



UCD College of Health and Agricultural Sciences
Coláiste na nEolaíochtaí Talmhaíochta agus Sláinte UCD

Collective Minds for a Healthier World

Transforming Learning, Advancing
Research, and Engaging for Impact
2025–2030





8,022

students registered with the College of Health and Agricultural Sciences in Ireland, 175 students overseas



1,194

faculty, research and support staff are employed across the College



4,653

SDG publications (July 2023)



4,628

Total research publications (July 2023)



1.96

Field weighted citation impact

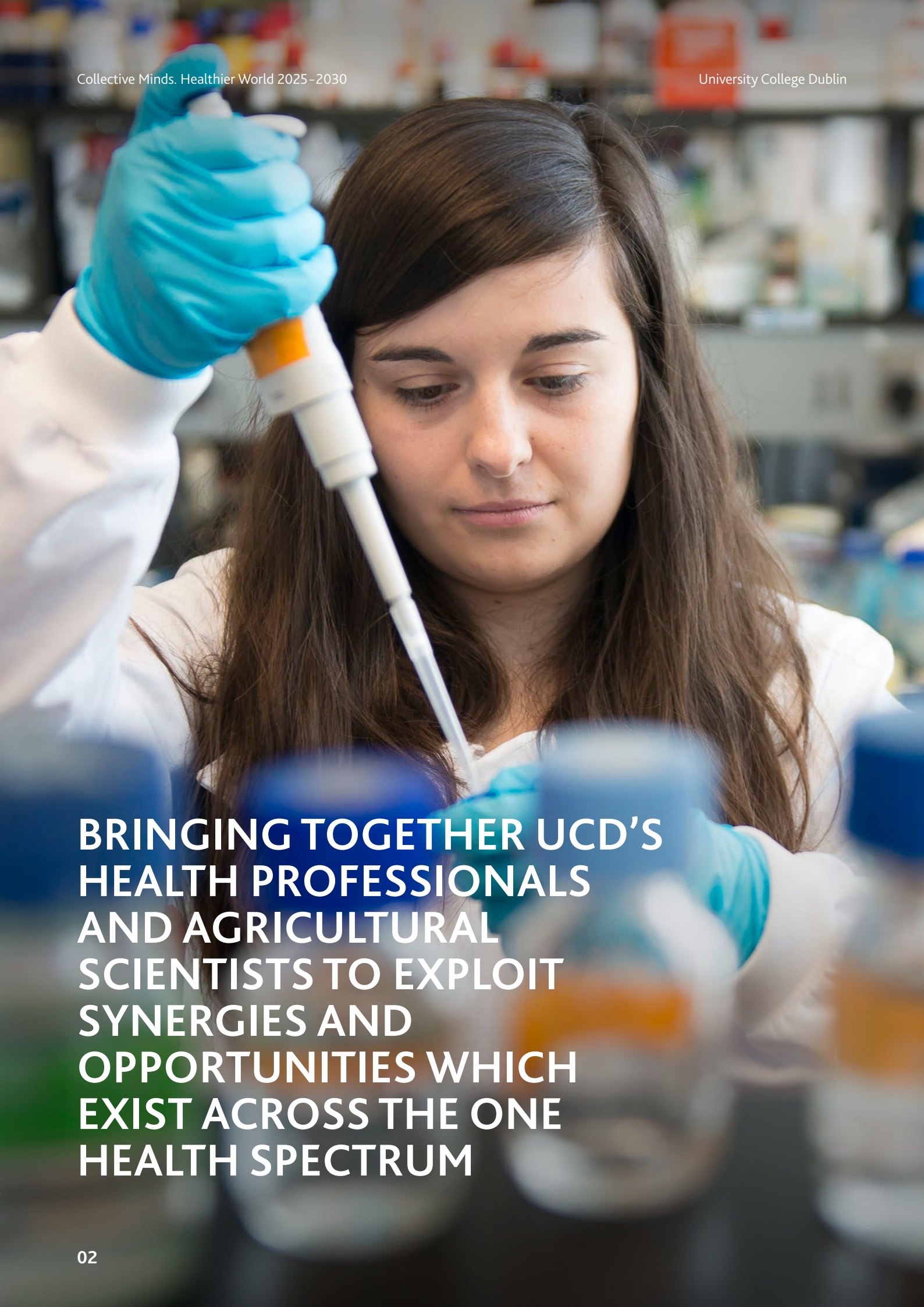


€62,017,000

Total research awards

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A female scientist with long brown hair, wearing a white lab coat and blue nitrile gloves, is focused on her work. She is holding a white and orange pipette, dispensing liquid into a small container. The background is a blurred laboratory setting with various equipment and shelves. The text is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

**BRINGING TOGETHER UCD'S
HEALTH PROFESSIONALS
AND AGRICULTURAL
SCIENTISTS TO EXPLOIT
SYNERGIES AND
OPPORTUNITIES WHICH
EXIST ACROSS THE ONE
HEALTH SPECTRUM**

FOREWORD

The **UCD College of Health and Agricultural Sciences** was established in 2015 and brings UCD's health professionals and agricultural scientists together to exploit synergies and opportunities which exist across the One Health spectrum. The College comprises five schools, the School of Agriculture & Food Science, the School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health Systems, the School of Medicine, the School of Public Health, Physiotherapy & Sports Science, and the School of Veterinary Medicine.

The One Health initiative is an integrated, unifying approach that sustainably balances and optimises the health of people, animals and ecosystems. This is what underlies the activities of all Schools in the College and recognises that the health of humans, domestic and wild animals, plants and the wider environment (including ecosystems) are closely linked and interdependent.

