



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

Health Sciences Faculty Forum 2021

Faculty Overview

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Dean of Health Sciences

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School of Dental Science

Research Strengths

- Inequalities in Oral Health
- Oral Cancer
- Regenerative Dentistry and Biomaterials
- Microbiology & Microbiomes

Emerging Strengths

- Sustainability in Dentistry
- Dental Education

School of Medicine

Research Strengths

- Immunology
- Ageing
- Neurology

Emerging Strengths

- Cancer Institute
- Children's Health Ireland/Children's Hospital
- Public health and epidemiology
- Clinical Research Facility
- Biostatistics/Bioinformatics - ideally a shared core facility, alliances with health partners and hospital networks
- Digital health / informatics, in collaboration with the ADAPT SFI centre

School of Nursing & Midwifery

Research Strengths

- Child and family health
- Healthcare Innovation and Integration
- Healthy Ageing and Intellectual Disability
- Maternal Health
- Mental Health and Recovery

Emerging Strengths

- Cancer Care
- Chronic Illness
- Health and wellbeing for marginalized populations

School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences

Research Strengths

- Cancer
- Natural Products
- Nanomedicine and Pharmaceutical Technology
- Industry links - supporting research, professional development and teaching.

Emerging Strengths

- Sustainable and Circular Pharmacy
- Pharmaceutical Biology (cell therapy research, supported by the Panoz Chair in Pharmaceutical Biology)
- Population Health

Faculty – Common Research Areas

Research Strengths across multiple schools

- Cancer
- Ageing

Emerging Strengths – opportunities to collaborate

- Cancer & Ageing - continual growth
- Children's Health
- Population Health & further development of IPH
- Sustainability (applied to specific areas)
- Education (Medical, Dental)
- Marginalised populations

Faculty / Multi-Faculty Priorities

Highlighted Strategic Priorities

1. Clinical Research infrastructure and personnel / Clinical Trials Unit / pre-clinical core facilities for end-to-end proposal development.
 2. Ageing Institute – identified as a priority by multiple schools .
 3. Biostatistics/Bioinformatics (with clinical links) and the supporting computational resources, creating a core facility for Precision Medicine.
- Trinity Centre for Statistical Support and Training
 - Health economics & collaborations with School of Business
 - Regenerative Medicine Institute
 - Stronger partnerships in child health
 - Professional Pharmaceutical Sciences Centre
 - Cell therapy research and manufacturing centre

We have been asked - What does Health Sciences need?

1. **Recruit, Nurture, Retain Talent – CRITICAL**
2. **Invest in Physical Infrastructure**
3. **Research Grant Support (pre and post award)**
4. **Improving / Increasing our Impact**
5. **Data management / reporting assistance (RSS)**
6. **Faculty Research Metrics (FRMs)**
7. **Communications**

We have been asked - What does Health Sciences need?

Recruit, Nurture, Retain Talent - CRITICAL

- Recruitment of Chairs in areas of strategic importance – **critical**
- Strategic joint appointments needs to be easier.
- Increase the pipeline of funded researchers by supporting early career researchers - mentorship & tenure for Post Docs – **critical**
- Academic promotions system to be improved.
- Professional staff promotions – dedicated, specialised, professional support to be rewarded and retained.
- At its most basic, schools need to be able to recruit staff to meet the intensive teaching and research workload demands.
- Limited mechanisms for recognition of honorary faculty (clinicians)

We have been asked - What does Health Sciences need?

Invest in Physical Infrastructure

- Create physical research hubs round the centres / research themes
- Current inability to maintain equipment and pay for service contracts, never mind being able to purchase state of the art equipment
- Ideally FHS/College should have some additional competitive calls for equipment to ensure our research remains competitive internationally

We have been asked - What does Health Sciences need?

Research Grant Support

- Dedicated, localised pre-and post-award support - **critical**
- Address deficit in capacity to sponsor clinical trials - **critical**
- Better allocation of staff (eg only 1 finance partner for HRB grants)
- Interdisciplinary/cross school partnerships to be fostered more.
- Support identifying and targeting specific themed calls.
- Internal schemes to assist with generation of pilot data to bolster grant applications (eg Dean's Research Awards).
- Developing links with industry and enterprise partners, supporting innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Reduce bureaucracy of FSD and HR processes and procedures

We have been asked - What does Health Sciences need?

Improving / Increasing our Impact

- To continue to fund the current impact officers in the Faculty, and to develop more in the coming years – **critical**
- SoM Pilot has shown that research impact needs to be project managed and co-created; specialised, dedicated staff are required.
- Each school expressed a need for more focused analysis of research outputs, by staff with expertise to do so
- Secure more administrative support for Trinity Research Centres, and dedicated time for Directors to advance the Centres' activities.
- Identify / provide funding support to pay for publications.

We have been asked - What does Health Sciences need?

Data management / reporting assistance

Improvements to the RSS – **CRITICAL**

- Each school has highlighted the need to improve this critical platform
- Significant investment is now needed.
- Significant bolstering of the unit supporting the RSS function.
- More automation / support for inputs, too much is still manual.
- Additional functionality for multi-disciplinary projects.
- Better dashboard to display research.
- Better search functionality to help identify potential collaborators.

We have been asked - What does Health Sciences need?

Faculty Research Metrics (FRMs)

Schools have called for:

- A tailored strategy towards maximising outputs and impact with regular reports tracking and measuring the achievements.
- A rubric with metrics that captures and clearly articulates the impact of the School's research.
- To have metrics on PPI, translation to practice and influences on national and international policy and health outcomes.

FRMs communications - **Critical**

FRMs review – **Critical**

Benchmarking – build partnerships – **Critical**

We have been asked - What does Health Sciences need?

Communications - critical

- Develop a communication and marketing strategy allowing us to capitalise better on our research impact – expertise required.
- Proactive communication at a Faculty level to help establish / facilitate mutually fruitful areas.
- Having a more user-friendly database of our research would help identify potential collaborators (RSS improvements).
- Ageing Research is inherently collaborative, and we strive to increase academic engagement – could this be made easier?

We have been asked - What does Health Sciences need?

Additional Suggestions from Schools:

- Develop an integrated scholarship PhD training within the faculty of health sciences around innovation and integration in care delivery.
- Improve mechanisms to employ clinical staff on projects.
- Extremely slow MTA service – pipeline needs to be aggressively project managed through to completion.
- Assistance with REC submissions for new awards.
- Co-ordinated infrastructure for translational research - shared research assistants across multiple disciplines / projects / biobanks.



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Thank You