

SCHOOL OF

Dental Science

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Summer 2014

Inside..

Expansion of Undergraduate Teaching Lab & Clinical Space - Pg 2

Meet Michael O'Halloran - Pg 3

Trinity Scientists Identify Significant Increase in New MRSA Strains in Non Hospital Environment - Pg 4

Annual Alumni Event: *A Look Back, A Look Forward* - Pg 7

Dear Alumni and Friends,
as another academic year comes to an end, we have an opportunity to reflect on the year that has passed and indeed to look forward to the new developments and a busy new academic year in 2014-15!

Professor June Nunn

Dean of Dental Affairs

Final year students enjoyed glorious sunshine as they graduated; diplomates, family and friends were welcomed to the Dublin Dental University Hospital for a post-graduation reception. Dental Science and Dental Technology graduates shared the annual Finals Dinner with members of the alumni community in the Trinity Dining Hall, an event that showcases the achievements of these students through various awards and prizes.

The summer period will be very busy for staff in the DDUH as a large-scale refurbishment takes place with the expansion of our teaching laboratory and Clinic 1 that will facilitate an increase in our student numbers. We will showcase all this at our forthcoming alumni event, the theme of which is *A Look Back, A Look Forward*.

At the alumni event, Professor Stephen Flint will take *A Look Back* at his career in the medical and dental



professions and the changes that have taken place during this time. Dr Martin McAleese will take *A Look Forward* at the future of dentistry and the challenges and opportunities we face. The lectures will be enhanced by *A Look Back* at an exhibition of our archives, and *A Look Forward* at our newly refurbished building. We will also celebrate the Alumni Awards, taking *A Look Back* at the contributions of some of our valued alumni, and *A Look Forward* at our ever-growing alumni community and your continual engagement with us. The evening promises to be nostalgia-filled so we hope you all will join us on 10 October in the Dublin Dental University Hospital.



DOVE Where to next?

This year's DOVE, consisting of twenty 4th year Dental Science students, are travelling to a multitude of destinations across the globe.

Eight students are travelling to Palapmur, India, another student is travelling to Leh, India, two students travelling to the continent of Africa and 9 others will be travelling from Sligo to St Jude children's home in Gulu, Northern Uganda. The DOVE members will be providing screening, oral health education and simple treatments such as ART and restorations for the children of local schools and health centres in the respective areas.

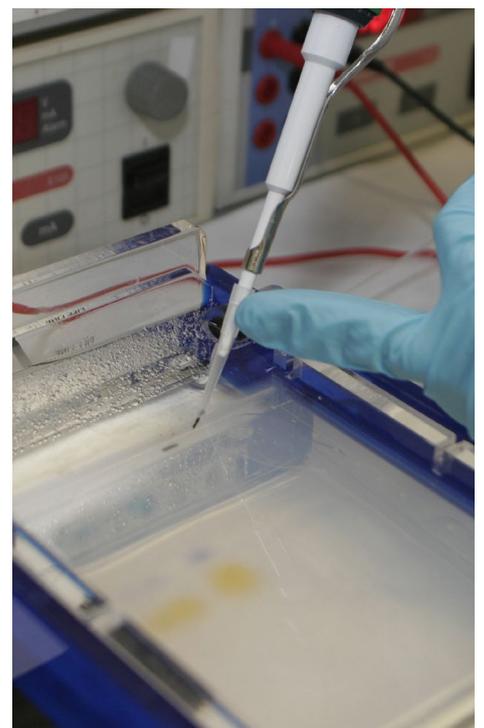


Expansion of Undergraduate Teaching Lab & Clinical Space

The Undergraduate Teaching Laboratory (UTL) in the Dublin Dental University Hospital is currently being extended to facilitate an increase in undergraduate student numbers in 2014-15.

The new UTL will accommodate 50 work spaces, plus tutor, with the spaces grouped in units of four and six. In addition to the new UTL workspaces, there will be eight dental chairs added to Clinic 1. In order to facilitate this expansion, a staircase will be removed, the entrance to the UTL will change and the X-Ray machine will be relocated, leading to a radically different landscape on the first floor of the hospital. We hope you will join us at our alumni event in October and enjoy a tour of these new facilities.

