



# The Elixir

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MAY 2011

See also: [www.tcd.ie/pharmacy/](http://www.tcd.ie/pharmacy/)

## Welcome Statement by the Chair

Dear Friends,

For us at Trinity, early spring was marked by Election time! Professor Patrick Prendergast has been elected to the office of Provost for the next 10 years. The task in front of Provost-elect is immense with dwindling resources and a huge budget deficit to tackle; to name only the two among a long list of difficult problems. We wish the incoming Provost every success in his new role.

I have been privileged to be re-elected as Head of School and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your trust invested in me. The task in front of us in the School is also challenging both in teaching and research. The Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland launched the National Pharmacy Forum with the appointment of Ms. Marion Shanley to oversee the transition of Irish undergraduate Pharmacy programmes to a five-year-long fully integrated Masters in Pharmacy.

A very positive development for research and teaching in our School is the move of a substantial part of our research operations to the Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute (cont. overleaf)



## FACULTY

### Head of School & Chair in Pharmacology

Prof. Marek Radomski

Dr. Catriona Bradley, Lecturer

Dr. Deirdre D'Arcy, Lecturer

Dr. Carsten Ehrhardt, Senior Lecturer

Dr. Neil Frankish, Lecturer

Dr. John Gilmer, Lecturer

Dr. Tamasine Grimes, Senior Lecturer

Dr. Andrew Harkin, Senior Lecturer

Dr. Anne Marie Healy, Senior Lecturer

Dr. Martin Henman, Senior Lecturer

Dr. Mariusz Kamionka, Research Lecturer

(Merrion Pharmaceuticals, Ltd.)

Dr. Maria Jose Santos-Martinez, Ussher Lecturer

Dr. Carlos Medina, Lecturer

Prof. Mary Meegan, Assoc. Professor

Dr. Lorraine O'Driscoll, Lecturer

Dr. John Quigley, Lecturer

Ms. Cicely Roche, Senior Lecturer

Ms. Sheila Ryder, Lecturer

Dr. Astrid Sasse, Lecturer

Dr. Helen Sheridan, Lecturer

Ms. Karen Sheridan, Boots Teacher Practitioner

Dr. Fabio de Sousa Menezes, Lecturer

Dr. Lidia Tajber, Lecturer

Dr. John Walsh, Lecturer

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*(Welcome Statement by the Chair cont.)*

Counting as always on your continuing support, to be opened in the next few weeks. A 550 m<sup>2</sup> state-of-the-art space will accommodate most of our investigators and graduate students, facilitating a welcome further consolidation and integration of research with each other in our School and with many other Trinity colleagues. The vacated space in the Panoz Institute can be modernised to make the teaching experience of Pharmacy students in our School even greater. In fact, we are now in the position of being able to hold all laboratory practicals entirely on our own premises.

In reality, the new teaching and research challenges cannot be met without appropriate resourcing. We are planning to initiate an energetic fundraising campaign to supplement for the huge shortfall of exchequer funds anticipated over the next five years. We hope all of our staff and all Friends of Trinity School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences in the country and worldwide will rally behind these efforts.

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 School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences  
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## Additional Faculty Information *(cont. from p1)*

### Directors

#### **Director of Teaching & Learning (Undergraduate)**

Dr. Anne Marie Healy

#### **Director of Teaching & Learning (Postgraduate)**

Dr. Andrew Harkin

#### **Director of Research**

Dr. Carsten Ehrhardt

#### **Disability Liaison Officer**

Dr. Helen Sheridan

#### **TAP Contact**

Dr. John Walsh

#### **Undergraduate Research Liaison Officer**

Dr. Carlos Medina

### Undergraduate Year Coordinators

#### **Junior Freshman**

Dr. John Walsh

#### **Senior Freshman**

Dr. John Quigley

#### **Junior Sophister**

Dr. John Quigley

#### **Senior Sophister**

Dr. Deirdre D'Arcy

### School & College Tutors

Dr. Andrew Harkin

Dr. John Quigley

Dr. Deirdre D'Arcy

Dr. John Walsh

Dr. Lorraine O'Driscoll

### Postgraduate Course Coordinators

#### **M.Sc. in Hospital Pharmacy**

Ms. Niamh McMahon

#### **Diploma/M.Sc. Pharmaceutical Analysis**

Dr. John Gilmer

#### **Diploma/M.Sc. Pharmaceutical Technology**

Dr. Lidia Tajber

#### **Diploma/M.Sc. Community Pharmacy**

Ms. Sheila Ryder

#### **Diploma/M.Sc. in Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Technology**

Ms. Lorna Loughrey

## Sponsorship granted by McLernon's Computers Ltd.

We are delighted to announce that McLernon's Computers Ltd. are supporting the on-going high level of training for Pharmacy students using state-of-the-art facilities.

This support, announced on 31<sup>st</sup> March, will be in the form of 12 networked high-specification PCs including MPS dispensary management system software, an EPOS till system and 5 year's of both hardware and software support — an investment valued at approximately €200,000.

We very much look forward to continued partnering with McLernon's Computers Ltd. in the future, ensuring that our School continues to offer the best training for Pharmacists in Ireland.



(L-R) Prof. Radomski (Head of School) with Mr. Robin Hanna, McLernon's Computers Ltd. at the launch of the sponsorship event.

(L-R) Dr. Anne Marie Healy (Director of Teaching & Learning (Undergraduate)); Prof. Radomski (Head of School), Mr. Robin Hanna, (McLernon's Computers Ltd.); Ms. Cicely Roche (Senior Lecturer, Practice of Pharmacy).



## Annual Prize-Giving Ceremony

The Annual Prize Giving Ceremony for the School of Pharmacy Pharmaceutical Sciences was held on the evening of Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December, after the B.Sc. (Pharm.) graduate ceremony, in the Science Gallery at TCD.

The prizewinners and their guests were joined by the Dean of the Health Sciences Faculty, Prof. Colm O'Morain, staff from the School and representatives from the sponsoring companies.

Prof. Radomski, Head of School, congratulated all the prize winners and commended them on their very high levels of achievement.

The prize winners were:

**Catherine Byrne:** Paul Higgins Memorial Prize, sponsored by Cahill May Roberts, for first place in Pharmaceutical Chemistry in the B.Sc. (Pharm.) Examination 2010 and Pfizer Healthcare Ltd. Prize for first place in Pharmacology in the B.Sc. (Pharm.) Examination 2010.

**Mary Lennon:** McNeil Ltd. Prize for 1st place in Practice of Pharmacy in B.Sc.(Pharm.) Examination 2010.

**Maeve McCarthy:** LEO Pharma prize for 1st place in Pharmaceuticals in B.Sc.(Pharm.) Examination 2010.

**Francis Moriarty:** GlaxoSmithKline Prize for 1st place in Pharmacognosy in B.Sc.(Pharm.) Examination 2010.

**Brian McNamara:** Pfizer Healthcare Ltd Prize for best overall performance in Junior Freshman (first year) Annual Examination 2010.

The School is very grateful to our sponsors for continuing to provide prizes in recognition of the academic success attained by our undergraduate students.

