

AUTUMN 2024

UCD Veterinary Community News

Nuacht Phobal Tréidliachta UCD



Innovation & Impact



The Newsletter of the
UCD School of Veterinary Medicine

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About the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine

The UCD School of Veterinary Medicine is the only school of Veterinary Medicine on the island of Ireland. Accredited by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS), the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE), the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC) and the Veterinary Council of Ireland (VCI), our MVB degree programme is one of only nine in Europe fully accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). Our BSc in Veterinary Nursing is accredited by the Accreditation Committee for Veterinary Nurse Education (ACOVENE). We have a track record in education that is second to none and our excellence in teaching & learning, research and clinical endeavour is internationally recognised.

Contributors

Sourav Bhattacharjee, David Brayden, Eimear Burkley, Deirdre Campion, Diane Cashman, Daniel Collins, Jennifer Dillon, Michael Duggan, Vivienne Duggan, Alison Hanlon, Bridget Hogg, Nola Leonard, Ciara Lyons, Catherine McCarney, Guy McGrath, Simon More, Siobhan Mullan, Niamh Nestor, Sandra Nicholson, Ellen O'Donovan, John Mark O'Leary, Gillian Power, Sue Rackard, Alison Reynolds, Mary Sekiya, Jamie Tratalos, Annetta Zintl.



Contents	page
01 Dean's Welcome	01
02 Message from the Communications Manager	02
03 News in Brief	03
04 3D Printing Interest Group Established in School	05
05 Silver Athena SWAN Award & UCD Vet Equality, Diversity & Inclusion and Athena SWAN Update	07
06 Launch of the UCD Centre for One Health	09
07 UCD Honorary Degree for Former Animal Health Ireland Chair Mike Magan	10
08 Alumni Updates	12
09 10 Practical Steps to Protect Equine Health	13
10 Sustainability in the School of Veterinary Medicine	15
11 Research News	17
11 Spotlight On: Undergraduate Research / Prof Simon More	23
12 International Veterinary Events at the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine	26

Dean's Welcome



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It's a pleasure to once more reach out to our widespread and diverse community and bring you updates on all that's happening in the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine. As always, it has been heart-warming to welcome our new Veterinary Nursing and Veterinary Medicine (undergraduate and graduate entry) students. However, such good news is always bitter-sweet as we had to say goodbye to a really brilliant bunch of graduating Final Years that we got to know so well over their time in UCD, and who contributed hugely to the energy, ethos and well-being of the School. The graduation was a day of sunshine and parental relief to have so many of their beloved progeny "off the books."

Other major ventures over the Spring and Summer months included the International VetEd Symposium organised by the School's education experts; this initiative promotes leadership and research into teaching and assessment practices that optimise the manner in which we train future generations of colleagues that can address current and future societal needs and challenges. The feedback was immense and I warmly congratulate all those involved. The award of our Athena Swan Silver medal was the culmination of years of hard work by our EDIAS Committee, and the positive impact it will have on the School is outlined

later in this newsletter. I also want to extend deep gratitude to all participants following the meeting of our External Advisory Board in June; the willingness of so many colleagues to provide feedback and advice to help us position ourselves and remain constantly relevant in an ever-changing world is hugely appreciated.

Finally, this year sees the retirement of several hugely valued colleagues whose friendship, collegiality and commitment to the School leaves long-lasting memories and a huge sense of appreciation; Bryan Markey, Alan Baird, Mary Duane and Simon More all shared a profound connection with the School and made immense contributions to teaching and research that resulted in major policy and societal impact. In addition, my predecessor, the (in)famous Michael Doherty officially retired in August but being the devoted *gaeilgeoir* he is, Michael is remaining on in UCD as a postgraduate student to finish his MLitt in Irish Veterinary Folklore. Whilst I was clearly hoping to see the back of him (joke, Michael, joke!!), his invaluable support and mentorship remains of huge importance to me.

I hope you enjoy reading about the issues and initiatives that are current to the School, and would love to hear in return about what is happening in your own specific life and sphere, and how we can best help one another to promote the well-being of all in our community.

With every best wish,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rory Breathnach'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Rory Breathnach
Dean & Head of School

Follow the Dean on X/Twitter: [@RoryUCDVetDean](https://twitter.com/RoryUCDVetDean)

Message from the

Communications Manager



Welcome to the Autumn 2024 edition of UCD Veterinary Community News, the Newsletter of the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine. In this edition, we're celebrating innovation and impact across our School, and I'm delighted to share some really interesting and inspiring stories with you.

Colleagues in the School have recently set up a 3D printing interest group and following on from a workshop with the UCD Innovation Academy and great interest from all areas of the School, further initiatives are now in the works. Our community is also incredibly proud to be only the second School in UCD conferred with a Silver Athena SWAN Award - this is a testament to the incredible work carried out by colleagues in this area.

We also highlight two recent School events in this edition. The launch of the UCD Centre for One Health underlines the importance of the One Health ethos in our School and the wider University and marks a really exciting opportunity for UCD to make a valuable contribution to protecting human and animal wellbeing and health at a global level. Our June

Conferring Ceremony for Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Nursing students is always a joyful day for our community and we were delighted and proud on this occasion to also confer former Animal Health Ireland (AHI) Chair Mike Magan with an honorary doctorate for his extraordinary contribution to the Irish dairy industry, to AHI, to UCD, and to Irish society more broadly.

We're also highlighting '10 Practical Steps to Protect Equine Health' a new video series launched with support from across the Irish Equine Industry and designed to empower horse owners with practical information that can help prevent common equine health problems. A collaborative approach to sustainability in the School is also having lots of success; find out more about how our staff and students are working together to bring a culture of sustainability to all aspects of the School's work.

In research, we profile Dr Alison Reynolds, the School's new Associate Dean for Research, Innovation & Impact and say goodbye and thank you to Professor Simon More, Director of the UCD Centre for Veterinary Epidemiology & Risk Analysis, who retired from the School at the end of August. I hope you enjoy reading our Newsletter and I look forward to continuing to keep you up to date on what's happening across our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Graham', written over a light grey background.

Dr Helen Graham

Communications Manager

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News In Brief

→ Professor David Brayden Elected to the Royal Irish Academy

Professor David Brayden, Professor of Advanced Drug Delivery at the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine and a Fellow of the UCD Conway Institute, has been elected to the Royal Irish Academy. Professor Brayden is one of 28 newly elected members who were officially admitted to the Royal Irish Academy (RIA) in May this year. Membership of the RIA recognises exceptional contributions to the sciences, humanities and social sciences, as well as to public service. Professor Pat Guiry, President of the RIA, said: 'Ireland should be immensely proud of these 28 women and men who have been elected by their peers and have brought international acclaim to our country through their distinct areas of research.'

For more on Professor David Brayden, please see: <https://people.ucd.ie/david.brayden>

→ UCD Centre for Veterinary Epidemiology and Risk Analysis Strategic Plan Launched

The Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine, Charlie McConalogue TD launched the UCD Centre for Veterinary Epidemiology and Risk Analysis (CVERA) Strategic Plan at the end of last year. The Minister was joined at the launch by Professor Simon More, Director of UCD CVERA and Professor Rory Breathnach, Dean & Head of the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine.