This large scale project will afford us the opportunity to increase our undergraduate student numbers from 40 each year on the Dental Science programme to 48. The additional places will facilitate expansion into new and emerging international markets, as well as consolidating the longstanding relationships we currently enjoy. As our student population continues to grow more culturally diverse, our alumni community across the globe continues to expand.



Meet Michael O'Halloran



“After a few months you’ve been truly initiated when 3am telephone calls about severe road traffic accidents or gunshot injuries don’t daunt you.”

Like many students coming towards the dreaded leaving certificate I didn’t really know what I wanted to do! The natural route would have been for me to become an engineer like my two older brothers and my father but it just didn’t feel right. I considered studying Medicine but the idea of a life with no sleep and constantly being on-call didn’t appeal to me. Then somebody advised me to consider Dentistry, as a sort of happy medium. Fifteen years later I am still happy that I took this advice!

I found myself enjoying studying, lab work and preparing for clinics. Having been involved with about half a dozen Dental Schools since, I must say that the Dublin Dental University Hospital really does give its students an up-to-date and well-rounded education in Dentistry. I was fortunate enough to travel to Oslo on the European Erasmus programme and this gave me my first taste of Oral Surgery.

After graduation and a really rewarding year as a House Officer at the Dental Hospital, I took an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery job in Limerick. After a few months you’ve been truly initiated when 3am telephone calls about severe road traffic accidents or gunshot injuries don’t daunt you. After Limerick I moved to the National Max Fax Unit in St. James’s, followed by Conscious

Sedation studies at Newcastle University and then came my time at the Eastman Dental Institute in London before coming back to Ireland to complete my Oral Surgery training. I also spent a short while working in Saudi Arabia, which was an experience in itself.

In 2011, while preparing for our wedding, Órlaith and I decided to make the big move to Australia. It was something that we had considered for a few years and the time seemed right. The life style that Perth has to offer was something that we knew would really suit us as a family!

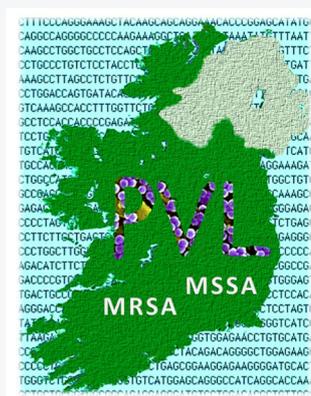
I was appointed to Head of Oral Surgery in June 2013 and it’s challenging to juggle the clinical, academic, research and administrative commitments, as well as a part-time private practice. However this just means that each day brings a new challenge to overcome.

Earlier this year we were blessed with the arrival of Seán who is our first child. He already has two passports and is currently back in Ireland being introduced to our extended families. We’re really fortunate that Ireland and now Australia has treated us so well! I really enjoy our visits back “home”, meeting up with friends and dropping into the Dental Hospital to catch up. Many thanks for always being so welcoming.

Michael O’Halloran, Class of 2005

Trinity Scientists Identify Significant Increase in New MRSA Strains in Non Hospital Environment

Microbiologists from the School of Dental Science in collaboration with the National MRSA Reference Laboratory at St James's Hospital Dublin and Alere Technologies in Germany have identified significant increases in the prevalence, genetic diversity and antimicrobial resistance of PVL-positive MRSA circulating in Ireland in the ten years between 2002-2011. These findings have just been published in the March 2014 issue of a leading, peer reviewed international journal, *The Journal of Clinical Microbiology*.



Unlike MRSA strains that traditionally cause invasive infections among older and vulnerable patients in hospitals, many of whom may have underlying infections, these PVL-positive MRSA strains were predominantly identified among younger individuals in the community and were mostly associated with skin and soft tissue infections, although serious and life threatening bloodstream infections and necrotising pneumonia were also identified.

This diverse range of PVL-positive MRSA strains circulating appears to have increased in recent years and international travel is likely to have been a significant contributory factor.

Clusters of PVL-positive MRSA were also identified within families and among patients in hospitals, highlighting the serious challenge that these MRSA strains present for infection prevention and control and for the treatment of infections caused by these organisms both in hospitals and in communities.

