







Trinity College

Dublin Innovation Award 2007



(left to right) Dr Stephen Collins; TCD Provost, Dr John Hegarty; and Mr Hugh Revnolds.

Stephen Collins and Hugh Reynolds have won the Trinity College Dublin Innovation Award 2007 for their spin-out company Havok. Formerly Telekinesys Research Ltd., it was recently acquired by Intel for \$110 million. Havok was founded by Dr Collins and Mr Reynolds in 1998. They worked on the development of real-time physics simulation software for use in computer games. With Dr Collins as Chief Executive Officer and Mr Reynolds as Chief Technical Officer, the company grew over an eight-year period from a Dublin Business Innovation Centre incubator to become a global business with offices in Dublin, Munich, Sweden, San Francisco, Dallas and Tokyo.

Havok is a world leader in the development and sale of real-time physics and animation software to the games industry. It is focussed on the development of technologies that will drive the next generation of computer games, an industry that has revenues of tens of billions of Euro and which is a driver of advanced but economical technological performance for the rest of the IT industry.

Dr Collins recently returned to teaching and research in the TCD School of Computer Science and Statistics, and he also contributes to the TCD Entrepreneurship Programme and MBA Workout.

The TCD Innovation Award recognises the courage and excellence of two academically-trained researchers who created a new software company in a highly-specialised but very competitive niche area, and who are now sharing their experiences to assist others to venture down similar paths. Their experience and exit will encourage venture capitalists and other funders to back projects arising from TCD's research portfolio. The 2006 award was won by Dr Chris Horn, Iona Technologies.

The presentation pieces were crafted by Irish silversmith Seamus Gill in his studio on the Trinity Technology and Enterprise Campus.

EU Commissioner for Science & Research Visits Trinity College Dublin



(left to right) Dr David Lloyd, TCD Dean of Research; Dr Janez Potočnik, EU Commissioner for Science & Research; Dr John Hegarty, TCD Provost; and Dr Barry Fennell, Enterprise Ireland,

As part of a two-day visit to Ireland, the EU Commissioner for Science & Research, Janez Potočnik, visited Trinity College Dublin (TCD) on 27 November 2007. He met the Provost, Dean of Research and Industry Liaison Manager and was briefed on TCD's strategy and the European Innovation and Technology Institute. He then visited several research laboratories where he was given an insight into world-class research taking place at TCD and funded by Enterprise Ireland and the Seventh EU Framework Programme (FP7).

At the TCD Centre for Telecommunications and Value-Chain Research (CTVR), Dr Potočnik learned about their multi-partner SFI-funded CSET and innovative outreach programme The Resistors!.

At the Trinity Institute for Neuroscience (TCIN), he visited the 7 Tesla MRI scanner control room where Prof. Marina Lynch described the research being carried out on the prevention of Alzheimer's disease.

At the Trinity Centre for High Performance Computing (TCHPC), Dr Potočnik was able to see a full 3D image of the brain as a real-time simulation. These simulations use large-scale computer and visualisation systems, and help further the research of TCD scientists and engineers.

During his visit to Ireland, Dr Potočnik met Micheál Martin TD, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment. He also visited Dublin City University, the Royal Irish Academy and Dublin Castle. His visit was coordinated by the International Science & Technology Department of Enterprise Ireland with support from the FP7 Support Network.



Biodiversity Research at Trinity College Dublin



Howard Fox, TCD PhD student, heads for the heights in a West Cork oak wood.

The Trinity College Dublin School of Natural Sciences conducts a considerable amount of biodiversity research across its four disciplines (Botany, Geography, Geology and Zoology). This includes several tropical biodiversity projects currently underway in Africa, East Asia and Central America. In Ireland, the TCD School of Natural Sciences is in receipt of significant research funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Council for Forest Research and Development (COFORD) and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

One major research area is in the biodiversity of commercial forests in Ireland. Commercial forests make up over 90% of Ireland's woodland cover and their management has to address international agreements on the maintenance of biodiversity. Joint Principal Investigators Drs Daniel Kelly and Fraser Mitchell received €600k from the EPA and COFORD for the BIOFOREST project (bioforest.ucc.ie) which was completed in 2006.

