‘General Practice’ Photographic Exhibition

‘General Practice’ exhibition to illustrate the role of GPs ran in the Gallery of Photography for two weeks in May. It was launched by Dr Leo Varadkar, Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport, BA, BAO, BCh, MB (2003). This exhibition marked the closing event of the tercentenary celebrations of the TCD School of Medicine. It was the inspiration of the Professor of General Practice, Tom O’Dowd, with photographs by Fionn McCann. The exhibition highlighted the vital role of GPs in contemporary Irish society, providing a glimpse into the usually private interactions between GP and patient, capturing the trials, tribulations and sometimes humour of these encounters.

Professor Tom O’Dowd, Minister Leo Varadkar, Provost Dr Patrick Prendergast

Photo Gallery of the Tercentenary Events
www.medicine.tcd.ie/tercentenary/gallery/

Video of the Tercentenary Alumni Weekend August 2011
www.medicine.tcd.ie/tercentenary/videos/

Video of the Tercentenary Hall Opening August 2011
www.medicine.tcd.ie/tercentenary/videos/

In Memoriam – Dr John Gilbert Kirker

The School of Medicine was saddened to hear of the death of Dr John Gilbert Kirker, former President of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, in November 2011. Dr Kirker was born in Nenagh in 1922. He studied medicine at TCD in the 1940s, and while there was a resident student at St Patrick Dun’s Hospital. A travelling scholarship allowed him to spend 18 month training in North America, and Dr Kirker returned to Dun’s Hospital as consultant physician, with a special interest in neurology. He was also consultant physician at St Patrick’s Hospital Dublin, lectured in pharmacology and was President of the Biological Association at Trinity College Dublin. Dr Kirker had a major interest in epilepsy. He helped to found the Irish Epilepsy Association, which later became known as Brainwave. at RPC, a Kilclare Street on 4 October 1966. Up to his death, he was President of Brainwave. His immense contribution to Irish, and indeed European, epilepsy has been widely acknowledged. He was directly responsible for the development of electroencephalographic (EEG) services in Ireland and was Director of the EEG Department of the National Neurosurgical Centre at Beaumont Hospital, Dublin. He remained at the forefront of EEG reading and epilepsy practice for more than half a century. In 2007 he was awarded the Social Achievement Award at the 27th International Epilepsy Conference, Singapore. A memorial service was held in College Chapel in March, Dr Kirker cared deeply about Trinity and its reputation throughout his life. He has left a bequest to fund an annual lecture, aiming to inspire students with an interest in epilepsy. Dr Kirker’s son, Stephen, graduated from TCD in 1965 and continues the tradition of work with people with chronic neurological disease, in Cambridge.

Professor Dermot Kelleher M.D. (1978), Head of the School of Medicine and Vice- Provost for Medical Affairs 2006-2012, was appointed Principal of the Faculty of Medicine at Imperial College London. He is proud of Professor Kelleher’s achievements and wish him all the very best in his new position. (Please see enclosed)

Professor Paul Browne M.B. (1986), FRCPa, FRCP, was appointed Interim Head of the School of Medicine. Professor Browne is a Consultant Haematologist and Head of the Department of Haematology at St James’s Hospital. His research focuses on leukaemia and myeloma. He has considerable expertise in clinical trials and recently completed a term as Chair of All Ireland Cooperative Oncology Research Group (ICORG).
News

Professor Dermot Kelleher
Appointed Principal of the Faculty of Medicine at Imperial College

