

A Celebration of 3 Years of SciFest@TCPID



The University of Dublin



SciFest@TCPID 2020

Thursday May 28th 2020 should have been the date of our now annual SciFest@TCPID student exhibition in the Science Gallery in Trinity College Dublin. The SciFest programme has run every year since 2017 in association with Abbott Ireland and SciFest. We are incredibly disappointed that due to the current COVID 19 crisis, we were unable to run the programme this year.

What we have decided to do instead is to mark the occasion with a celebration of the past 3 years of SciFest@TCPID with quotes from many of the student participants and some fabulous photos of the 3 student exhibitions that have already taken place.

We are already looking forward to SciFest@TCPID 2021 which we hope will be bigger and better than ever!

Background

Our first ever meeting with Abbott Ireland took place in March 2017. Over a cup of coffee the idea of running a student science project with their partner SciFest was first suggested by Daragh Fallon. After meeting with Sheila and George Porter from SciFest, SciFest@TCPID was born!

Our very first SciFest@TCPID student exhibition took place in May 2017 and was a huge success. This was the first time that students with intellectual disabilities had taken part in the SciFest programme.

Since the first exhibition in 2017, Abbott Ireland have provided a volunteer mentor to work with each student and the entire process has been tirelessly coordinated by Ciara Hayes who has gone out of her way to ensure that the students have everything that they could

possibly need in order to complete their projects.

While the SciFest@TCPID programme is not a core part of the academic course and participation has always been voluntary, there has been a significant uptake each year with almost all students taking part.

The support of Abbott Ireland and SciFest has been crucial to the huge success of the programme. Our students are carefully matched with an individual mentor from Abbott who supports them in taking a project idea from start to completion over the course of 5 weeks. Students choose a science project relating to a topic that they are interested in, for example sports, music, food etc.

Every year, we watch the students come up with ideas, develop their projects and grow in confidence over the 5 weeks. The final exhibition in the Science Gallery each year is a celebration of their work and a chance for them to present their projects to a large audience.



Sheila Porter, Founder and CEO, SciFest

“SciFest@TCPID is traditionally the last SciFest STEM fair of the academic year and a true celebration of the very nature of SciFest: open-to-all, fun, inclusive and embracing diversity. The students who participate are amazing, and it would be difficult not to be inspired by their enthusiasm. As well as developing their STEM-related skills, participation in SciFest helps them to grow in confidence and to develop their communication and presentation skills. SciFest@TCPID also provides an opportunity for the students to celebrate their achievements with their parents, grandparents, family and friends. We are deeply disappointed for the students that this year’s SciFest@TCPID will not take place and we wish them well for the future. We very much look forward to healthier and happier times and to SciFest@TCPID 2021.”



Ciara Hayes Abbott Ireland, Stephen Ryan TCPID student and Sheila Porter SciFest

Marie Devitt – TCPID Pathways Coordinator

“The SciFest@TCPID programme is a huge highlight for us each year and we are incredibly disappointed not to have been able to run it in 2020. We are already looking forward to the 2021 programme which will be very special!

We are so grateful to Abbott Ireland and to SciFest for their constant support and further development of this programme. A particular personal thanks go to Daragh Fallon, Ciara Hayes, Sinead Hickey and Rosemary Clarke in Abbott Ireland and to Sheila and George Porter in SciFest for supporting the TCPID and this SciFest programme over the past 3 years. Thank you to all the wonderful Abbott mentors who gave up so much time to work with the students each year. I know that some fantastic friendships were formed along the way!

Thank you also to the incredible TCPID team, Barbara, Mary-Ann, John, Des and Michael who gave up their time every year to support the students and to help with the projects, whether through taking part in the experiments, designing artistic images to add to the project boards, recording wonderful videos of the experience or carrying all the projects across campus to the Science Gallery. Not an easy feat through the busy College Green traffic!!

My biggest thanks also go to the amazing 20 students who have taken part over the past 3 years. You have inspired all of us with your hard work, enthusiasm and determination. Thank you for all the many, many laughs along the way!”