This One Health approach is a central philosophy that underpins the teaching, research and other activities in the College, for the benefit of all. As such, the College specifically supports the indigenous agriculture and food, and human and animal health sectors through education, cutting-edge research and professional practice across our community partners and stakeholders. We offer a spectrum of applied and health-related courses across the constituent schools of the College, including an extensive portfolio of graduate education for professionals designed to fit their schedules.

The College also provides students with a broad perspective of the world, enabling them to be curious, inquisitive and capable of solving problems that impact the health of the planet and those on it by considering solutions for sustainable living.





VISION

To be a world leader in the advancement of human, animal, and environmental wellbeing, advanced together for the benefit of all.



MISSION

To advance impactful education, research, and services in health, wellbeing, and agriculture through the collective strength of our people, partners, and facilities.



OUR VALUES

We act together in a uniquely co-located, interdisciplinary community, placing collaboration at the heart of everything we do. We foster **Collegiality** across disciplines and partnerships, inspire **Creativity** in discovery and learning, and celebrate **Diversity** as a source of insight and strength. We **Engage for Impact** through purposeful partnerships and the exchange of ideas. We pursue **Excellence** in education, research, and services, and uphold **Integrity** in every action and decision.

Together, these values define who we are: a collaborative, curious, and committed community shaping a healthier, more sustainable world of balanced sustainability for all life.



COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

One Health

One Health recognises that the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment are closely linked and inter – dependent. The vision of One Health UCD is to lead transformative solutions to local, national and international challenges through academic excellence with collaborative interdisciplinary research, education, training and outreach. UCD aims to provide students with a broad perspective of the world, enabling them to be adaptive, reactive, resilient and capable of solving problems that impact the health of the planet and those on it by considering solutions from multiple angles. This One Health approach is a central philosophy that underpins the teaching and research in the College of Health and Agricultural Sciences, for the benefit of all.

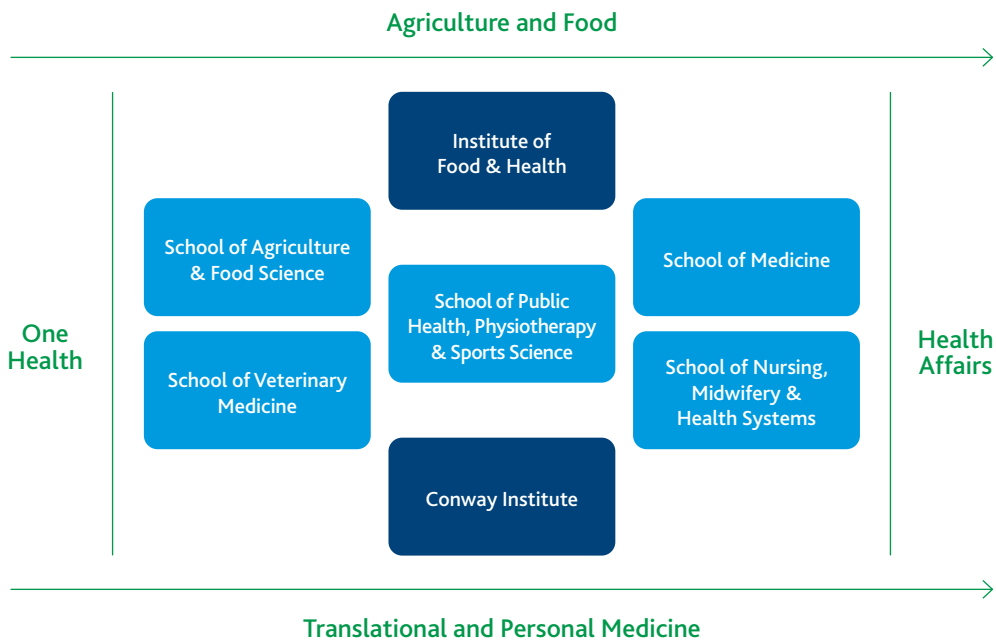
The UCD One Health Centre was established in 2024 and in October 2024 was recognised as the first World Health Organization Collaborating Centre on One Health in Europe. The UCD Centre for One Health will promote and foster collaboration across sectors and countries to shape the implementation of a One Health approach in the region.

The Centre builds on UCD’s long-standing commitment to translational research and its strong international partnerships. It acts as a focal point for collaboration nationally and internationally.

UCD Health Affairs

The UCD Health Affairs Office is part of the UCD College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (CHAS) and works with the five CHAS schools to enhance collaboration and provide a formal channel for cooperation with clinical partners and Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs) across the HSE Health Regions. This includes developing and implementing a strategic vision for healthcare education, research, and innovation across the group, ultimately supporting the establishment of an Academic Health Science System (AHSS).

An integrated approach to healthcare – fostering strong collaboration across hospitals, the university, and community services – is central to this vision. Evidence shows that patients achieve better outcomes within an Academic Health Science System (AHSS), as integrating teaching, training, research, and innovation with clinical service delivery strengthens the learning organisation and improves the recruitment and retention of high-quality staff.





INSTITUTES AND CENTRES

UCD Institute for Food and Health

The UCD Institute of Food and Health is a multidisciplinary research centre focused on advancing healthy, safe, and sustainable food systems. Its work spans five key areas: Food Safety and Integrity, Sustainable Food Production, Food Processing and Quality, Nutrition and Health, and Digitalisation of the Food Chain. Collaborating with industry, policymakers, and other stakeholders, the Institute translates research into practical solutions for consumers and society. Through public lectures, open days, and outreach events, it actively engages with the public to share scientific insights and promote understanding of how food, health, and sustainability are interconnected.

