



The Elixir

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See also: www.tcd.ie/pharmacy/

Welcome Statement by the Chair

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our first Newsletter from the School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, Trinity College Dublin.

As many of you will know, over the past 30 years we have educated generations of community pharmacists, clinical pharmacists and pharmaceutical industry leaders who now work in Ireland and worldwide. This is still of utmost importance to us, through the education of the many bright and talented under-graduate and post-graduate students registered in our School today. We also take great pride in the achievements of our alumni, as your success is also a measure of our educational achievement!

For the students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of our School, here we have collated a Newsletter which we hope you will find informative and enjoyable.

We plan to circulate updates quarterly and we would very much welcome your input to each issue.

Best wishes,
Marek

Prof. Marek W. Radomski, MD, FTCD, DHC
Chair of Pharmacology (1979) and Head of School
School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Trinity College Dublin



FACULTY

Head of School & Chair in Pharmacology
Prof. Marek Radomski

Ms. Catriona Bradley, Boots Teacher Practitioner

Dr. Deirdre D'Arcy, Lecturer

Dr. Carsten Ehrhardt, Senior Lecturer

Dr. Neil Frankish, Lecturer

Dr. John Gilmer, Lecturer

Dr. Andrew Harkin, Lecturer

Dr. Anne Marie Healy, Senior Lecturer

Dr. Martin Henman, Senior Lecturer

Mrs. Ingrid Hook, Senior Lecturer

Dr. Mariusz Kamionka, Research Lecturer
(Merrion Pharmaceuticals, Ltd.)

Dr. Carlos Medina, Lecturer

Prof. Mary Meegan, Assoc. Professor

Dr. Lorraine O'Driscoll, Lecturer

Ms. Cecily Roche, Teacher Practitioner

Ms. Sheila Ryder, Lecturer

Dr. Astrid Sasse, Lecturer

Dr. Helen Sheridan, Lecturer

Dr. Fabio de Sousa Menezes, Lecturer

Dr. Lidia Tajber, Lecturer

Dr. John Walsh, Lecturer

Dr. John Quigley, Lecturer

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Additional Faculty Information

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Dr. John Walsh

Senior Freshman

Dr. John Quigley

Junior Sophister

Dr. John Quigley

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Dr. Deirdre D'Arcy

Undergraduate Research Liaison Officer

Dr. Carlos Medina

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M.Sc. in Hospital Pharmacy

Ms. Niamh McMahon

Diploma/M.Sc. Pharmaceutical Analysis

Dr. John Clancy

Diploma/M.Sc. Pharmaceutical Technology

Dr. Carsten Ehrhardt

Diploma/M.Sc. Community Pharmacy

Ms. Sheila Ryder

Diploma/M.Sc. in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Technology

School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences Researchers contribute to the latest bioscience technologies in biopharmaceuticals, drug development and medical devices

On the 12th March 2009, Trinity Research and Innovation showcased a selection of the latest exciting bioscience technologies developed by TCD researchers at an event in the Science Gallery. Examples of the bioscience technologies selected for showcasing included work by **Dr. John Walsh, Dr. John Gilmer and Dr. Anne Marie Healy** from the School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences.

In summary, Dr John Walsh and his team are developing new drugs for the treatment of cancer. As Dr. Walsh explains, novel inhibitors aim to limit the rapid growth of primary tumours in addition to restricting the development of distant metastases. Drugs that inhibit tumour growth target the dividing endothelial cells that form the growing blood vessels, in effect starving the tumour of the blood and nutrients required for growth.

Meanwhile Dr. John Gilmer and his research group have developed a safer form of aspirin 'Safeprin', designed to reduce contact between the drug and the intestinal lining, thus reducing toxicity and allowing safer entry into the bloodstream.

Finally, Dr. Anne Marie Healy's research group is developing a novel particle engineering technology to produce Nanoporous Microparticles (NPMPs), which have potential for improving the efficiency of drug delivery in the treatment of respiratory tract diseases, such as asthma.

