The intention to develop a new cancer institute was jointly announced by Trinity College Dublin and St James’s Hospital at the launch of Cancer Week Ireland and on the first day of the 10th International Cancer Conference hosted by Trinity on 17 October. The first of its kind in Ireland, the new cancer institute will set a new standard for cancer care nationally, integrating medicine and science in cancer prevention, treatment and survivorship. Based on similar leading international models, it will be located in one designated facility at St James’s Hospital.

Cancer in Ireland is projected to double by 2040 with increases in all types of cancer. The population need for the development is therefore acute. Provost of Trinity College Dublin, Dr Patrick Prendergast commented: “The cancer institute will consolidate our strengths in clinical and scientific research for the ultimate benefit of patient care. It will deliver substantially improved outcomes for cancer patients by providing research-led diagnosis and treatment, and promoting a better understanding of cancer through interdisciplinary research. “ St James’s Hospital CEO, Lorcan Birthistle said: “This cancer centre will place research, education and treatment side by side which is in line with the model for the very best cancer centres internationally. The best outcomes for patients are achieved in centres that combine high volume and highly specialised evidence based cancer care with scientific and technological advances. This exciting joint development between Trinity College and St James’s will achieve this goal.”

Trinity and St James’s Hospital have been scaling up for the new cancer institute with the recruitment of key new clinical academic and research appointments in oncology. Accreditation for the new institute is also being sought from the Organisation of European Cancer Institutes that sets the gold standard for leading cancer institutes in Europe. It will benchmark performance against international standards and direct the cancer services and research to the next level.

Please contact Zhanna O’Clery (zhanna.oclery@tcd.ie, +353 (0) 1 896 2560) if you would like to learn more about this development.
Alumni Weekend 2016

The TCD Alumni Weekend 2016 attracted about 200 medical graduates from around the world. Apart from class gatherings to reminisce and reconnect and a celebratory banquet, there was a medical alumni symposium to share medical and scientific expertise as well as best practices. Chaired by Dr Thomas Farrell, Senior Lecturer in Anatomy, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, the symposium featured a keynote lecture “Memory: Beyond the Brain” by Dr Áine Kelly, Associate Professor, School of Medicine and Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience, and talks – “Gender Equity & Global Surgical Workforce Needs” by Professor Hilary Sanfey, Professor of Surgery & Vice Chair for Education, SIU School of Medicine – Department of Surgery, Springfield, Illinois; “T4 Health: Triage, Transport, Treatment, and Transition in a Highly Regionalized Health Care System” by Professor Hilary Whyte, Professor of Paediatrics, University of Toronto, Medical Director, Acute Care Transport Service, Division of Neonatology, Medical Director, Sick Kids International, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario; “The Successes and Difficulties of Driving Change in the Irish Health Care System: Lessons from the National Cancer Control Programme and from the Establishment of Hospital Groups” by Dr Susan O’Reilly, Chief Executive, Dublin Midlands Hospital Group; “Public Health Planning for Olympic Games – London 2012 and Rio 2016” by Dr Brian McCloskey, Director of Global Health, Public Health England, London, UK.

Professor Paul Browne, Head of School of Medicine, making closing statements pointed out how the topics of the alumni talks related to the current priorities of the School of Medicine – public health, cancer and equality in the university sector for students and staff.

Latest TB Research from Trinity

Immune cells (called alveolar macrophages) change the way they metabolise sugar when they encounter the bacterium that causes TB (*mycobacterium tuberculosis*). The discovery opens the door to a new realm of potential “host-directed” therapies that could be used to strengthen the immune response to TB, enhancing the outcome of current treatment regimens, and may be particularly useful for targeting drug-resistant strains. Dr Gleeson, a Clinical Research Fellow working with Professor Joe Keane and the TB Immunology Group in the Trinity Translational Medicine Institute, builds upon the observation by collaborators from Professor Luke O’Neill’s Inflammation Research Group in the Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute that the bacterial component LPS induces a similar metabolic shift in macrophages taken from mice. Her work is funded through a Health Professional Fellowship from the Health Research Board and through the Royal City of Dublin Hospital Trust, and relies heavily on patients attending St James’s Hospital for bronchoscopy generously allowing small lung tissue samples to be taken for use in research.