UCD Conway Institute

UCD Conway is a leading biomedical research institute, underpinned by the most comprehensive suite of centrally managed core technology facilities in Ireland, to benefit the health and wellbeing of society. With dedicated expertise, infrastructure and instrumentation, these platforms are ideally positioned to serve the needs of the scientific community nationally. UCD Conway strives to facilitate every opportunity to advance discovery and translational research, innovation and education while directly supporting the UCD Strategy to 2030 and national objectives within Government of Ireland Impact 2030.

UCD Conway Institute is home to many of Ireland's most outstanding performers in the biomedical sciences. Interdisciplinarity is our strength. This exceptional research environment with key operational and infrastructural supports continues to enable the establishment of large-scale initiatives and programmes underpinned by excellence in research and innovation. We partner with academic, clinical, industry and civic society to nurture future technological and intellectual success in an environment firmly embedded within a positive culture where engaged research can flourish.

UCD One Health Centre

The UCD One Health Centre was established in 2024 and in October 2024 was recognised as the first World Health Organization Collaborating Centre on One Health in Europe. The UCD Centre for One Health will promote and foster collaboration across sectors and countries to shape the implementation of a One Health approach in the region.

The Centre builds on UCD's long-standing commitment to translational research and its strong international partnerships. It acts as a focal point for collaboration.



School of Agriculture and Food Science

UCD Centre for Forest Research

UCD Centre for Humanitarian Action

School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science

National Nutrition Surveillance Centre at UCD

UCD Centre for Food Safety

UCD Centre for Safety and Health at Work

UCD Centre for Support and Training in Analysis and Research

UCD Centre for Translational Pain Research

School of Medicine

UCD Academic Centre on Rare Diseases

UCD Bioinformatics Centre

UCD Centre for Arthritis Research

UCD Centre for Emergency Medical Science

UCD Centre for Experimental Pathogen Host Research

UCD Centre for Human Reproduction

UCD Diabetes Complications Research Centre

UCD Perinatal Research Centre

UCD Centre for Precision Surgery

School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems

UCD Centre for Interdisciplinary Research Education and Innovation in Health Systems

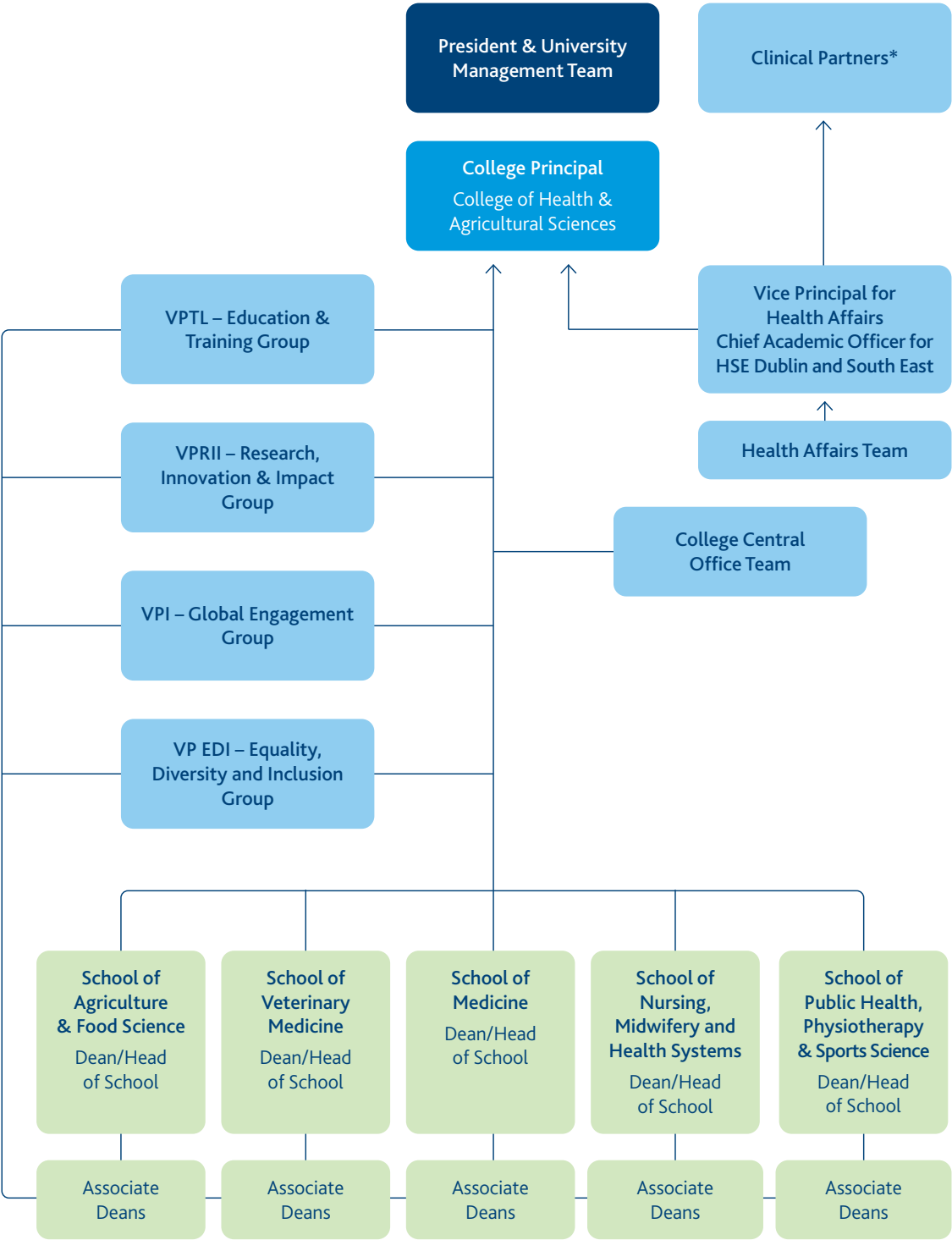
School of Veterinary Medicine

UCD Centre for Veterinary Education

UCD Centre for Veterinary Epidemiology and Risk Analysis



College Organisational Chart



*Clinical Partners: MMUH, SVUH, HSE Dublin and South East and other affiliated hospitals.