By Dr. Anne Marie Healy

*Our warmest congratulations to all*



(L-R): Ms. Catherine Byrne (award recipient), Mr. Damien McCormack, Prof. Mary Meegan



(L-R): Dr. Martin Henman, Ms. Mary Lennon (award recipient), Dr. David Hall



(L-R): Dr. Anne Marie Healy, Ms. Maeve McCarthy (award recipient)



(L-R): Ms. Catherine Byrne (award recipient again!), Prof. Marek Radomski



(L-R): Dr. John Walsh, Mr. Francis Moriarty (award recipient)



(L-R): Prof. Colm O'Morain, Prof. Marek Radomski, Mr. Brian McNamara (award recipient)



## Trinity College Dublin Fellows & Scholars honoured by the Provost

Congratulations to 4 of our colleagues who have been honoured recently as Fellows or Scholars of Trinity College Dublin.

These include **Prof. Mary Meegan (Fellow)**, **Dr. Andrew Harkin (Fellow)**, **Juliette O'Connell (Scholar)** and **Brian McNamara (Scholar)**

(L-R) Brian McNamara, Juliette O'Connell both Senior Freshman students, with Prof. Meegan (Fellow) and Dr. Harkin (Fellow) academic staff in the School attending the Provost's reception for New Scholars and Fellows on Trinity Monday.



*Sincerest congratulations to each and every one of you on your richly-deserved achievement*

## TCD Open Day: Pharmacy proves to be very popular, yet again!

Trinity College Open Day for students planning to start College in 2011 was held at the end of January. All final year students, mature students, guidance counsellors, teachers and parents were invited to attend.

This event included Information Stands for each undergraduate course (staffed by academic staff and current students) and for Admissions, Mature students, Accommodation, and Student sports and societies.

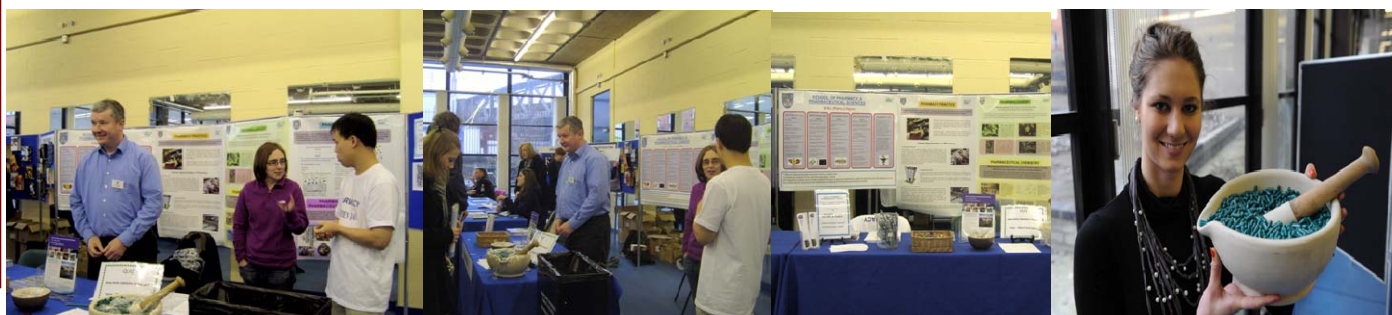
Presentations and mini-lectures covering: Trinity's undergraduate courses; student sports and societies; information on how to complete the Trinity College Supplementary Application Form for Mature Students; the Trinity Access Programmes; information about support services in College for students with disabilities; and a special series of presentations for teachers, guidance counsellors and parents.

Campus tours, laboratory tours and demonstrations, and tours of the Sports Centre and the libraries were organised for interested students.

The interest by students was reflected in the recently published 2011 CAO figures. Despite an overall 4% decrease in the human medicine sector, there has been an increase in first preference applications for TCD courses including medicine, 2%; physiotherapy, 10%; radiation therapy, 22%; and pharmacy, 34%.

*By Dr. Lorraine O'Driscoll  
(photographs courtesy of Ms. Betty Daly)*

**Photos below represent events of the day:** Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences Stand; Dr. John Walsh, Dr. Anne Marie Healy, Zoe Duncan (JF) and Sanghee Park (SS) answered questions posed by students and their parents .....



## Postgraduate Teaching and Learning News: Reports on Recent Events....

Despite the economic downturn, postgraduate activity within the School remains vibrant. This year we welcome many new recruits and congratulate those students who were recently confirmed on the PhD register. The School had a record high number of presenters at our recent postgraduate research symposium testament to the growing strength of postgraduate research activity in the School. For up to date details on postgraduate opportunities in the School check out our updated webpages on [www.pharmacy.tcd.ie/postgraduate](http://www.pharmacy.tcd.ie/postgraduate)

*By Dr. Andrew Harkin*

### Postgraduate Student Reception

The Postgraduate Reception was held in the School atrium on October 28th last. It was an opportunity for students and staff to welcome and meet with the incoming new entrant researchers at the beginning of the academic year. The reception was organised by the PG Research Committee. A large number of postgraduate students and postdoctoral and academic staff attended this first social event of the year and a thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all.

*By Yvonne McNamara*  
Chair, Postgraduate Student Research Committee

**Professor Marek Radomski (Head of School)  
with new entrant researchers in the School.**

*(L-R):* Andrew Byrne, Professor Radomski, Conor O'Shea, Stephany Micallef, Keith O'Brien, Shane O'Sullivan.

Absent from this photo are Dr. Hanan Elshelmani, Mary-Claire Kennedy & Eimear O'Dwyer.



*Also pictured at the reception .....*



*(left):* Members from Professor Mary Meegan's (pictured right from centre) research group who never like to miss a good party!

*(below):* Shu Wang, Sara Arfaei, Adrian Coogan, Yvonne McNamara, Gary Stack, Ekaterina Prokopiou





# Postgraduate Teaching and Learning News: Reports on Recent Events (*cont.*)

## Postgraduate Research Symposium

On January 21<sup>st</sup> 2011, our School and the AAPS Trinity Chapter co-sponsored the annual postgraduate student's research symposium. This event was an opportunity for the students who were already well advanced in their research projects to present their work. I had the honour of opening the event, by addressing the attendees on the formation, objectives and functions of our Chapter. This was a great opportunity to present the AAPS chapter, its visions, missions and values, as well as to facilitate networking and growth through increased membership.

By Mr. Vincent Curtin

Treasurer/Secretary of TCD's AAPS Student Chapter

As briefly outlined above, the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Annual Postgraduate Research Symposium took place on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011. 15 of our postgraduate students who have progressed to the PhD register delivered presentations on their research projects to date and discussed their future plans. Due to the unprecedented number of research presentations this year, the symposium was divided into two thematic sessions 1. Discovery of cancer chemotherapeutic agents and 2. Pharmaceutical technology and nanoscience in keeping with core research areas in the School.

The symposium got off to a lively start with presentations from The Walsh laboratory with Elaine Breen, Adrian Coogan, Brian Moran, Gary Stack and Ekatherine Propopiou presenting on various aspects of the synthesis and evaluation of novel anti-cancer drugs including innovative approaches to the design of pro- and hybrid drugs. These novel agents target tubulin, integrin and vascular angiogenesis for potential chemotherapeutic properties.