School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences Postgraduate Research Symposium

The School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Postgraduate Research Symposium took place on December 16th 2008. 10 of our postgraduate students who have progressed to the PhD register delivered presentations on their research projects to date and discussed their future plans. The symposium got off to a lively start with presentations from The Radomski laboratory including Maria Jose Santos who presented on the "Nanobalance", a novel method for the measurement of flow-induced platelet activation, Joanna McCarthy, who presented her project on the effect of Nanoparticles on Ion Fluxes in Calu-3 cells and Aneta Radziwon who spoke about the role of platelets in carcinogenesis with a particular focus on apoptosis. Next up were presentations from the Gilmer research group with Jun Wang who presented on the design of barbiturate-based gelatinase selective inhibitors and Ruchika Sharma who described her project on the effects of ursodeoxycholic acid and derivatives on the golgi apparatus. The Meegan group was represented by Wei Shi who discussed his work to date on the design, synthesis and pH stability of novel pyrazole 1,4-dihydropyridines and studies of their anti-proliferative properties on breast cancer cell lines. Paul O'Byrne (con-joint supervised by Gilmer and Walsh) and Orla Woods from the Walsh laboratory on the development and characteriza-

potential antidepressant prodrug and an *in vitro* and *in vivo* evaluation of novel compounds as potential mast cell stabilisers. Presentations from the Harkin group completed the afternoon's symposium with presentations from Lorna Gleeson on the establishment of an *in vivo* model of excitotoxicity to test anti-depressants for putative neuroprotective properties and Natacha Van Attou-Saifoudine who described her project on mechanisms mediating the ability of caffeine to exacerbate the toxicity of MDMA ("Ecstasy").

The symposium was a showcase for the wealth and diversity of current research in the School and was attended by fellow post-graduate students, staff and research collaborators. Given the success of this event, the symposium will continue as an on-going postgraduate activity in the School to foster communication of our research activities.

Our thanks to the Post Graduate Student Committee and Catherine Coffey for organising the event.

By Dr. Andrew Harkin
Director of Postgraduate Teaching and Learning

Back row (left to right):

Aneta Radziwon, Lorna Gleeson, Wei Shi, Natacha Van Attou-Saifoudine, Jun Wang, Ruchika Sharma, Paul O'Byrne

Front row (left to right):

Joanna McCarthy, Maria Jose Santos, Orla Woods





Entrance Exhibition Awards

The School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences is still attracting the brightest & the best!

62 of the students awarded TCD's Entrance Exhibition in 2008 registered for Junior Freshman in our School



Greetings from Canada



Joanna McCarthy, a Ph.D. student and member of Prof. Radomski's research team, is performing some of her research studies in the University of Alberta. Joanna has taken time out to tell us about her experience to date.....

At present, I am spending just over four months working on my PhD studies in Prof Marek Duszyk's laboratory in the Department of Physiology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada. My time here is becoming an invaluable experience due to the fact that I am based in a laboratory which is renowned for its expertise in Cystic Fibrosis, epithelial Ion Channels as well as Patch-Clamp and other electro-physiological techniques which are pivotal for my PhD studies. The University of Alberta is Canada's third largest academic institution with over 37,000 students. It is one of the top research centres in Canada, and home to such prominent institutions as the Nanotechnology Institute, Alberta Diabetes Institute or Membrane Protein Research Group. Aside from research, U of A encourages commercial networking; 71 active companies spun off from U of A research, employing approximately 1,100 people in the area. There is a lovely atmosphere around campus, which you notice immediately upon arrival. I live in a student accommodation on campus called

Hub Residence. It is a fantastic place for students to live as it is full of restaurants and coffee shops, so company is never far away.

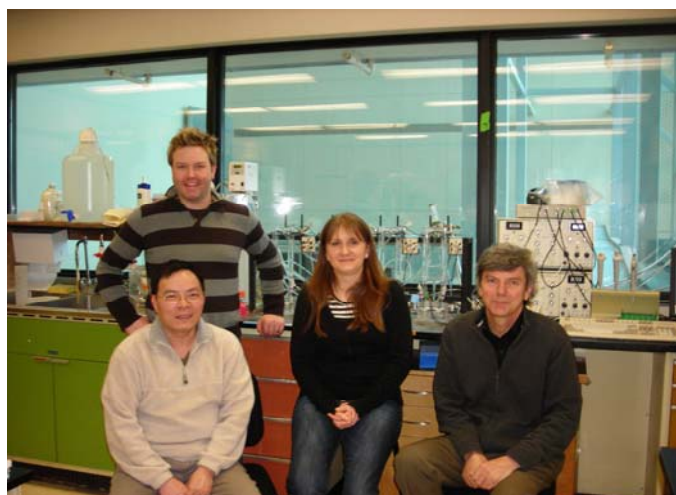
"My time here is becoming an invaluable experience due to the fact that I am based in a laboratory which is renowned for its expertise in Cystic Fibrosis"

Edmontonians are a friendly, multicultural and unique mix of individuals. There is a remarkable rivalry between Edmonton and Calgary (a nearby, 300km away city). They proudly label themselves as the capital of Alberta, the gateway to the North. Edmonton reminds me very

much of a typical North American City with its expansive urban terrain that is larger than Chicago or Toronto. Winter sports are very popular here, filling up the countless, long winter nights. Edmonton is home to the National Hockey League with the home team bearing the name the "Oilers", who are the fiercest competitor to the Calgary's "Flames. Edmonton has one of the world's largest shopping malls – West Edmonton Mall - which has over 800 stores and has an estimated length of 48 city blocks.