During 2023, a strategic review of CVERA was conducted in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine, the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine and other principal stakeholders. CVERA's focus is on ongoing and future research to support national animal disease control in Ireland, and as a result of the review, clearly defined strategic goals, objectives and expected outcomes for the medium term were developed. These goals and objectives are presented in the new Strategic Plan, which covers the period 2024 to 2027. Four main strategic themes are covered in the Strategic Plan: strategic leadership and impact, scientific excellence, communications and engagement, and organisational effectiveness.



27 of the newly elected members with Professor Pat Guiry, President of the Royal Irish Academy. Professor David Brayden is seated in the front row, second from the left.

The UCD CVERA Strategic Plan 2024-2027 is available here: <https://www.ucd.ie/cvera/reports/>



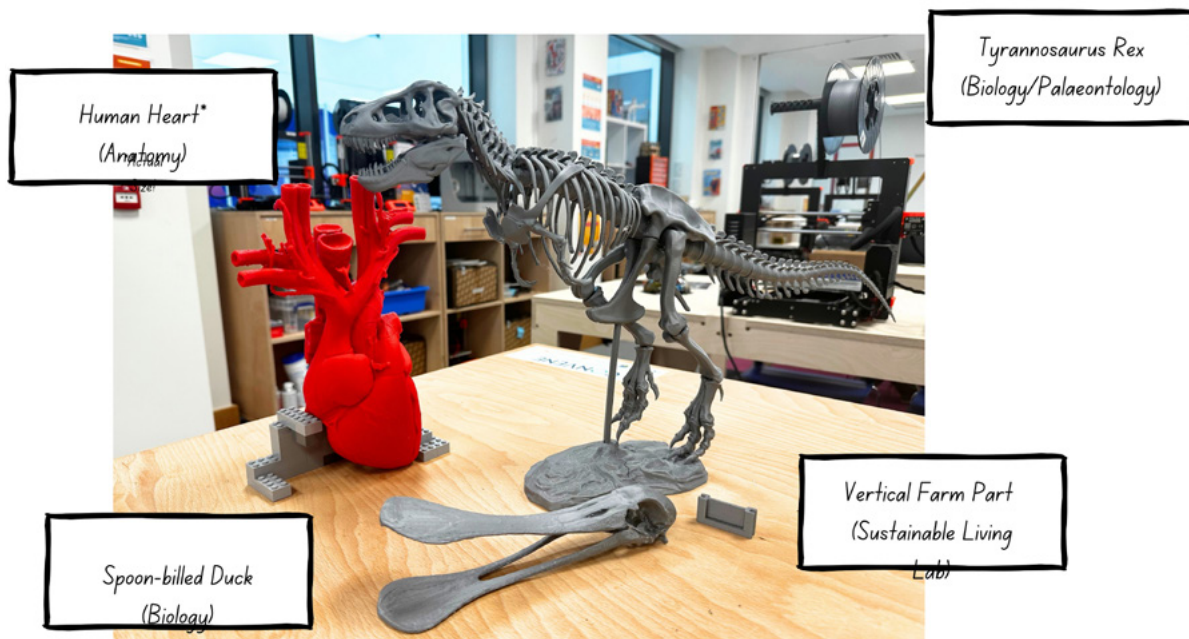
Pictured (left to right) are Professor Simon More, Director of the UCD Centre for Veterinary Epidemiology and Risk Analysis, Charlie McConalogue, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and Professor Rory Breathnach, Dean & Head of the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine at the launch of CVERA's Strategic Plan

→ Professor Deirdre Campion Named Founding Member of the Academy of Veterinary Educators



Professor Deirdre Campion has been named as a founding member of the Academy of Veterinary Educators (AVE). Following a rigorous nomination and application process, the American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) in partnership with the AVE has announced thirty two founding members to oversee the Academy Certified Expert Educator credential. These founding experts in veterinary education are not just academic veterinarians, but also include five credentialed veterinary technicians/nurses, five non-veterinarians involved in veterinary education, and two outside of academia. Additionally, the expertise has a global reach with representation in five countries outside of the United States. The credentialing process will involve submission of a portfolio as well as an examination. These distinguished experts will serve to finalise and promote this credentialing process, develop a rigorous examination, and mentor future credentialed experts.

3D Printing Interest Group Established in School



A selection of 3D printed items created by the UCD Innovation Academy

In April this year, the UCD Innovation Academy hosted an Introduction to 3D Printing Workshop for staff of the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine. Funded by the School, this initiative brought together 12 staff members with an interest in 3D printing, with representation from all of the School's academic sections. Delivered by William Davis, Technology Integration Manager at the UCD Innovation Academy, topics covered included an introduction to 3D printing, its applications, and preparation of files for printing. Participants had an opportunity to work through the process from creation of simple 3D models in CAD to exporting to printing software and slicing the model in preparation for printing. The creation of 3D models using accessible 3D

scanning software was also demonstrated, including AR functionality, which was of particular interest to the group. Participants also had the opportunity to return to the Innovation Academy with their prepared files in the weeks after the workshop to print their models using one of the filament printers there.

Following a group discussion regarding the applications and workflows of particular interest to staff in the Vet School, there are now plans to customise a further workshop to include specifics of managing DICOM (Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine, the technical standard format) files from the medical scanners in use in the Vet School, and translating

them to a workable STL or OBJ format for printing 3D models. Applications of interest to our staff range from production of both virtual and physical anatomical models for teaching and research, to printing client scans to plan surgeries, prepare plates and discuss options with clients using models of their pet.



William Davis, Technology Integration Manager at the UCD Innovation Academy presents at the 'Introduction to 3D Printing Workshop' for staff of the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine

In addition, a series of lunchtime talks are currently being planned, where colleagues from across the Vet School can discuss their current uses of 3D printing, and a number of external speakers will also deliver talks and interactive presentations on how they are incorporating 3D anatomical models into their teaching and research. A visit is also planned to the UCD College of Engineering & Architecture to look at printing facilities there and to identify additional available technologies our staff might be able to access. Organised by David Kilroy (Lecturer/Assistant Professor in the Veterinary Biosciences Section), it is hoped that this visit will also lead to a number of speakers from Engineering joining our lunchtime talk series.

It is hoped that these initiatives will lead to further collaborations across our School in this area and that colleagues will be able to come together to share their knowledge and experience in order to continue to develop the use of 3D printing and other digital technologies in the School of Veterinary Medicine.



Workshop participants (left to right): Daniel O Sullivan, Cherrie Wade, Catherine D'helft, Tracey Murphy, Lee Byrne, Theo De Waal, William Davis, Soudeh Ziapour, Jane Brennan, Gabi Marquette. (Workshop participants not pictured: Catherine McCarney, Mark McCorry, Marie-Pauline Maurin)

Silver Athena SWAN Award & UCD Vet Equality, Diversity & Inclusion and Athena SWAN Update

In April this year, a Silver Athena SWAN award was conferred on the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine by Advance HE for demonstrating its commitment to improving gender equality for those working and studying in the School. This was only the second Silver award in UCD, following the success of our colleagues in the School of Agriculture and Food Science in 2023. The application could not have been successful without the dedication of co-chairs Associate Professor Cliona Skelly and Professor Stephen Gordon, Project Manager Eimear Burkley and the Veterinary Equality, Diversity & Inclusion and Athena SWAN (VetEDIAS) committee. The award recognises the hard work put in by staff and students across the School in creating an environment where EDI is paramount.

