

The logo for eEngage Seminars is displayed in a stylized, multi-colored font. The 'e' is green, the 'A' is blue, the 'g' is purple, the 'o' is orange, the 'g' is red, and the final 'e' is blue. The word 'Seminars' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font to the right of the main text. The background is a photograph of a modern building with a grey stone facade and a glass-walled section on the right.

eEngage Seminars



Join us:

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Welcome to the ENGAGE Seminars 2024

Making Science Accessible for All

UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science proudly presents the ENGAGE Accessible Science event, an annual competition in which our late-stage PhD students present their own research to a public, non-specialist audience. The event highlights the importance of bringing scientific discovery to the general public. In doing so, the PhD students learn how to communicate the significance of their research without scientific jargon, the benefit being a better informed public with a greater appreciation of the importance of funding basic research.

This year's finalists will highlight some of the cutting edge research being carried out in the School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science and the School of Biology and Environmental Science. With research topics ranging from the prediction of the pregnancy related condition, preeclampsia, to the use of cannabis compounds to aid in the treatment of cancer, our three judges and you, the audience, will be asked to decide which participant best rises to the challenge of explaining their research in an understandable and compelling way to those without a scientific background.

This year we are delighted to welcome our audience back to the O'Brien Centre for Science at UCD's Belfield Campus both in person and as a [live webinar](#) for an evening of seminars, posters and exhibitions. Our host for the evening is Science Communicator and broadcaster, Barry Fitzgerald.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our three judges, Slawomir Bracki, Dorothy Conaghan and Claire O'Connell, and to congratulate our six finalists.

Professor Cormac Murphy,

Head of School, UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science

MC for ENGAGE 2024: Barry Fitzgerald, Author, Superhero Scientist, and Science Communicator



Barry has a research background in physics, but in recent years he has dedicated his work and research to science communication and education. He has spoken around the world at schools, science festivals, and companies about the science of popular culture, such as superheroes and Star Wars, running, Santa Claus, and lots more topics. He has a YouTube channel ('The Superhero Scientist') and he's the author of three books including 'Secrets of Superhero Science' and 'How to Build an Iron Man Suit'. He's also a Science Communication Officer at the Eindhoven University of Technology in the Netherlands. Barry has seen Avengers: Infinity War more than 40 times, and his true superpower will remain a closely guarded secret.



Wednesday 17th April 2024

5:00 pm **Welcome from Professor Cormac Murphy (Head of School, SBBS)**
Introduction from Barry Fitzgerald

SEMINARS:

5:06 pm ***Understanding how bad recycling causes cancer***
Teerna Banerjee
Supervisor: Prof Jeremy Simpson

5:18 pm ***"Spot the difference" - A game changer in predicting preeclampsia***
Ella Fouhy
Supervisor: Prof Patricia Maguire

5:30 pm ***Battling the Beast of Drug Resistant Yeast***
Conor Hession
Supervisor: Prof Geraldine Butler

5:42 pm ***Undercover Allies: Enhancing Chemotherapy's Siege on Ovarian Cancer with Cannabis Compounds***
Claire Hughes
Supervisor: Assoc Prof Antoinette Perry

5:54 pm ***Mind the Gap: Molecular crowding in the cell***
Kate McKeever
Supervisor: Assoc Prof Gerard Cagney

6:06 pm ***"Waste Not, Want Not" - Yeasts Valorisation Crusade***
Laura Murphy
Supervisor: Assoc Prof David O'Connell

6:18 pm **Reception and Poster display for Audience**

6.45 pm **Announcement of Results & Presentation of the ENGAGE 2024 Trophy**

The Judging Panel 2024



Sławomir Bracki Apple Tart Productions | Filmmaker | Director | Editor

Sławek pursued studies in Astrophysics in Poland, his home country. Later, he graduated from NFS at IADT in Ireland, specializing in experimental direction, cinematography, and editing. Post-graduation, he established Apple Tart Productions for film development. Since 2019, he has collaborated closely with Midlands Science on science communication and outreach projects. Recently, he's taken on the role of workshop facilitator, sharing his expertise in film techniques, science, and art.

Dr. Claire O'Connell Science writer and contributor to The Irish Times. Resident journalist in University College Dublin Earth Institute (April - June 2024)

Claire O'Connell is an experienced science communicator. She holds a B.Sc. and a Ph.D. from University College Dublin and a M.Sc. in Science Communication from Dublin City University. Claire writes for The Irish Times about science, health and innovation, and she has published two non-fiction books. She is an experienced conference MC, panel moderator and communications trainer, and is the host of ADAPT Radio, a podcast that explores how AI is impacting life. She is an Adjunct Professor at UCD School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science, and in 2016 Claire was named Irish Science Writer of the Year.



Dr. Dorothy Conaghan Board Member/Treasurer - International Music Council UNESCO. Research Fellow – Social Justice - Equality Studies - UCD

Dorothy Conaghan is an elected board member of the UNESCO-affiliated International Music Council and a Research Fellow at UCD. Following a career as a music lecturer at the Conservatory of Music at TU Dublin, she undertook studies in Social Justice, Equality Studies, and Human Rights Law at UCD. As a working member of the European Music Schools Union research group at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna she has authored book chapters and journal articles. More recently, her scholarship has expanded to explore the impact of the arts on health and well-being from a sociological and epidemiological perspective.

