploughing Association, Harry the dog, Dermot Weld, Horse Trainer, Tom Daly, Headman, Falcon 8 the horse, Jennifer Corley, CEO, EquiTrace, Kevin Corley, Co-Founder, EquiTrace, Minister Damien English and James Maloney, Enterprise Ireland.

Kerry-based Brandon Bioscience is the overall award winner and EquiTrace from Co. Kildare wins best start-up

A novel seaweed-based crop biostimulant and an app to help horse owners keep track of their stock were among the award winners of the most innovative Irish agritech and agri-engineering products announced today by Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, Damien English.

This year's overall Enterprise Ireland Innovation Arena Awards winner was marine biotech company Brandon Bioscience in Tralee, Co Kerry. In collaboration with the traditional fertiliser manufacturer Target Fertilisers, the company's winning entry is an innovative new biostimulant product using extracts from common brown seaweed that has the potential to reduce chemical nitrogen input on farms by up to 20 per cent.

The best overall start-up award went to Jennifer and Kevin Corley, founders of EquiTrace which is an app that works with a horse's microchip to identify, locate and track individual animals as they move while also recording animal temperature and health records when used with a Merck Bio-Thermo chip and scanner.

For the second year in a row, the 2021 Enterprise Ireland Innovation Arena Awards in association with the National Ploughing Association (NPA), took place online, with shortlisted innovators pitching their pioneering designs to a virtual judging panel over the course of two days.

Enterprise Ireland's Innovation Arena traditionally showcases ground-breaking agri-related products and innovations from Irish agri-companies at the National Ploughing Championships. This year's competition was once again moved fully online due to the cancellation of the event as a result of the pandemic.

Winners of this year's awards are automatically eligible to exhibit in the '2021 Winners Enclosure Section' at the Innovation Arena in 2022.

More than 50 entries were received for this year's Awards competition with 28 selected for virtual pitching.

Announcing the winners, Minister Damien English said, "The ingenuity and talent of Irish farm experts, entrepreneurs and businesses, is once again captured by this year's Innovation Arena Award winners.

"In line with Government policy on Climate action, the positive impacts that Irish innovation can have on future global agriculture, particularly in relation to environmental, sustainability and digitalisation solutions, are inspiring. There are significant opportunities for our agricultural sector in overseas markets and the potential to drive economic growth. I would encourage farmers and companies to take advantage of Ireland's reputation for agri-innovation and to explore opportunities to realise their global ambition in new markets."

Leo Clancy, CEO, Enterprise Ireland said, "The strong themes emerging from this year's Innovation Arena Award entries are a focus on farm efficiency and a concentration on how to protect our natural resources. Over the last few years, we've seen growing trends towards digitalisation of the sector, with increased capacity for capturing more data, interpreting it and using these insights for decision-making. The uptake of such technologies on the farm will have significant benefits generating efficiency and sustainability in food production.

"Despite a challenging 18 months, we are really encouraged by the quality of the entries and future possibilities for our Innovation Arena Award winners. Enterprise Ireland looks forward to working with them in finding opportunities for their innovative solutions in domestic and global markets."

National Ploughing Association Managing Director, Anna May McHugh said, "The NPA are delighted to be partnering up again with Enterprise Ireland to run this year's online Innovation Arena Awards. Innovation has been a key factor of the National Ploughing Championships since its establishment 90 years ago in 1931 as it as it has grown and evolved over the years to become the epic event it now is.

"Agriculture is deeply rooted in Irish culture and is a vital factor in rural Ireland's economic growth. Over the years the Innovation Arena at Ploughing has seen some of the most cutting-edge technologies & brilliant pioneering ideas and this year is no exception, with previous winners going on to experience tremendous success in business both in Ireland and on the global stage."

The overall and best start-up Award winners will receive €5,000 each.

There were 14 Award category winners including:

Overall Winner (Established company) and Sustainable Agriculture Award: Brandon BioScience, Kerry Overall Winner (Start-up company) and Vet Technology Award: EquiTrace, Kildare

Agricultural Engineering Award and ACE Agritech Centre of Excellence Award: Samco Agricultural,

Limerick

Agritech Start-up Award: ApisProtect, Cork

Agritech Established Company Award: Alltech, Meath

Agri-safety Award: Calving Assist, Tipperary One to Watch Award: SlurryQuip, Down

Young Innovator of the Year: Carbon Harvesters, Dublin ifac Best Newcomer Award: Moonsyst International, Cork

On Farm Innovation Award - Alfie Cox Founder's Perpeptual Trophy: Crushmate, Laois

AgTechUCD Startup Award: FodderBox Ltd, Cork

More details at www.innovationarena.ie

ENDS

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Three projects led by Irish Higher Education Institutions awarded EU funding

15th July, 2021

Enterprise Ireland welcomes the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) award of funding to projects led by the Institute of Technology, Sligo, Dublin City University and NUI Galway under a Pilot Call for Proposals, inviting higher education institutions to design activities that will enhance their entrepreneurial and innovation capacity.