The paper can be read in full here:
www.jcm.asm.org/content/52/3/859.full

Ph.D. Completions School of Dental Science, Microbiology Unit



Congratulations to Emily Deasy on recently completing her Ph.D. under the supervision of Professor David Coleman and Dr Anna Shore. The title of Emily's project was "Molecular typing of methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and methicillin-susceptible *S. aureus* (MSSA) and coagulase-negative staphylococci (CoNS) recovered in Irish hospitals and characterisation of SCCmec and SCCmec-containing composite islands".

Emily undertook a comprehensive molecular analysis of MRSA, MSSA and CoNS isolates from Irish hospitals. Her research made several highly significant contributions to our understanding of the biology and evolution of staphylococci. Emily's research helped to develop more informative molecular typing systems to discriminate and track transmission of isolates of the highly-clonal ST22-MRSA-IV that has predominated in Irish hospitals for the last decade.

Congratulations to Peter Hyde from the Division of Oral Biosciences on recently completing his Ph.D. under the supervision of Professor Derek Sullivan and Professor Gary Moran. The title of Peter's project was "The role of hyphae and hypha-associated genes in the pathogenesis of *Candida dubliniensis*".

Candida species are the most important cause of fungal disease in humans, ranging from superficial infections in the mouth and vagina to life-threatening deep-seated systemic infections. *Candida albicans* is the most virulent of all of the *Candida* species, however, surprisingly its closest relative, *Candida dubliniensis*, is far less capable of causing infection. By comparing all of the cell wall proteins produced by *C. albicans* and *C. dubliniensis* using a technique known as proteomics, Peter has shown that *C. dubliniensis* fails to produce a range of key proteins proposed to be important for infection, thereby improving our understanding of how these pathogenic yeasts cause disease.

Research Projects



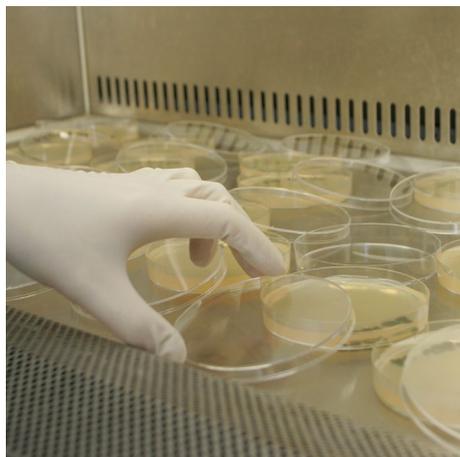
Brian O'Connell and Padraig McAuliffe have been awarded a major grant from the Health Research Board (HRB) to continue their research on a novel remote sensor of bruxism, entitled "Splintcost – Sensor Providing Longitudinal Information on Nocturnal Toothgrinding and Compliance of Splint Therapy".



Michael O'Sullivan and colleagues have begun a project entitled "Psychosocial and Behavioural determinants of Oral Health in the Irish Child Population". The study aims to establish the relationship between psychosocial factors and reported dental problems in the Irish child population that could assist in identifying causal pathways that could reduce inequalities in oral health. Their preliminary findings have been accepted for presentation at the IADR meeting in Dubrovnik.

Summer Research Scholarships for Students

Three students of the Dublin Dental University Hospital and School of Dental Science Trinity College have been awarded summer research scholarships worth €1,000 from Glaxosmithkline (GSK). Orry Torsney and Lilia Collazo of the Dental Science programme and Bairbre Pigott-Glynn of the Dental Hygiene programme will work on research projects in special needs dentistry, oral medicine/ microbiology and oral hygiene, respectively.



These students are the third group to receive this annual GSK summer scholarship. The scholarships support undergraduate students to carry out small research projects over the summer months.

Alumni Reunion at the Annual Finals Dinner



The Annual Finals Dinner was expanded in 2014 to include our ever-growing alumni community. We are most grateful to those alumni who attended as their presence enhanced the evening immeasurably. The guests were presented with copies of their undergraduate record cards and there was much amusement amongst the group as they viewed their photographs and their examination results from the five years of the programme. One alumna attempted to lodge an appeal about her year-1 result in dental anatomy, however the Director of Undergraduate Teaching & Learning pointed out that the appeals deadline has now passed.

Trinity Scholars



The School of Dental Science have two Scholars in 2014, Sylvia Nowak and Jill McTernan. The School would like to congratulate Sylvia and Jill on this great achievement.