Ciara Hayes – Abbott Ireland CSR Specialist

“Abbott supports a diverse range of community projects, with emphasis on promoting science education, which includes SciFest@TCPID.”

Abbott employees volunteer to mentor students on a one-to-one basis to create a science project of their choosing including research, experiments and communications training. This programme aims to encourage a love of science, technology and maths among students. While this year’s SciFest@TCPID exhibition was cancelled, we are already preparing and looking forward to SciFest@TCPID 2021.”

Professor Michael Shevlin – TCPID Director

“SciFest is a great opportunity for our students to develop their interests in science and create exciting projects with invaluable support from the Abbott mentors.”

Professor Damian Murchan – Head of the School of Education, TCD

“Over the past 3 years students in Trinity’s Certificate in Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice (ASIAP) have engaged enthusiastically with SciFest, mentored by staff from Abbott Ireland. We know SciFest as a national movement that enables young people to engage with STEM issues in an engaging, practical, innovative and enjoyable way. There is a natural alignment between SciFest and the Certificate in ASIAP. Both strive to help students apply learning in practical life-relevant ways. Both encourage students to learn about addressing challenges, investigate their own potential and explore their environment through challenging activities. In SciFest, everybody is a winner and over the past 3 years,

students on the Certificate have all been winners by pushing their own boundaries in learning across different dimensions of STEM.

This type and level of learning by the students could not be achieved without the solid support of SciFest in facilitating the event each May. Nor could it be achieved without the on-going engagement, encouragement and practical support of Abbott Ireland in mentoring the students. I hope that the mentoring experience has benefited not only the students, but also the staff of Abbott Ireland as the mentors and other staff found new and creative ways to think, relate and solve problems. On behalf of Trinity and the School of Education I warmly applaud and thank SciFest and Abbott Ireland for such dedication and generosity in providing rich opportunity to students who we all believe have the talent to realise their dreams.”



Dave McPhillips, ex-lead guitarist with The Coronas with Professor Damian Murchan, Head of the School of Education, TCD

Niamh Biddulph – TCPID Student 2016-2018

Project title: Why chocolate is good for women

“There’s this great sense of excitement when you get to do some research on something that piques your interest and makes the audience go ‘Wow! This is amazing, how did you do this?’. What’s even better is that everyone has the potential to showcase their special interests and we’re all being rewarded for our hard work.”



TCPID student Niamh Biddulph with her SciFest project

Hugh O’Callaghan – TCPID Student 2016-2018

Project Title: The Effects of Fatigue on your Performance In KickBoxing

I enjoyed the SciFest very much because it was my chance to tell people facts about my topic. My topic was **The Effects of Fatigue on your Performance in KickBoxing.**

My favourite part was presenting my project to loads of people.

I learnt that not all projects are just visual they can be audio and visual and also interactive by people being able to feel the shin guards I wear in kickboxing.

I really enjoyed the whole day.”



TCPID student Hugh O’Callaghan being interviewed by Independent.ie

Shane McGilton – TCPID Student 2016-2018

Project title: Earthquakes and the effect on building structure

“SciFest 2017 was brilliant and all the projects were brilliant. I really enjoyed working on my Earthquakes project.”



TCPID student Shane McGilton with his SciFest project

Dairine O'Rourke – TCPID Student 2016-2018

Project Title: The Psychology of Colour

“I enjoyed the presenting on the day and answering people’s questions.

I learned that blue is the most popular colour overall but especially for men and black is the least popular colour.

I also learned how to create a survey and how to sort out the data using an Excel spreadsheet.

I also learned how to do research by looking up other surveys and articles about colours on the internet.”



TCPID student Dairine O'Rourke with her SciFest project

Mark Hogan – TCPID Student 2016-2018

Project title: Is Guinness good for you?

“I did my project on if Guinness is good for you. I found out that it contains 5 hidden teaspoon of sugar and 42% of alcohol. I did an experiment on sugar in alcoholic drinks including Guinness. I really enjoyed the exhibition when I was presenting my project to everyone. My favourite part was when my family came in to the exhibition.