The call will fund 23 pilot projects to be implemented between 2021–2023. The total maximum budget per project is €1.2 million, broken down as follows: €400,000 for Phase 1 (July–December 2021) and €800,000 for Phase 2 (January 2022–July 2023). In total, there is Irish participation in nine of the twenty-three consortia awarded funding.

The initiative is a joint EIT Community activity coordinated by EIT Raw Materials. The Pilot Call for Proposals invited European higher education institutions to design institution-wide action plans that will enhance their entrepreneurial and innovation capacity across all institutional levels. By supporting such activities, this new EIT initiative aims to create systemic impact, empowering HEIs to become regional engines of innovation and foster sustainable growth and jobs across Europe. Activities can focus on several themes, including:

- Fostering institutional engagement and change
- Strengthening partnerships between higher education, business and research organisations
- Developing innovation and business support services
- Enhancing the quality of entrepreneurial education
- Creating and disseminating knowledge

The successful Irish led projects cover areas including empowering innovators and entrepreneurs to develop world-class solutions to Industry 4.0 and smart manufacturing challenges and create growth and skilled jobs; establishing a new Cross-European Scale Up Network and systems addressing capacity and capability to foster entrepreneurial thinking, actions and institutions. All awards are subject to contract.

Speaking following the announcement, **Garrett Murray**, **National Director for Horizon Europe at Enterprise Ireland said:** "Enterprise Ireland welcomes this announcement by EIT. It is a great success for Ireland and is testament to the capability and talent within the Irish research and innovation system. Higher Education Institutions play a critical role in the development and growth of regional innovation ecosystems. The successful applicants, working with their partners and the EIT, will be able to enhance their entrepreneurial capability and support companies to innovate and scale.

"The EIT is an integral part of the Innovative Europe pillar of Horizon Europe, the €95.5bn EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. In line with their strategy to 2027, the EIT will be issuing a Call for a new EIT Culture and Creativity Knowledge and Innovation Community in October 2021. This will be another opportunity for Irish applicants to compete for EIT funding."

Following the announcement, Chris O'Malley, Vice President, Research, Innovation & Engagement at the Institute of Technology Sligo, stated: "Our project with our RISEN alliance partners will support 120 SMEs to move to the next stage of growth over two years. They will be supported by a peer mentor

network and be given access to expertise from the EIT and the partner universities in developing their strategy to get there. An innovative feature of these is that they can submit their strategic plans for an academic award. By making this a network spanning six member states, the opportunities for these companies to grow internationally can be massively accelerated."

Enterprise Ireland encourages all Irish researchers and innovators to look at the remaining opportunities under the Programme and to contact their National Contact Points in Enterprise Ireland and across the Horizon Europe national support network for information, guidance and expert support in evaluating opportunities and making applications – www.horizoneurope.ie

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

The EIT strengthens Europe's ability to innovate by powering solutions to pressing global challenges and by nurturing entrepreneurial talent to create sustainable growth and skilled jobs in Europe. The EIT is an EU body and an integral part of Horizon Europe, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. The Institute supports dynamic pan-European partnerships, EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities, among leading companies, research labs and universities. Together with their leading partners, the EIT Community offers a wide range of innovation and entrepreneurship activities across Europe: entrepreneurial education courses, business creation and acceleration services and innovation driven research projects.

EIT Powers Innovative Solutions to Global Challenges

The EIT's eight Knowledge and Innovation Communities work to accelerate the transition to a zero-carbon economy (EIT Climate-KIC), drive Europe's digital transformation (EIT Digital), lead the global revolution in food innovation and production (EIT Food), give EU citizens greater opportunities to lead a healthy life (EIT Health), achieve a sustainable energy future for Europe (EIT InnoEnergy), strengthen the competitiveness of Europe's manufacturing industry (EIT Manufacturing), develop raw materials into a major strength for Europe (EIT RawMaterials), and solve the mobility challenges of our cities (EIT Urban Mobility).

Press Release EIT HEI Results.pdf

www.eit-hei.eu

Profiles of Irish led Projects

Pilot Project Fact Sheet (eit-hei.eu) – Dublin City University

Pilot Project Fact Sheet (eit-hei.eu) - Institute of Technology Sligo

Pilot Project Fact Sheet (eit-hei.eu) – National University of Ireland, Galway

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https://enterprise-ireland.com/en

Tánaiste announces €6million investment in capital equipment for industry research

14 July 2021

The Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar TD has announced the successful applicants of the Capital Equipment Fund administered by Enterprise Ireland through the Technology Gateway and Technology Centre Programmes. 29 successful projects from across the third level sector have secured over €6million in funding to assist them in buying world-leading research equipment that will serve the Research and Development (R&D) needs of Irish industry.

