



Trinity College Dublin

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

# THE DEAN OF HEALTH SCIENCES AWARD

FOR OUTSTANDING TEACHING  
IN PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

2018/2019





**Professor Mary McCarron**  
Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences

I am pleased to announce the 2018-19 Dean of Health Sciences Awards for Outstanding Teaching in Professional Practice. This award was developed to recognise the significant contribution of professionals who do not hold appointments with Trinity to the delivery of teaching to our undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Each of the Schools within the Faculty of Health Sciences has a long tradition of working with our clinical and allied health colleagues to educate students across all of our programmes, ensuring that our graduates are career-ready from the moment of graduation. This award seeks to recognise the valuable contribution of such colleagues and to highlight those exceptional individuals who excel in teaching and who continually encourage an ethos of excellence in clinical teaching. Nominations were received from students and staff, and I am pleased to grant five awards in 2018-19, across all schools in the Faculty.

*Prof. Mary McCarron*

Professor Mary McCarron  
Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences

| DEAN OF HEALTH SCIENCES AWARD FOR<br>OUTSTANDING TEACHING IN PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE 2018-19 |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| SCHOOL   | RECIPIENT         |
| Dental Science   | Mr Glenn Mc Evoy  |
| Medicine   | Dr Joanne Balfe   |
| Medicine (Therapies - Physiotherapy)   | Ms Noreen O'Shea  |
| Nursing & Midwifery  | Ms Pamela Woods   |
| Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences   | Ms Niamh Mc Mahon |



**Mr Glenn Mc Evoy**  
School of Dental Science Recipient

Mr Glenn Mc Evoy was nominated by staff and students for bringing his wealth of knowledge, commercial reality and contemporary practice to his teaching role on the dental technology programme. Glenn is passionate about dental technology and thoroughly enjoys sharing his knowledge with students.

He creates an engaging and stimulating teaching environment which strongly integrates theory into what are predominantly practical sessions. Glenn keeps abreast of current technologies and is very much at the forefront of new developments, this knowledge he readily disseminates to the students. He regularly attends conferences and trade shows and is constantly expanding his knowledge in the rapidly changing environment of the dental laboratory. He has embraced new developments in this field relating to a digital workflow in his commercial laboratory, this expertise he brings to enhance the Dental Technology programme. He has recently embarked on integrating the recently acquired CAD/CAM facilities in the teaching laboratory into the curriculum.

*“A good mentor can inspire hope, ignite the imagination and instil a love of learning. Glenn McEvoy takes a genuine interest in his students and is always there to help no matter what the circumstances”*

Junior Sophister Dental Technology Students, class of 2019

Mr Glenn Mc Evoy qualified as a dental technician in 1986. Since then, he worked in his late father's well known laboratory, Eurocast Dental Ltd., before taking over as Managing Director/ Owner in 2004. He has held a part time lecturing position at the Dublin Dental University Hospital for the past 10 years where he teaches the Removable Partial Denture module to Senior Freshman students on the Degree in Dental Technology programme. Glenn lectures frequently at local courses and conferences. He has been the President of the DTAI since 2013, he also sits on the Auxiliary Dental Workers Committee of the Dental Council; In these positions, one of his main goals is to achieve registration for dental technicians. Glenn's family has a long association with dentistry which spans four generations. His two brothers are also involved in the family business. He is married to Pamela and spends his 'free' time as a taxi driver for his three children and manages, sometimes, to fit in the odd walk with the dog!



**Dr Joanne Balfe**  
School of Medicine Recipient

Dr Joanne Balfe was nominated by her colleagues in the School of Medicine for her commitment to excellence in clinical education. She constantly strives to create a positive, encouraging and respectful learning environment, contributing to the professional growth and education of students.

Joanne combines clinical teaching in Tallaght University Hospital with lecture-based teaching and live interactive teaching in Laura Lynn Children's Hospice. Thanks to Joanne, Trinity's Paediatric students are the only undergraduate medical students who have the opportunity to have a customized teaching module based in Laura Lynn Children's Hospice; This program combines problem based cases, Q&A symptom-based teaching and the use of family videos and recordings which were made by Dr Balfe for teaching purposes. The students have first-hand access to the "lived experience" of a child and family living with complex disability every day.

*“ It was very interesting to be exposed to the palliative care aspect of paediatrics and, although it is sad, there were positives, the care is very helpful ”*

Dr Balfe lectures the students on the very delicate area of medico-legal and ethical issues in Paediatrics, which promotes professional thinking beyond student life. She also participates in the School's annual professional development module on the area of communicating bad news to children and families. She presents the difficult symptoms and difficult communication session with examples of many of the complex cases she deals with in Laura Lynn Children's hospice. This program is highly rated by our students and helps them to develop professional skills in talking to children and families.



**Ms Noreen O'Shea**  
School of Medicine (Therapies) Recipient

Ms Noreen O'Shea was nominated by her colleagues in the School of Medicine for her innovations within the discipline of Physiotherapy, her dedication to supporting students and her commitment to social engagement. In 2014, Noreen undertook a qualitative review of factors which motivate clinical teachers.