The Athena SWAN Silver Action Plan for 2024-2028 provides the framework for our next steps on the Athena SWAN journey, with a focus on four Priority Areas:

- › Career Progression for Academic Faculty and Researchers
- › Career Progression for Professional/Managerial/Support staff
- › Embedding EDI across the student learning experience
- › A Supportive and Inclusive Working Environment and Culture

→ About Athena SWAN Ireland



The Athena SWAN charter launched in the Republic of Ireland in early 2015. The extension of the charter to Ireland was made possible through funding from the Higher Education Authority (HEA), which covers applications to the charter from 21 higher education institutions. Engagement with the charter is a key pillar of Ireland's national strategy for gender equality with progress linked to institutional eligibility for funding from Ireland's major research agencies. All of Ireland's universities and institutes of technology and several colleges participate in Athena SWAN Ireland. The Athena SWAN Ireland charter has recently undergone a re-development in line with the findings of a national consultation and offers a framework for progressing

equality in higher education and research that is unique to Ireland. The objective of the Athena SWAN Ireland 2021 charter framework is to support higher education institutions, academic departments, and professional units in impactful and sustainable gender equality work and to build capacity for evidence-based equality work across the equality grounds enshrined in Irish legislation.

→ Celebrating Pride

On 27 February, the School hosted the annual UCD College of Health and Agricultural Sciences (CHAS) Pride event. Since 2019, this event has grown into a flagship event for the School of Veterinary Medicine and similar events have since been replicated across UCD. The UCD EDI unit and UCD LGBTI subgroup kindly organised for a cake, decorations and rainbow lanyards to be provided to each college to host their own events. The date was chosen to coincide with UCD Students Union's 2nd Annual Pride March for Rainbow Week, 20 - 29 February. This was also Professor Rory Breathnach's first Pride event as Dean & Head of School, and it was a great opportunity for the Dean to address staff and students from across CHAS and UCD before they headed into a busy exam season.

A number of staff and students from the School and Hospital also organised and took part in events to mark Pride month in June 2024, including Dublin Pride Run and Pride Splash.



Dean & Head of School Professor Rory Breathnach addressing the CHAS Pride gathering in February

→ Celebrating Neurodiversity

UCD EDI hosted a Neurodiversity Celebration in April and launched a report entitled 'Making UCD a Neurodiversity Friendly Campus.' This report describes a whole-campus approach to key topics such as understanding neurodiversity, creating accessible learning and working environments, and providing and promoting neurodiversity awareness and acceptance. Dr Maria Mulholland, Graduate Administrator (Research), in the School of Veterinary Medicine, currently sits on UCD's Neurodiversity Working Group. Maria is a co-founder of UCD's Neurodiversity Staff Network, which was launched at the event and is a key stakeholder in Silver Athena SWAN actions relating to Neurodiversity in our School.



Launch of UCD's Neurodiversity Staff Network (left to right): Dr Jeffrey Glennon (School of Medicine), Associate Professor Cliona Kelly (School of Law), Dr Maria Mulholland (School of Veterinary Medicine), Gregori Meakin (College of Arts & Humanities)

For more information on the celebration event and for a copy of the report, see here: <https://www.ucd.ie/equality/groups/neurodiversitygroup>

→ Looking ahead to 2024/2025

The coming academic year will be another busy year in EDI. Work has already begun on actions set out in our Silver Athena SWAN Action Plan. We will continue with successful flagship events and introduce new activities to ensure the School of Veterinary Medicine continues to be an inclusive and supportive place to work and study.

Launch of the UCD Centre for One Health

UCD launched its new Centre for One Health in February this year. The Centre is dedicated to advancing research, education and collaboration on the One Health approach to solving global health challenges which recognises the interconnectedness of human, animal and planetary health. The Centre will pursue priorities in research excellence, education and training, community engagement and outreach, policy and advocacy, and building capacity and partnerships. This comprehensive approach underscores UCD's commitment to achieving its vision of making a lasting impact on global health.

Speaking at the launch, the Centre's Director, Professor Tony Holohan said, 'if mankind is to protect human wellbeing and health from threats such as pandemics, obesity and antibiotic resistance, we need to better understand the links between our wellbeing and the health of the planet and all its plants and animals. Through this important step, I hope that we can build a national collaboration with other universities, government agencies, industry, and all stakeholders.' At the launch event, Assistant Professor in the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine, Dr Gerald Barry, the Centre's Deputy Director, emphasised the Centre's goal to promote the well-being of all species by fostering collaboration and cultivating strengths in leadership. Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe, visited UCD to mark the launch. He described the launch of the Centre as 'a significant achievement and success story in the WHO European Region. UCD is indeed setting a commendable example within the region. Your valuable contribution to the One Health approach in addressing health risks is pivotal as we navigate the ongoing implementation of this critical framework.'

Also attending the launch was UCD President, Professor Feely. Professor Feely stated, 'the creation of the UCD One Health Centre will enable UCD to play a role in creating solutions to global challenges and to engage in strategic partnerships nationally to help advocate for One Health. The Centre for One Health is an extremely exciting opportunity for UCD to make a valuable contribution to protecting human wellbeing and health at a global level.'

Find out more here: www.ucd.ie/onehealth/



Professor Tony Holohan, Director of UCD's One Health Centre with Professor Orla Feely, UCD President and Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe.

UCD Honorary Degree for Former Animal Health Ireland Chair Mike Magan



Dr Mike Magan receives his honorary Doctor of Science degree from UCD President, Professor Orla Feely

Irish Agri-Sector Leader, former Chair of Animal Health Ireland (AHI) and Longford Dairy Farmer Mike Magan was conferred with an honorary Doctor of Science degree by UCD at the University's June conferrings. Honorary degrees are conferred by the University to recognise distinguished individuals for their sustained excellence in scholarly, scientific or artistic endeavour and for outstanding professional or philanthropic activity to advance the public good.

The conferring of the honorary degree recognised Mike Magan's extraordinary contribution to the Irish

dairy industry, to AHI, to UCD, and to Irish society more broadly. Mike was central to the establishment of AHI in 2009 and, serving as Chair until 2021, created the opportunity for a partnership approach to animal health in Ireland, bringing together farmers, processors, animal health advisors and government. Ireland exports 85-90% of beef and dairy production each year, to a combined value of €9.2 billion in 2023. To remain competitive in a global market, there has been an ongoing need for continuous improvement in product quality, including the health and welfare of Ireland's food producing animals.