The €6m fund will provide companies with access to critical, leading-edge equipment that will allow them to engage in R&D activities, pilot manufacturing capability for new products and process development, enhance technology validation and testing capabilities, test bed generation and enhanced training potential for key industry staff on emerging technologies in collaboration with the technology gateways and technology centres across Ireland.

The winners were selected through a rigorous evaluation process based on eligibility criteria for the call which included, but was not limited to, a strong track record of industry engagement, a significant industrial need for the new equipment, and space to service and maintain the equipment according to international standards.

Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar TD said:

"This €6m Capital Equipment Fund will give 29 projects across the country access to world-class research equipment, helping them test new products and ways of doing things. We hope to see some exciting new ideas and breakthroughs as a result. Great things happen when companies collaborate with third level institutions. Recent data show that companies which collaborate with our universities have double the turnover of those that don't. Third level institutions benefit too, by getting to work with creative, business-minded entrepreneurs, working on solutions to real life problems. Congratulations to all the successful applicants, I look forward to seeing the fruits of this collaborative effort."

Gearoid Mooney, Divisional Manager, Research & Innovation at Enterprise Ireland said:

"This important investment coupled with the support and expertise of our technology gateways and centres will enable Irish industry to pursue their own innovation agendas particularly on challenges where they don't have all of the resources "in house". The successful projects announced today will provide equipment that is essential to serving the R&D needs of Irish industry and may give them an opportunity to try important assets before they invest in them."

Notes to Editor

About Enterprise Ireland

Enterprise Ireland is the Irish State agency that works with Irish enterprises to help them start, grow, innovate and win export sales in global markets. Enterprise Ireland partners with entrepreneurs, Irish businesses, and the research and investment communities to develop Ireland's international trade,

innovation, leadership and competitiveness. In this way, we support sustainable economic growth and regional development, and help create and sustain employment in Ireland. www.enterprise-ireland.com

About the Technology Gateway Programme

16 technology gateways in ten institutes of technology and technological universities deliver innovation expertise to industry across Ireland. These gateways provide companies of all sizes with access to over 300 highly skilled and industrially focused researchers, together with specialist equipment and facilities.

Each technology gateway focuses on key technology areas aligned to industry needs. Companies all over Ireland are using technology gateways to develop new or better products and services and smarter ways of doing things.

About the Technology Centre Programme

The Technology Centre Programme is a joint initiative between Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland. It allows Irish companies and multinationals to work together on market-focused strategic R&D projects in collaboration with research institutions.

The technology centres in the programme are resourced by highly qualified researchers who provide a unique ecosystem for collaboration in areas identified by industry as being strategically important.

Over 300 member companies collaborate with the centres in the areas of analytics, dairy processing, food for health, learning technologies, manufacturing, materials, meat technology, microelectronics and pharmaceutical manufacturing.

Technology centres:

Promote growth and competitiveness through industry-led research collaboration Address technology opportunities and threats in the key industry sectors

Increase the levels of industry investment in R&D

Leverage investment in existing academic research capabilities and build critical mass in key sectors Facilitate and encourage collaboration between Indigenous and Foreign Direct Investment companies About the Capital Equipment call

Of 54 eligible applications reviewed, 29 have been approved for funding totalling €6,026,116. Funding was based on an extensive review process which looked at the number of companies that will benefit and the criticality of the equipment to servicing their R&D needs, how access to the equipment can be shared across the technology gateway and technology centres network and current capability gaps within the collaborative research system that can be alleviated by making this equipment available.

Successful applicants

Gateway / Centre	Description
Dairy Processing Technology Centre (DPTC) - UCD	Particle Track
Shannon Applied Biotechnology Centre (Shannon ABC) – Limerick IT	Supercritical Fluid Extraction
Telecommunications Software & Systems Group (TSSG) - Waterford IT	Botscan
MiCRA – TU Dublin	Multimode Microplate Reader
Nimbus - MTU-Cork	Cyber Range
Shannon Applied Biotechnology Centre (Shannon ABC) – Limerick IT	Controlled Environmental Lab
Pharmaceutical & Molecular Biotechnology Research Centre (PMBRC	Near Infrared Spectrometer
MCCI - Tyndall National Institute, Cork	Power Test System for High
Voltage	
Centre for Advanced Photonics & Process Analysis (CAPPA) – Cork IT	UV Raman and fluorescence
spectrograph	
Applied Polymer Technologies (APT) - Athlone IT Multilayer	Extrusion Line

South Eastern Applied Materials Research Centre (SEAM) - Waterford IT Micro x-ray

Fluorescence Analysis System

Applied Polymer Technologies (APT) - Athlone IT 2D Fourier Transform Infra

Red Microscope

South Eastern Applied Materials Research Centre (SEAM) - Waterford IT Coordinate

Measurement Machine

South Eastern Applied Materials Research Centre (SEAM) - Waterford IT White Light