Trinity School of Medicine researchers led by Dr Laura Gleeson uncovered a vital role for immune-metabolism in the host response to tuberculosis (TB), with the potential for developing new “host-directed” therapies to treat the deadly infection. Each year, TB kills 1.5 million people around the world – it is named the leading infectious disease killer globally by the World Health Organisation – and the growing number of multiple drug-resistant cases means that new treatments are desperately needed. This latest research published in the *Journal of Immunology* reveals that important lung immune cells (called alveolar macrophages) change the way they metabolise sugar when they encounter the bacterium that causes TB (*mycobacterium tuberculosis*). The discovery opens the door to a new realm of potential “host-directed” therapies that could be used to strengthen the immune response to TB, enhancing the outcome of current treatment regimens, and may be particularly useful for targeting drug-resistant strains. Dr Gleeson, a Clinical Research Fellow working with Professor Joe Keane and the TB Immunology Group in the Trinity Translational Medicine Institute, builds upon the observation by collaborators from Professor Luke O’Neill’s Inflammation Research Group in the Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute that the bacterial component LPS induces a similar metabolic shift in macrophages taken from mice. Her work is funded through a Health Professional Fellowship from the Health Research Board and through the Royal City of Dublin Hospital Trust, and relies heavily on patients attending St James’s Hospital for bronchoscopy generously allowing small lung tissue samples to be taken for use in research.
From heart conditions to caring for grandchildren and from undiagnosed diabetes to the power of positive thought, the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) has spent a decade understanding Ireland’s older generation. Established in 2006, TILDA was designed to provide an evidence base for understanding ageing in Ireland and beyond. 8,500 participants are interviewed at home every two years and take part in an in-depth health assessment every four years. Researchers gather detailed information about their health, wealth and social structures and are able to track changes in people’s physical and emotional wellbeing over time. The research is helping them pinpoint the lifestyle choices, behaviours and strategies that prove to be the most successful for a positive ageing experience.

In May 2016 Trinity College celebrated 10 years of TILDA with a special lecture “Irish Immigrants and their Progeny around the World” by Professor James Smith, Distinguished Chair in Labor Markets and Demographic Studies at US-based policy-research institute RAND. Professor Smith has served from the start of TILDA as chair of the International Scientific Advisory Board and has played a pivotal role in helping TILDA be a success.

In September, 600 of the TILDA 8,500 participants attended a special celebratory event, at which researchers and participants considered the critical impact this research continues to have on the lives of older people. Such is the breadth and depth of the subjects TILDA’s research covers that policy makers, NGOs and others have used the findings as the evidence base for 52 policy and strategy documents covering: transport; health; jobs; pensions; carers; residential and home care; health and road safety public awareness campaigns; capacity planning for services; medical care and practice; IT; health insurance; dementia prevention; volunteering; taxation and the economy.

Key facts about TILDA’s first 10 years:

- In addition to the original funding from the Department of Health, Atlantic Philanthropies and Irish Life of over €28 million, since 2006, TILDA has secured additional grant funding for research projects of €4.6 million. To continue this research over the next five years TILDA has received a further grant of €5 million from the Atlantic Philanthropies and €10 million from Health Research Board, a government funding body.

- TILDA has 34 staff including 14 post-doctoral researchers and 8 students and has trained 28 PhDs and post-doctoral fellows, 140 field workers and 25 research nurses.

- The TILDA team have authored 108 papers in peer reviewed publications as well as 23 reports, topic reports and research briefs.

- More than 1100 people have access to anonymised TILDA data for their own research projects, both nationally and internationally.