AHI has fundamentally changed the animal health landscape in Ireland and in his 13 years as AHI Chair, Mike Magan utilised all of his skills, as leader, team player, and consummate communicator, shaping the strategic direction of the organisation, and consistently pushing the boundaries of what was thought possible. At Mike's retirement as AHI Chair in December 2021, Charlie McConalogue TD, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, noted: 'Mike Magan has been and will continue to be one of the great leaders of the agri-sector. Mike's leadership in the space of animal health has ensured our sector is better placed to face the challenges we will encounter in the future.'

Throughout his professional career, Mike Magan has also substantially impacted both the curriculum within the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine and the work undertaken by private veterinary practitioners.

In particular, there has been a fundamental shift towards preventive herd health, underpinned by the AHI programmes, and this is strongly reflected in teaching and learning of veterinary undergraduates in the area of food animal production. Mike continues to impact the future of the School of Veterinary Medicine as a member of its External Advisory Board.

Mike has also served as Chair of the Irish Holstein Friesian Association, Chair of Agri Aware, has been a board member of the Irish Cattle Breeding Federation, and the Irish Cooperative Organisation Society, and Chairman and board member of Lakeland Dairies. He also sits on the Board of the Agricultural Trust (Farmers Journal). Mike is also well known for his charitable activities. Notably, in 2020, he coordinated dairy cooperatives nationwide to arrange collection of over €300,000 in donations from dairy farmers for the Red Cross Appeal for Yemen.



Dr Mike Magan addresses new Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Nursing graduates at the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine Conferring Ceremony on 24 June 2024



Professor Rory Breathnach (Dean & Head of the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine), Professor Orla Feely (President of UCD), Dr Mike Magan, Professor Cecily Kelleher (College Principal, UCD College of Health & Agricultural Sciences) & Professor Simon More (Professor of Veterinary Epidemiology and Risk Analysis, UCD School of Veterinary Medicine)

Alumni Updates

→ Young Alumni Ambassadors Group



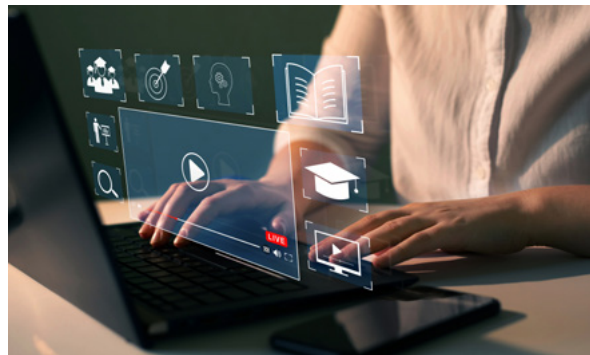
In 2023, the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine launched a new initiative for our Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Nursing alumni - the Young Alumni Ambassadors Group (YAAG). The YAAG was established following discussions with current students and recent graduates around how the School can engage with and support new graduates in the years after they leave UCD. The purpose of the YAAG is to help foster interaction and communication between the School and its recent graduates through establishing a shared sense of community - cultivating and encouraging a continuing affiliation among young alumni and the institution.

There are currently 22 members in the YAAG, and the Group has met with the School three times in the last year. Meetings have given group members the opportunity to offer feedback and suggestions to the School and also to discuss their experiences since graduation. YAAG members were also asked to participate in the School's Strategic Planning process, with members invited to an online workshop facilitated by UCD Agile. Group members have also engaged with the School's curriculum review process and their input in this area has been invaluable. Over the past year, members of the YAAG have also presented at information sessions for prospective students, attended events for offer holders and participated in careers fairs.

YAAG member profiles can be accessed on our website: <https://www.ucd.ie/vetmed/about/alumni/>

For more information on this initiative, or if you're interested in joining the YAAG, please contact Dr Helen Graham, Communications Manager: helen.a.graham@ucd.ie

→ Online Alumni Mentoring



Informal online mentoring is available to new graduates of the School of Veterinary Medicine through the UCD Alumni Network, a closed community of fellow Alumni and students. Online mentoring is flexible and can be initiated by the mentee at any time. The mentoring offered through the Network is not formally structured, and the level of interaction and support is agreed by the mentor and mentee.

Through the UCD Alumni Network platform, alumni who wish to volunteer as a mentor can communicate directly with new graduates allowing them to manage their own mentoring relationship. Recent graduates can build on their networking skills and reach out to alumni who have expressed an interest in mentoring on their UCD Alumni Network profile

To find out more about Online Alumni Mentoring, please see our website: <https://www.ucd.ie/vetmed/about/alumni/>

'10 Practical Steps to Protect Equine Health:'

Video Series Launched with Support from Across the Equine Industry



At the RDS Dublin Horse Show launch: Vivienne Duggan (UCD School of Veterinary Medicine), Martin Heydon T.D. (Minister of State at DAFM), Cian O'Connor, (Karlswood Stables), Sarah Ennis (Sarah Ennis Eventing), Alan Creighton (Irish Equine Centre), Debbie Grey (Irish Equine Centre), Wendy Conlon (Teagasc)

The maintenance of equine health is a critical part of equine welfare, and both are intrinsically interlinked with the equine social licence i.e. the approval and acceptance of the equine industry in society. The concept of 'one health and one welfare' also recognises that the health and welfare of people is deeply connected to the health and welfare of animals and the health of the environment, and this is particularly true in Ireland, which is known worldwide as the Land of the Horse.

Reducing the incidence of disease or ill health, and the spread of infection where disease occurs, must always be to the forefront of equine management with the consistent strategic focus being to protect the health of the (national) herd. Over the last two years a collaborative team from University College Dublin's School of Veterinary Medicine, Teagasc and The Irish Equine Centre worked with a wide range of industry ambassadors to produce a series of short videos, providing 10 easy steps to protecting the health of all equines in the national herd.



Sonja Egan (Horse Sport Ireland), Vivienne Duggan (UCD School of Veterinary Medicine), Alan Creighton (Irish Equine Centre), Cathal Beale (Irish National Stud), Peter O'Reilly (Irish Thoroughbred Breeders Association), Flor Madden (RDS), Wendy Conlon (Teagasc)

The work was a true collaboration across the entire Industry, with those contributing including Cathal Beale (Irish National Stud); Sarah Ennis (Sarah Ennis Eventing), Neilus Hayes (Knockainey Stud), Andrew Hughes (Ennisnag Stud), Cian O'Connor (Karlswood Stables), John O'Connor (Ballylinch Stud), and Richard Sheane (Cooley Farm), while other farms provided locations to film including Dermot Weld Racing, Gordon Elliot Racing, Ross O'Sullivan Racing and Staffordstown Stud.

The '10 Practical Steps to Protect Equine Health' initiative was launched at the RDS Dublin Horse Show in August this year. At the launch, Martin Heydon T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) said; 'I welcome this initiative which aims to educate all those involved with horses on simple preventive actions they can take to ensure their horses stay healthy. Protecting the wellbeing of our horses is vital to ensure the sustainability of this sector which brings so much pleasure to so many. I would also like to commend those lending their voices to this video series. As industry leaders, I'm sure their endorsement will have a wide ranging and positive impact.'