Interferometer

Applied Polymer Technologies (APT) - Athlone IT Screw Driven Melt

Reactor

DPTC - Teagasc Automated FAME

Robotic System

MTI - Teagasc X-Ray Computed

Tomography Scanner

MiCRA – TU Dublin

Centre for Advanced Photonics & Process Analysis (CAPPA) – MTU Cork

Benchtop nuclear

magnetic resonance spectrometer

CREDIT- DkIT Environmental Test

Suite

CREST – TU Dublin Inverted Fluorescent

Microscope

Wireless Sensor & Applied Research (WiSAR) -Letterkenny IT 90GHz Anechoic

Chamber

CREST – TU Dublin Servo-hydraulic Testing

Machine

CREST – TU Dublin Weatherometer

FHI - Teagasc Sequencing System DPTC - UL Elemental Analysis

suite

CREDIT - DkIT Hemisphere Scanning

LiDAR

Precision Engineering, Materials & Manufacturing (PEM) - IT Sligo 5 Axis Milling Machine

Shannon ABC - MTU Tralee Environmental

Monitoring Suite

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https://enterprise-ireland.com/en

APC, an Irish pharmaceutical R&D company, unveils €25m investment and 120 jobs to accelerate development and manufacture of Covid Vaccines and Advanced Therapeutics 10th June 2021



Group Chief Executive Officer to APC and VLE, Dr. Mark Barrett

- Manufacturing facility will have annual full-scale capacity for hundreds of millions of vaccine doses and other therapeutic doses
- Enterprise Ireland supports APC's continued growth welcomes creation of high value jobs and the strengthening of Ireland's position in the global value chain of vaccine development and manufacturing

APC Ltd, the award-winning Irish pharmaceutical research and development company, is investing €25M and creating 120 jobs through the formation of a 'Global Centre of Excellence for Vaccine and Advanced Therapeutic Research and Manufacturing'.

As a global 'medicine accelerator', APC's expanded facility will enable the rapid research and manufacture of vaccines, including Covid 19 vaccines, and other advanced therapeutics for rare diseases. It will provide supply chains nationally and across Europe with these vital medicines, positioning Ireland as a significant contributor on the international stage to the manufacture of Covid vaccines and other critical Advanced Therapeutics.

€8m of this investment involves the construction of an additional 12,000 sq. ft of laboratory space and associated research infrastructure at APC's existing 60,000 sq. ft headquarters in Cherrywood, Dublin. The expansion, which will be fully operational by the end of June 2021, will add 50 new highly skilled jobs to the existing team of 140 people, with roles in chemistry, biology, chemical engineering, analytical sciences coming on stream immediately, along with other various professional pharmaceutical positions. The expansion will support the research acceleration of Covid-19 vaccines and other Advanced Therapeutics.

At the same time, APC is also announcing a €17m investment in the creation of VLE Therapeutics Ltd. to focus on the manufacture of Vaccines and Advanced Therapeutics, including Cell and Gene Therapies. This will be the first Irish-owned facility expressly designed to provide Ireland and Europe with a local

supply chain for these critical medicines. Stage 1 of VLE will have a new manufacturing facility in place by the end of 2021, with an annual full-scale capacity of up to 50 million vaccine doses. Up to 70 new jobs are planned as part of this investment across manufacturing operations, supply chain, engineering, QA / QC, and regulatory.

Stage 2 of VLE's manufacturing capability will deliver a new bespoke 80,000 sq. ft manufacturing facility by the end of 2023. This facility will provide a world-class platform for the Drug Substance and Drug Product clinical and commercial manufacture of a wide range of Vaccines and Advanced Therapeutics with dose capacity in the hundreds of millions.

Enterprise Ireland is supporting the investment in APC's 'Global Centre of Excellence for Advanced Therapeutic and Vaccine Research and Manufacture'. Through the Covid-19 Products Scheme, Enterprise Ireland has supported APC's new research facility for the accelerated process development of vaccine candidates and new medicines. Enterprise Ireland is also providing strategic funding for APC's sister company VLE to manufacture advanced therapeutics and vaccines, including Covid-19 vaccines.

Established in 2011 by Dr Mark Barrett (CEO) and Professor Brian Glennon (CTO), APC combines its platform technology, ACHIEVE®, BioACHIEVE® and iACHIEVE©, and its globally recognised research team, to accelerate how drug and vaccine manufacturing processes are researched and developed. APC works with pharmaceutical and biotech companies globally on this medicine acceleration mission, with 80% of its activities export focused. The business is the largest employer in Ireland of PhD qualified chemical engineers and one of the country's largest employers of PhD-level scientists.

In 2020 APC, through the combination of IP and customers, spun out VLE Therapeutics to drive scientific and digital led manufacture of Vaccines and Advanced Therapeutics. In addition to Covid-19 vaccine research and manufacture, APC is currently working on 20+ medicines for a variety of cancers, respiratory diseases, Alzheimer's disease and HIV at its HQ in Dublin.

