Welcome to the latest issue of our Elixir Newsletter. As you will see, a lot has happened in 2015, with more to come before the year end no doubt!

Prof. Anne Marie Healy  
Head of School

Our new five year integrated pharmacy programme commenced this September and we look forward to providing updates on the progress of our new students as the programme rolls out.

In this newsletter we have highlighted some of the key achievements of our staff, our students and our alumni. We also point to some of the partnerships and collaborations we have cemented over the year - with our partner hospitals, other Schools of Pharmacy in Ireland and institutes overseas.

In this issue we also present an interview with Jack Kavanagh – one of our pharmacy students who suffered a life-changing accident a few years ago, but who hasn’t let his changed circumstances hold him back. Jack is an inspiration to all of us in the School and I’m sure you will find his words uplifting.

We will be holding our Annual Pharmacy Lecture in January 2016 and will be contacting our alumni with details very soon. We would be delighted to see you in attendance at this lecture or indeed at any other time that you might like to visit the School – our doors are always open!

I really hope you enjoy reading through this issue of the Elixir. If you have any news you’d like to share with friends and alumni of the School please get in touch.
SCHOOL NEWS

Trinity College Dublin’s School of Pharmacy and St James’s Hospital Forge Partnership to Foster Academic and Clinical Exchange

December 9th 2014

The School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Trinity College Dublin signed a partnership agreement with St James’s Hospital, Dublin, which will pave the way for greater synergies and collaboration between the two institutions in high quality clinical care, education and research.


Tallaght Hospital Formalises Pharmacy Education Links with Trinity College Dublin

September 1st 2015

An exciting new chapter in the long-standing relationship between Tallaght Hospital and Trinity College Dublin was signalled with the signing of a formal Memorandum of Understanding to further enhance the education and professional development links between both bodies. The development will see a strengthening of current arrangements between Tallaght and Trinity in the areas of undergraduate and post-graduate training, education, research and professional development in Pharmacy. The move will underpin Tallaght Hospital’s standing as an established leader in the provision of training and professional development within pharmacy, particularly at a time when the sector is facing significant change.


Affiliation for Pharmacy Practice Experiential Learning (APPEL)

September 21st 2015

The Affiliation for Pharmacy Practice Experiential Learning (APPEL) is a partnership between the School of Pharmacy, University College Cork - National University of Ireland (UCC), the School of Pharmacy, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), and the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Dublin, Trinity College (TCD). A consortium agreement to create APPEL was signed by representatives from the three Colleges on 21st September 2015 in Trinity College Dublin. For further information: http://pharmacy.tcd.ie/news/APPEL.php

Official Launch of the Five-Year Integrated Pharmacy

In December 2014 the Irish Minister for Health, with the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland (PSI), launched the new 5 year Master of Pharmacy Programme (MPPharm) with the goal of helping future pharmacists better meet the changing needs of the healthcare system. The new programme started this September 2015.

For further information: http://pharmacy.tcd.ie/news/official_launch_five-year_integrated_pharmacy_programme.php

Photographed (above) at the official launch of the integrated five-year programme in PSI House were representatives of the three Schools of Pharmacy in Ireland with the Minister for Health Leo Varadkar T.D., along with members of PSI Council and Registrar Marita Kinsella.
Jack Kavanagh, 2015/16 Junior Sophister Pharmacy Student

After successfully completing my first year of Pharmacy in Trinity I decided to go on holidays to Portugal with some friends before returning to my second year. On the first day we were on the beach where I ran down and dived into the water, like I had done so many times that summer as a lifeguard and beach lifeguard, only this time was different. My head hit the bottom; I felt a small click and my body went limp. I broke my neck.

In the first week after my injury, I remember lying in a hospital bed and miming to my friends through a mouthful of tubes, asking them to contact the Pharmacy department and let them know that I’d be a few weeks late getting back to college. I suppose there’s a lot to be said for the strength of some of the pharmaceuticals they put you on in intensive care.

I always believed that I would get back to college, because I knew that that was the first and most important step in regaining control of my life. Fast-forward a year, and the rehab and feeling sorry for myself part was done and as much to my amazement as everybody else’s I found myself back in Trinity, sitting through a physical chemistry lecture wondering if it was a good idea after all!

Returning to college was a bit of a roller-coaster with a lot of challenges. I definitely wasn’t ready for it physically and initially I was absolutely shattered all the time. I wasn’t really au fait with my situation and so things took so much longer than they should have. I was trying not so much to redefine myself, but instead to understand how I perceived myself, and in turn how that related to how others perceived me with my new circumstances. I was trying to figure out where and how I fit into the bigger picture and also just to get through each day. It was a steep learning curve but it was made so much easier by fantastic support from the college and from friends.