- TILDA is engaged in more than 45 national research collaborations and more than 25 international collaborations.

- TILDA has reached over 10,000 social media learners through a free online course, “Strategies for Successful Ageing”.

- The TILDA study is harmonised to 13 other international longitudinal studies on ageing which allows cross country comparisons of key indicators of health, wealth and happiness.
Trinity Kidney Health Centre Receives Research Boost

Kidney biopsies are invasive, dangerous and expensive. However thanks to a new study from the Trinity Health Kidney Centre, such procedures may soon be avoided. Professor of Nephrology Mark Little was the recent recipient of a research grant from the US-based Vasculitis Foundation which will progress the team’s research in this area. Professor Little and his team have discovered a new protein in the urine of patients with active vasculitis which subsequently disappears when they get better. It is hoped that by measuring this protein doctors will be guided on how long to give treatment for, thus avoiding the need for a biopsy. The research will focus on patients with small vessel vasculitis, a group of rare autoimmune disorders which affects approximately 900 Irish people. The team’s research will track the level of a novel urine protein (soluble CD163) from diagnosis, through initial treatment (usually chemotherapy) to one year from diagnosis. Professor Little has used this novel biomarker as the nidus for a formal biomarker pipeline that draws upon the Science Foundation Ireland-funded Irish National Rare Kidney Disease Biobank, which he established four years ago. By linking serial samples from patients at various time points in the disease to detailed clinical information and innovative biomarker screens, it is envisaged that new tests can be developed, commercialised in conjunction with industry partners, and ultimately applied in clinical practice.

New Hope for Children with IBD

Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) affects hundreds of children in Ireland and the numbers are rising. Research led by the School of Medicine’s Dr Patrick Walsh offers hope to people with IBD by opening the door to a new drug therapy. This National Children’s Research Centre (NCRC) and Science Foundation Ireland-funded research into IBD took place at Our Lady’s Children’s Hospital Crumlin (OLCHC) in children diagnosed with the condition. The research was a collaboration between Dr Walsh and consultant paediatric gastroenterologist Dr Seamus Hussey. There are in the region of 20,000 children and adults in Ireland affected by IBD in one form or another. The key finding from this research, which was published in the scientific Journal Muscosal Immunology, is that a protein called IL-36 is found in higher levels at diagnosis in children attending the national paediatric IBD service at OLCHC. By taking a translational approach, and examining younger patients upon initial diagnosis at Our Lady’s Children’s Hospital, Dr Walsh, along with Dr Shane Russell and Dr Rachel Horan, identified a gene which was altered among a specific group of patients presenting with a form of IBD known as ulcerative colitis. They then went on to establish in the laboratory that this gene plays an important role in driving inflammation in the gut and may represent a possible future novel drug target for this disease.

Autism Registry Project to Identify Gaps in Services

Trinity College Dublin is involved with Ireland’s first ever Autism Registry, which was launched at an event in Kildare in June 2016 by Minister for Children, Katherine Zappone. The registry will help identify the exact service needs for children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) by gathering vital information on a child’s diagnosis, development, medical and educational history. Trinity, NUI Galway and Autism Speaks, a US non-profit, are leading the initiative in response to a call to action from an extensive national consultation with affected families. The pilot phase is underway in the Kildare/West Wicklow region, with hopes to extend it nationally with full support. The data gathered will not only map out gaps in a range of health and educational services but will also offer an important insight into the day-to-day realities for families living with autism. Trinity’s lead on the project, Professor in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Louise Gallagher believes that the registry will also inform future academic research into the causes of autism and improved interventions.
Arthritis Ireland Professor of Molecular Rheumatology

With funding from Arthritis Ireland Ursula Fearon was appointed Arthritis Ireland Professor of Molecular Rheumatology at Trinity College Dublin. Professor Fearon is concentrating her research on developing state-of-the-art basic research techniques and applying them to high quality bio-banked samples to examine the mechanisms of disease in arthritis; her team are examining the components of joint inflammation at a cellular and molecular level to dissect the signalling and gene pathways that are disturbed in patients who have arthritis. The main aim of the research is to advance our understanding of what causes inflammatory arthritis, to identify biomarkers that can predict response to therapy and ultimately predict who can achieve remission, while potentially identifying exciting new targets for novel therapies for non-responders. Professor Fearon, together with the rheumatology team in UCD, also funded by Arthritis Ireland, will contribute further to the expansion of academic leadership in rheumatology in Ireland and, most importantly, to finding solutions for the ultimate benefit of the people suffering from arthritis.