Shu Wang, Patrick Kelly and Billy Egan, all representing the Meegan research group, delivered presentations on the investigation of beta lactam as a scaffold for novel chemotherapeutic drugs in addition to the design, synthesis and evaluation of compounds

targeting ER with a view towards the development of novel agents for the treatment of hormone-dependent breast cancer. Gary Stack was awarded best presentation in this session and received a School prize sponsored by the PG student research committee. In the second session Anita Umerska, supervised by Dr. Lidia Tajber, delivered a presentation on the formulation and characterisation of hyaluronate nanoparticles for the delivery of peptides through biological barriers. Janani Swamninathan, from the Ehrhardt research group, further developed this theme with a description of her work to date on the development of liposomes for pulmonary delivery of peptides. Joanna Salomon & Elena Schwagerus, also from the Ehrhardt group, presented on the characterisation of drug transport systems and ion channels in respiratory epithelial cells. Maria Ines Amaro and Stefano Bioanco, both working under the supervision of Anne Marie Healy spoke about the optimisation of spray drying for the development of microparticles for pulmonary drug delivery. Finally Fenenc Majer, supervised by John Gilmer, completed the session with a presentation on new fluorescent bile acid tools for probing bile acid trafficking.

Once again this year 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.

Our thanks to the Post Graduate Student Committee, our Post-Doctoral jury, Catherine Coffey and Liesa Eckhardt for organising and participating in the event.

By Dr. Andrew Harkin

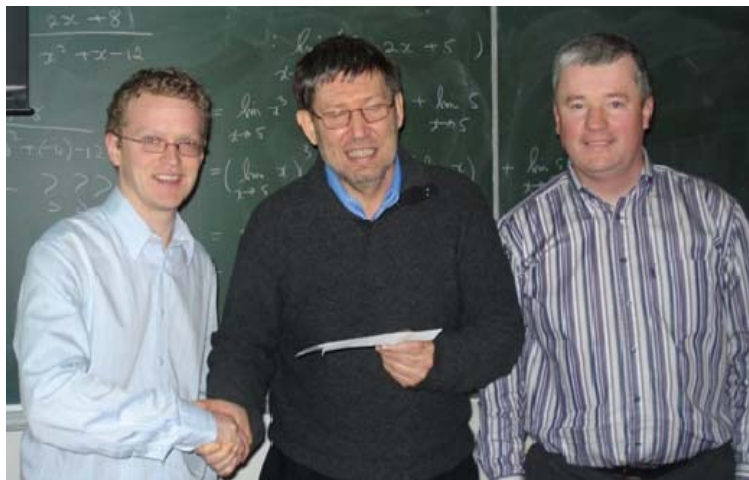


Back row (L-R): Adrian Coogan, Patrick Kelly, Brian Moran, Fenenc Majer, Stefano Bianco, Anita Umerska, Janani Swamninathan & Billy Egan  
Front row (L-R): Ekatherine Prokopiou, Gary Stack, Elena Schwagerus, Joanna Salomon, Elaine Breen, Shu Wang

## Postgraduate Teaching and Learning News: Reports on Recent Events (*cont.*)



### Postgraduate Research Symposium .....and the Winners are.....



(L-R) Gary Stack receiving the prize for best presentation at the "Chemotherapy session" from Prof. Radomski (Head of School). Dr. John Walsh (Supervisor) joins the here.



(L-R) Elena Schwagerus receiving the prize for best presentation at Pharmaceutical Technology session from Prof. Radomski.

## Some of the Postgraduate Student who have recently joined our School take time out to tell us what brought them to our School...

### Mary-Claire Kennedy:

Mary-Claire Kennedy B.Sc. Pharm (Hons) completed her primary degree in Pharmacy TCD in 2009 and subsequently undertook the National Pharmacy Internship Programme during the 2009/2010 academic year, dividing the practical experience element between a community pharmacy placement and research under the guidance of Dr. Martin Henman, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, TCD. In 2010 Mary-Claire made the decision to embark on a PhD undertaking full time research in the area of Pharmacy Practice.

"I am very privileged to have recently been selected to pursue a PhD under the auspices of the Health Research Board Scholars Programme established in 2007 to facilitate the development of research and management within the Irish health system. It is a joint initiative of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Trinity College Dublin and University College Cork.

The aim of the four year programme is to promote integrated healthcare: from research to policy to practice.



One of the unique features of the programme is the opportunity to complete a ten week placement at a health practice or policy organisation during the first year, and the opportunity to visit a prestigious international academic institution in the second or third year.

Dr. Martin Henman has very kindly agreed to supervise my PhD research. I am primarily interested in understanding the profession of pharmacy in the context of the Irish healthcare system and the potential for expanded roles for pharmacists in the primary care setting".



## Postgraduate Teaching and Learning News: Reports on Recent Events (*cont.*)

### Keith O'Brien:

My process of starting a Ph.D. in TCD began in Dublin City University (DCU) in 2006, when I was accepted for a position in the undergraduate program of Genetics and Cell Biology. Through this degree, I developed the fundamental attributes required to pursue a Ph.D in the cell biology field. Through an integrated training (INTRA) initiative in DCU, students have the opportunity to work in a related field for six months.

My six months was spent in Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) in Swords, where I was positioned as a quality assurance regulatory chemist, which entailed updating all testing standards used on site, and ensuring the correct shipping of APIs to markets that have been approved by the local regulatory authorities. Although my time spent in BMS was highly enjoyable, this was not a career I wanted to pursue, as I find a career in research more appealing. Throughout my undergraduate studies I developed a particular interest in the molecular biology of in the development, progression and treatment of cancers. My interest in this aspect of cell biology was reinforced in my final year when, during my 12-week project, I investigated apoptosis resistance in Epstein - Barr virus (EBV) positive B-Lymphocytes. It was through this laboratory experience that I finally decided that a Ph.D was something that I wanted to pursue.

Dr. Lorraine O'Driscoll had lectured to me in DCU and I was delighted that, following two rounds of interviews, during summer 2010 I was offered this

postgraduate position in the School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences under the supervision of Dr. Lorraine O'Driscoll and Prof. Marek Radomski.

My project is entitled: "Blood derived exosomes as naturally occurring delivery systems".

Exosomes are nanometer sized membrane bound vesicles that are expelled from cells to the extracellular environment. Through their ability to transmit signals, including RNAs (mRNAs, micro RNAs etc), proteins and cellular organelles, they act as chaperons for cell-to-cell communication. It is through this ability, they have been shown to affect the development and proliferation of numerous cancers.

My project sets out to investigate the potential relevance of exosomes as delivery vesicles, though initial characterization of the exosomes, to introducing foreign therapeutic short interfering RNAs (siRNAs), and micro RNAs (miRNAs) into the exosomes. While learning a range of new techniques, this project enables me to draw on my molecular biology research experience and GLP training in BMS. This project is funded by a School Pharmaceutical Research & Development Award with support from the Marie Keating Foundation; both for which I am very grateful.



### Conor O'Shea:

My undergraduate Degree is in Pharmacology and was received from the University of Dundee in 2008. My Final year project involved (photo) toxicity testing of anti-fungal medication linked with light induced sensitivities ranging from erythema to squamous cell carcinoma.