An additional €1 million followed in 2007 for the PLANFORBIO project (www.ucc.ie/en/planforbio) funded by COFORD. The principal collaborator in both projects is UCC with additional collaboration from Coillte and Waterford IT. The projects address significant gaps in our knowledge of the fauna and flora of both plantation forests and native woodland. The projects also generate recommendations aimed at improving plantation forest management to enable them to meet their multiple objectives, which include both timber production and the maintenance of biodiversity. One novel aspect of these projects is the assessment of biodiversity in living tree canopies; this requires researchers to climb trees within the forest to gather their data.

Wellcome Trust Award for TCD Research into

Inflammatory Bowel Disease



Neil Frankish and Helen Sheridan, TCD School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, have received a Translation Award from the Wellcome Trust worth €1.5 million. The award, which was made to their campus company Pharmatrin Ltd., allows them to undertake clinical development of novel compounds as potential first-in-class drugs for the treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). It follows an award from the Wellcome Trust in 2001 which brings the total funding for this project to almost €4 million. Drs Frankish and Sheridan will now undertake safety studies and the first clinical trials.

The project was originally based on compounds isolated from an oriental herb. Research funding has allowed the synthesis and development of novel compounds, while in vitro testing and pharmacological screening have identified compounds with anti-inflammatory and immunomodulatory activities. The first therapeutic target for these New Chemical Entities is IBD, for example Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. The incidence of IBD is increasing worldwide, with Europe having more than 2.5 million sufferers and Northern Europe, including Ireland, having the greatest number of patients.

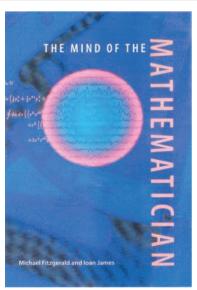




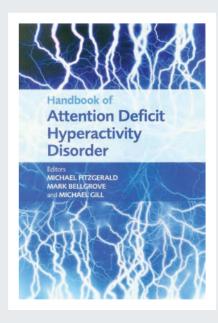
Two Publications by TCD Psychiatry Lecturer

Michael Fitzgerald, Trinity College Dublin Henry Marsh Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, has recently published *The Mind of the Mathematician*. Prof. Fitzgerald and loan James, formerly Savilian Professor of Geometry at Oxford University, look at the complex world of mathematics and the mind. Together they explore the behaviour and personality traits that tend to fit the profile of a mathematician. They discuss mathematics and the arts, savants, gender and mathematical ability, and the impact of autism, personality disorders, and mood disorders.

Prof. Fitzgerald is also editor of the *Handbook of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder* along with Prof. Michael Gill, TCD School of Medicine and Dr Mark Bellgrove, TCD School of Psychology. This book is a major clinical and research handbook presenting the latest research from those working at the cutting-edge of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). It has contributions from Ireland, UK, USA and Australia. ADHD is a prevalent disorder of childhood affecting approximately 5% of school-aged children and adults. It is characterised by developmentally inappropriate levels of inattention, hyperactivity and impulsivity. Despite its diagnostic validity, the disorder remains controversial with a great deal of misunderstanding among professionals and the public about the condition.







TCD Provost IUA President for 2007

2007 was a very active year for the IUA Council. We began by welcoming Ned Costello who took over as IUA Chief Executive at the beginning of the year and with whom I worked closely on the various issues which we progressed over the past eleven months. It was also a time of change for the Council itself, as we said goodbye to Presidents Gerry Wrixon (UCC) and John O'Connor (UL) and welcomed respective incoming Presidents Michael Murphy and Don Barry.

In regard to research, PRTLI Cycle 4 was a highlight, and a positive indication that Government is making good on its commitments under the Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation. The Council also met with the new SFI Director General Dr Frank Gannon and we will be continuing this dialogue into the future.