The weather here is the topic of every daily conversation, and is definitely something to get use too. It is a continental climate with extreme seasonal temperatures ranging between -30C (getting up to -50 with wind chill factor) and +30C. I don't miss the rain in Ireland but snow loses its novelty quite quickly too! In May I will take a trip to Jasper and Banff National Parks to experience the Canadian Wilderness and the Rocky Mountains. I will also attend the American Thoracic Society Conference in San Diego, CA to present a poster presentation - a little bit of sunshine will be well deserved by then I'm sure!

Best wishes,
Joanna



UofA Lab (L to R): Mr Drew Nahirney, Dr Alex Gong, Joanna McCarthy and Prof Marek Duszyk.

The role of DUPSA in Student Representation, Discuss!

The one thing that comes to mind during the recent discussions with the PSI is who represents pharmacy students and to what extent. The PSI are the regulator, and so are not there to hold our hands as we complete the course. However, they have recognised that we, the current students, and the pharmacists of the future are a vital stakeholder. The PSI are commissioning reports, and committees are investigating how best to proceed with pharmacy education. The education of pharmacists in ten years time will be vastly different from our education. The current consensus is that a five year degree, with integrated placements will replace the current four plus one system. It is logical that the students of the three colleges are the best to comment on the deficiencies of the current system, and how to make improvements. Indeed Aston University are carrying out a review of pharmacy education, and will be consulting the current and past students of pharmacy in the country. The PSI does recognise us in a professional manner for the particular views and perspective we can bring. The PSI has co-opted students to committees and is in regular contact with the fourth year class reps.

During the recent discussion on the issue of the pre-registration fee and payment dates, the PSI met with the current class reps of the three schools. However in effect, the fourth year class reps were representing, not only the fourth year class, but also the third year class who had also paid the preliminary fee. This begs the question, should

we have? No one in either class would begrudge the jobs that the class reps did, we fought hard for the concessions we achieved, and the PSI have fully embraced us as equals working together to overcome the potential crisis in pre-registration places this year. However in my opinion there are representative bodies of the three schools that are already in place, and could be easily utilised to ensure proper and full representation of the entire student body, each and every year, not depending on the class reps commitment or schedule. The time is now. We need to become more involved to ensure that the relations and communication between the students and the regulator are continued in a structured fashion. The body in Trinity best placed to do this is DUPSA.

DUPSA with appropriate modifications to the structure could and should represent the interests of all the pharmacy students of this college. DUPSA is appropriately placed being elected by the students, or a majority of them, having a budget from the CSC, a

permanent constitution within which it must operate, and having a society room. We are a small school, and the students union are not interested in our needs. With the majority of students facing fees, and poor employment opportunities, we are seen as lucky and many may begrudge the good employment prospects we will have for the rest of our lives. The time has come for DUPSA to do more than hold wine receptions and host a soccer league but to become the student stakeholder in representations to the media, school and the regulator, the PSI. It is with deep regret, that in my tenure, we were unable to achieve this. The society already does, to an extent, by organising talks with interested parties such as 'Pharmacyone' the IPU and others, participate in the professional relationship of students and other bodies. However this role should be enshrined and developed further, and not just be about wine receptions.

As someone that has been involved with DUPSA and is currently class rep I think I am in an appropriate position to propose this. The committee of DUPSA should be extended to include one class rep 'advisor' or officer. This could be done by arrangement with the class reps when elected in Michaelmas term. One class Rep. from each class should be included on the committee. The society should try to forge permanent relations with the societies in UCC Cork, and the RCSI. These relations should be the norm, and should not depend on the personalities of who is in each society each year.

The next few years will be important for pharmacy education, and the PSI have made it clear that it is only through communication and involvement of the students that we, all can change pharmacy for the better of our profession and the people of Ireland. The changes made will set pharmacy education in Ireland for the next century. It is important that the students of all colleges communicate with each other, and with the regulatory and other representative bodies, for the betterment of their members. It is now up to the current DUPSA, and those proposing to run for the committee of 2009-2010 to advance this cause within Trinity, and forge relations between the colleges. With unity, and representation, we the students can take an active role in the profession we will enter upon graduation and completion of the pre-registration year and at the very least it will involve appropriate 'networking' between the students of the three schools!