Taoiseach Michael Martin says: "APC's new Global Centre of Excellence positions Ireland as a key contributor to the research and manufacturing of Covid-19 vaccines and other critical Advanced Therapeutics. Today's investment will make APC the world's first 'Medicine Accelerator', a place where molecules get to market at record speed through science-led expertise combined with digital innovation. This is set to revolutionise how medicines are developed and delivered to patients.

The fact that this is all happening in Ireland, thanks to the work of a 100% Irish owned company, is testament to the wealth of talent and vision we have here in this country in the biotech and pharmaceutical space. It is remarkable to think that, thanks to APC and VLE, Ireland will shortly have the capacity to manufacture hundreds of millions of vaccine doses a year, a move that is set to be totally transformative not just for patients, but for the entire sector, at both a domestic and international level."

An Tánaiste Leo Varadkar says: "Ireland is already internationally recognised as a global hub for biopharmaceutical companies but this announcement will put us on the map as a significant producer of vaccines, including the lifesaving Covid-19 vaccine. Congratulations to the APC team on this expansion and €25m investment, which will create 120 new jobs in Cherrywood. Today's announcement is a testament to the success of the Government's Covid-19 Products Scheme, which is having a transformative impact on how Irish companies are delivering solutions to the pandemic."

Group Chief Executive Officer to APC and VLE, Dr. Mark Barrett says: "In development since July 2020, this €25M investment is a culmination of our ambition for an Irish company to stand tall and contribute, on both the national and global stage, to the development and manufacture of Covid Vaccines and other critical Advanced Therapeutics. Ireland is a global powerhouse for pharma manufacturing and we believe our technological advancements can work hand-in-hand with this track record to accelerate the development and manufacture of these critical vaccines and advanced therapeutics for people in Ireland,

Europe and around the world. We're also delighted to have a strong longstanding partnership with Enterprise Ireland and their investment was integral to this entire project."

Enterprise Ireland CEO Leo Clancy says: "From the start, Enterprise Ireland has supported APC's R&D and scaling agenda to become a global leader and a unique disruptor in the global pharma industry. APC has an exceptional track record, delivering game changing disruptive technology to the largest global pharma and biopharma companies in the world to optimise and accelerate the development and production of medicines, including vaccines. Today's announcement is hugely significant to deliver the next frontier of biopharma manufacturing, and further strengthens Ireland's position in the global value chain of vaccine development and manufacturing."

About APC

Through the development of innovative synthetic and biological processes, APC accelerates the delivery of high-quality, life-changing medicines to patients. These processes help reduce development time frames along with the costs and risk associated with the development of new medicines. Partnering with eight of the top 10 pharmaceutical companies and five of the top 10 biotech companies worldwide, APC works across a wide range of therapeutic areas.

About VLE

Powered by transformation research in APC, VLE Therapeutics Ltd was formed to extend the value chain and deliver science and digital led manufacturing of Vaccines and Advanced Therapeutics. As a separate company VLE aims to transform the time and cost associated to produce critical vaccines and biotherapeutic manufacture. VLE is led by COO Paul McCabe, formerly Site Leader for Alexion Pharmaceutical Biologics facility in Dublin.

For more information, visit www.approcess.com or e-mail innovate@approcess.com

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Chanelle Pharma expands operations to Ballinasloe

27th May 2021

€5 million investment to create 60 jobs over next 5 years

Chanelle Pharma today announced that it is to create 60 jobs in Ballinasloe over the next five years as the company expands its distribution and manufacturing operations in Ireland. Chanelle Pharma employs 570 people at its corporate HQ in Loughrea and also has offices and warehouses in Oranmore, Galway.

Initially, the company will relocate its Chanelle Pet distribution business from Loughrea to IDA Ireland's Business and Technology Park in Ballinasloe. Chanelle Pet is Ireland's leading pet food and pet accessories distributor, servicing pet, retail, veterinary and co-op markets in Ireland and the UK. It was recently named Pet Supplier of the Year by Tesco Ireland.

The €5 million investment by Chanelle Pharma in Ballinasloe will also see the company invest in warehousing and new manufacturing operations at the 65,000 sq ft facility. Chanelle Pharma will also convert the existing Chanelle Pet premises in Loughrea to a new 35,000 sq ft manufacturing facility.

Chanelle Pharma, which is privately owned by its founder Michael Burke, is Ireland's largest manufacturer of generic medicines for human and animal health, achieving sales of over €149 million to 30th April 2021, an 11% increase year-on-year. All growth is organic and the company has continually grown its business each year since 1985.

A leading pharma company with a heritage of innovation for over 35 years, Chanelle Pharma currently exports to 96 countries and supplies 10 of the top 12 human generic multinational companies in the world and 10 of the top 12 animal health multinational companies globally. Chanelle Pharma holds over 1,900 product licences for human health products worldwide and 3,500 product licences for animal health. Key markets include the EU, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Africa, the Middle East and the USA.