I really enjoyed SciFest@TCPID!”



TCPID student Mark Hogan with his SciFest project

Marian O'Rourke – TCPID Student 2016-2018

Project Title: The Effects of Ball Weight to Pin Strike Ratio

“I did a project about Lakers and my sport of ten pin bowling

I did this project 3 years ago during my first year on Arts, Science and Inclusive Applied Practice course. I enjoyed doing it.

I tried different bowling balls and found out the best ball for me to use.

Scifest is a very good programme and I learned loads and enjoyed it.”



TCPID student Marian O'Rourke with her SciFest project



TCPID student Dairine O'Rourke with her proud Mum and Nana



TCPID student Mark Hogan with his proud Granny





Marian O'Rourke with proud Dad



Niamh Biddulph being interviewed for Independent.ie



George and Sheila Porter with Dairine O'Rourke



George and Sheila Porter with Niamh Biddulph



Mark Hogan with SciFest Founder Sheila Porter

SciFest@TCPID 2018

We hosted our second annual **SciFest@TCPID** student exhibition and awards took place on May 31st 2018. Five students took part in the 2018 programme and proudly presented their projects to a Science Gallery packed with friends, families and business partners.

Abbott Ireland provided a team of mentors to work with our students on their science projects over a six week period.

Some of the project topics in this year's exhibition included:

Music Through Bones, which looked at how music can affect your mood

AerLuke, which looked at the origins of aircrafts and included an experiment on crafting the perfect paper airplane

Advancement of soccer from Pele to Ronaldo, which looked at the differences in soccer and soccer equipment over the past 50 years

Singing Science, which examined the vocal range differences between men and women

#MoodFood, which looked at food flavours and included a blind taste experiment involving a number of different flavoured foods.



TCPID students with their Abbott Ireland mentors



TCPID Course Coordinator, Dr. Mary-Ann O'Donovan with TCPID Senior Occupational Therapist, Barbara Ringwood

Stephen Ryan – TCPID Student 2017-2019

Project title: Advancement of soccer from Pele to Ronaldo

“I thought the SciFest was really good and rewarding. I feel sorry for this year's first years who will not be able to experience the SciFest as its great fun to take part in. My project was comparing the 1950's to the present day football and how times have changed.

The whole experience was fantastic from coming into the centre to the sessions to work on our projects to giving the presentation the business partners and family members.

Getting assigned Derek as a mentor was great to help me with my project and to help me get the very best out of the experience.

I still have my SciFest 2018 glass trophy!”



TCPID student Stephen Ryan with his proud Mum and Auntie and his mentor Derek Kelly from Abbott Ireland



Dave McPhillips, ex-lead guitarist with The Coronas with TCPID student Adam Farrelly



Ciara Hayes, Abbott Ireland, TCPID student Jessica Lawlor and Sheila Porter from SciFest



TCPID student Adam Farrelly with his project 'Singing Science'



Daragh Fallon and Ciara Hayes from Abbott Ireland with George porter of SciFest

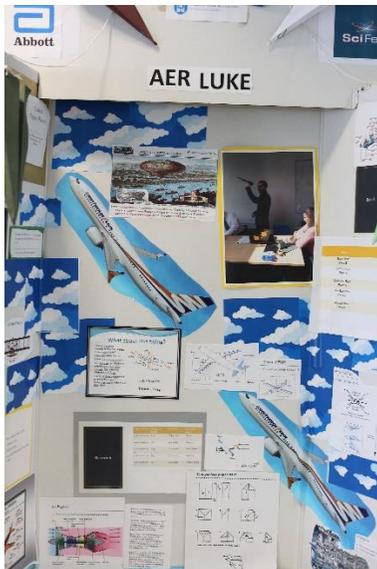


TCPID Student Stephen Ryan presenting his project to a captive audience

Luke Campion – TCPID Student 2017-2019

Project title: AerLuke

“My name is Luke Campion. I took part in SciFest 2018. My project was about flight and planes. I worked with two mentors. Their names were Ciara and Rosemary. Together we did a lot of research on the internet. My favourite part of the project was when it was finished and my work went on display at the exhibition. I really enjoyed doing it.”