COLLEGE PILLARS

The college adopts the three central pillars of the UCD Strategy to 2030: Breaking Boundaries to achieve lasting and meaningful impact, where:

PILLAR	UNIVERSITY LEVEL	COLLEGE LEVEL
1 TRANSFORMING LEARNING	We will enhance our curricula to identify and deliver the broader set of skills and attributes needed by our graduates to stand out in an increasingly complex world. We will expand access to our portfolio of outstanding programmes of education, recognising the diverse backgrounds of today's learners along the course of their lives and careers. We will prioritise the sense of belonging and community for all our students. We will enhance our physical and digital campuses in an integrated manner, providing world class facilities and educational experiences that support these aims.	Our College will continue to lead the way in both innovation and excellence in teaching and learning. Through our diverse portfolio of programmes across human, animal and environmental wellbeing we will foster lifelong learners and develop a College community who will stand out in their fields as world challenges continue to evolve. We will develop our teaching and learning infrastructure, in Belfield, across our clinical networks, and the UCD Lyons Farm to ensure that our learners receive an exceptional experience during their programmes.
2 ADVANCING RESEARCH & INNOVATION	We will draw on all of our strengths and our partnerships to create knowledge, cultivate talent, and achieve impact through our research and innovation. We will work at scale across disciplines in the areas where that impact can be greatest. The boundaries between the university and our stakeholders and partners will be more porous, with ideas and talent flowing with ease. We will support our researchers with the joined-up services and infrastructure they need to deliver success.	At the heart of the Colleges approach will be an equitable, inclusive, diverse and supportive research culture that is grounded in rigour and integrity. To achieve our ambitions in an ever-changing world we will leverage developments in life sciences, artificial intelligence and machine learning. We will work with Ireland's health and social care sectors through the CHAS Health Affairs office to enhance the links with our collaborating hospitals and health regions. We will capitalise on our unique fingerprints such as UCD Lyons Farm and UCD Veterinary Hospital.

PILLAR	UNIVERSITY LEVEL	COLLEGE LEVEL
3 ENGAGING FOR IMPACT	We will facilitate a more effective exchange of people and ideas through ethical partnerships with research institutions, industries, third-sector organisations and policy-makers. We will be bolder in sharing our stories through our communications, reinforcing confidence and trust. We will deliver impact through engagement within Ireland, with our near neighbours in the UK and EU, and globally.	The College is uniquely placed to engage and advance the One Health and sustainability agendas and to have impact. Its strength lies in the collaboration of its five schools, its research centres and institutes, and its national and international links at all levels of stakeholders.





COLLEGE STRATEGIC AREAS

The College has 7 Strategic areas, each with a number of high level objectives. These objectives are aligned with Breaking Boundaries strategic initiatives.



Strategic Area 1: TRANSFORMING LEARNING



Strategic Area 2: ADVANCING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



Strategic Area 3: GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT



Strategic Area 4: COLLEGE COMMUNITY



Strategic Area 5: PHYSICAL AND DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE



Strategic Area 6: HEALTH AFFAIRS



Strategic Area 7: ENGAGING PARTNERS FOR IMPACT



Strategic Area 1:

TRANSFORMING LEARNING

Collectively the Schools within the College provide a holistic education experience that challenges students to learn, enquire, create, reason and innovate so they can gain knowledge and attitudes to be personally successful, be life-long learners and shape local and global society.

The college will:

- a. **Foster a culture of innovation and excellence** in teaching and learning in the College.
- b. **Develop opportunities** for more social learning, interprofessional and interdisciplinary learning and curriculum opportunities across the college, thus also enhancing student engagement, well-being and belonging.
- c. **Enhance learning experiences** through practical learning and evidence-based clinical simulation methodologies and technologies, preparing students to become competent practitioners in their respective fields.
- d. **Explore and design** novel cross-College programmes, modules, and microcredentials in collaboration with external partners, both globally and nationally, to provide our students with opportunities to develop a broad range of knowledge, skills and careers.
- e. **Develop the physical infrastructure** at all our locations for excellence in education.



Examples

Clinical Skills Centre at UCD School of Veterinary Medicine

The School of Veterinary Medicine has expanded its clinical skills training through the re-development of the existing clinical skills laboratory into the re-launched Clinical Skills Centre which supports clinical skills development in undergraduate veterinary medicine and veterinary nursing students. This enhanced facility continues to develop and become further integrated into the core undergraduate curricula as well as being a supportive space for students to use in their own time to develop their skills.

UCD Physio Hub

Led by colleagues in UCD Physiotherapy and based in UCD's sports facility, the UCD Physio Hub is an exemplar of innovation in health professional education, providing 'real world' student learning opportunities in community health, physical activity and exercise prescription for both healthy and chronic disease populations. Students engage with clients and colleagues on campus and through community outreach activities. Adopting an evidence based approach, students at Physio Hub are encouraged to be creative in addressing the diverse community health needs.