My return to college would’ve seemed like an insurmountable challenge had it not been for the support that I received from the various available services, primarily my tutor John Quigley and as an extension the whole Pharmacy department working together. Identifying potential obstacles before they arose was a crucial part of the process to streamlining my transition back to Pharmacy. As a result of this I feel the exact same as any other student and am treated and challenged as such. I think that says a lot about the willingness of the Pharmacy department to change with the times. I’ve finished my second year and I can happily say that this year went seamlessly for me. For the first time in the last two years I really feel in control again. I was also involved with DUPSA as the PRO this year which really allowed me to give something back. Coming back to college and being part of such a tight knit course has afforded me so much more than the opportunity to get a degree. It has challenged me in every possible way at exactly the right time. Like any other student it’s allowing me to figure out who I am and where I fit in. It’s given me the opportunity to have access to all that college and the city have to offer. Obviously I still face many challenges every day, but the open, warm and accepting atmosphere in Trinity has allowed me to face all these challenges knowing that I will be supported regardless of whether I succeed or fail. - Jack Kavanagh

In time Jack hopes also to gain access to some innovative treatments and procedures which could further enhance his mobility. For further information visit: http://www.jackkavanaghtrust.com/
SCHOOL RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Professor Anne Marie Healy is one of five Trinity researchers to be awarded a Science Foundation Ireland Investigator Award April 29th 2015

The Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation, Damien English TD announced funding for five Trinity College Dublin researchers through Science Foundation Ireland’s Investigators Programme. Trinity secured €4.7 million for five major research projects out of 23 awards. The SFI Investigator Programme aims to generate impact for Ireland, both societal and economic, through supporting world-class scientific research. The process for selection involved competitive peer review by 400 international scientists across a number of thematic areas of national and international importance. The call received a high application rate, with 131 proposals reviewed. The Trinity College Dublin recipients of the SFI Investigators Programme were:

Professor Anne Marie Healy, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Professor Seamus Martin, School of Genetics and Microbiology, Professor Michael Rowan, School of Medicine and TCIN, Dr Marco Ruffini, School of Computer Science and Statistics and CTVR and Professor Stefano Sanvito.

Professor Healy’s project, Development of Fixed Dose Combination Products using Advanced Pharmaceutical Processing Technologies, is being undertaken in collaboration with researchers in the School of Pharmacy, Queen’s University Belfast.

For further information: http://pharmacy.tcd.ie/news/Trinity_Researchers_Secure_SFI.php

Limitations with Carbon Nanotubes in Blood Facing Medical Devices Discovered January 19th 2015

Scientists in the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Trinity College Dublin, have made an important discovery about the safety issues of using carbon nanotubes as biomaterials which come into contact with blood. The significance of their findings is reflected in their paper which was published as the feature story and front page cover of the international, peer-reviewed journal Nanomedicine.

One hope has been that carbon nanotubes, which are enormously important as potentially useful biomedical materials, might provide a solution to this challenge and this led the scientists from the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in collaboration with Trinity’s School of Chemistry and with colleagues from UCD and the University of Michigan in Ann Arbour to test the blood biocompatibility of carbon nanotubes.

Speaking about their findings, Professor Marek Radomski, Chair of Pharmacology, and the paper’s senior author said: “Our results bear significance for the design of blood-facing medical devices, surface-functionalised with nanoparticles or containing surface-shedding nanoparticles. We feel that the risk/benefit ratio with particular attention to blood compatibility should be carefully evaluated during the development of such devices. Furthermore, it is clear that non-functionalised carbon nanotubes both soluble and surface-bound are not blood-compatible”.

The paper is available here: http://www.nanomedjournal.com/article/S1549-9634(14)00415-8/fulltext

International Society for Extracellular Vesicles Conference in Washington D.C. April 28th 2015

Assoc. Prof. Lorraine O’Driscoll was an invited speaker at the International Society for Extracellular Vesicles conference in Washington D.C. where her “Meeting the Experts” talk (with two others) was filmed and also picked up by the science press. Please follow the link below for further information:

http://www.bioquicknews.com/node/2596
STAFF AWARDS

Assoc. Prof. John Walsh awarded a Dean’s Award for Innovation in Teaching July 2015

The landscape of university education is constantly shifting and so teaching innovations are essential to support effective teaching and learning. Trinity College’s Strategic Plan outlines areas of future growth for the College, including distance and online education and an increasingly culturally diverse campus, the achievement of which will lead Trinity to a new era of university education. Within the health sector there is an increasing demand for interprofessional education and collaborative practice which in turn drives collaborative teaching and research within the Faculty.

