



UCD Conway Institute for Biomolecular and Biomedical Research explores mechanisms of health and disease towards the development of preventative strategies, novel diagnostics and therapeutic solutions. Since 2003, UCD Conway Institute is a leading biomedical research institute, underpinned by the most comprehensive suite of centrally managed core technology facilities in Ireland. At UCD Conway Institute, our vision is to be leader in biomedical research and innovation; translating this knowledge through industrial, academic & clinical partnerships to benefit health & well-being in Ireland and beyond.

Research Strategy (2022 – 2026)

The strategic research direction of the Institute has evolved over time to enable our academic community to successfully navigate the health research priorities within the national and international funding landscape. As we enter the next period in the lifecycle of the Institute ([UCD Conway Institute Strategy 2022-2026](#)), we are cognisant of the external and internal factors that shape and guide our ambitions for this research strategy particularly [Impact 2030](#), the Government's blueprint for building a more inclusive and engaged research and innovation system and the possibilities arising from [Creating the Future](#), the recent national consultation on research.

Strategic Objectives

UCD Conway strives to facilitate every opportunity to advance interdisciplinary research, innovation and education in Ireland, directly supporting national objectives within [Impact 2030](#) and priorities within [Creating the Future](#).

- Enable researchers to increase the quality & quantity of research and innovation outputs
- Enable the attraction, retention and capacity building of excellent researchers
- Provide an ecosystem for research and innovation
- Enhance and communicate the relevance and impact of research

Membership Categories

There are 4 categories of Conway membership:

1. Conway Fellow: 3-year standard term

- Those staff holding an academic appointment (accepted by the cognate college and/or UCAATP) within UCD are eligible to apply to become a Conway Fellow.
- Those staff who are emerging investigators with new research groups.
 - Any individual (post-doctoral scientist, postgraduate student, technician, graduate research assistant, or administrator) who is paid from a grant obtained by a Conway Fellow will be a member of the Conway as long as the grant holder remains a Conway Fellow.
 - If the academic grant-holder ceases to be a Conway Fellow, then all grant-funded individuals are no longer Conway members.

In specific cases, subject to approval by the Conway Board, an investigator who has won competitive peer-reviewed funding, which includes their own salary, may be recommended for Conway fellowship by the Director. Such appointments will be decided on a case-by-case basis and will be for the duration of this funding support only.



- Where special circumstances exist, and with prior agreement of the Director, a membership application from an individual may be accepted for review.

2. Senior Conway Fellow: 5-year standard term

- Those staff holding an academic appointment (accepted by the cognate college and/or UCAATP) within UCD are eligible to apply to become a Conway Fellow.
- Those staff who are established investigators with highly active research groups.
 - Any individual (post-doctoral scientist, postgraduate student, technician, graduate research assistant, or administrator) who is paid from a grant obtained by a Snr Conway Fellow will be a member of the Conway as long as the grant holder remains a Snr Conway Fellow.
 - If the academic grant-holder ceases to be a Snr Conway Fellow, then all grant-funded individuals are no longer Conway members.
- In specific cases, subject to approval, an investigator who has won competitive peer-reviewed funding, which includes their own salary, may be recommended for Conway fellowship by the Director. Such appointments will be decided on a case-by-case basis and will be for the duration of this funding support only.
- Senior externally funded academic visitors hosted by Snr Conway Fellows will have the opportunity to be Associate Conway Fellows with the option of continuing this membership beyond the period of their visit while their research interests continue to be closely aligned to that of the Institute.
- Where special circumstances exist, and with prior agreement of the Director, a membership application from an individual may be accepted for review.

3. Associate Conway Fellow: 3-year standard term

- Investigators external to the Conway Institute, either within UCD or externally, who are: individuals working in an academic, clinical or industrial environment with a coherent linkage or alignment to the research activity of the Institute, with a particular Fellow or group of Fellows.

4. Emeritus Conway Fellow: Titular award

Retired Conway Fellows who have made exceptional contribution to the research milieu of the Institute may be considered for this category following proposal by two existing Conway Fellows to the Director. The Emeritus classification is titular in nature and not time limited.

Application and Approval

An individual will apply to the Conway Director for fellowship (categories 1-3). The Director will have the responsibility of ensuring the membership is aligned to the strategic priorities of the Institute, being balanced across the themes of the Conway Institute and reflecting the need for the Conway to promote interdisciplinary and translational research.

