

NOVEMBER
2013

SCHOOL OF
Medicine



TRINITY
COLLEGE
DUBLIN

2013 has been filled with activities that enriched the fabric of education and research at the School of Medicine.

The School was subject to an external quality review in February by a panel of international experts from leading institutions. The reviewers were impressed by the achievements and outputs of the School, and their recommendations will be used to inform further development of the School. Another major event was the opening of a Clinical Research Facility that brings new possibilities in clinical research (please see page 3). And we thank the School of Medicine graduates who made an effort to visit Trinity during the Alumni Weekend in August and everybody for keeping in touch.



Professor Paul Browne, Interim Head of the School of Medicine, welcomes graduates at a coffee morning during Alumni Weekend in August

Alumni Weekend 2013

TCD Alumni Weekend 2013 attracted 90 medical graduates, mostly of classes 1963, 1973, 1983, 1993 and 2003 back to Trinity. They toured the new building of the School of Medicine and reconnected with fellow-students over a cup of coffee, a festive dinner in the Dining Hall and their own class gatherings.

A medical alumni conference, organised by Carlos McDowell (1973), and Peter Marshall (1983), was lively and interesting. The participants shared their expertise, and their presentations testified to the high achievements of the School of Medicine graduates.

Dr Michael Martin organised the reunion of graduates of medical and dental class of 1963 with 18 alumni in attendance. Emotions were in full flow as they were exchanging their life stories fifty years since they left TCD.

To keep everybody healthy, David Gilligan (1983) initiated a TCD alumni fun run, which he hopes would become a regular Alumni Weekend activity.



Class of 1963 — Then



Class of 1963 — Now

The Inaugural Burkitt Medal Award

An inaugural event to award the Burkitt Medal to honour the achievements of world leaders in cancer care and research took place in Trinity in October. The Burkitt Medal was awarded to Dr Murray Brennan, the Benno C. Schmidt Chair in Clinical Oncology, Director of the International Center and Vice President for International Programs at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, an organisation, with which Trinity's cancer specialists have strong links. Dr Brennan has lectured throughout the world and authored and co-authored more than 1,000 scientific papers and book chapters focusing on surgical oncology, endocrinology, metabolism, and nutrition, and is the author of a book on soft tissue sarcoma. Dr Brennan received numerous honours for his contribution to oncology. His interest, in addition to patient care and research, has been the development of young surgeons.

Olive Burkitt, wife of Denis Burkitt, presents the Inaugural Burkitt Medal to Dr Murray Brennan with Vice-Provost and Chief Academic Officer of Trinity College Dublin Linda Hogan looking on



Visiting from the UK, Olive Burkitt with daughters Judy, Cas and Rachel at the inaugural event in Trinity College Dublin on 16 October



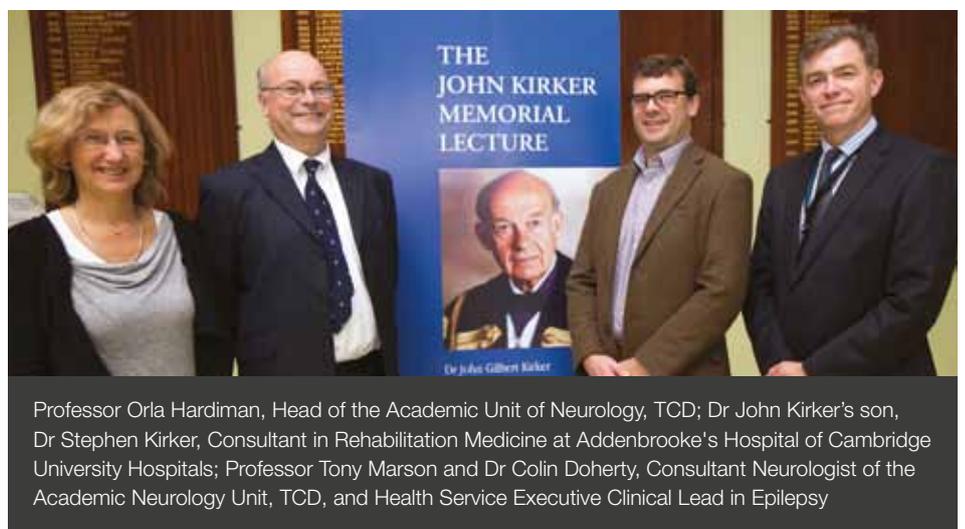
The Burkitt Medal recognises people with the integrity, compassion and dedication matching that of Denis Burkitt, a graduate of the TCD School of Medicine who is known for his discovery of Burkitt lymphoma. Denis Parsons Burkitt (1911-1993) was born in Enniskillen, in 1911 and came to Trinity in 1929 to read engineering. It was during his first year at Trinity he became a committed Christian and indeed his religious convictions would be a driving force for the rest of his life. Denis switched to medicine the following year and received his BA in 1933 and graduated as a physician in 1935 from TCD. Denis served as a surgeon in the Royal Army

Medical Corps during World War II. It was in Uganda after the war that he fully developed his exceptional observational and analytical skills that allowed him to turn simple observation into major scientific discovery. His first major contribution was identification and successful treatment of the commonest childhood cancer in Sub-Saharan Africa that is now called Burkitt Lymphoma. His second major contribution was the comparison of the pattern of diseases in Africa with Western diseases. He concluded that many Western diseases which were rare in Africa were the result of diet and lifestyle.

