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TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN  
COLAISTE NA TRIONÓIDE, BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH

THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF DUBLIN



**Inaugural Lecture by Professor Orla Hardiman**

***“Evolving Dimensions of Motor Neuron Disease:  
The Irish Story”***

**and Opening of the Academic Unit of Neurology**

The Tercentenary Lecture Theatre  
Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute  
Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014



## Running Order

- 18.00 Introduction by Dean of Health Sciences Professor Mary McCarron
- 18.10 Lecture by Professor Orla Hardiman
- 18.50 Refreshments in Knowledge Exchange

### Professor Orla Hardiman



Professor Hardiman was born in Dublin and educated through Irish in Coláiste Iosagáin, Baile an Bhóthar Dublin. She is a graduate of University College Dublin: She was the recipient of a number of awards and honours as an undergraduate (Catholic University Scholarship; McGrath Prize in Forensic Medicine and the Coleman Saunders Medal in Paediatrics). She was awarded a B.Sc. (first class honours) in Physiology (1980); First place in Medicine and the DK

O'Donovan Medal in her final MB.BCh.BAO examinations in 1983; and her MD (NUI) in 1992.

She underwent post graduate training in Dublin, and subsequently moved to Boston to undertake Neurology Residency training at Harvard Longwood Neurology Program where she was Chief Resident in Neurology (1988-1989). Her Fellowship training was in Neuromuscular Disease at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, Boston under the mentorship of Dr. Robert H. Brown Jr.

She returned to UCD in 1991 as a Newman Scholar in the Dept. Physiology in University College Dublin, and was appointed to position of College Lecturer in Physiology at UCD in 1994. She was appointed as a Consultant Neurologist at Beaumont Hospital in 1996, and became a Fellow of Royal College of Physicians in Ireland in 2001. In 2004, she became the first Irish-based Neurologist to become a Fellow of the American Academy of Neurology, and in 2014 she became a Fellow of the American Neurological Association. In 2007, she received a Health Research Board Clinician Scientist Award, and established an affiliation with Trinity College Dublin as a Clinical Professor in Neurology. In 2011, she established the Academic Unit of Neurology in Trinity College. She was appointed the first Professor of Neurology in the country in 2013.

Professor Hardiman is the recipient of a number of international honours and awards, including the first American Academy of Neurology Palatucci Award for Advocacy in Neurology (2003), the prestigious ALSA/American Academy of Neurology Sheila Essay Award in ALS (2009) and the International ALS Alliance Forbes Norris Award in 2011.

Her primary research interests include the epidemiology, causes and new treatments for Motor Neuron Disease. Recent work focuses on the clinical and genetic overlap between ALS and frontotemporal dementia and the epidemiology, clinical features and health service needs of people with these and other forms of young onset neurodegeneration.

Professor Hardiman is an author of over 200 international peer-reviewed research articles, a textbook on Neurodegeneration, and is a member of number of national and international boards and advisory panels. She is Co-Chair of the European Network for Cure of ALS (ENCALS) and Secretary of the World Federation of Neurology Research Group on ALS/MND.

In 2008 she was elected the Editor-in-Chief of the journal Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and Frontotemporal Degeneration, which is the official organ of the World Federation of Neurology Research group in Motor Neuron Disease. Her group of over 30 researchers collaborates widely with groups across the world. She is an experienced principal investigator of over 20 clinical trials, and sits on a wide range of international research boards and scientific panels.

Professor Hardiman has raised over €11 million in research funding. Her work is funded by the HRB, the Charity Research Motor Neuron, The Thierry Latran Foundation, The Health Seventh Framework Programme, the American ALS Association, and the Joint Programme in Neurodegeneration and by industry sponsorship, philanthropic and charitable donations.

At home Professor Hardiman is known as a passionate advocate. She is a founder of the Neurological Alliance of Ireland (NAI) and of Doctors Alliance for Public Health Services. She works closely with a wide range of advocacy groups and is a regular contributor to radio and television in English and Irish.

She lives in Dublin with 3 of her 4 children, a dog (Leo) and two cats (Teddy and Matilda).