During the launch, Vivienne Duggan, Associate Professor of Equine Medicine at the School of Veterinary Medicine UCD, and a member of the collaborative team, emphasised 'it is increasingly difficult to kill pathogens and treat infectious disease when we really need to. Antibiotics and anti-parasitic drugs are simply not as effective as they once were. We must place more

emphasis on disease prevention. A very important element of this approach is ensuring equines have a 'clean' environment to inhabit, and 'hygienic' high quality feed, water and bedding sources. The best prevention of asthmatic conditions and optimisation of respiratory health overall is to decrease exposure to dust in the environment while also providing well-ventilated spaces.'

Wendy Conlon, team member from Teagasc, and an Equine Specialist advisor, said 'whether you own a child's pony or an international sport horse, have a private or public stud farm, train point to pointers or racehorses, own donkeys or happy hackers it really doesn't matter - infection or disease will treat each with equal disdain. Our role as owners, managers, grooms, caretakers, riders, health professionals, and all who care for their most basic needs is to pay attention to the small things first, which lay the foundations for healthier horses in the longer term, and protect your pockets also in the process.'

Team member Alan Creighton, Head of Environment and Nutrition at the Irish Equine Centre, emphasised 'a balanced approach to biosecurity is necessary. We cannot sterilise everything, nor should we. Non-pathogenic microbes are also essential to life. However, preventing overwhelming illness can be achieved by ensuring equines are never faced with an overwhelming challenge risking illness. Targeting the hygiene of high traffic zones in the stable yard (foaling boxes, stocks, mechanical walkers, transport vehicles) and at pasture (gateways; feed/water trough areas) while engaging quarantine practices, controlling stocking densities, and separating animals into small groups of similar risk category goes an awful long way to preventing illness and disease.'

It is hoped that this initiative will spark continued collaborative efforts across the industry to bring the best knowledge and information to equine owners, breeders and trainers across Ireland to enhance and protect the health and welfare of the equine national herd. The group are planning to roll out further events over the coming year to disseminate the information as widely as possible across the country.

The series of videos can be accessed on our website: www.ucd.ie/vetmed/newsandevents

Sustainability in the School of Veterinary Medicine

A Staff-Student Partnership Approach

One Health and One Welfare are central to the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine's strategic goals. Aligned with this, students and staff have formed a Sustainability Group, with the mission of bringing a culture of sustainability to all aspects of the School's work. The group meets monthly during term time to discuss relevant issues and progress their action plans. One of the core features of the group is the strength of its staff-student partnership, with many aspects of the action plan driven by students. One such action currently underway is the development of a student-led research project to survey members of the School community on sustainability practices and behaviour. This project is eligible for Clinical Extra Mural Studies (CEMS) credits and Summer Student Research Awards (SSRA) entry. We hope that the survey will capture and quantify how students wish to embed sustainability in their academic environment as well as how staff are considering sustainability in their teaching and research.

The Veterinary School Sustainability Group also works with other grassroots sustainability initiatives on campus, including the Sustainable Research Initiative (SRI). For example, group members volunteered at a plastics recycling workshop that was held in the UCD Village in March this year. This workshop was organised by the SRI and UCD Green Campus and led by the UCD Innovation Academy. Group members have also been involved in initiatives within the School to build awareness of sustainable practices. For example, members created a Christmas tree made from used

pipette boxes (named the 'Sustainabili-Tree') for the Veterinary School foyer to promote the Green Labs 'take back' programme. Members also volunteered at an Earth Day workshop in the School in collaboration with the UCD Purl Jam crafting group. The workshop was focused on One Welfare and upcycling, with attendees making plastic-free toys for dogs and cats using toilet roll tubes, paper straws, and knitting wool. They also prepared pet-friendly herb pots.

Additionally, a nitrile glove recycling pilot programme has been launched in Veterinary Microbiology practical classes for Stage 3 undergraduate Veterinary Medicine students. Kimtech brand nitrile gloves were distributed to students, then collected and decontaminated for shipping back to the manufacturer. The first 20,000 gloves (collected in conjunction with groups from the UCD College of Science) were shipped in May this year.

Our Veterinary Clinical Skills Centre (CSC) colleagues also work closely with the Sustainability Group and are key contributors to sustainability measures within our School. They mostly use surplus and expired consumables and stock (sourced from the UCD Veterinary Hospital and Veterinary School laboratories) and reusable equipment as supplies. For example, they collect clean disposable drapes from the UCD Veterinary Hospital, so that students can practise draping and packaging instruments for autoclaving. When they are finished, they pass them on to other Veterinary School sections, including Anatomy. The Anatomy Section then uses the drapes to cover tables

and sensitive specimens. CSC staff also collect items such as fabrics from our community to be upcycled into clinical skills models. Any items they receive that they cannot use are redistributed to other sections of the School. In addition, staff make careful choices about their purchases; purchasing things like reusable drip bags (rather than single use bags) to enable students to practise drip assembly and connection, while minimising waste. These activities all save time and money and help to protect the environment.

Aside from these larger initiatives, the group plans to implement small changes throughout the School to help students and staff make sustainable choices. These include installing compost bins, creating a Sustainability bulletin board and facilitating reuse of scrubs between student year groups. The Sustainability Group is currently working on finalising its terms of reference and formalising its status in the School. Watch this space for more sustainability initiatives in the 2024/25 academic year!



Plastic-free toys for dogs and cats using toilet roll tubes, paper straws, and knitting wool were made by participants in an Earth Day workshop



Pet-friendly herb pots were also prepared by staff and students on Earth Day

Research News

→ Dr Alison Reynolds - New Associate Dean for Research, Innovation & Impact

Dr Alison Reynolds, Lecturer/Assistant Professor in the Veterinary Biosciences Section is the School of Veterinary Medicine's new Associate Dean for Research, Innovation and Impact. Here, Alison tells us about her research interests, her career to date and her work in UCD.

I am a scientist with a research background in genetics, pharmacology and toxicology. I graduated from Trinity College Dublin in 2000 and for the last 24 years have focused on researching blindness. My career has progressed through a traditional research route (PhD student, postdoctoral researcher, research fellow), with a stint working on commercialisation of new drugs for blindness.

Since 2016, I have worked in the School of Veterinary Medicine as an Assistant Professor/Lecturer in Veterinary Biosciences and as a Principal Investigator. I teach Stage 1 Veterinary Medicine students (embryology, cell biology, genetics) and Veterinary Nursing students (anatomy and physiology, including anatomy practicals in our dissection hall). I manage a small research team which is focused on learning more about the pathways involved in different forms of blindness, using zebrafish, cells and retinal organoids (organ in a dish, grown from reprogramed skin cells) as models. With colleagues in South East Technological University, I am developing new therapies for dry eye disease.

Since I joined the School of Veterinary Medicine, as a non-registrant, I have made strong efforts to learn more about the veterinary profession and research areas. I have had the privilege to serve as a Board Member on the Veterinary Council of Ireland (2018 – 2021), sitting on the Veterinary Education and Training, Veterinary Nursing and Preliminary Investigation Committees. I have developed research projects

with clinical colleagues (supported by vet summer students), been Champion of Undergraduate Research, encouraging students to take part in summer research initiatives. I supervise a veterinary nurse undertaking a research MSc working with a veterinary clinician as a co-supervisor. I currently Chair several committees in UCD, including the Animal Welfare Sub-Committee (Belfield) and the Aquatics Committee. I am a recent graduate of the Aurora Leadership Development Programme.