Leading Epileptologist Gives 2016 John Kirker Memorial Lecture

The 2016 John Kirker Memorial Lecture, named in honour of the pioneering epileptologist and Trinity College Dublin graduate Dr John Kirker, was delivered earlier this month by Dr Sydney Cash, Associate Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School and attending epileptologist at Massachusetts General Hospital. The lecture entitled “New Perspectives on Seizures Incorporating Networks, Single Neurons and Both Slow and Fast Activity” was presented on 14 October as a keynote talk at the Irish Institute of Clinical Neuroscience (IICN). Dr Cash’s lab brings a wide variety of approaches to bear on understanding both normal brain function and the origins of seizure activity and attempts to answer questions on the synaptic level, neuronal level and in terms of circuit dynamics. In human subjects, they focus on the combined use of intracranial electroencephalography as well as microelectrode recordings in order to measure both cortical and subcortical activity and better predict and characterise the physiology underlying seizure activity.
2016 Burkitt Medal for Contribution to Cancer Research

Dr Paul Brennan, Head of the Genetics Section of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), Lyon, was awarded the 2016 Burkitt Medal for his contribution to cancer research. The award recognises people with the integrity, compassion and dedication that of Denis Burkitt, a Trinity graduate who is known for his discovery of Burkitt lymphoma. Dr Brennan received the medal during the 10th International Cancer Conference, which was recently held in Trinity College Dublin under the theme “New Frontiers in Personalised Cancer Care”. At the conference Dr Brennan delivered the Burkitt Lecture: “Cancer Prevention: from Denis Burkitt to the Human Genome Project”.

Trinity and St James’s Hospital Team at 2016 UNIPHAR C.R.O.S.S. Atlantic Cycle for Cancer Research

A team from Trinity and St James’s Hospital got on their bikes to join the UNIPHAR C.R.O.S.S. Atlantic Cycle in support of cancer research at Trinity and St James’s. Held 4-8 September, the 2016 cycle was a 5-day 580-km affair through Dingle, Lahinch, Galway, Clifden & Westport. The cycle is the brainchild of the Friends of C.R.O.S.S. and of Paul Wallace, a rugby legend and a patron of C.R.O.S.S. Paul, along with his brothers Richard and David, and many Irish and international rugby legends, for the fifth year in a row led the cycle in aid of C.R.O.S.S., a charity that supports cancer education and research in St James’s Hospital and Trinity. Over the last five years the cycle has raised over €500,000 which has been invested in the state-of-the-art equipment. For more information please visit www.crossrugbylegends.com

Well done, Sinéad

Congratulations to Sinéad Lynch (née Jennings) M.B. (2009), who, together with her rowing partner Claire Lambe, reached the finals at women’s lightweight double sculls at Rio Olympics!
Ian Temperley was born in 1931 in the small town of Bacup, East Lancashire, described by English Heritage as “the best preserved cotton town in England”.

In 1939 his father was appointed manager of a shoe factory in Westport, Co Mayo, where the young Ian went to school to the Christian Brothers. From there he went as a boarder to Wesley College, then on St Stephen’s Green, Dublin.

After the Leaving Certificate, having toyed with the idea of engineering, he entered Trinity College Dublin to study medicine. When he qualified he endured a restless period of a few years of medical positions in England and back in Ireland. He finally settled down when he was appointed to a junior post in pathology at Trinity. He remained a member of the School of Medicine in Trinity for the rest of his working life.