I then pursued a Masters Degree in Pharmaceutical Analysis here in Trinity where I was introduced to many novel analytical and chemical methods.

Dr. Cormac O'Donohue introduced me to dihydropyridines as potential adjuvant anti-cancer therapy and I studied these compounds as part of my MSc Thesis.

The opportunity to pursue a PhD under the supervision of Prof. Mary Meegan became apparent and, have been granted a School Postgraduate Research & Development Award I was eager to further my experience in both analytical and synthetic chemistry in the hope that my pharmacology background would come into play in the later stages of my PhD where, in effect, toxicity testing of a small library of personally developed compounds will be necessary.

Dihydropyridines have been developed, that have potential for the reduction of p-glycoprotein mediated efflux of anti-cancer compounds from the cell, whilst minimising their normal cardiac effects. These compounds therefore have potential therapeutic benefit in those who become resistant to mainstream anti-cancer treatment.

## Astellas Changing Tomorrow Award & PhD !

Dr. Eileen Relihan was awarded a PhD in Pharmacy Practice in January 2011. Her thesis, entitled 'The Design, Implementation, and Evaluation of a Medication Safety Programme in an Acute Irish Teaching Hospital', was undertaken under the supervision of Ms. Sheila Ryder and Prof Owen Corrigan from our School, as well as Dr. Bernard Silke (St. James's Hospital/TCD).

One of the initiatives undertaken for the PhD explored the topic of interruptions and distractions to nursing staff during medication rounds. Recently published studies have demonstrated quantitative evidence of an association between interruptions and medication administration errors. Although considerable research has been undertaken to quantify the volume and type of interruptions and distractions experienced on medication rounds, to date there had been very limited evaluation of the strategies introduced to address these phenomena. The objective of this project was to assess the value of a set of interventions (behaviour modification; staff education; a checklist; visual alerts; and signage) in reducing the rate of disruption to medication rounds. The implementation of this system resulted in a statistically significant reduction in the interruption/distraction rate experienced by nursing staff during medication administration in an acute hospital setting. This project won the leadership category of the Astellas Changing Tomorrow Awards held at the Royal College of Physicians on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

*Congratulations !*



Eileen Relihan (*left*) and Valerie O'Brien, Clinical Support Nurse, St. James Hospital in receipt of

## TEAMS Electronic Medication Reconciliation Tool Awards

Dr Tamasine Grimes and her colleagues in AMNCH, Tallaght won the Irish Times InterTrade Ireland Public Sector Innovation Award, presented on 4<sup>th</sup> March at the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham and were finalists in the Innovation category of the Astellas Changing Tomorrow Healthcare Awards presented on 31<sup>st</sup> January in the Royal College of Physicians in Dublin. The awards recognised collaborative work undertaken between the Pharmacy, Medicine, Surgery and Information & Communication Technology Departments in AMNCH, and the School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences and School of Medicine in TCD.

Recognition was given for the design, development and implementation of an electronic patient management system, TEAMS, including Ireland's first electronic medication reconciliation tool. The tool provides an accessible electronic platform to capture the patient's pre-admission medicines, reconcile them with the discharge list and ensure that no unintentional changes that could result in medication error are made. This information is made available to the patient, the community pharmacist, the GP and can be accessed via the internet at any time day or night. The innovation also facilitates electronic transmission of a detailed discharge summary and reconciled prescription to the patient's GP immediately on discharge. The system makes the patient's journey between healthcare professionals and across healthcare sectors smoother and safer.

This award brings recognition to the contribution made by pharmacists, as part of the multidisciplinary team, to enhancing patient and medication safety.



(L-R): Dr Joe Wiley, Medical Director, Astellas; Ms Kerry Ryder, Application Support Manager & Ms Niamh Murray, Database Administrator, AMNCH; Prof. Ian Graham, Prof. of Cardiovascular Medicine, TCD; Dr Tamasine Grimes, Research Pharmacist, AMNCH & Senior Lecturer, TCD; Patricia Kelly, General Manager, Astellas Pharma.

*By Dr. Tamasine Grimes*

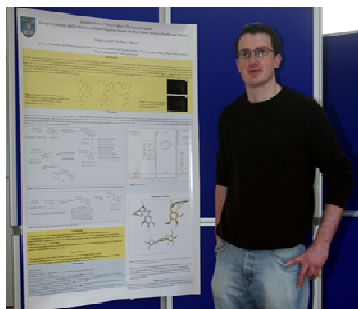
*Well done to all involved !*

## CSCB Symposium

### 'Recent Advances in Synthesis and Chemical Biology IV'

The CSCB (Centre for Synthesis and Chemical Biology) held its ninth annual symposium, 'Recent Advances in Synthesis and Chemical Biology IX', on Friday 10th December 2010, at the Davenport Hotel, Merrion Square, Dublin 2. Over 170 delegates attended the one-day meeting at which six international speakers had been invited to attend and give plenary lectures. Delegates travelled from Bangor University, Wales and Queen's University Belfast as well as Teagasc, NUI Galway, NUI Maynooth, Dublin Institute of Technology, Institute of Technology Tallaght, UCD, UCC, TCD and RCSI.

The scientific programme was organised by Professor Mathias Senge, Trinity College Dublin. The meeting was opened by Dr David Lloyd, Dean of Research, Trinity College Dublin and the speakers were Professor Itamar Willner (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel), Dr. Anne-Claude Gavin (EMBL, Heidelberg, Germany), Prof. Pierre Braunstein (Université Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg, France), Professor David O'Hagan (University of St. Andrews, St. Andrews, UK), Professor Reinhard Brückner (Universität Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany) and Professor Bernhard Kräutler, (Universität Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria).



Tadhg Cotter presenting his prize-winning poster

A poster session was held in the afternoon, at which over 70 posters were exhibited. Prizes were awarded to: **Tadhg Cotter**, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, TCD, for his poster '*Identification of Novel Cancer Chemotherapeutic Agents: Design, Synthesis and Evaluation of Dual Targeting Agents for Heat Shock Protein (Hsp90) and Tubulin*', Katalin Daragics, UCD, for her poster '*Synthesis of Orthogonally Protected Lipopolysaccharide Structures From *Neisseria meningitidis**' and Robin Daly, TCD, for his poster '*Novel Synthetic Glycoporphyrins for use as Photodynamic Therapy Agents*'.

By Prof. Mary Meegan

Congratulations Tadhg !

## Our School hosts Research Projects for TCD Medical Students

Our research laboratories have been buzzing with young medical students who were keen to get experience in a research environment and experience the broad range of work on-going in our School.

Over the past number of weeks, **Mohd Akmal Jamaludin** and **Rachel Rui Zhi Lim** have co-worked on a project entitled *Looking into Nanoparticle-Platelet Interactions*, under the supervision of Dr. Maria Santos-Martinez.

In Dr. John Walsh's laboratories, **Bopha Chrea** and **Orlando Silkstone-Carter** have been assessing *Nature's Antidepressant: Isolation and Structure Elucidation of Hyperforin from St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)*.

**Min Ho Jung**, **Modh Noor Adib Mohsin**, **Laura Powe** selected to co-assess H4 receptor, under the supervision of Dr. Astrid Sasse, on a project entitled *Investigating a Rare Single Nucleotide Polymorphism in the Histamine H4 Receptor Gene*.