Clinical Skills Simulation Suite

The state-of-the-art Clinical Skills Simulation Suite at UCD Health Science Centre opened on 19 February 2025. Funded by UCD CHAS, the fully equipped suite, with an integrated AV system, is central to teaching and learning, allowing quality simulation activities that elevate students' learning through realistic patient scenarios and real-time problem-solving. Advised by HSE experts, it bridges the gap between knowledge and practical skills. The School also installed a multipurpose simulation cave, where bespoke projection and lighting transform environments – from therapy rooms to emergency departments – immersing students in safe, realistic learning. The suite supports student-centred education, enhancing

curriculum, promoting preparedness for clinical practice, and ensuring all undergraduate and postgraduate learners benefit fully.

Virtual Reality Simulation in Medical Imaging

The Radiography & Diagnostic Imaging Section has embedded both 2D and 3D Virtual Reality simulation learning into its curricula to offer innovative learning experiences to Radiography students as they develop their practical skills. Significant investment has afforded 6 "State of the Art" virtual reality suites which are used to support student learning. In addition to the on-campus experience where the students can fully immerse themselves into a 3D X-ray suite and perform patient examinations the students also have access to a virtual x-ray room on their personal laptops, so they can practice their radiography skills at times convenient to them.

CSTAR

The Centre for Support and Training in Analysis and Research (CSTAR) is an approved UCD academic centre for research and training within the School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Sports Science UCD. Specialising in statistical analysis, CSTAR offers a consultancy and training service to individuals, institutions and companies carrying out health research in Ireland. Services include support and advice for the preparation of grant applications, study design, data management, statistical analysis, report writing and manuscript review and generation. Clients come from a broad remit of areas and disciplines, including PhD candidates, researchers involved in the biomedical and clinical sciences, and even researchers in the humanities. CSTAR provides training programmes in data management and statistical analysis.





Strategic Area 2:

ADVANCING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

CHAS is committed to excellence in research and innovation to deliver impact locally, nationally and globally. At its core we adopt a One Health approach that sustainably balances and optimises the health of people, animals, and ecosystems.

Our breadth of expertise enables us to deliver new knowledge in various areas including animal health and food systems, optimising healthcare, and developing innovative solutions for major diseases. Our work spans from basic molecular science through to clinical and translational research that allows us to transform scientific discoveries into real-world health solutions. Furthermore, our work will play a critical role in addressing climate change and helping Ireland transition to a climate neutral economy by 2050.

The college will:

- a. **Foster and support** excellent, innovative and impactful research: Our ambition is to address global health and agricultural challenges.
- b. **Develop and grow** an ecosystem of excellent and innovative faculty: Foster a dynamic and inclusive research culture where faculty can achieve their ambitions.
- c. **Provide excellent training** for the research leaders of tomorrow by becoming a leading destination for PhD students and early career researchers.
- d. **Promote the sustainability of our research infrastructures:** In tandem with the wider University ambitions in infrastructure, we seek to improve our research infrastructures to enable world class research.
- e. **Develop strong partnerships** with all our stakeholders and with partner organisations; support partnerships with academic leaders that complement our research expertise; build strong partnerships with the public/patients as key partners in our research.



Examples

Systems Biology Ireland (SBI)

SBI is a leading research centre, distinguished by its in-house expertise in both experimental and computational biology. SBI's team of systems biologists are uniquely trained to work across disciplines, integrating complex datasets and interpreting biological systems with a deep understanding of disease mechanisms. By leveraging advanced approaches such as Digital Twins, SBI creates dynamic, predictive models of biological processes that facilitate the translation of research findings into clinical applications. This multidisciplinary expertise allows SBI to excel in key areas such as cancer, cell signaling, and personalised medicine, driving forward innovative therapeutic strategies.

The UCD Charles Institute of Dermatology

Their vision is to become a world leader in innovative dermatologic/ cutaneous research to support advances in patient care and deliver outstanding education to both basic and clinical scientists. Launched in 2011 from origins in the City of Dublin Skin and Cancer Hospital, the Institute is the only academic institute dedicated to dermatologic and cutaneous research on the island of Ireland. We collaborate closely with dermatology centres at home and abroad with funding from Government, Charity and Pharma/Industry partnerships. Our current research focuses on Inflammatory Skin Diseases; Rare Skin Diseases; Skin/Hair Pigmentation; Melanoma; Wound Healing/Wound Care; and Hair Growth Biology.

Institute for Food and Health

The Institute of Food and Health has five core research themes: Food Safety and Integrity, Sustainable Food Production, Food Processing and Quality, Nutrition and Health, Digitalisation of the Food Chain. Aligned with Breaking Boundaries, National Research Priorities and the UN SDGs these themes will direct the research focus and impact of the Institute in the next five years.

UCD Conway Institute

Their research activities are aligned over three cross-cutting themes to provide a focal point for interdisciplinary research into health and wellbeing, as well as biomedically-focused information communication technology. These themes are Personalised and Translational Medicine, One Health and Discovery Research. It is a home to biomedical researchers, chemists, physicists, engineers, computation scientists and clinicians. This interdisciplinarity fosters the ability of researchers to see beyond the normal constraints of their own fields, creating fundamental novel concepts that are driving new knowledge.

UCD Clinical Research Centre (CRC)

The CRC mission is to lead, support, and promote high-quality clinical research that transforms clinical practice, advances medical knowledge, and enhances patient outcomes. CRC hosts Ireland's largest investigator-led trials programme, with Ireland's only Clinical Trials Unit (CTU). A comprehensive biomarker validation laboratory provides specialist support for diagnostic studies, leveraging state-of-the-art bioanalysers, with significant digital infrastructure including inspection-ready regulatory systems and processes, data infrastructure and reporting and automation capacity, enabling delivery of complex, multinational studies. The CRC is primarily co-located between SVHG and MMUH and supports a broad spectrum of therapeutic areas.