Professor Kelleher has over 30 years’ experience in research, teaching and medical leadership and is a pioneer in the field of immune response and infectious disease. A graduate of medicine from TCD in 1978, he returned to Trinity in 1989 as the Wellcome Senior Fellow in Clinical Science and became Professor of Clinical Medicine in 2001. Appointed as Vice Provost for Medical Affairs and Head of the School of Medicine in 2006, Professor Kelleher led a number of transformational initiatives in Trinity and in Ireland. He was instrumental in the development of Trinity Health (Ireland), a collaborative initiative of TCD and its teaching hospitals, St James’s and Tallaght. With Professor Hugh Brady at University College Dublin (UCD) he led efforts to establish the entity now known as Molecular Medicine Ireland. He was the inaugural Director of the Institute of Molecular Medicine, a TCD facility at St James’s Hospital. He was behind the successful applications obtaining over €75 million state funding for the new Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute where the School of Medicine has a new home. In collaboration with colleagues at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, UCD and affiliated teaching hospitals Professor Kelleher led the drive to build the Wellcome Trust/HRB Clinical Research Centre currently in construction on St James’s campus.

Professor Kelleher’s research examines the immune response to many of the leading causes of gastrointestinal infectious disease worldwide, including organisms such as Helicobacter pylori and Clostridium difficile. The author of over 200 publications and 14 patents, Professor Kelleher is a founding member of Ospora Therapeutics, a spin out company at TCD which identifies new ways to prevent and treat autoimmune/inflammatory conditions, cancers and infectious diseases.

Professor Kelleher has just completed his term as Chairman of the EuroMed Consortium of European Medical Schools and has served as a member of the Board of the Health Research Board Ireland, the European Medical Research Council and the Wellcome Trust Clinical Interest Group. He also serves on several national bodies in the health sector and on the board of ICON plc.

A Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences (London), Royal College of Physicians (London), Trinity College Dublin, and the American Gastroenterology Association, he was awarded the 2011 Conway Medal by the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland.

In his new role, Professor Kelleher will direct activities at Imperial College’s Faculty of Medicine and will be a member of the College’s Management Board, its senior decision-making body. The Faculty of Medicine at Imperial College is one of Europe’s largest higher education medical institutions with over 1,000 students, more than 2,300 staff and a research income of more than £140 million.

Partnership with Singapore Institute of Technology

Trinity College Dublin and Singapore Institute of Technology signed an agreement for partnership, which involves the School of Medicine delivering courses in Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy commencing in September 2012. Two academic appointments have been made, Dr Alan Wong has been appointed the Academic Director for the programmes and will lecture in Physiotherapy, Dr May Lim has been appointed to assist in the delivery of the Occupational Therapy programme.

The Annual Swan Lecture

Professor Jonathan Glover from King’s College London gave the Annual Swan Lecture ‘Mad, bad or ill? New Insights into Antisocial Behaviour’ which was a captivating and provocative take on insights into anti-social behaviour. He discussed his research on antisocial personality disorder (ASPD) noting that much research to date had been written ‘from the outside’, with very little reference to the people actually diagnosed with the condition. The aim of the Broadmoor study was to get a more fine-grained psychological picture of what people with ASPD are like, with a particular focus on the issue of conscience. The Swan Lecture is held in honour of Dr Jeremy Swan, a great friend of Trinity, who developed the Swan-Ganz catheter which brought him international fame.

Ceremony to Dedicate a Seminar Room in Honour of Dr Sebastian Delmonte

Family members and classmates from several counties gathered in the new building of the School of Medicine in June at a ceremony to dedicate a seminar room in honour of Dr Sebastian Delmonte (1954 London, U.K. – 1984 Dhunche, Nepal). Sebastian was raised in Dublin and graduated from the School of Medicine in 1978. He then went to Liverpool to study General Practice, Tropical Medicine and Nepalese before going to work in Nepal in 1983 with Save the Children (UK). He ran a busy Mother and Child Clinic in Surkhet in the mid-west of Nepal. After his untimely death his mother set up the Sebastian Delmonte Training Fund for West Nepal. This fund was used to build a more substantial facility in Surkhet. Save the Children officially named it the Sebastian Delmonte Nutrition Unit in his memory.

Mrs Ellen Mayston Bates Bequest for Epilepsy

Mrs Ellen Mayston Bates left a €3 million bequest for epilepsy research in Trinity. Her generosity enables TCD, with its excellent research base and expertise, to accelerate and expand research into epilepsy for the ultimate benefit of patients.