**Sarah Barry** joined Dr. Lorraine O'Driscoll's research group to *investigate acquired resistance to targeted anti-cancer agents in HER2 breast cancer*, with day-to-day supervision by Post-Doctoral Fellow, Dr. Sweta Rani.

*Congratulations to Sarah whose poster illustrating this work was awarded  
Joint 1st Prize at the School of Medicine Research Poster Symposium*



# All Ireland Inter Schools of Pharmacy Research Meeting 2011

Following the success of last years meeting hosted by Queen's University Belfast the 2011 All-Ireland Schools of Pharmacy Research Seminar was keenly anticipated by the Pharmacy research community across the country. It fell to the Royal College of Surgeons to accommodate the 33<sup>rd</sup> such meeting and the organising committee can certainly be proud of their efforts. The meeting was particularly well attended with the numbers further bolstered by the attendance of a large contingent from the University of Ulster as their first time participating at the event.

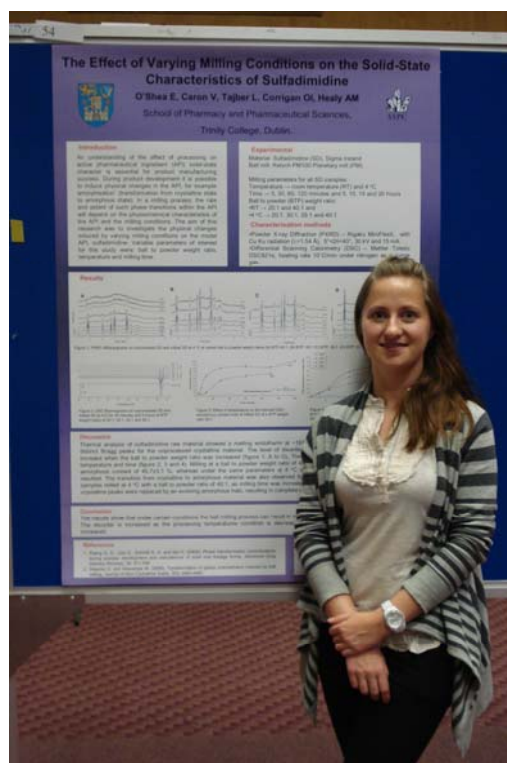
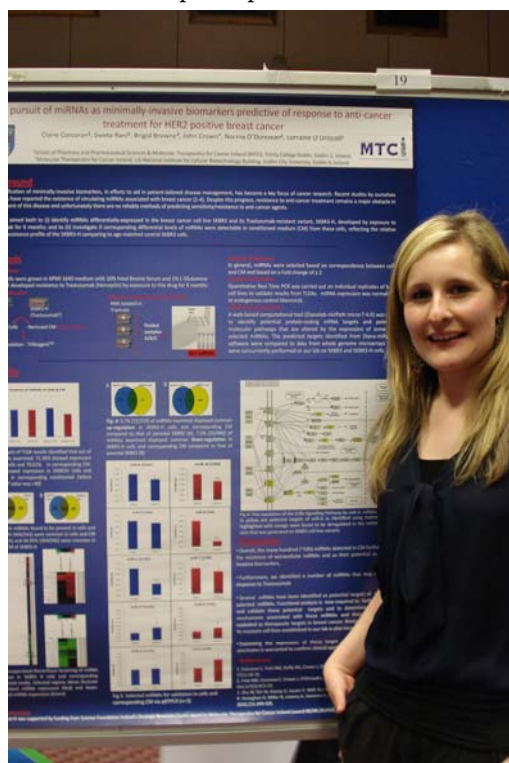
As is typical at the meeting, the principal focus was on the oral presentations. All the participating Schools were well represented; none more so than the TCD School and some very interesting research was presented. Although a number of TCD presenters made very strong attempts to claim the coveted best presentation accolade, the honour went to RCSI for a presentation entitled *Microbiological analysis of novel antibiotic loaded hydrogel for the treatment of chronic wound infections*. However it wasn't all over for TCD as our very own **Claire Corcoran** did us proud by claiming the best poster award for her presentation entitled *The pursuit of miRNAs as minimally-invasive biomarkers predictive of response to anti-cancer treatment for HER2 positive breast cancer*. In total there were sixty-seven posters on display showcasing work from across the diverse spectrum of research conducted in the Irish Schools of Pharmacy.

A noteworthy addition to the itinerary for the meeting was the Poster Data Blitz in which five poster presentations were selected for short oral presentations. **Katerina Prokopiou** and **Cathal Cadogan** again flew the flag for TCD and both could have laid legitimate claim to the award for best presentation in the Poster Data Blitz category however the judges ultimately chose from within the ranks of Queen's University Belfast for a poster and accompanying presentation entitled *Soluble polymeric microneedle arrays for enhanced intradermal delivery of a model antigen*.

By Gary Stack & Jennifer Rouine

**Claire Corcoran**, TCD, presenting her poster at the Inter Schools meeting.

Claire won best poster presentation overall.



**Evelyn O'Shea**, TCD, presenting her poster at the Inter Schools meeting also

## Other Visitors welcomed into our School included..... Eva-Maria Lippke, Pre-Reg. Pharmacy student

Following her Pharmacy studies at Frankfurt Univeristy, Eva-Maria Lippke joined Dr. Astrid Sasse's group, as part of her pre-reg. Here Eva-Maria reviews her time in Ireland.....

Thinking about a topic for this article was quite a task for me. What should I write? What would a stereotypical article of a student from abroad look like? I decided to scrape through the existing style of writing -

Starting with the first stereotype: *introduction*

My name is Eva-Maria Lippke. I finished my Pharmacy studies at Frankfurt University, and I am currently doing a research pre-reg at TCD for a six month period.

My supervisor for this placement is Dr. Astrid Sasse. Hence my lovely co-worker in this research group, Stephany Micallef, and I love to call ourselves "team histamine".



"Team Histamine" (L-R): Dr. Astrid Sasse, Eva-Maria, Stephany Micallef

I am working in the Chemistry lab. Gladly John Gilmer's and Mary J. Meegan's group welcomed me here. "Welcomed me here" might be interpreted widely. You see, for a woman, working in a lab with a bunch of guys can be quite hard. I could name all of them here but, as you might already know them, I will only tell you this: These people from lab 2.12, 2.14 and all the others are the loveliest co-workers I could have asked for. Besides being the target of so many jokes (about Germans, German women, women in general) everybody was willing to help me with problems concerning my project or life in Ireland in general. By this I covered cliché number 2: *mention your co-workers and adulate them.*



Good Chemistry !

Third cliché: *what I like about Dublin and Ireland*

It is the first time that I've stayed abroad this long. And I was looking forward to come to Ireland. I could write about all the lovely spots in Dublin I've seen so far, but as you all know your city, it would just bore you. I had the chance to travel a bit with wonderful Sara Arfaei from Iran and I was even more delighted with what was awaiting me outside Dublin.

Searching the internet for some ideas for this article I found this Irish folksong, an Irish man's dream, where it says:

*Sure I've roamed this wide world over  
But of all the lands I've seen  
There's no spot I'd rather dwell in  
Than my little isle of Green [..]*

And there is no more for me to add to this than: I fell in love with the Emerald Isle as well.