UCD Centre for Interdisciplinary Research, Education and Innovation in Health Systems (UCD IRIS Centre)

UCD IRIS is located in the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems and spans a number of other schools in the health and social sciences. It is characterised by systems thinking, interdisciplinary and intersectoral working, patient and public involvement and robust evidence synthesis. It informs the collaborative design of health systems interventions and professional development programmes, as well as contributing to methodological innovation and strong networks and partnerships.



Strategic Area 3:

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

The College will attract a diverse cohort of international students and staff, and establish partnerships that support global learning and research. These efforts will drive academic and research excellence, delivering global impact in sustainable health and agriculture, and advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Our graduates will emerge with the skills, experience and perspectives essential for responsible global citizenship.

The college will:

- a. **Build, maintain and showcase responsible, mutually beneficial global partnerships** which align with UCD values and ambition. These partnerships will prioritize equality, scale, and impact, advancing education, research, innovation, and student experience.
- b. **Strengthen and promote existing university systems and strategies** to drive efficiency, enhance internal coordination, and increase engagement with global actions. By streamlining processes and building strategic partnerships across the College, we will make it easier to collaborate with our global partners and unlock new opportunities for impactful global engagement.
- c. **Engage in global leadership initiatives** in all aspects of One Health
- d. **Build, maintain and showcase an intercultural College environment** and promote global experiences for all so that our increasingly diverse community of students feel a sense of belonging and our graduates have the cultural competencies needed as responsible global citizens.



Examples

RCSI and UCD Malaysian Campus (RUMC)

RUMC is Malaysia's first accredited private medical school, and is owned and was established by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) and UCD. Formerly the Penang Medical College, the RUMC has recently been awarded University status by the Malaysian Ministry of Education as a Foreign University Branch Campus, one of the highest levels for a foreign-owned institution in Malaysia. RUMC remains as the only Irish university in the region and recognised by the Malaysian Medical Council (MMC) and Irish Medical Council (IMC) as graduating high performing doctors. Students are recognised for practice in the USA, Canada and others by the ECFMG and FAIRMER with the institution listed as an Irish medical school in the World Directory of Medical Schools.

UCD and University of California Davis

As part of UCD College of Health and Agricultural Sciences' commitment to impactful global engagement, the College is proud to lead a major strategic partnership between University College Dublin and the University of California, Davis – one of the world's top institutions in agriculture, veterinary medicine and health.

This renewed agreement of cooperation builds on a longstanding collaboration between the two universities and focuses on shared research strengths in One Health and Sustainable Food Systems. These themes align closely with the College's mission to address global challenges through interdisciplinary, high-impact research and education. Through this partnership, the College is fostering deeper international collaboration, enabling joint research projects, staff and student exchange, and cross-institutional learning that advances scientific innovation and societal benefit. It exemplifies our strategic ambition to lead global networks that shape policy, drive innovation, and prepare future leaders in health and agricultural sciences.

This collaboration reflects our belief that solving complex global issues requires shared vision, mutual expertise, and long-term commitment. By leading this high-impact alliance, the College is not only strengthening UCD's global presence but also delivering on its own strategic goal: to foster impactful partnerships and prepare graduates as responsible global citizens.





Strategic Area 4:

COLLEGE COMMUNITY

The College recognises that creating an equal, inclusive and diverse environment is essential for the wellbeing and benefit of all its community. We will work to ensure that the College is a place where everyone is treated with dignity and respect and all members have a sense of belonging.

The college will:

- a. **Foster an identity** and showcase champions of culture, community and belonging across the College, and develop a shared sense of responsibility towards our university and our society.
- b. **Promote the importance of EDI values** in all aspects of College life and embed EDI principles across all of our activities, ensuring a consistent and sustainable commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion.
- c. **Signpost existing supports for students and staff**, and strengthen links with university initiatives and processes and with appropriate external partners.



Examples

Athena SWAN

Within the College, several schools have been recognised with **Athena Swan** awards for their sustained efforts to advance gender equality, diversity, and inclusion in higher education and research. In 2021, all five of the College's constituent schools achieved Athena Swan Bronze Awards. Building on this success, the School of Agriculture and Food Science became the first in UCD to achieve a Silver Athena Swan Award in 2023. In 2025, both the School of Public Health, Physiotherapy, and Sports Science and the School of Veterinary Medicine were also awarded Silver. The Athena Swan awards recognise the advancement of gender equality in higher education, and these achievements are a testament to the ongoing dedication and collaborative work of faculty and staff across the College in embedding equality, diversity, and inclusion into all aspects of their activity.



EDI Celebration Days

The College actively promotes and celebrates Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) through a range of annual events and campaigns aligned with key EDI celebration days. These initiatives are primarily led by individual Schools, with coordination and support from the College EDI Committee. Recent highlights include the School of Agriculture and Food

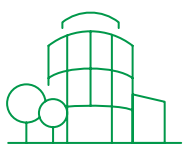
Science (SAFS) event for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which showcased projects, research, and supports for disabled and neurodivergent employees. For World Mental Health Day, the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems (SNMHS) hosted a Connect Café event, providing opportunities for reflection and engagement on well-being among staff and students. The School of Veterinary Medicine's (SVM) annual Pride event has become a flagship occasion in both the School and the College's EDI calendar.

Other initiatives have included the School of Public Health, Physiotherapy, and Sports Science's (SPHPSS) digital campaign for the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, which profiled women's contributions to research and scientific careers, and the School of Medicine's (SoM) annual International Women's Day event, which recently featured five expert speakers discussing diversity and inclusion in women's health.