PRTLI aside, 2007 was marked out by a focus on two key issues – Strategy and SIF. With the support of the IUA executive, we began a process of identifying key strategic issues centred around the premise that the optimisation of the relationships between research, teaching and learning, and knowledge transfer will be critical to the future of the university system. We also made concerted efforts to ensure that the need to better support the development of the universities registers more strongly in the public and political consciousness. One significant event in that regard was my address to the McGill Summer School, where I shared the platform with Minister Hanafin and which led to some public debate.

During 2007, a number of important IUA SIF projects became fully operational. On the research front, the development of the Fourth Level Ireland network is especially significant. In addition, we advanced work on Access, the Leadership Academy, Key Performance Indicators and Full Economic Costing. The latter project is also important in the research context to ensure the continued recovery of the maximum level of overheads under the EU FP7. Many of these initiatives will hopefully continue to be taken forward under SIF II: the response to that call having dominated the Autumn period.

This is only a small flavour of the year's activity which really did cover every facet of university life. A more detailed roundup appeared in the IUA Christmas newsletter (www.iua.ie/media-and-events/iua-e-news/index.html).

Dr John Hegarty, Provost







TCD School of Medicine Hosts

EU Marie Curie Training Course



Participants and speakers at Dublin Castle, June 2007

Kathleen Bennett and Bernie McGowan, Trinity College Dublin School of Medicine, recently hosted two modules of an EU-funded Marie Curie training programme (www.medicine.tcd.ie/pharmacology_therapeutics/marie_curie_training_programme) in the Trinity Centre for Health Sciences. The aim of this series of linked training courses is to educate junior researchers in the basics of cardiovascular disease (CVD) epidemiology and modelling. Participants were from 13 different countries across Europe, with backgrounds in medicine, epidemiology, statistics, health sciences, health economics, and allied professions.

One immediate result is that links are being strengthened between these countries as participants explain changes in CVD rates in their own countries and compare policy options through the development of powerful computer-based models such as IMPACT, RIVM CDM and PREVENT. Participants were also able to network during the social evenings at Dublin Castle and a traditional Dublin pub. Invited speakers came from Ireland, the UK, Spain, Italy, Sweden, the Netherlands, the USA and Australia. A third module was hosted by Liverpool University, UK.

Dr Bennett: "This is a unique opportunity to bring together like-minded researchers from all over Europe working in the area of cardiovascular epidemiology. We have a particular interest in cardiovascular disease in the TCD Department of Pharmacology & Therapeutics, and we were fortunate to be able to host such courses here."

Cardiovascular diseases are a major cause of mortality and morbidity, and in order to decrease their burden, public health efforts need to be guided by a thorough understanding of the epidemiology. Epidemiological modelling is a developing field used to inform policy decisions by summarising the vast amount of available data and evidence, providing a useful tool to gain more insight of underlying issues.

International Finance Conference Held in Trinity College Dublin



The 5th INFINITI conference on international financial integration took place in Trinity College Dublin on 10 and 11 June 2007. It was chaired by Brian Lucey, TCD School of Business and 150 papers were presented.

The two keynote speakers, Prof. Raman Uppall, London Business School and Prof. Marty Gruber, New York University School of Business presented recent work on asset allocation and portfolio management. Prof. Gruber was also interviewed by RTE Radio 1. Special sessions were held in the form of roundtables of practitioners and academics on New Directions in Asset Management and on Energy Finance.

A new development was the video-recording of the keynote presentations and the roundtables. These are available via FMA-Online, the e-Journal of the Financial Management Association which is the largest academic finance association in the world. There will also be a special issue edited by Prof. Lucey. From 2008 onwards, the *Journal of Banking and Finance*, one of the top five journals in its field, will produce a special issue.

The conference was attended by 250 delegates from more than 40 countries. It included a gala dinner followed by Irish dancing and music.

The 5th INFINITI conference was sponsored by the Institute for International Integration Studies (IIIS) at Trinity College Dublin, the Irish Central Bank and MPS Asset Management.

The 6th INFINITI conference (http://www.tcd.ie/iiis/pages/events/infiniti2008new.php) will take place on 9 and 10 June 2008.