Last cliché: *knowledge I gained by living in Ireland*

Besides the knowledge about research work and organic synthesis I gained, there are some more facts I would like to mention

Irish people love their Guinness and not even the best German beer and the most passionate advertisement can change their minds and

All the English classes back at school won't be of any help to you when you're talking to someone from Cork

All this information I gave you here is just a small bit of the full picture of my stay here in Ireland.

At the end of this article I just tell you the one thing I am telling anyone back home:

I had the best pre-reg you could possibly have and I am really thankful for the interaction and support from lab colleagues.

By Eva-Maria Lippke

## **Other Visitors welcomed into our School.... included Caitriona Quinn, transition year student**

**Caitriona Quinn, from Maryfield College, joined Dr. O'Driscoll's laboratory to learn more about cancer research, as part of her Transition Year studies. Caitriona tells us here about her experience.....**



I have always loved science and was, therefore, absolutely delighted to get a work experience placement in Dr. O'Driscoll's laboratory in the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science at Trinity College Dublin. I really didn't know what to expect when I walked through the doors that first day. From the very beginning, the atmosphere in the laboratories was very welcoming and friendly. The researchers I was observing during my placement were involved in breast cancer research. I found it fascinating to see real research in progress.

The most valuable thing I got from the week was the chance to see what the everyday working in a laboratory really involves. It was totally different to what I expected. Cancer research takes a lot of work and commitment. Cutting-edge discoveries are not made every day; but that's ok. Real science isn't like that. Sometimes great progress is made; other times experiments don't work out as expected...but this is also good; as these unexpected results can sometimes lead to discoveries that could never have been imagined.

On a day-to-day basis, a lot of effort is invested into the repeating every experiment many times to ensure the accuracy of every result. That part is very time-consuming, but necessary; so as to not end up with misleading, meaningless data. A lot of patience and skill is required; but knowing that some of this work has actually translated directly to the clinic, to the benefit of real cancer patients, is hugely rewarding.

I also learned some of the language that is science – and it really is a different language! I now know my Western blots from my elution... and as for my deoxyribonucleic acid...

A big thank you to everyone in the O'Driscoll laboratory, who took time out to show me their cancer research work and its relevance. It was such a great experience from start to finish !

*By Caitriona Quinn*

## **....While Johanna Salomon headed off to Japan to experience research & culture !**

**ヒト呼吸上皮細胞における有機カチオントランスポーターの発現と機能解析**

**(Expression & activity analysis of organic cation transporters in human respiratory epithelial cells)**

**Johanna Salomon, who is supervised by Dr. Carsten Ehrhardt, reports.....**

Last summer I left Trinity College Dublin, Ireland to give my, so far ordinary!, PhD a touch of Japanese research and culture at Toyama, Japan....

...I first met my future host, Prof. Ken-ichi at the AAPS (American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists) Annual Meeting in Los Angeles in November 2009. I decided to stay in contact with him and to figure out how I could combine my investigations on drug transporter systems in human respiratory cell lines with Prof. Hosoya's research expertise focused on the kinetic analysis of drug uptake mechanisms at the blood-brain and blood-retina barriers.

Luckily, the academic exchange agreements between Trinity College Dublin and Toyama University were quickly signed (i.e. now you can go there, too) and I was ready to go.....and to land in Toyama (a Japanese small town with a population of 500,000 (!) located on the Western coast of the central island, Honshu, about 1 hour by plane from Tokyo).



## ....Johanna Salomon headed off to Japan to experience research & culture ! (cont.)

I easily settled into the lab and Toyama-city, due to the great Japanese kindness and hospitality. When not working in the lab, I lived in a small one-bed apartment directly on campus. Not only were my weekly shopping tours organised, but also lunch/dinner breaks and Japanese-themed lab parties.

Pretty fast I got used to Japanese cuisine (e.g., the daily bowl of rice, sushi, tempura, miso soup, and of course the use of chopsticks), the language (it was rather easy to pick up some useful phrases than to actually write my own name in Katakana), the culture (e.g., Buddhism, beliefs and traditions) and the working life, particularly in the lab.



Unlike Dr. Ehrhardt, Prof. Hosoya always worked from 9 am to 9 pm (usual Japanese working hours) and he was expecting good students to work at least as hard as he does (frequently, the students stayed until midnight). We had regular research seminars, journal clubs and presentations on Saturday mornings in Jenglish (a funny mixture between English words with Japanese sounds). This is only one example to show how Japanese people build their life around their work and not the other way around.



Johanna and her colleagues in Japan

At the end of August, the whole lab group, including Prof. Hosoya, his two assistant professors and me, went on a two-day trip to Gero-Onsen



(traditional Japanese hot spring) to experience traditional Japan, study (we drove to an animal farm to learn how to milk a cow) and get to know each other better (friendship!). In Japan, the studying is very important and ideally you finish by having a take-home message to keep in mind for further actions. You often find circles which when they once are opened need to be completed (e.g., business meetings finish very traditionally with special gestures).

In addition to my lab experiments I gave presentations and research seminars, took part in sport and social activities. But alas, it was still Japan (a country on the other side of the world), where I received an ALIEN registration card, people were staring at me ALL the time ...and some things just work the other way around (e.g., entering the bus). I experienced four months of Japanese life which kept me wondering every day (and smiling) until the end.

I finished my research project at the end of October, nevertheless, the collaboration between our School and Toyama University is still continuing. We next hope to welcome a Japanese student this year for a lot of German-Irish adventures.

I would like to thank my 2 bosses (Carsten Ehrhardt and Ken-ichi Hosoya) and my labmates in Dublin and Toyama for all their fantastic support throughout my journey. I am very pleased about this very exciting, mind-opening, inspiring, funny and incredible experience which is now part of my PhD.

Arigato gozaimashita!

By Johanna Salomon

## Many congratulations to Dr. Alan Gaffney

Sincere congratulations to **Dr. Alan Gaffney** who, during the first year of his PhD under the supervision of Prof. Marek Radomski, has published an important and timely review of extracorporeal life support.



This paper has been published in the high-impact (IF=13.66) journal, **BMJ** (British Medical Journal); a journal which aims to lead the debate on health and to engage, inform, and stimulate doctors, researchers, and other health professionals in ways that will improve outcomes for patients and help doctors to make better decisions.

*Congratulations on this great achievement !*

## and congratulations to Dr. Oliviero Gobbo



Dr. Oliviero Gobbo is no stranger to anyone who reads the “congratulations” section of The Elixir and, true to form, here he is again !

Arising from his research establishing that cortical networks are required for the formation of enduring associative memory, in February Oli published a seminal paper in **Science**.

For those who may not know, **Science** is the academic journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and is considered one of the world's most prestigious scientific journals. Its estimated readership is one million people and its impact factor is 29.747. ....Enough said ?!