Tánaiste Leo Varadkar, TD said: "This is really great news. Chanelle Pharma is investing €5m and creating 60 new jobs over the next 5 years. This is a real boost to the local community and further evidence of the attractiveness of Ballinasloe as a place to invest. Congratulations to Michael Burke and the Chanelle Pharma team and the very best of luck with this exciting development".

Michael Burke, founder, Chanelle Pharma said; "Chanelle Pharma continues to grow and our Loughrea HQ is now at capacity. Despite the global pandemic we continue to see strong market demand for both our animal and human health products. Our future delivery pipeline is extensive and we are continuing to invest in and improve our manufacturing operations to further increase our delivery performance to our customers.

"We are delighted to make this investment in Ballinasloe and we look forward to making a positive contribution to the local economy and community".

Leo Clancy, CEO Enterprise Ireland said: "In the course of a remarkable career, Michael Burke has built a truly world class company in veterinary and human pharmaceuticals. The company's purpose-built facilities located on its Loughrea campus are a testimony to his vision and determination. Chanelle's

continued growth, driven through sustained investment in Research and Development, has generated hundreds of jobs for people in East Galway and beyond. Enterprise Ireland is delighted to see this further expansion of the company into Ballinasloe, a town that boasts a rich heritage of enterprise, and I wish Michael, his management team and all of the people in Chanelle, every success in this new chapter of their journey."

Martin Shanahan, CEO, IDA Ireland said: "Through its Property Division, IDA Ireland is constantly engaged with the property sector to market assets available across the country for commercial and industrial development. IDA's Property team have worked closely with our colleagues in Enterprise Ireland and Chanelle Pharma to secure this investment for the IDA Ireland's Business & Technology Park in Ballinasloe. Winning jobs and investment in regional locations is central to IDA Ireland's strategy. I want to wish Chanelle Pharma every success with this expansion".

Michael Burke said "Chanelle Pharma had no downtime as a result of Covid-19 due to the strict health and safety measures put in place. "We made extensive changes to our operations and all our employees bought into a zero-tolerance approach to Covid-19. It is a testament to everyone in our company that no production days were lost throughout the pandemic. This success is reflected in the strong pipeline for R&D pipeline also in of future orders from customers in Ireland and internationally".

Chanelle Pharma Key Facts

Chanelle Pharma is the largest Irish-owned manufacturer of generic pharmaceutical products in Ireland employing over 570 people at present.

Headquartered in Loughrea Co. Galway, the company was founded in 1985 by its owner and executive chairman, Michael H. Burke, a trained Veterinary Surgeon and commenced manufacturing with two staff. Chanelle Pharma is a trusted partner to the world's leading human generic and animal health multinationals and distributors in providing innovative and high quality medicines to market quickly and cost effectively.

Chanelle Pharma has over 3,000 animal health licenses registered in the EU – the largest number of registered veterinary licenses of any company in the EU; with 500 licences outside EU.

Chanelle Pharma holds over 1,900 product licences for human health products worldwide.

In 2020, Chanelle secured FDA approval for its Spot On Manufacturing Facility and entered the US Market.

Chanelle Pharma exports to over 96 countries worldwide, with key markets in EU, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Africa, the Middle East and the USA.

Chanelle Pharma supplies 10 of the top 12 multinationals in the world with both human and veterinary products.

All growth is organic and the company has continually grown its business each year since 1985. Chanelle's Headquarters in Loughrea is located on a 17.5 acre site and includes three manufacturing plants, four research and development centres, warehousing and office.

A fifth research and development laboratory in Amman, Jordan employs 55 people. ENDS

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Irish-invented material shows fastest magnetic switching ever recorded

27 May 2021

The record-breaking magnetic material could pave the way for a new generation of ultra-fast computers and data storage systems.

A material invented by researchers in Ireland has demonstrated the fastest magnetic switching ever recorded.

Researchers from the Centre for Research on Adaptive Nanostructures and Nanodevices (CRANN) and Trinity College Dublin (TCD) used femtosecond laser systems to switch and then re-switch the magnetic orientation of their material in trillionths of a second.

The demonstration proved to be six times faster than the previous record and a hundred times faster than the clock speed of a personal computer. The results are published in Physical Review Letters.

To continue go to Irish-invented material shows fastest magnetic switching ever recorded (siliconrepublic.com)

Article by:

Jenny Darmody is the deputy editor of Silicon Republic

Atlantic Bridge launches €80m fund for university spin-outs 12 May 2021

Investment firm Atlantic Bridge has launched its second University Bridge Fund with returning support from previous investors and a new university partner.

The €80m University Bridge Fund II will target funding at spin-outs from validated research at Irish universities.

Atlantic Bridge is specifically interested in funding the next generation of deep-tech companies across sectors such as AI, robotics, quantum computing, the internet of things and health-tech. It is also directing this fund towards companies addressing global issues such as energy efficiency, climate, sustainability, carbon reduction and healthcare.

