Tercentenary Appeal

I would like to thank School’s alumni who responded generously to Tercentenary appeal letter in February. We received over €35,000 in donations. The Tercentenary Board decided to allocate this amount to the project initiated by Mary Henry, Chairperson of the TCD Association and Trust, in connection with dedication of a research laboratory in memory of Seamus Ó Floinn, a loyal School of Medicine alumnus. This was made possible through Seamus’s bequest. Please read more about this inside.

Prof Dermot Kelleher, Head of the School of Medicine, Vice Provost for Medical Affairs

Tercentenary Committee

A staff Tercentenary Committee to plan events in the lead up to the Tercentenary has been established. If you would like to make suggestions or to help with events please email medicine@tcd.ie. We hope to announce the calendar of Tercentenary events in mid 2009.

Dr Paul Spiers Receives Provost’s Teaching Award

Recipients of the 2008 Provost’s Teaching Awards include Dr Paul Spiers, Pharmacology & Therapeutics, School of Medicine, who was recognised for dedication and commitment to teaching and learning excellence. The candidates were selected through a rigorous process involving their nomination by their students or peers in College, an assessment of their teaching philosophy, practice and scholarship, an evaluation of their teaching portfolios, and consideration of review reports from their academic peers.

L-R: Recipients of the 2008 Provost’s Teaching Awards: Prof Sylvia Draper, Dr Paul Spiers, Dr Oran Doyle, Prof Cyril J. Smyth

Dr Manné Berber Lecture

Martyn Manné Berber, a Trinity graduate, M.B. (1950), was a prominent and much loved general practitioner in Dublin. He was also the founding father of specialist training for general practitioners in Dublin. He died prematurely in 1988 and in 1998 a lecture was established in his honour, which is given annually. The training scheme in now called the Trinity/Health Service Executive Training Programme and is headed by Professor Fergus O’Kelly. This year is the 20th anniversary of Dr Berber’s death and the 10th Manné Berber Lecture was given in Trinity, to great acclaim by his nephew Philip Berber. Philip, a University College Dublin graduate, started out as a successful businessman and now sees himself as social entrepreneur. He and his wife Donna founded and run A Glimmer of Hope Foundation, to which they pledged $100 million. They work to help the disadvantaged in Ethiopia, London (United Kingdom) and Austin (USA). For more information please visit www.aglimmerofhope.org.
In Our Community

The Joly-O'Morchoe Exchange Fellowship

David Foley, a final year student of the School of Medicine, is the recipient of the Joly-O'Morchoe Exchange Fellowship, which was established in 2007 by Dr Charles C. C. O'Morchoe (M.D. 1955).

The fellowship, which is endowed in perpetuity, is for student exchange programme between TCD School of Medicine and the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign. It is in honour of Dr O’Morchoe’s wife Patricia Jean O’Morchoe (née Richardson), a Trinity medical graduate (M.D. 1955), and also in honour of his two ancestors who were professors at TCD. They were both fellows of TCD and also fellows of the Royal Society. One is his grandfather Charles Jasper Joly who was, among other things, the Royal Astronomer of Ireland and who lived (and died) at the Dunsink Observatory. The second is his cousin, John Joly, who was Professor of Geology and is considered to be one of TCD’s most famous scientists.

Charles and Patricia Jean both graduated from TCD School of Medicine in 1955. They were on the faculty of TCD from 1957 to 1968 with a gap of two years, which they spent in the USA. Dr Charles O’Morchoe was elected a Fellow of TCD during that time. Subsequently he was a Professor at the University of Maryland, Head of the Anatomy Department of Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine (1974-1984) and then Dean of the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign (1984-1998) and now its Emeritus Dean and Professor. He is retired and lives in Washington State. His wife Patricia Jean followed a similar academic career. She died in 2003.

Melissa Webb Awarded Honorary Degree

In July 2008 Melissa Webb M.A. (1965) was awarded LL.D. (Doctor in Laws) by Trinity College. Melissa Webb is Governor of the Adelaide and Meath Hospital and the National Children’s Hospital in Tallaght, Governor of the Rotunda Hospital, Director of the National Children’s Hospital Foundation Board and former President of the Irish Federation of University Women. With remarkable energy, drive and commitment, Melissa Webb has been a major influence in the development of Dublin hospitals and has championed countless fundraising initiatives for the hospital services. She also had a key role in the development of Trinity’s School of Nursing. Other 2008 Honorary Degree recipients were Dónal Lunney, Robert Fisk, John Hume and Robert Redford.