*Sincerest congratulations Oli !*

## ... and also to Dr. Sweta Rani

Congratulations to **Dr. Sweta Rani** who has recent:

- ♦ published a book entitled “*Function of Beta Cell and Extracellular RNAs as Potential Biomarker: Defining beta cell function and elucidating extracellular RNAs as potential biomarkers*” by Dr. Sweta Rani, Dr. Lorraine O'Driscoll (authors); Lambert Academic Publishing.
- ♦ received an Irish Association for Cancer Research Award at the Annual IACR conference (2-4 March 2011) as her abstract was ranked within the top 10% of abstracts submitted....and she also won an iPad sponsored by the Irish Cancer Society as part of a competition seeking suggestions for how cancer research could be improved in Ireland.



*Sweta, very well done all round!*

## PUBLICATIONS FROM OUR SCHOOL

### (November 2010—February 2011)

- Nathwani SM, Butler S, Meegan MJ, Campiani G, Lawler M, Williams DC, Zisterer DM.** Dual targeting of tumour cells and host endothelial cells by novel microtubule-targeting agents, pyrrolo-1,5-benzoxazepines. *Cancer Chemother Pharmacol* **66**(3):585-596, 2010 **(2.654)**
- Friel AM, Corcoran C, Crown J, O'Driscoll L.** Relevance of circulating tumor cells, extracellular nucleic acids, and exosomes in breast cancer. *Breast Cancer Res Treat* **123**(3):613-625, 2010 **(4.696)**
- Sharma R, Majer F, Peta VK, Wang J, Keaveney R, Kelleher D, Long A, Gilmer JF.** Bile acid toxicity structure-activity relationships: Correlations between cell viability and lipophilicity in a panel of new and known bile acids using an oesophageal cell line (HET-1A). *Bioorg Med Chem* **18**(18):6886-6895, 2010 **(2.822)**
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- Buckley ST, Medina C, Ehrhardt C.** Differential susceptibility to epithelial-mesenchymal transition (EMT) of alveolar, bronchial and intestinal epithelial cells in vitro and the effect of angiotensin II receptor inhibition. *Cell Tissue Res* **342**(1):39-51, 2010 **(2.308)**
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- Stasiak P, Sznitowska M, Ehrhardt C, Luczyk-Juzwa M, Grieb P.** In vivo assessment of parenteral formulations of oligo(3-hydroxybutyric Acid) conjugates with the model compound Ibuprofen. *AAPS PharmSciTech* **11**(4):1636-1641, 2010 **(1.190)**
- Carr M, Greene LM, Knox AJ, Lloyd DG, Zisterer DM, Meegan MJ.** Lead identification of conformationally restricted  $\beta$ -lactam type combretastatin analogues: synthesis, antiproliferative activity and tubulin targeting effects. *Eur J Med Chem* **45**(12):5752-5766, 2010 **(3.269)**
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- Patton JS, Brain JD, Davies LA, Fiegel J, Gumbleton M, Kim KJ, Sakagami M, Vanbever R, Ehrhardt C.** The particle has landed--characterizing the fate of inhaled pharmaceuticals. *J Aerosol Med Pulm Drug Deliv* **23** Suppl 2:S71-87, 2010 **(1.824)**
- Grimes T, Duggan C, Delaney T.** Pharmacy services at admission and discharge in adult, acute, public hospitals in Ireland. *Int J Pharm Pract* **18**(6):346-352, 2010 **(n/a)**
- Vanattou-Saifoudine N, Gossen A, Harkin A.** A role for adenosine A(1) receptor blockade in the ability of caffeine to promote MDMA "Ecstasy"-induced striatal dopamine release. *Eur J Pharmacol* **650**(1):220-228, 2011 **(2.585)**
- Paluch KJ, Tajber L, McCabe T, O'Brien JE, Corrigan OI, Healy AM.** Preparation and solid state characterisation of chlorothiazide sodium intermolecular self-assembly suprastructure. *Eur J Pharm Sci* **41**(5):603-611, 2010 **(2.608)**
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## PUBLICATIONS FROM OUR SCHOOL (November 2010 - February 2011)

- Corcoran C, Friel AM, Duffy MJ, Crown J, O'Driscoll L.** Intracellular and extracellular microRNAs in breast cancer. *Clin Chem* **57**(1):18-32, 2011 **(6.263)**
- Sheridan H, Nestor C, O'Driscoll, Hook I.** Isolation, Structure Elucidation, and Cytotoxic Evaluation of Furanonaphthoquinones from in Vitro Plantlets and Cultures of *Streptocarpus dunii*. *J Nat Prod* **74** (1):82–85, 2011 **(3.159)**
- Paluch KJ, Tajber L, McCabe T, O'Brien JE, Corrigan OI, Healy AM.** Preparation and characterisation of novel chlorothiazide potassium solid-state salt forms: Intermolecular self assembly suprastructures. *Eur J Pharm Sci* **42**(3):220-229, 2011 **(2.608)**
- Ogáin ON, Li J, Tajber L, Corrigan OI, Healy AM.** Particle engineering of materials for oral inhalation by dry powder inhalers. I-Particles of sugar excipients (trehalose and raffinose) for protein delivery. *Int J Pharm* **405**(1-2):23-35, 2011 **(2.962)**
- Nolan LM, Li J, Tajber L, Corrigan OI, Healy AM.** Particle engineering of materials for oral inhalation by dry powder inhalers. II-Sodium cromoglicate. *Int J Pharm* **405**(1-2):36-46, 2011 **(2.962)**
- Byrne AJ, Barlow JW, Walsh JJ.** Synthesis and pharmacological evaluation of the individual stereoisomers of 3-[methyl(1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-2-naphthalenyl)amino]-1-indanone, a potent mast cell stabilising agent. *Bioorg Med Chem Lett* **21**(4):1191-1194, 2011 **(2.650)**
- Grimes TC, Duggan CA, Delaney TP, Graham IM, Conlon KC, Deasy E, Jago-Byrne MC, O' Brien P.** Medication details documented on hospital discharge: cross-sectional observational study of factors associated with medication non-reconciliation. *Br J Clin Pharmacol* **71**(3):449-457, 2011 **(3.246)**
- Kamionka M.** Engineering of Therapeutic Proteins Production in *Escherichia coli*. *Curr Pharm Biotechnol* **12**(2):268-274, 2011 **(3.404)**
- Sharma R, Prichard D, Majer F, Byrne AM, Kelleher D, Long A, Gilmer JF.** Ursodeoxycholic Acid Amides As Novel Glucocorticoid Receptor Modulators. *J Med Chem* **54**(1):122–130, 2011 **(4.802)**
- D'Arcy DM, Persoons T.** Mechanistic modelling and mechanistic monitoring: Simulation and shadow-graph imaging of particulate dissolution in the flow-through apparatus. *J Pharm Sci* **100**(3):1102-1115, 2011 **(2.906)**
- Buckley ST, Medina C, Kasper M, Ehrhardt C.** Interplay between RAGE, CD44 and focal adhesion molecules in epithelial-mesenchymal transition of alveolar epithelial cells. *Am J Physiol Lung Cell Mol Physiol* DOI: 10.1152/ajplung.00230.2010 [Epub ahead of print] **(4.043)**
- Bazou D, Martinez MJ, Medina C, Radomski MW.** Elucidation of flow-mediated tumour cell-induced platelet aggregation using an ultrasound standing wave trap. *Br J Pharmacol* DOI: 10.1111/j.1476-5381.2010.01182.x. [Epub ahead of print] **(5.204)**
- Salomon JJ, Ehrhardt C.** Nanoparticles attenuate P-glycoprotein/MDR1 function in A549 human alveolar epithelial cells. *Eur J Pharm Biopharm* DOI: 10.1016/j.ejpb.2010.11.009 [Epub ahead of print] **(3.151)**
- E Paszko, C Ehrhardt, MO Senge, DP Kelleher, JV Reynolds.** Nanodrug applications in photodynamic therapy. *Photodiagnosis Photodyn Ther* DOI: 10.1016/j.pdpdt.2010.12.001 [Epub ahead of print] **(n/a)**
- Lesburguères E, Gobbo OL, Alaux-Cantin S, Hambucken A, Trifilieff P, Bontempi B.** Early tagging of cortical networks is required for the formation of enduring associative memory. *Science* **331**(6019):924-8, 2011 **(29.747)**