"We need to become more involved to ensure that the relations and communication between the students and the regulator are continued in a structured fashion. The body in Trinity best placed to do this is DUPSA".

By Diarmaid Semple
Senior Sophister Class Rep.,
Former Deputy President of DUPSA (2008-2009)

Undergraduate Teaching and Learning: News from the Director's Desk

We are in the last term of the current academic year and students will soon be gearing up for the end-of-year examinations.

It has been a busy year on the Undergraduate front. I would like to thank all the class representatives for their tremendous contributions throughout the year, particularly on the B.Sc. (Pharm.) Course Management Committee.

We are now in the second year of our new modular degree programme. The introduction of any new programme is never easy and credit must go to staff and students for coping so well with the change.

Some issues that will be of direct relevance to the undergraduate students, which have been discussed at Course Management Committee meetings during the year, are:

Semesterisation: The academic year structure will change, commencing in 2009/10, from the current structure, where we have three teaching terms, to what is essentially a two-semester structure. Teaching in the first twelve-week long semester (which will still be called "Michaelmas Term") will begin on 28th September 2009. There will be a four week break between semesters with Hilary Term (second semester) commencing on 18th January 2010. No teaching will take place in Trinity Term which will begin, directly after Hilary Term, with two revision weeks before the exams commence.

Change to Scholarship examination: In line with the changes to the academic year structure, the Scholarship examination will take in early January next year, between the Michaelmas and Hilary Terms. It will remain open to Senior Freshman students but successful students will no longer be exempt from the annual examinations.

Broad curriculum: As of the 2009/10 academic year all courses must facilitate students who wish to take a Broad Curriculum course (see http://www.tcd.ie/Broad_Curriculum/ for details of the Broad Curriculum). In this regard the decision was made to allow the second year module, PH2007 (Professional Development

and Career Planning) to be substituted for a Broad Curriculum course, for any student who wishes to do so.

Final year project: The new course will hit the Senior Sophister year in 2010/2011. In that year the SS project will take on a new format. It will be of four weeks duration and will be held at the start of the first semester. The project will be written up as a short research article and each student will also be asked to make an oral presentation on their project. Where a student has undertaken an approved (in advance by the School) research placement of at least four weeks duration in the summer between SF and JS or JS and SS, they may be exempted from undertaking the practical component of the project, but are still expected to produce a project write-up and do a presentation.

The above are just some of the issues discussed at the CMC and other meetings (*e.g.* School, Executive committee meetings). I would urge all students to keep themselves informed of what goes on in the School, at undergraduate level, by talking to their class representatives, tutors and lecturers and I would ask all class reps to ensure they disseminate information to their classmates.

Please remember also that the student forum exists to enable students to discuss issues of importance and/or concern to them in a less formal setting than some of the committees. Please make use of this forum if necessary and don't wait for the staff to call a student forum meeting – it is supposed to be student led.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the students every success in their studies over the duration of Trinity Term and in the exams that follow.

By Dr. Anne Marie Healy
Director of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning

Summer Research Placement Programme (SRPP)

What is the SRPP?

The SRPP is a programme, including Erasmus, which encourages pharmacy students to carry out their research projects over the summer at another University, as part of their undergraduate degree programme. The proposed research at the host University will be performed over a minimum period of 8 weeks. When the research project has been completed, students will be asked to prepare a report - summarizing the research project which has been completed. This report should include an abstract, introduction, aim, material and methods, results, discussion, conclusions and most relevant references.

Who is eligible to participate in the SRPP?

All students from the second and the third year are eligible to apply for the SRPP. It is only possible to participate once in this programme. All applications will be assessed carefully by a short-listing Committee, who will make judgments at an early stage based on the overall marks and available places.

Places available

The School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, TCD, already has agreements in place with a number of Universities, including Montpellier (France), Marburg (Germany), LA California (USA), Edmonton (Canada). Our intention is to increase the involvement of our pharmacy students in the SRPP. We are very interested, therefore, in establishing agreements with more universities, such as Bath (England), Université Claude Bernard, Lyon (France) and Universidad de Navarra (Spain). In addition, the SRPP project can be performed in our School, as we will offer two places in-house.

For further information, please contact:

Dr. Carlos Medina
Undergraduate Research Liaison Officer

Concerns of the Irish Pharmacy Student.....