I am looking forward to working with colleagues across all sections of the School of Veterinary Medicine (and beyond) to encourage, promote and support research initiatives, helping to develop a thriving community of researchers.



Dr Alison Reynolds, the School's new Associate Dean for Research, Innovation & Impact

→ Thematic Research Grant for Professor Nola Leonard

Professor Nola Leonard has been awarded a Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine (DAFM) Thematic Research Grant for her project 'Transdisciplinary Interventions to Control Salmonella in Irish Pig Farms.' The funding scheme has been established to support research across the agri-food, forest and bioeconomy sectors, with 20 research grants worth just over €24 million awarded to support research across 16

institutes. As part of the on-going North-South co-operation on agri-food research and innovation, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), Northern Ireland collaborated in the research call by providing funding to enable eligible research performing organisations in Northern Ireland to participate in projects with partners in Ireland. A total of five projects will benefit from this collaboration, including Professor Leonard's project.



Thematic Research Grant Coordinators with Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine Charlie McConalogue TD, and Minister of State with special responsibility for Research and Development Martin Heydon, TD at a launch event held in the DAFM Backweston Laboratory Complex

→ UCD School of Veterinary Medicine Collaborating on One Health Surveillance Research Project to Address European Cross-Border Pathogens

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue recently announced Ireland's participation in and coordination of an all-island research initiative focused on setting up a coordinated surveillance system utilising the One Health approach for cross-border pathogens that threaten the island and the European Union. This Direct Action project is entitled 'One Health: All Ireland for European Surveillance' (OH-ALLIES). Recent international health emergencies such as the Covid 19 pandemic, and continued threats of other zoonotic diseases, demonstrate the need for a resilient health system and the value of a One Health approach across the island of Ireland – OH-ALLIES aims to develop a framework that will support a sustainable long-term multi-disciplinary approach to One Health surveillance.

This work will be carried out by a wide-ranging collaborative team at University College Dublin, including colleagues from the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Galway and at the Department's National Veterinary Laboratory, with input from the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, The Health Protection and Surveillance Centre, the Irish Equine Centre, and the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute in Northern Ireland.



Project collaborators at the One Health: All Ireland for European Surveillance (OH-ALLIES) kick-off meeting

→ Care4Dairy: A Farmer-Centred Resource for Dairy Cattle Welfare



Professors Siobhan Mullan and Alison Hanlon from the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine have been partners of the Care4Dairy Consortium over the past two years. Care4Dairy consisted of five partners from the European Union Reference Centre for Animal Welfare (EURCAW) – Ruminants & Equines: Professor Harry Blokhuis (coordinator) and Birgitta Staaf Larsson (Swedish University for Agricultural Sciences), Dr Isabelle Veissier (INRAE, France), Dr Evangelia Sossidou (ELGO-DIMITRA, Veterinary Research Institute, Greece), Dr Silvia D'Albenzio (IZSAM, Italy) and Professor Alison Hanlon (UCD, Ireland). IDELE and Phylum (France) specialists in applied research and bridging sciences were also part of the consortium.

Funded by the European Commission, the consortium developed best practice guidelines on animal welfare for the dairy sector in the EU. Overall, the Care4Dairy project produced an incredible 260 publications including factsheets, podcasts, infographics, and videos. All publications are available in seven official EU languages (English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Polish, and Spanish). These publications can be found on the Care4Dairy website: <https://care4dairy.eu/>

The Care4Dairy outputs focus on good practice and best practice recommendations for the welfare of dairy calves, heifers, cows and end-of-career animals and are structured according to four key welfare pillars: nutrition, environment, health and behaviour. Best Practice Guides consist of a compilation of recommendations for the welfare of each life stage. Factsheets address specific topics, such as elective procedures, reproduction and diseases. Care4Dairy has also produced four podcast episodes, hosted by Laura Rice (UCD School of Agriculture and Food

Science), discussing management strategies to reduce calf morbidity and mortality, good welfare improving cow productivity, hints and tips on cow-calf systems, and enrichment. Two guests were interviewed in each podcast: a Care4Dairy representative and either a farmer, farm advisor, veterinary expert or scientist.

The Care4Dairy infographics for dairy calves, heifers and cows highlight key recommendations for the four welfare pillars. The themes were selected based on feedback from national consultations with stakeholders about the factsheets. The infographic for the End-of-Career Cows provides a decision-tree on euthanasia. Care4Dairy, along with Italian filmmaker Marco Chiarini, also developed 4 short videos on the following topics: the calf environment in the first 21 days of life, preparation of heifers for calving, the importance of outdoor access for cows, and assessing pain in end-of-career cows. These videos can be accessed on the Care4Dairy YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@Care4Dairy>



Finally, Care4Dairy has developed a farmer-centred smartphone App. The App provides access to good and best practice recommendations for the welfare of dairy calves, heifers, cows and end-of-career animals. It also contains three special features: access to training courses, success stories and a self-assessment. Farmers can complete a set of self-assessments to identify the good and best practices on their farm and how they can make further improvements to animal welfare.

While the Care4Dairy consortium officially concluded on 1 June this year, EURCAW Ruminants & Equines were entrusted with the management of the Care4Dairy project, to ensure the longevity of the website and smartphone App. It will also include the updating of materials corresponding to future amendments to EU legislation.

→ New Veterinary Fellows Join the Irish Clinical Academic Training Programme

Two new Veterinary Fellows, Michael Duggan and John Mark O'Leary, have recently joined the Irish Clinical Academic Training Programme. The programme aims to forge stronger links between human medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine and provides a structured inclusive infrastructure for clinical academic training. Here, Michael and John Mark tell us about their reasons for joining the Programme and what they hope to achieve as ICAT Fellows.

Michael Duggan

The ICAT programme really appealed to me as it allowed me to undertake a PhD whilst also furthering my clinical skill set as an equine surgeon. The fellowship provides excellent multidisciplinary support across all fields of veterinary, medicine and dentistry with input from statisticians and study design experts which I felt would be extremely valuable in furthering my career as a clinical academic. There are a wide range of PhD supervisors affiliated with ICAT which allowed me to compile a strong supervisory team headed by Professor Pieter Brama. A major positive for me was that I didn't have to give up my clinical work which is something I really enjoy, particularly orthopaedic surgery.

I have experience working on joint disease using an equine model looking at the effects of orthobiologics such as platelet rich plasma during my DVMS (Doctorate of Veterinary Medical Specialisation) studies and equine surgery residency training. However, for my PhD I am looking at the effects of space travel/microgravity on cartilage which will contribute hugely to our understanding of cartilage development and repair on earth as well as in space and allow further study of other disease processes such as osteoporosis, cartilage repair and fracture healing, to name a few. Ultimately, this work will contribute to better prophylaxis, treatments and improved patient outcomes. The programme is very much One Health focused and that's a passion of mine where I can utilise my veterinary skills and knowledge to address knowledge gaps that affect humans and animals alike.