Thanks to Dr. Carsten Ehrhardt who collated this list of our recent publications

## Seminar Series

As part of our on-going seminar series, organised by Dr. Ehrhardt and held on Friday's at noon, the past few months have included a number of interesting seminars (outlined below) from local and international presenters; giving rise to scholarly debate and further research collaborations.



"NO YOU CAN'T ASK A QUESTION."

Date	Name	Affiliation
27/09/2010	Andrew Gilbert	University of South Australia
08/10/2010	Mariusz Kamionka	TCD
15/10/2010	Juan Jose Corbalan Penas	TCD
22/10/2010	Stephen Wildhirt	Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen
12/11/2010	Marek Radomski	TCD
14/01/2011	Lorraine O'Driscoll	TCD
04/02/2011	Michael Gütschow	Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn
11/02/2011	Fabio de Sousa Menezes	TCD
18/02/2011	Ruth Kearney, Paul Coughlin	Innovation Academy
25/02/2011	Eileen Relihan	TCD
04/03/2011	Carlos Medina	TCD
25/03/2011	Grace O'Maille	Metabolom

## Marie Keating Foundation PhD Scholarships at Trinity College Dublin

Since the beginning of 2011, the Marie Keating Foundation is generously supporting 2 PhD Studentships in Trinity College Dublin.

As these are the inaugural PhD Studentships supported by the Marie Keating Foundation, we are privileged that these are based in Trinity College Dublin and, in particular, here in the School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences.



making cancer less frightening by enlightening

The Marie Keating Foundation aims to beat cancer through awareness, education and support services. Following the death of their mother from breast cancer in 1998, each member of the Keating family promised that they would do everything they could to bring an end to breast cancer. They committed to provide all women and their families with the necessary information to prevent cancer or detect it at its earliest stages.

Aligned with this vision, the PhD projects supported are aimed at:

- ♦ developing blood tests for earlier diagnosis & optimal treatment selection for breast cancer patients; and
- ♦ better ways of assessing anti-cancer drugs in the laboratory so as to increase their success for breast cancer patients

We are very grateful to the Marie Keating Foundation, its CEO Lillian McGovern, and its Board for their support of this cancer research and the training, to doctorate level, of young cancer researchers of tomorrow.

By Dr. Lorraine O'Driscoll

## And now for the Social & Personal ....

### TCD Chinese Alumni's Evening --- "1-Year Anniversary, Post-Christmas & New Year

The Chinese Alumni's Celebratory event was held in the Atrium of our School of our School on 21<sup>st</sup> January. Over 80 guests and friends joined with TCD Chinese Alumni members and Alumni Committee staff to enjoy the superb evening of food, drinks and entertainment & to share great memories from 2010.

This sparkling event was generously helped and supported by many individuals and organisations (including: The School of Pharmacy, TCD; TCD Association & Trust; Asia Market Ltd., Acapulco Mexican Restaurant, Crosscare Migrant Project, TCD-CSSA and Holliland Chinese Cake Shop, etc.).



As an official branch of Trinity Alumni Association, TCD Chinese Alumni was launched on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2009. Throughout the past year, TCD Chinese Alumni has forged a national reputation in Ireland.

A big fundraising draw in aid of TCD Chinese Alumni was held during the evening; 130 raffle tickets were sold out in an hour and all raffle prizes (approximately € 300) were from donations.

I, representing TCD Chinese Alumni Committee, would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for the continuous and generous support from everyone; we are deep grateful!

I look forward to keeping you up-dated on our future developments and continued success in the year ahead!



Happy Chinese New Year to you all, the Year of the Rabbit!!!

By Tao Zhang  
(Chairperson of TCD Chinese Alumni)



TCD Chinese Alumni Committee Members:

(L-R): Bin Wu, Hanging Zang, Eva Pau, Bo Liu, Tao Zhang, Liping Chen, Binbin Li, Jing Zhang





## The Social Event of the year: The Pharmacy Ball

The annual School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences Ball was held this term. This year's venue was the Burlington hotel & a great night was had by students and staff alike, as evident by the photographs below.....Roll on 2012 !



Thanks to Dr. Fabio de Sousa Menezes & Ms. Betty Daly for the photos



## Prof. Radomski hosts Reception in honour of “The Class of 2011”

On the evening preceding their final under-graduate lectures (7th April), Professor Radomski hosted a reception in the School Atrium for the Senior Sophister class. On behalf of himself and his staff in the School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences, Prof. Radomski took the opportunity to wish the class members success and happiness in all that they do and expressed the School's enthusiasm for working together in the future. Representative of the class, in turn, expressed their thanks and appreciation to both former and current members of the School.



Photographs courtesy of Betty Daly; thanks also to Alison, Aileen & Bernadette for all the organising !





## .... And even more happy events to celebrate

Sincere congratulations is due to **Karen & Garret** who were married on 16th September.

Karen (Sheridan) is Boots Teacher Practitioner in our School.

Karen & Garret's wedding took place in Santa Margherita Ligure in the Italian Riviera and the reception was held at the Villa Durazzo.



*Sincerest Congratulations Karen & Garret & all the very best for the years ahead*

## .... Congratulations also to Natacha & Peter ....



Congratulations to **Natacha Van Attou-Saifoudine** and Peter Nirmalraj who married in India on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March.

Natacha was a postgraduate student with Dr Andrew Harkin and Peter, a post-graduate student in CRANN. They met in TCD ....and the rest, as they say, is history!

*Very best wishes for a long, happy & healthy life together*

## Welcome Baby Luadh

Warmest congratulations is also due to **Aine Daly** and John Kane on the arrival of their baby son, Luadh, who was born on 8th December.



Aine is working towards her PhD in Dr. Andrew Harkin's research group, while John is undertaking his PhD in Linguistics; also in TCD.



*Congratulations and very best wishes for a happy & healthy life together*

## ....and finally.....

I hope you have enjoyed reading this issue of The Elixir.

A special word of thanks is due to the *many contributors* of articles for inclusion in this issue and also to those who contributed suggestions along the way.

As always, if you have any suggestions of what you would like to see included, class photographs taken over the years, etc., please do let me know by sending your comments/articles/photographs by post or e-mail to the editor,

**Lorraine O'Driscoll (lodrisc@tcd.ie).**

*Thank you !*