TCD Pharmaceutical Research Centre in SFI Strategic Research Clusters

Scientists in the Trinity College Dublin (TCD) School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences are investigators in three Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Strategic Research Cluster Programmes which have been awarded total funding of €19.5 million until 2012.

Prof. Marek Radomski represents TCD in the BioNanoInteract Strategic Research Cluster which combines the efforts of leading scientists from seven universities on the island of Ireland. Industry partners will work closely with the academic scientists in developing an understanding of how nanoscale systems and living matter interact. This research effort will enable not only the development of new and safe drugs but will also support the development of safe and responsible practices for the overall development of nanotechnology.



TCD is represented by Drs Anne Marie Healy and Lidia Tajber, and Prof. Owen Corrigan in the Solid State Pharmaceuticals Cluster. This cluster has nine industry partners, all major pharmaceutical companies based in Ireland, and five Irish university partners. It will provide the necessary skillset to comprehensively investigate pharmaceutical solids, with the objective of rationally designing solid-state pharmaceutical materials in the required physical and chemical forms to meet the demands of advanced formulation and drug delivery systems.

Prof. Corrigan and Drs Ehrhardt, Healy and Tajber represent TCD in the Irish Drug Delivery Network (IDDN). This cluster brings industry partners together with four Irish third-level institutes, creating a critical mass of expertise in the drug-delivery area. It will develop oral and inhaled drug-delivery systems of biotech molecules which normally require injection. The molecules will be protected from breakdown by capping with novel shielding polymers formulated as particles.

Involvement in the three SFI Cluster Programmes complements ongoing research in the TCD Pharmaceutical Research Centre in the strategic areas of nanopharmacology and drug delivery.

TCD Policy Institute Conference

on Public Transport and Urban Citizenship



Digital image of pedestrianised College Green, produced by the TCD Graphics, Vision and Visualisation Group (GV2).

The Policy Institute at Trinity College Dublin (TCD) hosted an international conference on public transport and urban citizenship on 21 September 2007.

The conference (http://www.policyinstitute.tcd.ie/transport_conference.php) was a forum for leading international research on public transport, urban design and environmental sustainability. It also contributed to the growing public debate about the future of Dublin as a 'world class' capital city where citizens can be mobile without owning a car.

Speakers included Prof. David Banister (Oxford University, UK), who described the key elements of a sustainable transport policy; Prof. Jeff Kenworthy (Murdoch University, Western Austalia), who set out 10 basic transport and planning dimensions for sustainable city development; Prof. Julian Hine (University of Ulster), who looked at the links between transport disadvantage and social exclusion; and Prof. John Pucher (Rutgers University, USA), who laid out an agenda for promoting safe walking and cycling to improve public health.

Other speakers included David Sim of Gehl Architects, Louise Duggan of the UK Commission for the Built Environment, Salvador Alvarez of the Barcelona Tramway Service, and John Henry, CEO of the Dublin Transportation Office.

Also on the agenda was a proposal to remove non-essential traffic from College Green by transforming the space between TCD and the Bank of Ireland into a continental-style piazza with pavement cafes, allowing Dubliners and visitors to savour the atmosphere of the capital city.

As part of the conference, an exhibition and multimedia event, organised by the TCD Graphics, Vision and Visualisation Group (GV2), Urban Design Ireland, and students from the UCD Masters in Urban Design, showcased designs for the redevelopment of Dublin's city-centre, including the pedestrianisation of College Green.

The Policy Institute is a multi-disciplinary public policy research institute, promoting interaction between TCD and public policy-makers.





TCD Receives Two SFI President of

Ireland Young Researcher Awards

In May 2007, two of the four Science Foundation Ireland President of Ireland Young Researcher Awards (PIYRAs) went to Trinity College Dublin (TCD). The successful applicants now based in TCD are Claude Ederer, Columbia University, New York and Silvia Giordani, University of Trieste, Italy.