Trinity Week Report

The Faculty of Health Sciences hosted Trinity Week 2014, on the theme of The Science of Happiness.

One of the high points of the week was the academic symposium on Wednesday 9 April. Dr Michael O'Sullivan delivered the Dental School's lecture, which was simply entitled "The Smile". Dr Sullivan's focus was on how central a person's smile is to them, and how it affects social interactions.

The audience was wooed by before and after photos of high-profile celebrities; one of the most smile-filled moments of the lecture being when the audience correctly identified several celebrities based on their smile alone!

Trinity Week was a marvellous opportunity for the Faculty and schools to shine, to showcase their academic and clinical expertise and to truly engage with their local communities and students. The week was a tremendous success, thanks to the willingness of the speakers to share and translate their research knowledge on the contributors to happiness.



Thank you to Dr Sullivan for representing the School of Dental Science at this event. A podcast of Dr Sullivan's lecture, as well as the other lectures from Trinity Week, can be viewed on YouTube at the following link: www.tinyurl.com/kx38jww

Farewell to our Esteemed Colleagues

Dr Atef Hashem

Dr Atef Hashem has taken leave from the DDUH to return to work in his native Libya. Atef came to Dublin and completed his D.Dent. Ch in Prosthodontics followed by a Ph.D. (2012) entitled "Database establishment and an investigation of quality of life, self-esteem, and self-concept of patients with developmental dental anomalies". He has been a valued member of the teaching staff and his advice was greatly appreciated by the dental students. We wish Atef well in his new post.

Dr Ebrahim Al-Awadhi

Dr Ebrahim Al-Awadhi masterfully embraced College policy and did all within his powers to recruit as many international students as is possible to the postgraduate programmes in his time as Director of Postgraduate Teaching & Learning. Ebrahim is stepping down as Director and Dr Michael O'Sullivan takes on this role from 2014. Much like the undergraduate area, there are exciting times ahead for our postgraduate area as we move towards the development of new Masters courses. We thank Ebrahim for his time as Director and wish Michael every success in this new role.

Professor Stephen Flint

Professor Stephen Flint, Head of Division of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Oral Medicine & Oral Pathology, will retire early, at the end of August 2014, although we are working to lure him back for some part-time teaching as it is far too early for him to be retiring! Dr Claire Healy will take on the role of Head of Division III from 2014-15 and we wish her every success in this new position.

Dr Frank Quinn

We are most grateful to Dr Frank Quinn, who has masterfully steered the Diploma in Clinical Dentistry through its recent years, as well as the CDE Evening Lecture Series. Frank has signalled that he intends to hand over the baton on this and together, the School and other stakeholders are working with the Director of Teaching and Learning (PG) to look at the optimal way to deliver our continuing professional development programme for the future.

Catherine Waldron

It is with great sadness and reluctance that we accepted the resignation of Catherine Waldron as Lecturer in Dental Hygiene. Catherine has been in the DDUH, firstly as a Tutor, and then as a Lecturer since 2010. Catherine has been Director of the Diploma in Dental Hygiene programme for a number of years and has been instrumental in developing the programme to its current standard of excellence. We wish Catherine well with her future career.

Torsten Blurton

A recent addition to the Radiology team, Torsten Blurton, has returned to the United States, and we cannot begin to compete with the allure of Hawaii. Torsten has transformed radiography in the short time he has been here and we will really miss him. As in 2013, we are grateful to Dr Margarette McGuigan and Dr Danny McIlgorm, who have been helping with the student teaching, both undergraduate and postgraduate.

Irene O'Leary

Irene O'Leary, Registered General Nurse, retired after 12 years working in the Dublin Dental University Hospital. A retirement celebration was hosted in the Common Room in June. Irene was an asset to the hospital nursing team and will be sadly missed by all. We wish Irene well in her retirement.

Dr Jacinta McLoughlin

Dr Jacinta McLoughlin is stepping down as Director of Undergraduate Teaching & Learning and Director of the Dental Science programme. Jacinta has been in this role for 12 years, although when asked about this she couldn't resist saying "too long!!", of course with a smile on her face. Jacinta has brought the undergraduate programmes through a period of immense change, and has made substantial contributions to the School and Hospital from behind the scenes. Generations of students have variously viewed Jacinta with reverence, fear, or extreme gratitude, depending on the presenting dilemma. A number of deans too are eternally grateful to Jacinta for steering them through the minefield that is College's policies and procedures with aplomb and even more of the staff has come to rely on her support and wisdom. Jacinta now has the opportunity to re-engage with her other roles to a greater extent and we wish her every success with this.