Key considerations for fellowship are:

- Strategic priorities of the Conway Institute



- Potential or proven international research excellence
- Track record in securing and maintaining significant grant funding from both exchequer and non-exchequer sources
- Potential or proven innovation, commercialisation and industry collaborations
- Interdisciplinarity
- Potential contribution to enabling the Institute to achieve strategic goals and objectives

Terms of Fellowship

- Conway fellowship is temporary and dependent on the ability of the individual to maintain an active research group (e.g. secure competitive grant funding and maintain appropriate research outputs in terms of PhD students and peer-reviewed published papers) or, in the case of an Associate Conway Fellow, to maintain active research collaborations with other Conway Fellows.
- Fellowship will be granted for defined periods, as recommended by the Director at the point of application, and is dependent on stage of grant cycle and possibilities for funding. This membership is dependent on the ability of the Fellow to maintain an active research presence within the strategic areas of the Conway Institute.
- On reaching the time deadline (either expiry of the grant cycle or at the conclusion of defined period, whichever comes first), regardless of funding, Conway Fellows will formally reapply for a renewal, which will be linked to research performance.
- Conway Fellows will acknowledge the Institute on all research outputs including grant awards, student theses, papers presented at international meetings etc and, where appropriate, will include specific mention and acknowledgement of Conway core technology facilities used in the course of the research.
- Conway Fellows may not be allocated space in the Conway Institute building but may be located at other sites such as relevant schools of UCD Belfield campus and/or UCD affiliated teaching hospitals (refer to: UCD Conway Space Allocation policy 2022).

Exit Strategy

In all situations, Fellows based in the Conway building must realise that they hold space in the Institute as recommended by the Director. At completion of the time limit, Fellows must reapply for renewal or leave the building. If the renewal is unsuccessful, the Fellow must vacate the space in the Conway (laboratory and/or desk) building. Every effort will be made to secure alternative space but it will not be the responsibility of the Conway Director to secure such space but it is rather the responsibility of UCD colleges and schools.

Upon retirement, academic and clinical staff will automatically terminate a fellowship agreement.

Obligations and Privileges

- Fellows will contribute to reporting for internal or external scientific review or at the request of the Conway Director.
- Fellows will maintain an updated profile in the UCD research management system and provide any additional material required to complete reports for funding agencies.
- Fellows will acknowledge the UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular & Biomedical Research in all publications, theses and external presentations.
- Fellows will have access to available research space through the current funding models for access charge.



- Subject to the conditions of the Institute policy on space allocation, Fellows will have priority access to individual office, reading and laboratory spaces.
- Fellows will have access to Conway core technologies/platforms through the current funding models for access charge.
- Equipment purchased by Fellows, and subsequently incorporated into core technology facilities and/or laboratory spine areas will be available to all Conway Fellows
- Fellows are encouraged to contribute to the delivery of Conway graduate modules and their students are encouraged to participate in this education programme as appropriate to the needs of their research and personal development plan (RPDP).
- Fellows will actively participate in and promote the annual Conway Festival of Research and Innovation, as well as the weekly Conway Lecture & Seminar Series (CLASS) events.
- Fellows will have access to Conway conference facilities for scientific events.

Associate Conway Fellows

- Associate Conway Fellows will have access to research space if available through the current funding models for access charge.
- Associate Conway Fellows will have access to Conway core technologies/platforms through the current funding models for access charge.
- Associate Conway Fellows are invited to participate in Conway seminar & events, including delivery of non-confidential seminars and remote access to seminars via web streaming where possible.
- Associate Conway Fellows are encouraged to contribute to the delivery of Conway graduate modules and their staff are invited to participate in this education programme as appropriate to the needs of their continuing professional development (CPD) at preferential rates.
- Associate Conway Fellows are invited to engage with the Conway graduate/postdoctoral community in order to maximise potential employment opportunities.

Emeritus Conway Fellows

Emeritus Fellows are encouraged to actively support the mission and vision of the Institute in a voluntary capacity by agreement with Director e.g., providing guest lectures, as mentors to early career academics, helping with proposal-writing.

Any Emeritus Fellow who wishes to pursue more active involvement in the Institute is welcome to formalise this by applying for Associate Conway Fellowship.

All Fellows

- Where Fellows are located in the UCD Conway Institute building, the Institute will provide and manage the laboratory and office space.
- All Conway Fellows will abide by the policies of the Conway Institute as may be modified during the course of the fellowship.
- All Conway Fellows will represent the Institute and its activities in a positive manner.