Dr Ederer received a PIYRA to conduct research in the field of computational materials science. His research uses computational methods to explore the interplay between the structural, electronic, and magnetic properties of functional materials such as ferroelectrics, magnetic materials, and multiferroics. The latter combine both magnetic and ferroelectric properties in one material. All these materials are essential for modern information and communication technologies. Dr Ederer's work involves the development of new and improved materials which may be used for new applications in data storage and sensor technologies.

Dr Giordani received a PIYRA to conduct research in the area of supramolecular chemistry and nanotechnology. She will bring together her expertise in complementary fields of chemistry, materials science and nanotechnology for the development of highly functional nano-sized materials constructed from molecular components. In particular, she hopes to design materials that may exhibit properties and functions which may eventually be exploited for a variety of pharmaceutical and environmental applications.

The SFI PIYRA scheme seeks to identify outstanding engineers and scientists anywhere in the world who are at an early stage in their careers, and have shown the potential to become international research leaders. This is the first time that TCD has received two of these prestigious awards in the same year.



(back row from left) Dr Ruth Freeman, SFI; Dr Claude Erderer, TCD; Dr Stephen Rea, NUIG; Dr Maurice Treacy, SFI. (front row from left) Dr Silvia Giordani, TCD; President of Ireland, Mary McAleese; Dr Karen Keeshan, UCC.

TCD Researchers Use Worms to Treat Allergies



Padraic Fallon, Trinity College Dublin School of Medicine, has been awarded a Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) Principal Investigator grant of €1.68 million to conduct immunological research directed towards the development of new potential treatments for allergic diseases.

Ireland has a very high incidence of allergic disease. With about half a million affected, it is the fourth highest country in the world for asthma incidence. Irish children have particularly high levels of allergies. For example, 30% of Irish children have asthma compared with only 10% in Italy.

One theory to explain the high levels of allergies in Ireland and certain other developed countries is that modern societies with fewer infectious diseases, better diet and a cleaner environment, contribute to a malfunction of the immune system leading to allergies. Dr Fallon is investigating how the absence of worm infections in developed countries may predispose people to develop allergies. His immunology research group has extensive expertise in animal models of inflammatory disease and translational research. Previously the group discovered how to use worms as a therapeutic to prevent disease in experimental models of anaphylaxis and asthma, and also inflammatory bowel disease. The SFI award to Dr Fallon will fund a team of seven immunologists over four years. They will investigate the mechanism that worms use to suppress allergies as the next step for developing new treatments.

Dr Fallon and his team are based in the Institute of Molecular Medicine in the Trinity Centre for Health Sciences at St James's Hospital, Dublin. This location is strategic to translating Dr Fallon's immunology research into a patient context through collaborations with clinical scientists in St James's Hospital.

The Trinity College Dublin Children's Research Centre



Two researchers at the TCD Children's Research Centre, Liz Kerrins and Sheila Greene, have received a grant from the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences to develop a framework for identifying the social impact of social science research.

The publication of the first *Study of Intercountry Adoption Outcomes in Ireland* (Greene et al.,) has elicited requests for the study team to speak to groups of social workers and parent interest groups in Ireland and Scotland. The Irish Adoption Board and the Centre will host a conference in Dublin Castle on 12 February 2008 at which invited international speakers will comment on the results of the study.

Paula Mayock and Eoin O'Sullivan, Children's Research Centre, are authors of *Lives in Crisis: Homeless Young People in Dublin* as part of a major project that has attracted the interest of policy-makers and practitioners. This longitudinal study has particular appeal to policy-makers because it has generated an incremental exploration of life events and experience rather than simply a 'snapshot' in time. A number of policy briefings have been held and attended by senior civil servants with responsibility for policy and service provision for homeless young people and youth 'at risk'. Dr Mayock is currently working on the second phase of a longitudinal cohort study of homeless young people in Dublin.

On a very different theme, the Páistí le Chéile project on the pre-school experience of children with special educational needs in Co. Roscommon, led by Jean Whyte, Children's Research Centre, was used as a platform by the County Childcare Committee to secure funding from the Department of Justice Equality and Law Reform to implement the study's recommendations and enhance the level and quality of access of children with disabilities to mainstream childcare services.