The John Kirker Memorial Lecture in Epilepsy

In October Professor Tony Marson, Professor of Neurology at the Walton Centre at the University of Liverpool and Director of the UK Epilepsy Research Network, gave the inaugural John Kirker Memorial Lecture as part of the Beaumont Hospital Neuroscience Invited Lecture series and TCD Academic Neurology Programme.

Professor Marson's lecture is the first in a series of the Kirker Memorial Lectures named in honour of the pioneering epileptologist Dr John Kirker (1922-2011). Dr Kirker was a TCD graduate and consultant neurologist in



Professor Orla Hardiman, Head of the Academic Unit of Neurology, TCD; Dr John Kirker's son, Dr Stephen Kirker, Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine at Addenbrooke's Hospital of Cambridge University Hospitals; Professor Tony Marson and Dr Colin Doherty, Consultant Neurologist of the Academic Neurology Unit, TCD, and Health Service Executive Clinical Lead in Epilepsy

Sir Patrick Dunn and Beaumont Hospitals. He was a founder of the Irish Epilepsy Association (now Brainwave), and was instrumental in the development of proper clinical services for people with epilepsy in Ireland, including instituting and managing the

first electroencephalographic (EEG) equipment in the country. Dr Kirker cared deeply about Trinity and its reputation throughout his life. He left a bequest to fund an annual lecture in epilepsy, aiming to inspire interest in the study of this condition.

Wellcome Trust-Health Research Board Clinical Research Facility

A state-of-the-art €7 million Clinical Research Facility (CRF), a joint initiative between Trinity College Dublin and St James's Hospital, was opened in May. This exciting development is funded by the Wellcome Trust and the Health Research Board on the St James's Hospital campus. The CRF will conduct high quality clinical research, bringing clinicians and researchers together with the common goal of addressing major challenges in health and disease in Ireland. The facility is jointly governed by TCD and St James's Hospital and will enable patient and volunteer research in medicine, nursing, pharmacy, physiotherapy and psychology at the institutions and their collaborating partners.

The CRF has high technology features that are unique in Ireland to enable cutting edge experimental medicine studies and early and late phase clinical trials at the forefront of biomedical research. These comprise a research pharmacy capable of safely compounding cancer drugs and handling novel gene therapies and vaccines; inpatient isolation rooms to nurse patients with infections or compromised immune systems; a neuropsychology suite that will permit high quality brain activity and cognition studies, and a sample processing laboratory for rapid preparation and storage of biological samples.



Professor Michael Gill, CRF Director,
at the opening

The facility has a rapidly developing study pipeline with, 25 translational research projects already planned or underway. Examples include: The PEACH1 project, an EU funded project to develop a simple, affordable and effective vaccine against hepatitis C in HIV positive patients and a clinical trial of radiotherapy versus chemotherapy for patients with oesophageal cancer and a trial of an antidiabetic medication in the protection of elderly patients against memory loss and Alzheimer's disease.



Professor John Kennedy welcomes
Taoiseach Enda Kenny to one of the labs

Book Launch

The book launch of "Trinity Medicine" is scheduled for 9 April. If you pre-ordered the book, it will be dispatched by mail. With questions, please contact Zhanna O'Clery zhanna.oclery@tcd.ie +353 (0)1 896 2560

Save the Dates

16-18 September 2014

The 9th International Cancer Conference at TCD – more information will be provided in due course at www.cancerconference.ie

22-24 August 2014

Alumni Weekend at TCD – more information will be provided in due course at www.tcd.ie/alumni

Keep in Touch

Alumni Stories

Please read stories of medical alumni www.medicine.tcd.ie/alumni and share your experiences with us by email: medalums@tcd.ie

TCD Alumni Community

If you haven't done so, please register with Front Gate Online, TCD alumni community, allowing you to view and update your contact details, connect with other alumni and keep in touch. www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/TDD

Support TCD

To support the School of Medicine please visit www.tcd.ie/development

Semper Honos Nomenqve Twm Lavdesqve Manebvnt

In June Trinity College unveiled its "Benefactors through the Centuries" Roll of Honour. The names of benefactors who made substantial gifts to Trinity, have been embossed permanently on the frieze beneath the ceiling of the grand entrance to the Dining Hall. They are adorned with the words of Virgil, the first-century BC poet: "SEMPER HONOS NOMENQVE TWM LAVDESQVE MANEBVNT" – "Your name, honour and praise shall always remain." Many of the names of the supporters of the School of Medicine and its major research and educational programmes feature on the frieze, including:

- Sir Patrick Dun
- Mercer's Hospital Foundation
- The Wellcome Trust
- The Atlantic Philanthropies
- Durkan Family & Friends
- Royal City of Dublin Hospital Trust
- Irish Life
- Dr Stanley Quek
- Ellen Mayston Bates
- National Children's Research Centre
- Alumni Donors, with many medical alumni contributing to TCD on a regular basis



Inscribing the names of the benefactors, Thomas Heffernan, a TCD craftsman

First Cohort of Singaporean Physiotherapy Students

First cohort of Singaporean students of physiotherapy graduated from Trinity in June. The new programme is designed, taught and awarded by Trinity College Dublin and delivered in Singapore in partnership with the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT). Established in 2009, SIT is an initiative of the Singapore Ministry of Education offering undergraduate degree programmes for polytechnic graduates.



The degrees awarded in collaboration with TCD are Singapore's first full-time degrees in occupational therapy and physiotherapy. This is achieved through recognition of prior learning by means of the relevant diplomas in occupational therapy and physiotherapy combined with a one year programme provided by Trinity. Part of the TCD physiotherapy curriculum involves an overseas immersion programme where students study for six weeks in Dublin and complete the BSc in Physiotherapy.



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