This research triggered her to found the Networking & Educating Students Together (NEST) group in St James's Hospital to support and prepare clinical teachers across the multidisciplinary team. NEST has created the first community of practice between clinical educators in a teaching hospital, which is the only multidisciplinary support and preparation forum for clinical educators in Ireland.

Noreen is a strong advocate of creating an effective and inclusive learning environment. She has shown particular interest in the struggling student. Over time she has developed an environment that provides scaffolding to build the confidence of struggling students to support their return to competent practice. This practice of incrementally reducing the level of support along with positive mentoring has proved very valuable to the students' ability to gain self-assurance. Anecdotally students have recognized that this has been a turning point in their development and key to their progression through the practice education modules. Noreen provides a fresh prospective and individual mentoring to students. This has been reflected in feedback to the Practice Education Co-ordinator.

*“ Noreen has proven to be a valuable asset and a positive voice of enthusiasm within the Physiotherapy Practice Education Team. She has considerable experience as a clinical educator, tutor and manager, experience which is evident in her confidence to question norms, take on new challenges and act as an innovator. Noreen is well respected in within St James's Hospital and Trinity College as a solution-focused problem solver. ”*

A local community education programme was developed by Noreen following an article in the Irish Times reporting that local schools had the lowest progression rates in the country. St James's Hospital is located in an economically deprived area and employment in the health care professions is under-represented. A strategy to target the engagement and increase the awareness of the local community of opportunities in the health care professions was developed and Health Science students and graduates from all professions have participated in programmes where they learn about Social Activism in this community and how education can prevent some of the healthcare issues we encounter downstream.



## Ms Pamela Woods

School of Nursing & Midwifery Recipient

Ms Pamela Woods was nominated by her colleagues in Tallaght University Hospital for her role-modelling of excellent nursing care and professionalism and for how she supports students as they adjust to the busy and challenging Emergency Department (ED) environment.

Pamela enhances the student experience by supporting learning in practice in a welcoming and engaging manner, and helps students to bridge the theory to practice gap, for example through explaining the rationale for taking observations in a child-specific manner.

Students have described Pamela as a *“role model and inspiring practitioner”* whose input is *“helpful and relatable to practice”*

Pamela is actively involved in policy development in the ED, such as the sedation protocol, and she demonstrates these policies to students. She has a learning mind-set with a commitment to lifelong continuing professional development, and is a wonderful knowledge resource for students and staff. Pamela is a highly respected member of the multidisciplinary ED team, in collaboration with the ED consultants she created and leads an in-depth education training programme for all staff which helps enhance teamwork in emergency situations.

Pamela is the epitome of a children's nurse described by NMBI “a safe, compassionate, caring, committed and competent decision maker who accepts professional accountability for their actions and lifelong learning through continuing professional development”. She is a dynamic professional who balances intellectual and moral excellence in her role as an expert practitioner. She role models being an autonomous moral practitioner who collaborates, is assertive, works in partnership with children and their families and advocates for them when they are unable to speak for themselves. Pamela not only teaches and role models for student's nurses, she is actively involved in teaching and sharing her vast clinical experience and knowledge with the multidisciplinary team.



## Ms Niamh Mc Mahon

School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences Recipient

Ms Niamh Mc Mahon was nominated by staff of the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences for her tireless work on the MSc in Hospital Pharmacy, her collaborative and inclusive approach and her dedication to continual improvements which benefit both students and staff alike.

Niamh is employed by St James's Hospital as a Clinical Pharmacist and provides clinical services there while also using her experience and clinical expertise to inform her contributions to teaching, learning and assessment. She is the Course-Co-ordinator of the MSc in Hospital Pharmacy where she has systematically revised the content, the teaching and the assessments for two decades. She has overseen the development and management of the course and its expansion beyond the Dublin Area Teaching Hospitals. She has ensured that the MSc has retained its inclusive ethos and its academic rigour throughout the changes within the health service, pharmacy and the College. The MSc in Hospital Pharmacy was GradIreland Course of the Year 2019 largely due to Niamh's dedication, high standards and collaborative working practices. The feedback for the course from students, colleagues and external examiners has been consistently and uniformly excellent and alumni refer to it as one of the highlights of their academic and professional development.

*“Niamh is always available to give an opinion and to help-out and is unfailingly supportive, professional and modest. Her contribution to the School and the College is invaluable.”*

Niamh provides one-to-one mentoring for clinical colleagues, especially when they first take up duties with the MSc course and she maintains the mentoring relationship when they act as supervisors of the MSc Research project. Niamh acts as a reference person and editor for several undergraduate Modules and contributes her experience to the revision of these Modules. Niamh is known in St James's as a collaborator and has a distinguished track record in the MedEl Directorate. She is currently Lead Liaison Pharmacist to the National Clinical Care Programme for Older People within the HSE and has used these connections to provide teaching for others with others and to bring colleagues from the other health professions and from the health service into teaching both in the MSc and in the CPD Cardiology Module.



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