UCD Values in Action Awards

The UCD Values in Action (VIA) Awards recognise individuals and teams who exemplify UCD's core values through their professional and community contributions. In 2025, four of the fifteen university-wide awards were presented to staff within the College of Health and Agricultural Sciences. The recognised initiatives included supporting UCD employees who are carers, conducting outreach to secondary schools, advancing sustainable research, and developing EDI and Dignity & Respect training for students undertaking work placements.





Strategic Area 5:

PHYSICAL AND DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE

A university's infrastructure defines its capabilities and enables its ambitions. The Schools in the College have benefited from state of the art facilities and infrastructure during their development, but these now need to be enhanced and expanded to enable the College to deliver on its ambitions and vision.

The college will:

- a. **Upgrade existing buildings, spaces and our digital environs** with a focus on sustainability, efficiency, and inclusivity that reinforce a College identity and sense of belonging across all campuses.
- b. **Develop new state of the art facilities** for clinical simulation, active learning, digital science and research that enhances the experience of all in our community.
- c. **Develop an investment plan**, with the UCD Foundation, to enable the College's ambition to be an exemplar in its natural, built and digital aspects.



Examples

UCD Conway Institute

The UCD Conway Institute is a leading biomedical research institute, underpinned by operational excellence in laboratory management and the most comprehensive suite of centrally managed core technology facilities in Ireland. We strive to facilitate every opportunity to advance interdisciplinary research, innovation and education, directly supporting national objectives and priorities. Access to core technologies ensures rigor in experimental processes, drives scientific advances, supports publications and competitive funding applications, and delivers exceptional research training opportunities. Our core technology platforms are an area of exceptional strength and value.

Human Intervention & Sensory Analysis Facilities

The UCD Institute of Food and Health laboratories are equipped with a full dietary intervention suite with food preparation and service facilities, an interview room, as well as two bespoke subject handling rooms with full anthropometric, phlebotomy, and subject-monitoring facilities. A dedicated 600-MHz NMR spectrometer, HPLC, and GC-MS facilities with all necessary data analysis pipelines for metabolomics as well as laboratories, sample preparation, and storage facilities, are also available. Biological facilities include robotic sample handling units for biological samples (Daytona); a cell tissue culture room; and a microbiological lab with incubators, autoclaves, and laminar flow cabinets. In addition, the facility has two sensory evaluation suites.

Institute for Sport and Health

Institute for Sport and Health has two Human Performance Laboratories, equipped for cardiopulmonary exercise testing (CPET), continuous blood pressure monitoring, heart rate via 12 lead ECG, pulmonary function testing, saliva, blood lactate and glucose testing. Additionally there is a Metabolism Laboratory capable of measuring Basal Metabolic Rate through indirect calorimetry, active and total energy expenditure, accelerometry and dietary analysis. The laboratory kitchen and feeding facilities support research on taste perception and post-prandial metabolic responses. The facilities are complemented by the Human Motion Analysis Laboratory located in the Health Sciences Centre, which houses a 3D motion capture system (CODAMOTION), force plates, high density and wireless EMG systems, EEG, ultrasound, Exoskeleton and Andago gait training system.

UCD Lyons Dairy Calf Education and Research Facility

The new UCD Lyons Dairy Calf Education and Research Facility was opened on the UCD Lyons Farm in spring 2025 and will greatly expand the national research capacity of dairy heifer research – with a focus on early life nutrition, better integration of dairy and beef, and environmental impact, while also providing agriculture and veterinary students with hands-on experience in the best practice of calf rearing. The facility can accommodate 180 calves from the Lyons dairy herd. Automatic feeders for milk and solid feed (forage and concentrate) can record feed intake and allow for the feeding of different milk replacers, forage and concentrate types.



Strategic Area 6: **HEALTH AFFAIRS**

The UCD Health Affairs Office is part of the UCD College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (CHAS) and works with the five CHAS schools to enhance collaboration and provide a formal channel for cooperation with clinical partners and Community Healthcare Organisations (CHOs) across the HSE Health Regions.

This includes developing and implementing a strategic vision for healthcare education, research, and innovation across the group, ultimately supporting the establishment of an Academic Health Science System (AHSS). An integrated approach to healthcare – fostering strong collaboration across hospitals, the university, and community services – is central to this vision. Evidence shows that patients achieve better outcomes within an Academic Health Science System (AHSS), as integrating teaching, training, research, and innovation with clinical service delivery strengthens the learning organisation and improves the recruitment and retention of high-quality staff. Through the Chief Academic Officer (CAO) group, UCD Health Affairs fosters cross-sectoral partnerships with the six HSE Health Regions and Children's Health Ireland that benefits both higher education and health service delivery through a shared commitment to excellence in education, training, research, and innovation. This partnership model is critical to the development of an Academic Health Science System in Ireland and aligns closely with the principles of *Sláintecare*.

The college will:

- a. **Strengthen and formalise collaboration** with clinical partners and Community Healthcare Organisations across the HSE Health Regions.
- b. **Establish a fully operational Academic Health Science System** with strong governance, leadership, and integration across clinical partners.
- c. **Embed Teaching, Training, Research and Innovation** into clinical practice through research grants, joint appointments, shared infrastructure, and collaborative programmes.
- d. **Improving Communication** between Academia and Clinical Partners, increasing awareness of Teaching, Training, Research, and Innovation across clinical partners and HSE Health Regions.