Professor Derek Sullivan

Professor Derek Sullivan is taking on the role of Director from 2014 and has already been engaging in a hand-over process with Jacinta. Derek takes on this role at an exciting time for the School, as we expand our clinical areas to facilitate additional international students on the Dental Science programme. We look forward to Derek's leg of the journey and wish him every success in this new role.

Congratulations



Dr Paddy Fleming

Dr Paddy Fleming has been elected as President of the European Academy of Paediatric Dentistry. The EAPD is an organization of individuals whose primary concern is in the area(s) of practice, education and/or research specifically related to the specialty of Paediatric Dentistry. Its purpose is the advancement of the specialty of Paediatric Dentistry for the benefit of the oral health of children. We wish Dr Fleming every success in this presidential role.

Dr Philip Hardy

Dr Philip Hardy has been appointed as Director of Undergraduate Restorative Clinics. We wish Philip every success in this new role. Congratulations to Philip on being awarded 'Instructor of the Year' by the outgoing final year Dental Science students!

Annual Alumni Event: A look Back, A look Forward

October 10 2014. Our next alumni event will be on the theme of **A Look Back, A Look Forward**.

As part of this event we hope to have an exhibition of old artefacts / photos – do you have anything that might be of interest for inclusion? If so, please let us know.

The evening event will be in the format of lectures, followed by the Alumni Awards and reception. More details will follow, but here is a snippet of what to expect...we hope you will all join us on the night.

*In his retirement year, Professor **Stephen Flint** takes a look back at his career in the medical and dental professions and the changes that have taken place during this time. Dr Martin McAleese takes a look forward at the future of dentistry and the challenges and opportunities we face.*

Trinity Alumni Weekend 2014



The 2014 Trinity Alumni Reunion Weekend will take place from 22-24 August

If you would like to come along to this year's Alumni Reunion Weekend you can book your place **now!**

Would you like to get a group together for the 2014 TCD Alumni Reunion Weekend?

The Alumni Office would be happy to help! Contact us at alumni@tcd.ie or Tel: +353 1 896 2088 to find out more.

To find out more visit our webpage:

www.tcd.ie/alumni/weekend/



IPU Conference

The Mouth Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Ireland (MHNCAI) Group attended the Irish Pharmacy Union (IPU) Conference on Saturday 10 May in Cavan. The MHNCAI had an information stand which was very kindly sponsored by the IPU. The purpose of attending the IPU Conference was primarily to heighten awareness amongst pharmacists about the risks and symptoms of mouth cancer and secondly to publicise the upcoming Mouth Cancer Awareness Day which is on 17 September 2014.

GradLink Mentoring Programme

The School of Dental Science will participate in the Trinity GradLink Mentoring Programme 2014-15. The launch will take place in January 2015. We look forward to welcoming our alumni back to the School to give their invaluable experience and guidance to our incoming 4th year students.

The aim of the GradLink Mentoring Programme is to develop current students' knowledge of the labour market and career paths, through nurturing career learning relationships with alumni mentors working in a range of career areas.

To register your interest in participating in the programme please email alumni@dental.tcd.ie

More information can be found at the following webpage **www.tcd.ie/alumni/mentoring**

Social Media



Twitter: @DDUH12



Facebook: www.facebook.com/DDUH12

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, see [**www.tcd.ie/alumni/volunteer**](http://www.tcd.ie/alumni/volunteer)

Stay In Touch

Get connected with Front Gate Online. Update your details, search and contact fellow alumni, register for events, join the career network and other groups, all in one place! Register today!
[**www.tcd.ie/alumni/frontgateonline**](http://www.tcd.ie/alumni/frontgateonline)

Upcoming Events

TCD Alumni Weekend
22-24 August 2014

Christmas Commons
3 December 2014

Christmas Homecoming
22 December 2014

[**www.tcd.ie/alumni/events**](http://www.tcd.ie/alumni/events)

[**www.tcd.ie/dental**](http://www.tcd.ie/dental)

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