Applications are invited for the following ERC Starting Grant funded position:

**PhD Studentship in Vascular Tissue Engineering**

**Project Description:**
This research aims to determine if the mechanical stimuli conferred by the natural collagen fibre network of a scaffold, derived from decellularised arterial tissue, can be tuned to induce mesenchymal stem cell differentiation and growth to develop a mechanically compatible tissue engineered blood vessel. The researcher will use an existing in-house technique to decellularise porcine arteries and subsequently explore various methods to successfully repopulate the artery with stem cell derived vascular smooth muscle cells.

**Required Qualifications:**
Candidates should have a BEng/BSc and/or MEng/MSc in Biomedical Engineering or Tissue Engineering, or other relevant discipline. Ideally candidates should have specific experience in vascular tissue engineering and/or stem cell biology.

**The Lally Lab:**
Prof. Caitriona Lally is a Professor in the School of Engineering in Trinity College Dublin and PI within the Trinity Centre for Bioengineering (TCBE). Prof. Lally leads a multidisciplinary research group where the aim is to develop innovative means of diagnosing and treating cardiovascular diseases through the integration of arterial biomechanics and vascular biology.

The successful applicant will work within a multidisciplinary project team including PIs, postdoctoral fellows and postgraduate researchers in the Trinity Centre for Bioengineering (http://www.tcd.ie/bioengineering/ and http://www.mee.tcd.ie/biomaterials/People/CLally) in Trinity College Dublin and will also collaborate with researchers in the School of Biotechnology in Dublin City University.

**Start date:**
September 2016

**Application process:**
Please e-mail your CV (including the names and contact details of 3 referees) to lallyca@tcd.ie with the subject heading “PhD Studentship in Vascular Tissue Engineering”

Closing date for applications is July 31st 2016