As well as conducting research on substantive issues in the lives of children and young people, the Children's Research Centre is interested in some of the more generic issues that emerge from undertaking applied social research. They aim to undertake research that makes a difference to children's lives and that influences policy and practice.

'Generation Y' Lecture Hosted by Children's Research Centre



(left to right) Prof. Sheila Greene, Director, TCD Children's Research Centre; Prof. Jeffrey Arnett, Clark University, Massachusetts, USA; and Dr Maureen Gaffney, Chair, National Economic and Social Forum.

The annual lecture of the Trinity College Dublin Children's Research Centre was delivered by US psychologist, Jeffrey Arnett, on 14 November 2007.

"Growing up in the 21st Century. The New (and Longer) Road to Adulthood" (www.tcd.ie/childrensresearchcentre/index.php?id=147) reviewed how coming of age has changed in recent decades in Ireland and other Western countries. According to Prof. Arnett, these countries are entering an age where adult children remain dependent on their parents for longer. Traditionally people in their early twenties made a rapid transition into adult roles and responsibilities, moving from education into employment, from the family nest to their own home, from financial dependence to independence, and marriage and parenthood, while their own parents often wondered how they would deal with the 'empty nest' syndrome.

Prof. Arnett suggests that 30 is now the new 20 and that we are seeing an extended period of dependency lasting from the late teens through the twenties which he calls 'emerging adulthood'. He argues that the social changes leading to this new stage in the life course include: economic affluence, later ages of marriage and parenthood, fewer children and longer time spent in education. The nest is often not empty any more as parents support their adult children, referred to as 'Generation Y', in exploring possible life paths and their own self-development for far longer than they might have expected.

Maureen Gaffney, chair of the Irish National Economic and Social Forum (NESF) responded to Prof. Arnett's lecture focusing on the Irish context and the adjustments required on the part of parents, young people and wider society to this significant social change. Dr Gaffney pointed out that not all young people can avail of the luxury of an extended transition to adulthood.

A policy seminar focusing on the implications of emerging adulthood for young people's career and work patterns took place the following day in the Children's Research Centre. Sean Gannon, Director, TCD Careers Advisory Service, Carmel Carroll, Trinity Access Programme, and Prof. Arnett all made presentations.

The Children's Research Centre conducts research and evaluation relevant to the lives of children and young people. It is part of the TCD Schools of Psychology and Social Work & Social Policy.

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Trinity Research & Innovation

Research Development: As liaison office between TCD's research and Irish and international funding agencies, the Research Development team advises on funding for research projects and assists researchers with funding submissions in order to ensure compliance with agency and College requirements. This division also coordinates the institutional research proposals. Please note that, unless there is an internal deadline, research applications should be sent to the Research Development Office at least two working days before applicants need to submit them to sponsors. Enquiries to research.office@tcd.ie

Contracts: The Contracts team is responsible for the review and execution of all research-related and service contracts and tenders (funding agencies and other third-party sponsors) from the perspective of financial exposures and liability, ensuring College's due diligence and compliance in contractual matters. Enquiries to research.contracts@tcd.ie

Technology Transfer: This division supports the capture, protection and exploitation of Trinity College Dublin's innovative research results. The Technology Transfer team also promotes the creation of cooperative linkages between TCD and the world of industry, in order to help researchers to find commercial options for their ideas and inventions and to attract companies towards new areas of TCD's research.

Enquiries to tech.transfer@tcd.ie OR industry.liaison@tcd.ie

Entrepreneurship: Working under the College's Director of Entrepreneurship through the Entrepreneurship Programme, this division has a wide range of activities to support new ventures spinning off from research and teaching in TCD, including a comprehensive training programme and the development of national and international networks of innovation.

Enquiries to bnoone@tcd.ie

Trinity Research & Innovation is located in the O'Reilly Institute, Trinity College, Dublin 2. Entrance is through the Hamilton Building. Opening hours are from 9.00 to 13.00 and from 14.00 to 16.00, Monday to Friday.



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