Atlantic Bridge partner Dr Helen McBreen explained that this University Bridge Fund follows the success of the first such fund launched in 2016, "which is ranked in the top five collaborative funds globally".

To continue go to: https://www.siliconrepublic.com/innovation/atlantic-bridge-university-bridge-fund-research-spin-outs

Article by Elaine Burke is the editor of Silicon Republic editorial@siliconrepublic.com

Galway company Xerotech to develop battery safety tech for ESA

21 May 2021

The technology design the ESA will use from the battery manufacturer is a critical safety requirement for future space missions.

Galway-based battery systems manufacturer Xerotech is developing next-generation battery safety technology for the European Space Agency (ESA).

The ESA will use the company's passive propagation resistant (PPR) design, which could prevent single and multi-cell thermal runaway within a battery pack. It does this by using an ultra-lightweight fire-retardant structural foam.

To continue go to: Galway company Xerotech to develop battery safety tech for ESA (siliconrepublic.com)

Article by:

Jenny Darmody is the deputy editor of Silicon Republic

New facility to help researchers analyse Ireland's geological composition

23 June 2021

The research facility at Trinity will be open to researchers and other geological and environmental groups across the island.

Geological Survey Ireland and Trinity College Dublin are today (23 June) launching a new national facility providing state-of-the-art chemical analyses for geoscientists in Ireland.

The Earth Surface Research Laboratory (ESRL), which is based at the university, houses advanced facilities for the preparation and analysis of geological and environmental samples.

This includes two x-ray fluorescence spectrometers, which can determine elemental amounts down to trace concentrations. It will also have instruments for specifically measuring the levels of mercury in environmental samples, and an elemental analyser for quantifying organic and inorganic carbon.

To continue go to: New facility to help researchers analyse Ireland's geological composition (siliconrepublic.com)

Article by:

Sam Cox is a journalist at Silicon Republic covering sci-tech news

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How this pharma company is adopting hybrid working

MSD's Mark Nolan discusses how the pharma company is going hybrid and what businesses need to think about as the workplace evolves.

24 August 2021

When we think of remote or hybrid working, it's easy to picture office-based workers switching from a communal workspace to a desk at home. But what about companies that have staff working in labs and manufacturing?

The pandemic forced pharma companies all over the world to adapt to a certain type of remote working and staggered shifts in order to ensure a safe working environment. Now, these companies also have to think about what their organisation will look like in a post-pandemic world.

Pharma company MSD has several sites across Ireland, manufacturing medicines, vaccines, biological therapies and animal health products. Its HR lead for Ireland, Mark Nolan, spoke to Siliconrepublic.com about how working life changed for the company's staff, with the sudden shift to virtual engagement and adapting to changing protocols.

To continue go to: https://www.siliconrepublic.com/careers/hybrid-working-msd-pharma

Article by:

Jenny Darmody deputy editor of Silicon Republic

€7.9m to fund 80 research projects for enterprise and employers
25 August 2021

The funding will enable early-career researchers to work with organisations on projects ranging from lymphoma cells to maternity care for CF patients.

The Irish Research Council (IRC) has said that €7.9m will be invested in 80 research projects for enterprise and employers as part of its Enterprise Partnership Scheme and Employment-Based Postgraduate Programme.

The IRC typically partners with around 70 organisations each year, ranging from multinational corporations to SMEs, public-sector agencies and non-governmental organisations, to provide them with early-career researchers.

To continue go to: €7.9m to fund 80 research projects for enterprise and employers (siliconrepublic.com)

Article by:

Blathnaid O'Dea is Careers reporter at Silicon Republic

Irish students are winners at European young scientist contest

20 September 2021

Three young Irish students have taken home top prizes from the European Union Contest for Young Scientists.

Ireland's recent BT Young Scientist winners competed against more than 150 young scientists and came out on top.

EUCYS, the European Union Contest for Young Scientists, was hosted last weekend as a virtual event from Salamanca in Spain. Due to a pandemic-related postponement of the 2020 event, both the 2020 and 2021 winners of the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition (BTYSTE) represented Ireland at the event.

To continue go to: https://www.siliconrepublic.com/innovation/eucys-european-union-young-scientist-contest

Article by:

Elaine Burke is the editor of Silicon Republic

€25.67m in 'transformation funding' to help develop Ireland's Tus

8 September 2021

Technological universities, including the recently established MTU and TU of the Shannon, will be aided in their future development.

The Higher Education Authority (HEA) has announced that it will provide €25.67m in 'transformation funding' to technological universities (TUs) across Ireland.

This funding will build on the €34.33m already allocated to TUs in 2020 as part of the Technological University Transformation Fund (TUTF).

The funds are designed to help higher education institutions progress to TU status and support new TUs in their post-establishment development.