Luke Campion's Aer Luke project



TCPID student Luke Campion



Mary-Ann O'Donovan, Des Aston, Barbara Ringwood and Marie Devitt from TCPID



Abbott Ireland Mentors

“It was the highlight of my year”

“Thank you to Ciara, the students and my manager for encouraging me to take the time to do this”

“TCIPD is a fantastic programme to be part of. The students and mentors benefit from the relationship and it gives everyone an opportunity to learn through science exploration. The support from SciFest is amazing.”

“I loved it and would love to do it again next year. It was a commitment to be able to attend all the sessions however the flexibility to share this with other Abbott team members made it workable. That is critical to ensure employees can volunteer in future.”

“Amazing experience. Felt very welcomed by the team in Trinity.”

“It was very rewarding. It is very challenging to find the time during the day, but I think it would be just as hard after work. :) Nevertheless, the guidelines prepared by Ciara were very helpful to know the expectations and advise the student how to approach their projects.”



Abbott Ireland team

SciFest@TCPID 2019

Our third annual **SciFest@TCPID** student exhibition awards took place in the Science Gallery in Trinity College Dublin on May 29th 2019. This was our biggest exhibition to date, with 10 students exhibiting their projects and 12 mentors from Abbott Ireland supporting the work over a period of five weeks. We were also lucky enough to have Dave McPhillips, ex-lead guitarist with The Coronas as a mentor for one of the music projects.

One of the highlights of the programme in 2019 was our visit to the Abbott Cherrywood offices where we were so warmly welcomed and had a fantastic day putting the project board together – lots of paint, glue, coloured paper, glitter but especially lots of laughter!

We were thrilled to see that one of the photos of the event made it into the Irish Times Photos of the Day!



The SciFest@TCPID 2019 team



The Irish Times Photos of the Day May 29th 2019 featuring Dale Blount, Julie O'Brien and Heather Marshall

Julie O'Brien – TCPID Student 2018=2020

Project Title: Super Trooper

"I love dancing and singing. My project is Mamma Mia and the reason I picked it is because of my uncle Dermot who loves the song of Super Trouper.

My favourite part of my project was making it with my mentor Alicia. She was a great help to me searching for photos and then helping me print them off. She is such a nice girl and I really enjoyed working with her. My favourite thing on the day was when Mamma Mia played on a speaker and all the people heard it!"



TCPID student Julie O'Brien presenting her project 'Super Trooper'

Sadbh Feehan – TCPID Student 2018-2020

Project title: The Future in 2030

"What I really enjoyed about SciFest was the workshops and the people who helped us along the way. I had great fun working on my project with my mentor Aisling. Presenting my project to my friends and family was one of my best moments.

My project was what the world would like in 2030 so basically a glimpse into the future which I think was pretty cool and bit scary really but altogether it was really fun to research and explore to see what is predicted to happen.

What I learned was that there is no idea to big or to small and that you can do whatever you think that be interesting not only for you but for the people who you are presenting it to."



TCPID student Sadbh Feehan presenting her project 'The Future in 2030'

Liam Cummins – TCPID Student 2018- 2020

Project Title: Ben and Liam’s SciFest United

“My SciFest project is on soccer to find out what is the best distance needed on a soccer pitch to score a goal. I picked this project because soccer is one of my favourite sports. My mentor from Abbott Ireland is Ben and it was great fun to work with him. We went to an outdoor football pitch in Trinity and Ben took photographs of me taking shots at him in goal.

I really enjoyed doing this project with Ben.”



Ben Ryder, Abbott Ireland with TCPID student Liam Cummins

Kai Tiernan – TCPID student

Project Title: Turn up the Bass

I really enjoyed taking part in SciFest last year. It was a great experience.