Examples

Chief Academic Officer's Forum

The Chief Academic Officer (CAO) and Vice Principal for Health Affairs leads the UCD Health Affairs Office, based at the Belfield campus. The CAO works closely with the seven Chief Academic Officers based in the six HSE Health Regions and Children's Health Ireland, each affiliated with medical schools, acute hospitals, and associated Community Healthcare Organisations. These CAOs foster cross-sectoral partnerships that benefit both higher education and health service delivery through a shared commitment to excellence in education, training, research, and innovation. This two- and three-way partnership model is critical to the development of an Academic Health Science System in Ireland and aligns closely with the principles of *Sláintecare*.

Collaboration across HSE Regions

UCD Health Affairs, through the CAO network, has partnered with the Dublin and South East Health Region to strengthen teaching, training, research, and innovation pathways. A Director of Research has been appointed to report jointly to the CAO/Vice-Principal for Health Affairs and the HSE, ensuring alignment between education and service needs. In addition, a new NDTP (National Doctors Training & Planning) Lead has been appointed to coordinate postgraduate medical training and support workforce planning across the region.

Linking with Postgraduate Bodies

The UCD Health Affairs Office works closely with postgraduate training bodies, including the National Doctors Training and Planning (NDTP), the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI), and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), on a range of projects and in promoting the Academic Health Science System (AHSS).

Dublin Academic Medical Centre (DAMC)

Established in 2007, the Dublin Academic Medical Centre (DAMC) was Ireland's first patient-focused academic health system, created through a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding between UCD, the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital (MMUH), and St Vincent's University Hospital (SVUH). Building on the strong legacy of its founding institutions, the DAMC set out to improve the health of the communities it serves, and the wider population, by purposefully linking world-class patient care, teaching, and research.

Academic Health Science System (AHSS) Grant

Established in 2021, the UCD Health Affairs AHSS Grant aims to foster collaboration between the UCD College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (CHAS), its clinical partners, affiliated community healthcare organisations, and the HSE Health Regions. The grant supports health and science-related research, educational projects, and innovation initiatives that advance the AHSS concept while aligning with the strategic objectives of the College and its Schools.

UCD – Beacon Hospital Collaborative Research Seed Funding Grant

UCD Health Affairs and the Beacon Hospital Academy have established two distinct seed grants to support pioneering research collaborations. This funding aims to drive innovative research in high-impact areas such as cardiology, oncology, orthopedics, physiotherapy, and other emerging fields of interest. By leveraging UCD's academic excellence and Beacon Hospital's clinical expertise, this investment seeks to address urgent healthcare challenges and improve patient outcomes through cutting-edge research and development.

The All-Ireland Interprofessional Healthcare Challenge (AIPEC)

The AIPEC is an intervarsity education competition which provides an opportunity for students from all health disciplines to work collaboratively with colleagues from different professions to meet a challenge set around complex care issues. In 2025 All Ireland Interprofessional Healthcare Challenge (AIPEC) was honoured with two major accolades at the 2025 Irish Education Awards – Best Collaboration Project and the prestigious Overall Excellence Award. Selected from more than 160 entries, this national recognition highlights the strength and impact of AIPEC in advancing collaborative healthcare education across Ireland.



Strategic Area 7:

ENGAGING PARTNERS FOR IMPACT

The College provides leadership in synergising the activities of its constituent Schools. The College recognises that the Schools are its fundamental academic units and that students enrol in programmes in Schools, but the College coordinates and facilitates communications between constituent units and also advocates for its constituent Schools on University-level working groups and committees.

The College will facilitate the effective exchange of people and ideas through ethical partnerships with research institutions, industries, third-sector organisations and policy-makers.

The college will:

- a. **Foster strong relationships** among Schools in the College and the wider UCD community.
- b. **Provide leadership** to ensure the Schools attract excellent faculty, and staff, and to improve their faculty-student ratios.
- c. **Enhance the communication and strengthen relationships** between the College, UCD and our external partners.
- d. **Champion the broad range of College opportunities** to alumni, and to new and existing partners.
- e. **Champion outcomes** with influence and impact.



Examples

CVERA

The UCD Centre for Veterinary Epidemiology and Risk Analysis (CVERA) was set up to conduct scientific research to support policy decisionmaking on a diverse range of issues relevant to animal health and welfare in the Irish agriculture and food industries, and is based in the School of Veterinary Medicine. Research from CVERA directly contributes to policy decision-making in animal health and welfare policy by the Irish Government. Key areas of impact include bovine tuberculosis (bTB), animal health surveillance, cadmium mitigation, on-farm antimicrobial usage, and the management of on-farm animal welfare incidents. The beneficiaries of the research by this team include farmers, consumers and the food industry, with positive environmental impact being a consequence of the work.

The UCD Centre for Humanitarian Action

The UCD Centre for Humanitarian Action (CHA) is a multi-disciplinary research and teaching Centre focused on international humanitarian action: actions aimed at saving and preserving life, preventing and alleviating human suffering, and supporting life with dignity for those affected by man-made and natural disasters. The CHA is based in the School of Agriculture & Food Science and draws on expertise from other Schools and Institutes in the College and UCD. The CHA also has formal links with a worldwide network of universities, and governmental and nongovernmental organisations.

Global Health Initiatives

The Global Health (gHealth) Research group is a multi-disciplinary team of researchers focused on gHealth issues in low- and middle-income countries and is developing new innovative strategies for diagnosis, treatment and management of disease that include biomarker & therapeutic research, mHealth (mobile health) and health care system reform. Capacity building and implementation science are key objectives of the gHealth Research group And these are central features to achieving a successful and long lasting global health impact. We are currently mediating this through our strong collaborations between Ireland, Malawi, Uganda, UK, Norway, and the USA.





University College Dublin
Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland
www.ucd.ie