Ian specialised in haematology, completed an MD degree, FRCPI, FRCPath and in due course he was elected a Fellow of TCD. He was also an active consultant haematologist. He invested a great deal of himself in the care of his patients.

In 1971 he established the National Haemophilic Treatment Centre and became its first medical director. He pioneered bone marrow transplant in Ireland and served two terms as dean of Trinity’s medical school.

In 1996 he was president of the World Federation of Haemophilia for the duration of its meeting in Dublin. From 2002 to 2009 he served as chairman of the accreditation commission on colleges of medicine, which involved him in extensive travel in the United States and the Caribbean.

Ian retired in 1995. In 1999 the Lindsay Tribunal was established to look into matters “of urgent importance relating to the infection with hepatitis C and HIV of persons with haemophilia”. Ian knew he would be a key witness. When asked by a friend how he would handle it, he replied: “I will simply tell the truth”, and he did. He was on the stand on 24 days in all. The tribunal report said: “Professor Temperley displayed considerable understanding and forbearance in his evidence,” and described him as having been “remarkably honest” and “neither evasive nor defensive”. On his last day of giving evidence as he turned to stand down the tribunal legal teams gave him a standing ovation.

Not all of Ian’s busy life was work. His great interest was European history. He read the six unabridged volumes of Gibbon’s *Decline and Fall of The Roman Empire* six times. He had strong views and could be tetchy in response to what he considered unfair criticism of any of his heroes of history. He was fascinated by early Christian mosaics. After he retired he registered for and completed a thesis on “Mosaics in the North Hall of the Basilica of Aquileia” for which he was awarded an MLitt by Trinity.

At one period of his life he painted in oils as a competent amateur. In retirement, among other things, he wrote a short history of England just for his grandchildren when he discovered that they did not know the full sweep of English history. He is survived by his wife Joyce, sons David and Richard and their families.
A History of Haematology

Oxford University Press published A History of Haematology by Shaun McCann, Professor Emeritus of Haematology and Academic Medicine, St James’ s Hospital and Trinity College Dublin, Honorary Fellow of TCD. The book is available in Clarendon Medical Bookshop (Clarendon Street, Dublin) as well as on Amazon and the Oxford University website.

Exhibition of Works by Jason Ellis Old Anatomy

20 October - 1 December 2016
Oliver Sears Gallery, 29 Molesworth Street, Dublin 2
www.oliversearsgallery.com

“Having gained access to an extraordinary collection of plaster casts kept by the Department of Anatomy at Trinity College Dublin, Jason Ellis has chosen a number of items, human and animal, and remade them using varieties of limestone, marble, slate and sandstone. In transforming each piece of Old Anatomy into an object of art, Ellis draws references from five hundred years of sculpture. Michelangelo, Japonism, Victorian curiosity and contemporary morbidity are all evoked in fourteen individual subjects. Above all, Ellis succeeds, with all his technical expertise, in bringing the viewer into close contact with elements of their own, human biology and presenting the animal kingdom through a private lens of art history.” Oliver Sears

During a special viewing for the medical alumni on 3 November Clive Lee, Professor of Anatomy in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and the Royal Hibernian Academy and Visiting Professor of Biomechanics in Trinity College Dublin gave a talk on “Art and Anatomy”.

Get Involved

Trinity has a long tradition of outreach and community engagement. To find out about the numerous ways you can get involved with Trinity both at home and abroad, please visit www.tcd.ie/alumni/volunteer

Upcoming Alumni Events

Alumni Weekend
25-27 August 2017
Other Upcoming Events:
www.tcd.ie/alumni/news-events/events

Class Notes

Do you have any news or updates that you’d like to share with your fellow alumni? Submit your news with an image, subject of study and year of graduation to alumni@tcd.ie

For more information please visit www.tcd.ie/alumni/news-events/publications

www.medicine.tcd.ie
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