I believe, and I hope I do not come across as arrogant when I say this, that the concerns of a student pharmacist can be at times miles away from those of a typical undergraduate. Apart from the obvious social and economic stresses of college life, we have at the backs of our minds the nagging realisation that we are a few short years away from full professional life. The differences between these dual strains can become well defined in certain circumstances and one that immediately springs to mind is the question of summer work. Myself just one month back in Trinity, this is a particularly raw topic. I tried and failed over my four months off to secure a job in a pharmacy. Summer work is vital to any student, while we do not starve as the last generation did we still have our fair share of financial obligations, and these do extend beyond drinking whatever the members of 'The Panel' might tell you. Student pharmacists also have the added pressure of needing extensive experience before the time comes to apply for their pre-reg.

What's to be done? Most of the country's pharmacies are not part of a large chain and the sad fact is that nepotism is alive and well. A nephew, niece,

sister's brother-in-law will get a job before any student seeking experience. What about the faceless corporations? Boots provide an employment scheme. With 37 pharmacies in Ireland, they are the only chain that can realistically provide such a service. Hickey's, with 12, and McCabes, with 21, are simply too small. However, this year the Boots scheme was swamped by applications, my own included, and there will not be enough places to go around. But should the initiative be seized by the private sector? I don't believe so. The responsibility to educate the country's future pharmacists belongs only to the three schools of pharmacy. Other health science courses such as OT and physiotherapy have their college placement schemes. These courses, clearly, require far more practical experience and their students have different needs to us. At the same time, pharmacy is by no means a theoretical profession and the employment situation as it is, plainly speaking, is not up to scratch.

By Eanna Forde
DUPSA Vice President

What you should know about

Marek Radomski, Head of School

“Who is Marek Radomski”?

A highly-cited Polish-Canadian pharmacologist (www.isihighlycited.com). He worked both in academia and pharmaceutical industry in Poland, UK, Spain, Canada and USA. He taught undergraduate pharmacology and mentored many MSc and PhD students, as well as post-doctoral researchers. Presently is supervising five PhD students. Joined School of Pharmacy Trinity College Dublin in 2006 as Professor and Chair of Pharmacology. Served as Director of Research in School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and currently serves as Head of School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Trinity College Dublin.

Why did you choose to study medicine?

Originally, I wanted to be a journalist, but during the communist times during which I was raised in Poland, no journalist could freely express his/her views. I thought that as a medic. I would be allowed to do so.

How & why were you attracted to teaching and research?

I had very charismatic teachers such as Profs. R. Gryglewski and S. Moncada and I felt that teaching and research were “cool”.

What is the focus of your research & why is this important?

I am a pharmacologist all the way through..... I have always been interested in various aspects of drug development. Innovative classical pharmacology has revolutionized the treatment of human disease. Take for example, antibiotics, aspirin or lipid-lowering drugs; they really save lives! I love novel challenges and I have moved to various areas of research over the past years — from eicosanoids, nitric oxide, matrix metalloproteinases to nanomedicine. I am currently interested in nanopharmacology as I think it is yet another dimension of pharmacotherapy and therapeutics.

“There is nothing more rewarding than being defeated in scientific debate by your current or former students, with arguments that you taught them.....”

My constant love over the years has been thrombosis and platelet research.

You have experience in working internationally in both academic and private sector. How different is the research in these sectors and how they compliment each other?

In academia you have all the freedom to pursue even the most outlandish research ideas and little research money to do something about them; in industry there is little freedom and lots of research money..... This is why the two sectors should be closely working with each other. I truly hope to see this approach developing in Ireland.

What attracted you to Ireland? and to TCD?

Europe, people and the country. TCD campus is one of the most charming I know.

You have been incredible successful in your work to date. What is your achievement you are the most proud of?

My student and fellows. There is nothing more rewarding than being defeated in scientific debate by your current or former students with arguments that you taught them.....

When stranded on a desert island, you can request 3 items. What are they?

A glass of cool Sangria, sunscreen and personal jet to fly me to Barcelona for dinner in Villa Olympica with tapasitos, pescaditos, mariscos and Rioja

If you were to win the lotto tomorrow, what would you do with it?

If this was a lot of money, I would set up pharmaceutical research institute. If it was a few hundred thousand euro, I could buy an apartment close to Trinity College

If Brian Cowen, as Taoiseach, contacts you for advice, what would that be?

Resign, resign and once again resign

.....And finally, any advice/words-of-wisdom for SoPP students?

Research is real fun - ask Joanna, Aneta, Maria Jose or Jose!

What you should know about
Ingrid Hook, Former Head of School

“Who is Ingrid Hook”?