The Dean of Health Sciences in 2015 launched the Dean’s Awards for Innovation in Teaching, which saw 16 applications from across the Faculty. Of the 16 applications 7 were successful. Award winners were spread across the four schools in the Faculty and represent a wide range of innovations. We look forward to seeing the outcomes of these innovations as they develop in the coming year.

John Walsh, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Virtually all microtubule disrupting agents in clinical use for the treatment of many forms of cancer are naturally occurring or semi-synthetic derivatives of nature-derived substances. The purpose of this online module is to present content spanning the chemical, biological to the clinical sciences. The presentation will place particular emphasis on the utilisation of interactive illustrations (e.g. click and reveal or mouseover) to display details for explanatory development “from bench to bedside” in an evidence-based format suitable for research-led teaching at University level. The unique feature of this module will be its multidisciplinary content spanning the chemical, biological to the clinical sciences. The presentation will encourage teaching staff to consider other approaches to course design, delivery and assessment.

Dr Tamasine Grimes and colleagues at Tallaght Hospital win the 2014 Inaugural HSE Open Access Research Award December 2014

The inaugural HSE Open Access Research Awards were presented on Friday, 12th December by HSE Director General, Mr Tony O’Brien. This award was established to recognise the efforts of healthcare professionals and those working in the health care system, who are engaged in research. Speaking at the awards Mr O’Brien paid tribute to the work of researchers in the health services, saying “Research has an important role to play in contributing to the ongoing development of our health services and to the development of professional practice. As has been highlighted by this award, the research-practice gap is being narrowed, and successfully bridged in many cases. I would like to thank all those who submitted their research for their hard work, dedication and professionalism.” The overall winner of the 2014 award was Dr Tamasine Grimes, a practising pharmacist at Tallaght Hospital, and Associate Professor at the School of Pharmacy in Trinity College Dublin. Dr Grimes’ research focuses on medication safety at care transitions and the development of the role of the clinical pharmacist. The winning publication, Collaborative pharmaceutical care in an Irish hospital: uncontrolled before-after study, was published in BMJ Quality & Safety. For further information, please follow the link below: http://www.healthsciences.tcd.ie/awards

Provost’s Teaching Awards 2014-2015

Recipients of the 2015 Provost’s Teaching Awards Trinity College Dublin were announced on 10th June 2015 at a ceremony in the Provost’s House. The Provost’s Teaching Award Scheme is designed to recognise and reward those who have made an outstanding contribution in the pursuit of teaching excellence. The prestige of the award reflects the value that Trinity places on promoting teaching as a scholarly activity and the importance placed on enriching the learning opportunities of its students. The scope of the initiative is broad, covering all aspects of teaching, learning and assessment, and seeks to:

- Reaffirm that curriculum development, teaching, learning, assessment and evaluation, are important activities in College requiring high level expertise
- Encourage teaching staff to reflect critically on their teaching practice

Huge congratulations to all the winners on receiving these prestigious awards but particularly the two academic staff members from our School - Asst. Prof. Sheila Ryder and Assoc. Prof. Cicely Roche!

Asst. Prof. Sheila Ryder, School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences

“Outstanding, hardworking, thorough, wonderful, helpful, all rounded lecturer who really has the best interests of the students at the focus of her teaching.”

Student nomination

Assoc. Prof. Cicely Roche, School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences (Early Career Award)

“I regard Cicely as a role model for Excellence in Teaching & Learning, and I’m confident that my own approach is richer by virtue of Cicely’s example and influence.”

Peer Nomination

STUDENT & ALUMNI NEWS

Best Oral Presentation September 2015

Congratulations to Dr. Vanesa Martínez who won the prize for best oral presentation by a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the 2015 Cancer Week’s Cancer Drug Discovery Day, hosted by Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute. Vanesa, who is a HRB, supported Researcher in Assoc. Prof Lorraine O’Driscoll’s research group, reported on her observations that neuromedin U drives immune evasion and cancer stem cell expansion in HER2-positive breast cancer.

TCD Senior Sophister Pharmacy Student Wins EAHP/EPSA Student Science Award March 2015

Congratulations to Claudine Aziz on winning the EAHP-EPSA Student Science Award. This award was presented at the EAHP Annual Congress in Hamburg, March 2015. Claudine’s work investigated “Compliance with the health information and quality authority of Ireland national standard for patient discharge summary information”, and was undertaken in Tallaght Hospital Dublin. Members of the research team include Evelyn Deasy, Tamasine Grimes and Cicely Roche.