I really enjoyed doing the project with my mentors Rosemary and Tine. I’m really grateful and thankful that we got help from Dave too.

My project was about music. Over the 5 weeks, I learnt about conducting my project, experimenting with things that I never used before, preparing my test, doing my test and preparing my presentation.

My favourite part was testing the speaker with rice while playing one of my favourite tunes which was fun.”



Dave McPhillips of The Coronas with TCPID student Kai Tiernan

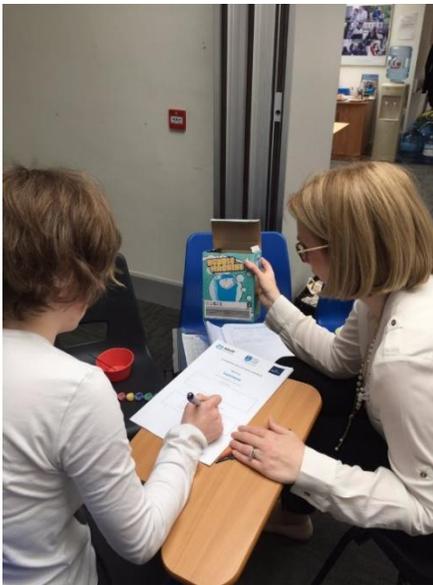
Sinead Sharkey-O’Keeffe – TCPID student 2018-2020

Project Title: Science of Light and Colours

“My project was on light and colours. To see colour you must have light. When light shines on an object some colours bounce off the object and others are absorbed by it. Our eyes only see the colours that are bounced off.

I liked work with my mentors from Abbott Ireland. I really enjoyed work and meeting up with new people and doing the work shop. We were talking about art and colour and I liked mixing paint and bubbles. I liked working with the mentors who helped us in the workplace.

I really enjoyed doing SciFest with my classmates. I liked visiting the different offices and talking to people.”



TCPID student Sinead Sharkey-O’Keeffe with Rosemary Clarke, Abbott Ireland

Barry Olwill – TCPID Student 2018- 2020

Project Title: Sound Project

“I really loved putting together my project.

My project is all about sound and what loud noises can do to your hearing. I learnt how to work together in a group and listen to instructions and put together my project.

My favourite of doing the project was showing my project to the guests and getting an award.”



TCPID Student Barry Olwill with one of his Abbott Ireland mentors Riki Peijen

Heather Marshall – TCPID Student 2018- 2020

Project Title: Heather’s Hair

“My favourite thing that I enjoyed about SciFest was getting to make my own shampoo meeting all new people and working with my partner Kate.

I really enjoyed SciFest!”



TCPID student Heather Marshall presenting her project ‘Heather’s Hair’

Aoife Cleary – TCPID Student 2018-2020

Project title: Pop Rock

“I really enjoyed being part of SciFest. I decided to investigate how music helped with anxiety and over the 5 weeks played different types of music and also took peoples blood pressure. I discovered that some classical music can increase anxiety and blood pressure.

Science is about curiosity and discovery. I really enjoyed the day of the presentation there was a great buzz. The different companies were very excited about my discovery. I also really enjoyed working with my mentor Kate. She was so supportive! I got a lovely plaque.”



TCPID student Aoife Cleary presenting her project ‘Pop Rock’



Ciara Hayes, Abbott Ireland with the TCPID students before the start of the exhibition



Ciara Hayes, Abbott Ireland, TCPID student Benóg Brady Bates and Sheila Porter, SciFest



SciFest Founder Sheila Porter with TCPID student Sabh Feehan



TCPID student Kai Tiernan with his SciFest certificate



TCPID student Dale Blount presenting his project 'Keep A Chive Alive'



TCPID student Barry Olwill presenting his project 'Sound Project'



TCPID student Kai Tiernan presenting his project 'Turn up the Bass'



TCPID student Benóg Brady Bates presenting his project 'Sound to Light'

Thank you to everyone involved in SciFest@TCPID for an incredible 3 years!

We will be back in May 2021 to create even more special memories!