Ingrid Hook is an efficient, hard-working and honest teacher, researcher, mother and wife - with HR and administration abilities, and commitment to success in whatever she takes on in life.



Why did you choose to study pharmacy?

I was very conscious about the importance, relevance, and potential applications of plants and their derivatives. Botany offered little future/employment prospects; studying for a degree in medicine seemed too long and there were no plants on the curriculum, anyway.

So, Pharmacy was the optimal choice for me.

How & why were you attracted to teaching and research?

This really happened accidentally, not being able to practice pharmacy in the Republic of Ireland.

I am, however, a Hospital Pharmacist at heart.

What is the focus of your research & why is this important?

The focus of my research is plants and plant biotechnology; essential, because of their extensive uses and further potential applications in pharmacy and treatment of medical conditions.

You have dedicated a very significant amount of your working life to the School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, TCD. What attracted you to here? What made you stay?

Fate attracted me here; a good pension made me stay!

*“.....work hard academically....but
 don’t forget to keep fun in the
 balance!”*

You have been incredible successful in your work to date. What is your achievement you are the most proud of?

Being able to keep all balls in the air — home, children, research, teaching, *etc.*

Specifically in relation to the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, I’m proud to have achieved PSI accreditation for the 4 year B.Sc. Degree.

When stranded on a desert island, you can request 3 items. What are they?

1. photos of my family...and
2. a bottle of Dettol &
3. a sheet of tarpaulin

If you were to win the lotto tomorrow, what would you do with it?

I’d divide it among my children and husband.

If Brian Cowen, as Taoiseach, contacts you for advice, what would you tell him?

Recognise your enemies and have trustworthy administrators.

.....And finally, any advice/ words-of-wisdom for SoPP students?

Your professional life will be long and probably boring in comparison to your student days, so work hard academically....but don’t forget to keep fun in the balance!

31st Annual Research Meeting of the Schools of Pharmacy

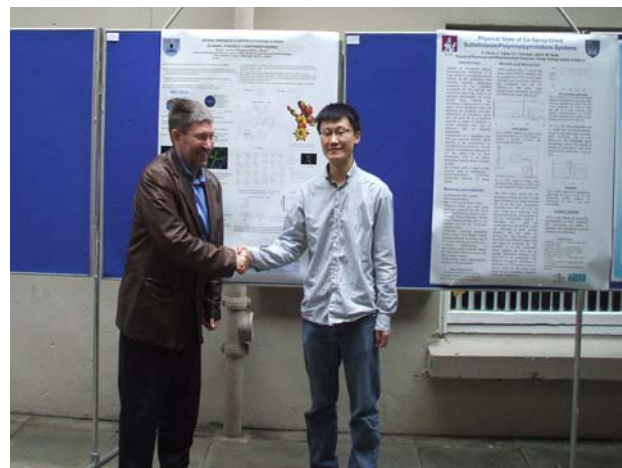
The 31st annual research meeting of the Schools of Pharmacy within Ireland was held in Trinity College Dublin (TCD) on March 26th and 27th. Each year this meeting provides an opportunity for postgraduate students working in the Schools to showcase their work in both oral and poster presentation format. Professor Marek Radomski, Head of the School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences in TCD opened the meeting with a welcome address to all of the participants. Delegates from Queen's University Belfast, University College Cork and the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin and the host TCD were in attendance. Overall, there were 15 oral communications and 40 posters showcasing high calibre research in

Pharmacy and the Pharmaceutical Sciences. Our congratulations go to all postgraduate students who participated. The best oral communication prize was awarded to Liesa Carson from Queen's University for her presentation on "The use of lytic bacteriophages in the prevention and eradication of *Proteus mirabilis* and *Escherichia coli* biofilms". The best poster prize was awarded to Wei Shi, TCD for his presentation on the "Design, synthesis & anti-proliferative studies of novel pyrazole 1,4 - dihydropyridines". The meeting was co-sponsored by the Irish Pharmacy Union, the Irish Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association and TCD.

By Dr. Andrew Harkin
Director of Postgraduate Teaching and Learning



Professor Marek Radomski presents Liesa Carson, QUB, with best oral communication award



Professor Marek Radomski presents Wei Shi, TCD, with best poster communication award

Of course, refreshment breaks encouraged much scientific debate.....