Seamus Ó Floinn Research Laboratory

A research laboratory at the Trinity Centre for Health Sciences at St. James’s Hospital was named after a distinguished Trinity alumnus, Dr Seamus Ó Floinn, M.B., M.A. (1960), at a special ceremony in June. The research laboratory houses the pulmonary group, headed up by Prof Joseph Keane, Director of Research at the School of Medicine. Prof Keane and his team are conducting ground-breaking research into the pulmonary diseases – lung cancer and tuberculosis, and has recently published a new test for lung cancer in Nature Medicine.

The recently deceased Seamus P. J. Ó Floinn qualified in medicine at Trinity College before emigrating to the United States. There he studied and did his residency training in preventative and internal medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital, in Baltimore. He went on to obtain his Masters Degree in Public Health from Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

Dr Ó Floinn had an illustrious career in medicine and medical administration. As a pulmonary specialist, he had been the chief of the Division of Respiratory Diseases. He had served as the Director of both the Montebello Rehabilitation Hospital and the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems. He had also been the Chief Medical Officer at both the University Specialty Hospital and the Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Hospital. He subsequently became head of the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Centre and the Medical Officer for the Maryland National Guard.

Throughout his life Seamus retained a deep loyalty to Trinity College. Mary Henry, Chairperson of the TCD Association and Trust, initiated the efforts to dedicate a laboratory in Seamus’s memory, which was made possible by the generous bequest that Seamus had left to the School of Medicine.

Seamus’s wife Lacy from Baltimore, Maryland, and his brother, Rear Admiral Cathal Flynn from California, as well as other family members from the UK and Ireland and friends and colleagues attended the ceremony.

Professor Hill Elected TCD Honorary Fellow

Prof Adrian V.S. Hill is Director of the Jenner Institute and Professor of Human Genetics at Oxford University. Prof Hill was a Foundation Scholar of Trinity College Dublin before qualifying in medicine at Oxford in 1982. He now leads one of the major laboratories investigating the genetic basis of variable susceptibility to infectious diseases, particularly malaria and tuberculosis. He has also developed new types of vaccine that target the cellular immune system and has advanced these to clinical trials in several countries. Vaccines from his research group are amongst the most promising candidates for helping control tuberculosis and malaria in developing countries.

Prof Hill is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, of the UK Academy of Medical Sciences, and of Magdalene College, Oxford, and has received several research awards including the Linacre Medal of the Royal College of Physicians and the Zoological Society of London Medal. Prof Hill currently chairs Tercentenary Board of the TCD School of Medicine.
Recent Publications

Dr W. A. Watts – Memoir of a Provost


This recently published memoir records William Watts’ life and times from student to Provost over forty years. It tries to give a feeling and flavour of the society of the College during those times and records major incidents and events. In addition to his academic work, Dr Watts had deep involvement in the work of the hospitals, including the foundation of Tallaght Hospital. He was Chairman of the Federated Hospitals for some years, Chairman of Mercer’s Hospital and initiated the Mercer’s Hospital Foundation, which supports the provision of medical services in gerontology at St James’s Hospital and general practice in Jobstown, Tallaght, and at the College of Surgeons. Dr Watts was also chairman of the Dublin Dental Hospital for several years where a laboratory is named after him, as are a fellowship in St. James’s and a medal by the Health Research Board, of which he was the first chairman.

Madness to Mental Illness: A History of the Royal College of Psychiatrists


This readable text presents the long-awaited first comprehensive history of the Royal College of Psychiatrists as an organisation, from its creation as the Association of Medical Officers of Asylums and Hospitals for the Insane in 1841, its development through various name changes and the receipt of two charters, to become the present Royal College as we know it today.

As a former President of the College from 1984-1987, Dr Bewley also gives an overview of the fascinating developments in British psychiatry and its sub-specialties over the past two centuries. Further, more specific activities are also detailed, such as the formation of the research unit, the College publishing programme of journals and books, and the growth in facilities now provided including the library and information service.

All the developments in Ireland from 1800 to 2000 are also covered.

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