I am hoping that the experience from the ICAT programme, coupled with my equine surgical skills,

will pave the way for a very successful international career as a clinical academic and I hope along the way to inspire others to follow a similar path.

John Mark O'Leary

I became aware of the Irish Clinical Academic Training (ICAT) PhD programme expanding its selection criteria to include veterinarians and dentists in higher level clinical training through Professor Carmel Mooney. While the doctors who enrol on this programme typically complete it during their specialist training years, veterinary applicants would be more likely to participate after completing their European Board specialist level training. Once the programme criteria are met, ICAT is very open to applicants at different stages of their careers, as I enrolled from a post of Assistant Professor of Large Animal Surgery at UCD.

The opportunity to be mentored by world renowned academics in related spheres and to develop my level of intellectual research and bench side practical skillset were particularly appealing to me. The requirement for a cross discipline advisory panel and patient/owner/trainer participant involvement ensures research questions are not approached in a blinkered way. The ICAT training programme is also well funded which was an added bonus when rearing a young family in Dublin. Having two specialist level veterinary qualifications, one of those being a European Board Equine Veterinary Dentistry Speciality, and in conjunction with the UCD Veterinary Hospital's investment in building a standing equine CT imaging suite in 2018, has resulted in an exponential increase in sinus and dental related cases, with the UCVDH currently considered a Clinical Centre of Excellence in this domain. Whilst I have thoroughly enjoyed the clinical growth and development in this area, it has meant less available time for my research interests. The ICAT programme provides the means to reduce clinical duties and focus on delivering a structured PhD in a timely manner.

Areas of Interest:

Vital pulp therapy (VPT) in hypodont teeth is biologically-based and minimally invasive compared with current options such as extraction or root canal treatment (RCT). Unnecessary extractions result in dental drifting of the affected arcade, malocclusions, overgrowths and diastemata related problems. Root canal treatments can arrest the root development of

immature adult teeth and can predispose them to early fractures. Furthermore, VPT is technically easier to carry out than RCT. The success of VPT procedures is dependent on the level of inflammation in the dental pulp; however, accurate assessment of the level of pulpitis in hypsodont teeth is currently not possible. Notably, there is also a paucity of information about the immunological reaction of the pulp in hypsodont teeth at a molecular level.

Under the guidance of Professor Hal Duncan, Director of Research at Dublin Dental University Hospital, I plan to investigate the molecular changes that occur in hypsodont teeth during advanced pulpitis and determine if there are specific biomarkers that are predictably dysregulated in the inflamed pulp of these teeth. Improving our understanding of these pathways in relation to reversible and irreversible pulpitis will help to guide the most appropriate treatment. The potential for manipulating these pathways may help to improve endodontic clinical outcomes. Investigating the upregulated dentinogenic hypsodont tooth may also act as an exciting Translational One Health research model.

My long-term plan is to become an academic clinical leader driving both clinical excellence and conducting collaborative research. While I am only at the start of my ICAT journey, it has been very positive thus far. Professor Mooney has been extremely supportive and helpful and if you have any particular questions about the programme or the veterinary application process I would urge you to contact her and consider applying during the next call.



Dr Michael Duggan, ICAT Research Fellow



Dr John Mark O'Leary, ICAT Research Fellow

Spotlight On

→ Undergraduate Research



We are delighted to introduce Jennifer Dillon and Ellen O'Donovan, two Veterinary Medicine undergraduates who have been involved in ongoing research in the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine. Below, you can find out more about their journey into the worlds of Veterinary Medicine and Research.

Jennifer Dillon

I was born in Dublin although I have lived most of my life in Athlone. From a young age, my dream was to become a vet. I always felt comforted by the company of animals. In my own home, we have a rescue border

collie, a rescue cat and five rescue hens. Over the years, I have developed a passion for Veterinary Medicine as I was always interested in the health of our pets. I was conscious of my lack of knowledge and skills when the need to help them arose. I live in a rural area and I have often encountered injured wildlife. Seeing animals suffer and being unable to help them had a profound effect on me. This led to my decision to apply for Veterinary Medicine at UCD. Apart from my academic studies, I also play music - I play violin and piano and recently I have started learning drums. Earlier this year, I participated in a fundraising concert, 'Christmas in June,' for the charity Brain Tumour Ireland.

Ellen O'Donovan

I spent the first five years of my life in Cork City before moving to West Cork. If we hadn't relocated to the countryside, I don't think I would be on the path I'm on now to becoming a vet. My father is a farmer who breeds limousine cattle, and my mother is a medical doctor. Thus, I have essentially combined their two careers and arrived at the veterinary discipline. Growing up, my hobbies included playing the fiddle, sea swimming, coastal rowing, and horseback riding. Despite excelling in rowing and winning two All-Ireland medals, my true passion has always been horseback riding.

My interest in research was sparked in transition year at secondary school when I undertook my first research project titled 'The Relationship Between Diet and Perceived Stress in Secondary School Students.' My work, carried out under the supervision of Professor Ted Dinan at University College Cork and Professor Helene McNulty at Ulster University, won awards at the BT Young Scientist and SciFest competitions. This experience solidified my desire to study Biology at university. However, the opportunity to practise clinical medicine and interact with patients was what ultimately led me into Veterinary Medicine. At this point, I am unsure of what type of vet I want to become, but I am loving the course despite finding it challenging at times. I still find time to keep up with my old hobby

of horseback riding when I go home for the summer, reuniting with my 20-year-old pony, Captain. Since starting vet school, I have taken up jogging with my classmates as a way to socialise and stay fit, and I am running my first half marathon this year and, of course, I love socialising at the Vet School satellite campus, Ryan's on Camden Street.

Jennifer & Ellen's Research

Working together for the past year and a half, we have carried out a research project concerning the detection of diseases such as cancer through the use of a powerful imaging technique called Fluorescence Lifetime Imaging Microscopy (FLIM). We demonstrated the extensive capabilities of FLIM in early diagnostics, offering a superior alternative to the traditional diagnostic methods still commonly used today.

We are very fortunate to be guided step-by-step through the world of research by Dr Sourav Bhattacharjee from the School's Veterinary Biosciences Section. We had the privilege of collaborating with researchers from the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland (RCSI) and UCD Conway Institute. Under Sourav's mentorship, we have gained hands-on experience with advanced equipment, such as the Leica Stellaris 8 STED/FLIM/confocal system located in RCSI. Our research journey has also provided us with the opportunity to present our work at various events. We presented our findings at the Dean's Lunchtime Clinical Club in the School of Veterinary Medicine, and in January 2024, we were honoured to deliver a talk at Microscopy Ireland's Annual Conference at the University of Limerick.

We would both highly recommend that anyone with even a slight interest in research contact staff in the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine to inquire about research opportunities for students. They are incredibly helpful and can offer some amazing opportunities!

→ Professor Simon More



Simon More, Professor of Veterinary Epidemiology and Director of the UCD Centre for Veterinary Epidemiology and Risk Analysis (CVERA), retired from UCD at the end of August after more than 20 years in the School of Veterinary Medicine. Below, we take a look back at Simon's career and the extraordinary contributions he has made to the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine, to research and public policy nationally and internationally and to Irish society.