Welcome to the 5 Lecturers who joined our School in 2008



Dr. Carlos Medina was born in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain, Carlos Medina studied Medicine at University of La Laguna, Tenerife. From January 1996 to December 2000 he specialized in Gastroenterology at Vall d'Hebron Hospital in Barcelona. In December 2003 he defended his PhD entitled "Role of matrix metalloproteinases in experimental models of inflammatory bowel disease" at University of Barcelona. From 2004-2006 Carlos was a Spanish Ministry of Education post-doctoral fellow (MECD/Fulbright) working at the Institute of Molecular Medicine, University of Texas-Houston with Professor Marek W. Radomski. In November 2007 he was awarded with a SFI Stokes lectureship and in January 2008 he was appointed as Lecturer in Pharmacology, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Trinity College Dublin.



Dr. Astrid Sasse is a certified pharmacist who obtained her PhD in pharmaceutical chemistry from the Free University Berlin, Germany. She conducted post-doctoral studies funded by a Marie-Curie fellowship by the EC in molecular biology at INSERM in Paris, France and worked as a senior staff scientist at the Max-Planck Institute for Experimental Medicine in Goettingen, Germany, before joining Dublin City University in 2004. Since October 2008, she is a lecturer in Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the School of Pharmacy here at TCD.

Dr. Sasse's research is focused on the development of small ligands for G-Protein coupled receptors (*e.g.* histamine H3/H4 receptor), and the identification, localization, and pharmacological characterization of new receptor subtypes, as well as the genetic linkage of those receptors to psychiatric disorders.



Dr. Fabio Menezes, Brazilian/Portuguese, 37-yo, studied Pharmacy at Rio de Janeiro Federal University, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (1989-1992). In the same University he got his M.Sc. (1994) and his Ph.D. (1997) From February 1997 to February 1998, he was lecturer in the Department of Pharmacognosy, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In 1999 he became senior lecturer and in 2004 he became assistant professor and he came to Ireland for his sabbatical in 2006. In several years he was awarded with grants from FAPERJ, CNPq, CAPES and FINEP (Brazilian Governmental Agencies) being awarded with grants due to his scientific collaboration to the Brazilian Science. He serves as an *ad hoc* reviewer for several important journals. His research interests in Ireland are in the field of chemistry and pharmacology of medicinal plants, focusing on Irish, South American and Asian Plants, with special attention to different types of cancers and the activity of natural products from those plants.



Dr. Mariusz Kamionka. Biochemist by training. Before he arrived at TCD in Dec. 08, Mariusz studied and worked at universities in Krakow, Erlangen, Munich, Los Angeles, Lubeck & Cork.

Proteins are very special molecules. Just like humans: every protein is different and has its own character, behaviour and preferences. Due to their sensitivity proteins need very special individual treatment and care. There are more and more medicines or vaccines which are proteins, and yet there are not many pharmacists who are able to deal with them. On the other hand protein biochemists, like me, rarely have an experience in pharmaceutical work. The main idea of my project is to bring these two fields together. It is about how to use sophisticated biochemical methods to monitor and optimize pharmaceutical process of protein formulation.



Dr. Lorraine O'Driscoll B.Sc. (Hons.) Pharmacology, M.Sc. Pharmacology; Ph.D. Biotechnology. Since completing her PhD, Lorraine worked on biotechnology/biomedical research studies for industry (incl. Berlex, San Francisco; Archport Ltd./Diosynth, the Netherlands) before returning to academic research & teaching. At Post-Doctoral level, Lorraine gained research experience at the Diabetes Research Institute, University of Miami and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard University. Prior to joining the School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences as lecturer in Pharmacology in October 2008, she most recently held the position of Senior Research Programme Leader, NICB & lecturer in School of Biotechnology, DCU. Lorraine has supervised 7 PhD, 3 MD, 1 MCh students and 4 Post-Doctoral Fellows to completion. The output from her team's research has incl. I.P. protection; publications; and ICORG clinical trials, with generous funding support from Irish & European authorities incl. HRB, EI, SFI, HEA's PRTLTI and EU Framework Programmes.

Congratulations to the recently graduated Class of 2008



....But it's not all work.....!

The annual **Pharmacy Ball** was held in The Alexander Hotel on the 11th of February 2009. The DUPSA Committee decided upon an Oscar theme for the ball so after plenty of cutting, copying and pasting, the decorations and scandal sheet were ready. In no time the ball was upon us and 250 pharmacy students and 11 lecturers descended upon the Alexander. On arrival students received a drinks voucher and an opportunity to get a Boots photograph taken of them and their friends. We then all took our seats at the Hollywood Walk of Fame tables to enjoy the meal.