Congratulations to our two new Scholars! April 2015

Following the announcement by the Provost at Front Square on Monday, April 13th 2015, The School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences would like to extend our sincerest congratulations to our two newest Scholars: Shauna Warren & Matthew Comer

The scholarship examination in January of the Senior Freshman year is a searching examination, set and assessed so as to select students of outstanding ability. The objective of the Foundation Scholarship examination is to identify students who can consistently demonstrate exceptional knowledge and understanding of their subjects. The examination requires candidates to demonstrate skills in synthesising and integrating knowledge across the full range of the set examination materials; rigorous and informed critical thought; and a highly-developed ability to solve problems and apply knowledge. Well done Shauna and Matt!
United Drug Sponsor our 2015/16 Junior Freshman Students September 2015

On Wednesday 30th September 2015 United Drug were in the School to distribute complementary lab coats to the Junior Freshman Pharmacy students. This is the fifth year that United Drug have sponsored the lab coats as a result of an in house marketing initiative. The students were thrilled to receive their free coats and they eagerly posed for a group photo. Dr. Astrid Sasse, Director of Teaching and Learning was delighted that once again United Drug kindly “kitted out” the students in their new coats.

The 2015 DUPSA Pharmacy Ball, February 2015

This year’s DUPSA Pharmacy Ball took place in the elegant Ballsbridge Hotel on Thursday the 19th of February. The theme of the night was Casino Royale. A great night was had by all!

Teva Pharmaceuticals honours TCD graduate and former Head of R&D, Dr. Fiona Millar March 2015

In 2013, Teva Pharmaceuticals marked the completion of their new pilot manufacturing facility and, recently, Teva Pharmaceuticals completed an extensive laboratory upgrade to support the manufacture and development of respiratory products for supply to the United States and other global markets. Teva Pharmaceuticals named this the ‘Millar Laboratory’ to honour the memory of a compassionate, dedicated pharmacist whose enthusiasm, knowledge, determination and expertise made a significant contribution to the growth and success of Teva Pharmaceuticals.

Fiona Millar graduated with a BSc. (Pharm) in 1987 and went on to combine her pre-registration training year with research in the Department of Pharmaceutics under the supervision of Prof Owen Corrigan. She became a member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland in 1988 and was awarded her PhD from Trinity in 1991. She joined Norton Pharmaceuticals (as it was then) in Waterford, in 1991, as Formulation Manager and stayed with the company as it transitioned from Norton Pharmaceuticals, to Ivax Pharmaceutical and then Teva Pharmaceuticals, heading up the companies R&D activities. On her marriage to Kevin Quaife in 2003, Fiona took up a position with the Health Products Regulatory Authority in Dublin. Their son, Sam, was born in March 2007. Sadly, after an illness borne with great dignity, Fiona passed away in December 2008.

On 6 March 2015, in honour of her daughter, Mrs Lynda Millar performed the official opening of the ‘Millar Laboratory’ at Teva Pharmaceuticals, Waterford.

The School of Pharmacy Welcomes Professor Fahmy from the Oman Assistant Pharmacy Institute February 2015

The Head of School, Professor Anne Marie Healy, was delighted to welcome Professor Moustafa Fahmy, Dean of the Oman Assistant Pharmacy Institute, to Trinity College on 17th and 18th February 2015. The purpose of the visit was to explore collaborative opportunities in both teaching and research.

Prof. Fahmy’s visit followed on from a visit to Oman the previous week by the Head of School, Assoc. Prof. Martin Henman (Practice of Pharmacy) and the Vice-President for Global Relations, Prof. Juliette Hussey. Following on from Professor Fahmy’s visit, in April 2015 Trinity College signed a Letter of Agreement with the Ministry of Health, Sultanate of Oman, to facilitate entry to the TCD Pharmacy programme in Trinity College Dublin for Oman Assistant Pharmacy Institute (OAPI) students. We welcomed the first Omani students to our School this September and wish them well in their studies.
Remember. The power of a legacy to Trinity

There’s an old saying that the true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade one does not expect to sit. When you leave a legacy to Trinity however big or small, you’re planting a tree which will grow to provide shelter to many. You’re empowering ground-breaking research which will benefit people in Ireland and all over the world. You’re supporting students from all backgrounds to access a Trinity education. You’re helping preserve our unique campus and heritage for new generations.

When you remember Trinity in your will, you join a tradition of giving that stretches back over 400 years – and reaches far into the future. For more information about leaving a Legacy to Trinity, please contact Eileen Punch.

T. +353 1 896 1714
E. carmen.leon@tcd.ie
www.tcd.ie/development

Get Involved

Trinity has a long tradition of outreach and community engagement. To find out about the numerous ways you can get involved with Trinity both at home and abroad, see www.tcd.ie/alumni/volunteer

Stay in touch

To stay connected with fellow alumni and your alma mater visit www.tcd.ie/alumni

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