To continue go to: https://www.siliconrepublic.com/innovation/hea-higher-education-funding-tu

Article by:

Blathnaid O'Dea is Careers reporter at Silicon Republic

Athlone and Limerick ITs amalgamate to form new TU for midlands region

16 July 2021

The establishment of a new technological university in the midlands, mid-west and Shannon region has been hailed as a 'transformational event'.

The midlands, mid-west and Shannon region is to get a new technological university (TU), which will replace the Athlone and Limerick Institutes of Technology.

The new Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands and Midwest will be established in place of the dissolved ITs, the Government has confirmed in an announcement earlier today (16 July).

To continue go to: https://www.siliconrepublic.com/innovation/midlands-mid-west-shannon-technological-university

Article by:

Blathnaid O'Dea is Careers reporter at Silicon Republic

6 September 2021

Irish higher education to see €38m capital and equipment investment

Minister Simon Harris said the funding would facilitate the return of students to campus and support longer-term projects.

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris, TD, has announced that the Government is making a €38m investment in Ireland's third-level institutions.

The funding will go towards a number of areas related to the reopening of college campuses, including "minor works and equipment" needed to facilitate the return of students, the provision of laptops and other equipment for disadvantaged students, and health and safety works.

Money will also be put into infrastructure to facilitate the additional third-level places being provided this year to cope with increased student demand.

To continue go to: https://www.siliconrepublic.com/innovation/38m-higher-education-investment-harris

Article by:

Jack Kennedy is a freelance journalist based in Dublin

Research clusters key to Ireland's higher education performance – HERG report

3 September 2021

A report by an advisory group to the Department of Higher Education recommends more of a focus on collaborative research clusters between enterprise and academia.

A report on the impact of public investment in research and innovation in higher education has been published by the Higher Education Research Group (HERG).

The report, released today (3 September), also contains recommendations on measures the Government should implement to foster new and existing research clusters and collaborations.

To continue go to: https://www.siliconrepublic.com/innovation/higher-education-research-policy-ireland-report

Article by:

Blathnaid O'Dea is Careers reporter at Silicon Republic

Advion



RCSI finds saliva test for Covid almost as accurate as throat and nose swab

8 September

The saliva test could offer a less intrusive form of screening for Covid-19.

Testing for Covid-19 could become much simpler, as research from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) found that a PCR test using saliva is almost as accurate as the standard nose and throat swab.

The research focused on the SalivaDirect sampling method, which was developed by the Yale School of Public Health and authorised for emergency use by the US Food and Drug Administration. The RCSI study was published in HRB Open Research.

Researchers collected samples through the standard nasal and throat swab method, as well as saliva samples from more than 300 symptomatic and asymptomatic participants. This ranged from asymptomatic RCSI students to patients who had been admitted to Beaumont Hospital with respiratory symptoms.

To continue go to: https://www.siliconrepublic.com/innovation/rcsi-covid-19-saliva-test

Article by:

Sam Cox is a journalist at Silicon Republic covering sci-tech news

UCD research may predict severity of Covid-19 from blood tests

22 July 2021

By using machine learning to analyse routine blood tests, researchers were able to predict how ill a patient with Covid-19 is likely to become.

New research from University College Dublin (UCD) could help practitioners predict the severity of a patient's Covid-19 illness and better allocate medical resources where they're needed.

In a paper, published in Frontiers in Medicine, researchers described using blood tests and a machine learning algorithm to predict which Covid-19 patients were likely to suffer severe symptoms.

To continue go to: https://www.siliconrepublic.com/innovation/risk-score-blood-tests-ucd-severity-covid-19

Article by:

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31 August 2021

TU of the Shannon first president appointed ahead of opening

Vincent Cunnane, formerly of Limerick IT and IT Sligo, will commence his new role in October when TU of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest opens.

The first president of the new Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest has been named as Prof Vincent Cunnane, the outgoing president of Limerick Institute of Technology.

Cunnane will take up the position as president of the new TU when it opens its doors to students in October.

Cunnane's appointment was announced today (31 August) by the Minister for Further and Higher Education Simon Harris, TD. He was selected for the position by the governing bodies of Athlone and Limerick Institutes of Technology as part of an open competitive process.

To continue go to: https://www.siliconrepublic.com/innovation/tu-shannon-midlands-midwest-appointed-vincent-cunnane

Article by:

Blathnaid O'Dea is Careers reporter at Silicon Republic

UL team helps create new molecule to bypass computer bottlenecks

1 September

The Limerick researchers are excited about their discovery as devices made with the new molecule 'show all the hallmarks of brain computing'.

A research team at the University of Limerick (UL) played a key part in the development of a new molecule which could be used to speed up decision-making in computers.

This development has the potential to save energy and form a new type of computer architecture. The UL team anticipates major implications for fields from finance to bioinformatics.

Damien Thompson is a professor in physics at UL and leads a research team in predictive materials design at the Bernal Institute. Using the Irish Centre for High-End Computing supercomputer, this team

To Continue go to: https://www.siliconrepublic.com/machines/new-molecule-faster-computing-bernal-institute

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