Dinner was followed by a few words from DUPSA president Lorcan Gormley and in true Oscar style an award ceremony with film-based categories. After all the Oscar statuettes had been distributed to their rightful owners, The Watershed band kicked off the entertainment and there was a surge of people to the dance floor. Unfortunately the end of the night came all too quickly and once again our annual Ball had come to an end. However a fantastic night was had by all. Can't wait for next year!!

By Aileen Kelly
Social Secretary, DUPSA



Junior Sophisters take Bonny Scotland by storm!

In the last weeks of Hilary term only one thing was on the minds of the Junior Sophisters. No it wasn't the Pharmaceutics exam or even the PoP dissertation; it was of course the annual Third Year Class Trip. After much deliberation, Edinburgh was decided as the lucky city to host us. So on Sunday the 8th of March, 56 of us descended on this beautiful city for three days of culture, craic, haggis and the occasional deep fried Mars Bar! Most had taken the sensible flying option, but three braved the bus and ferry journey. Once we had all found beds (and recovered from the seasickness), the rest of the evening was devoted to rest and relaxation in the hostel bar. Then we tackled the hills and cobbles (high heels not recommended!) and soaked up the best that Edinburgh's Sunday nightlife had to offer! On Monday, with the sun shining, we split up into groups; some hit the shops on Princes' street while others headed up to see the Pantheon. Then we met back up in the bar for a drinks reception and followed all the other students in the city to Why Not?

A full Scottish breakfast was needed on Tuesday morning and Biddy Mulligan's did not disappoint, although replacing the tea for Guinness was too much for most to stomach. To work all that off, those who had not

gotten the morning flight back home decided a long walk up the Royal Mile from Parliament to Edinburgh Castle was in order. The castle sits on top of an extinct volcano and is steeped in history. We went on a guided tour of the Castle demesne and heard all about its colourful past. We also saw the Scottish Crown Jewels and the oldest church in Scotland. Then on our way back down some of us tried our hands at the bagpipes, others went for kilt fittings and most sampled an infamous deep fried Mars Bar.

Our final night kicked off with a tour of the haunted underground vaults of the city. The tour was not lacking in fear and drama. One person was to be burnt as a witch, another few found themselves possessed by an ancient curse in a pagan temple. We finished off the night in good spirits in one of the vaults that had been made into the smallest bar we'd ever seen! So on Wednesday, we returned home, with only minor casualties to report. Edinburgh did not disappoint and plans are already underway for the next trip.

By Margaret Donnelly
JF School Convenor



...and Attention graduates from the Class of 2006!

A **"reunion" Pharmacy Ball** will be held on Saturday, 25th April, for graduates of the class of 2006. The ball will be hosted in Wynn's Hotel, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1. Tickets are priced €65-70 (depending on numbers).

It promises to be an evening of fun and frolics, with all class members (and guests) encouraged to attend. It will be a great opportunity for everyone to re-live the "good auld" days.

To register for the ball, simply log on to www.pharmacyball2009.tk.

....And welcoming baby Emma Rose Elizabeth Tewes

Frederic Tewes welcomes new addition: Emma Rose Elizabeth

Dr. Frederic Tewes was awarded his BS Degree in Biochemistry from the University of Orsay (France), his Master Degree in Pharmaceutics from Faculty of Chatenay Malabry (France), and his PhD from University of Angers in France in 2004. He spent five years serving as an Assistant Professor, a position that combines teaching and research in the French university. In August 2008, he moved to his current position as Research Fellow in Trinity College. His research, with Dr. Anne Marie Healy, is focused on the formulation of microparticles for the aerosol pulmonary administration of peptides.

On 29 Dec. 2008, Fredric and his wife Julie, became proud parents of baby Emma Rose Elizabeth, born at Dublin's Rotunda Hospital.



Life isn't always a walk in the park!

So it is nice to "chill out" at the end of the day....



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We hope you have enjoyed reading our first Newsletter, as much as we enjoyed preparing it!

A special word of thanks is due to the "Editorial Team", in particular Dr. Carsten Ehrhardt, Director of Research; Ms. Margaret Donnelly, JS School Convenor; Mr. Diarmaid Semple, SS Class Rep.; Mr. Stephen Buckley, Post-Graduate Student Rep.; and Dr. Vincent Caron, Post-Doctoral Rep. - for the time, energy and enthusiasm they invested. Thanks also to the many contributors of articles for inclusion and to Ms. Betty Daly for her many useful suggestions.

Our next Newsletter is planned for July, so if you have any suggestions of what you would like to see included, Class photographs taken over the years, etc., please do let us know by sending your comments/articles/photographs by post or e-mail to Lorraine O'Driscoll (lodrisc@tcd.ie).

Thank you !