Simon grew up on a remote farm in New South Wales, Australia, which is where he developed his *grá* for all things veterinary and for bushwalking. He graduated with a Veterinary Science degree from the University of Sydney, and a PhD from the James Cook University of North Queensland. He is a Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (in Epidemiology), and a Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Public Health (specialising in Epidemiology). After graduating, Simon practised as a vet providing clinical and advisory services to dairy, beef and sheep farmers. He also lectured at the University of Queensland, where he specialised in Veterinary Epidemiology. Simon also provided specialised Veterinary Epidemiology consultancy in international practice, working primarily in Australia and the Philippines.

In January 2004, Simon was appointed as UCD Professor of Veterinary Epidemiology and Risk Analysis and as Director of UCD's CVERA. CVERA is also supported by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Over the years, Simon led CVERA through several significant changes including the establishment of a Board of Management, the formulation, and execution of strategies and, most recently, starting the process

of further integrating CVERA into the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine's structures.

During his time in CVERA, Simon authored or co-authored almost 300 scientific papers in international peer-reviewed journals on a vast range of topics from bovine tuberculosis to Covid-19, fish health to domestic pet populations, and from Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Virus to equine welfare. He, along with colleagues in CVERA, provided both formal and informal epidemiological support to veterinarians in Ireland and much further afield. Throughout his time in CVERA, Simon always endeavoured to conduct independent, peer-reviewed research with the aim of assisting policy colleagues in making informed decisions in the fields of animal health, animal welfare and One Health.

As a Professor in the School, Simon made a substantial contribution to both undergraduate and postgraduate teaching programmes and supervised a number of Masters and PhD students. He was appointed Associate Dean for Research, Innovation and Impact in 2018. Simon was also a member of the School's Senior Management Team and a member of the Athena SWAN Action Team.

In collaboration with Professor Michael Doherty, Simon played a major role in the moving of the Irish Veterinary Journal (IVJ) to the BioMed Central open access platform. He was Deputy-Editor of the IVJ and was also on the Scientific Advisory Board for several other veterinary journals.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Simon was a member of the government's Irish Epidemiological Modelling Advisory Group (IEMAG), Chaired by Professor Philip Nolan. He was also a member of UCD's Covid-19 Advisory Group and Chair of the School's Covid-19 Advisory Group.

Simon made a significant contribution to the establishment of Animal Health Ireland, a not-for-profit, partnership-based organisation providing national leadership and co-ordination of non-regulatory animal health issues in Ireland. Since its establishment, Simon was Chair of several of the Technical Working Groups including Johnes's disease & the Cellcheck programme. He was also a member of the Biological Safety Subcommittee and the AMR working subgroup in the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.

Simon worked closely with colleagues in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and provided scientific expertise to DAFM on a wide range of animal health issues. Over the years, Simon was a member of, or contributed to, a wide range of DAFM's advisory groups, including the Scientific Advisory Committee on Animal Health and Welfare, the bTB/BR North/South Working Group, the Interdepartmental AMR Consultative Committee, and the Early Warning Surveillance Working Group, to name but a few.

In addition to his UCD commitments, Simon has been heavily involved in the work of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), which is an EU agency that provides transparent, robust scientific assessments relating to food safety and animal health and welfare to inform decision-making within the European Commission. At various times, he was a member and subsequently a Chair of the Animal Health and Welfare Panel (2009-2018); a Chair of the MUST-B Working Group; and a member of the African Swine Fever Working Group. In later years, he held the position of member and Chair of the EFSA Scientific Committee (2015-2024).

This summary provides a very brief synopsis of some of Simon's contributions during his time as Chair of CVERA and as Professor of Veterinary Epidemiology and Risk Analysis in the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine. For a more detailed view of Simon's research output, please see <https://people.ucd.ie/simon.more/about>

As he retires, Simon plans to spend time with his family in Australia, especially his grandchildren, and to follow his passion for hill walking. He has walked extensively in Australia, the Philippines, and across Europe.

Colleagues in CVERA and the School of Veterinary Medicine would like to take this opportunity to thank Simon for his huge contribution and, more importantly, his friendship over the last 20 years. We wish Simon and his wife Michelle the very best for the future. Don't be a stranger - *Go n-éirí an bóthar leat!*

International Veterinary Events at the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine

→ VetEd 2024



This summer, the UCD School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) was delighted to host the International Symposium of the Veterinary Schools Council, VetEd 2024, an annual symposium which shares and promotes innovations, ideas and best practice in veterinary education. The event took place in UCD's O'Reilly Hall and University Club over 3 days and saw over 260 delegates from 24 countries travel to Dublin in July. Workshops, short presentations and ePoster presentations during VetEd covered a range of veterinary educational topics including well-being, assessment, clinical skills, educational technology, equality diversity and inclusion, and curriculum enhancement.

Keynote speakers included UCD's Professor Barbara Dooley (Dean of Graduate Studies and Deputy Registrar) presenting current research on young adult mental health and well-being. Professor Michael Doherty (former Dean & Head of the SVM) entertained

and informed delegates with his presentation 'The Formation of a Veterinary Folklorist,' describing folklore research he has been undertaking in Ireland, through an ethno-veterinary medicine lens. Dr Karen Weekes (www.karenweekes.com), Endurance Adventurer and Performance Psychologist, enthralled the audience with her experiences as the first Irish woman to row the Atlantic Ocean solo and spoke about how we can harness resilience-building techniques in everyday life. The symposium wrapped up with a dynamic and engaging panel discussion chaired by the Dean & Head of School, Professor Rory Breathnach focusing on the preparation of new Veterinary Medicine graduates for the challenges of professional life. Vibrant social events were also enjoyed over two nights.

The organising committee would like to thank VetEd sponsors, exhibitors, volunteers, students, staff and all those in the School who gave their time and input to make VetEd 2024 an enjoyable and successful event. VetEd 2025 will be hosted by the University of Bristol.

A bundle of digital resources from VetEd can be found online at: <https://veted2024.exordo.com/programme/at-a-glance>

→ European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education General Assembly 2025



The European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) brings together veterinary professionals and educators from across Europe; currently, out of the 110 Veterinary Educational Establishments in Europe, 96 are members of EAEVE. The EAEVE General Assembly aims to reinforce cooperation between member establishments and to act as a forum for discussion in order to improve and harmonise veterinary education.

The 2025 event is the 38th General Assembly and the first time UCD will host the event. It offers a unique opportunity to showcase veterinary education in Ireland to colleagues from all across Europe, as well as giving them a flavour of what our capital city has to offer from a cultural and social perspective. Over 300 delegates are expected to attend on 12 & 13 June 2025 and we look forward to welcoming them to Dublin!

Registration for the EAEVE General Assembly 2025 will open on 1 December - keep an eye on our website for updates.



→ 'Dublin is Ready!' - Professor Rory Breathnach accepting hosting duties for the 2025 EAEVE General Assembly at the 37th General Assembly in the École nationale vétérinaire d'Alfort in Paris



Thank you
Go raibh maith agat

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