



Research Summer School Symposium October 7th 2011

On Friday October 7th 2011, our undergraduate students from the Schools of Medicine, Physiotherapy and Pharmacy presented the findings of the research they carried out during the summer months under the auspices of the RCSI Research Summer School, which is coordinated by Dr. Sarah O'Neill.

A total of 37 students presented their work this year. 26 of these were poster presentations and the students with their supervisors provided quite a buzz in the concourse outside the O'Flanagan Lecture Theatre. The judges, all postgraduate students: Yvonne Smith (MCT), Rebecca Mahony (MCT), Seamus Allan (MCT) and Sudipto Das (Cancer Genetics) were extremely impressed with the standard and enthusiasm of all of the students. The winner of the poster presentation was Allan Jenkinson whose poster was entitled 'A Review of 20 Year Renal Transplant Survivors and the Factors Associated with Positive Long-Term Outcomes'. Allan was supervised by Professor Peter Conlon and his research was carried out in Beaumont Hospital.



Pictured (right) Mr. Allan Jenkinson, medical student and winner of the Poster Competition, who did his research with Professor Peter Conlon in Beaumont Hospital and (left) Ms. Elaine Houlihan, Medical Student who did her research in the Anatomy Department.

The high standard of presentation continued in the oral presentations. 11 presentations were made by the students and the sessions were chaired by Dr. Ann Hopkins, Surgery and Dr. Garry Duffy, Anatomy. Similarly, the judges: Dr. Joan Ní Gabhann (MCT), Dr. Jennifer Byrne (MCT), Dr. Sinead Toomey (MCT), Dr. Caroline Curtin (Anatomy) and Dr. Tanya Levingstone (Anatomy) were amazed at how well the students presented their work, kept to time and handled their questions. The winner of the oral presentations was Rebecca Wolfe whose presentation was entitled 'Modulation of TNF-alpha induced degranulation in the human neutrophil by alpha-1 anti-trypsin'. Rebecca was supervised Dr. Emer Reeves and Dr. David Bergin in Professor Gerry McElvaney's research laboratory in Beaumont Hospital.



Pictured (l-r) are Ms. Amara Anyiam, medical student, who did her research in Dr. Caroline Jefferies' Lab during the summer with Ms. Siobhan Smith, PhD student.

Each year students are funded from a number of sources. Projects funded through The Charitable Infirmary Charitable Trust, the Association of Physicians of Great Britain and Ireland and the Madeline Farrell Charitable Bequest, in conjunction with the Boulos Hanna endowment for Psychosocial Aspects of Healthcare are coordinated by Dr. Tom Farrell, Anatomy. Additional projects are funded through the Alumni Office and this funding is coordinated by Ms. Louise Sherwin. This year Louise also received funding for projects from Merck Sharpe and Dohme and the Irish Medicines Board.

A number of additional projects are funded through successful applications of RCSI PIs through the Health Research Board (HRB). This year RCSI received HRB-funding for 14 projects and the recipients were Dr. Miriam O'Connor, Professor Fergal O'Brien, Professor Marie Guidon, Dr. Catherine Greene, Professor Dermot Kenny, Dr. Caroline Curtin, Dr. James Barlow, Dr. Helen French, Ms. Olive Lennon, Dr. Emer Reeves, Professor Gerry McElvaney, Dr. Michael Farrell, Ms. Louise Keating and Dr. Sarah O'Neill.



Pictured (l-r) is Dr. Tom Farrell presenting the prize for best oral presentation to Ms. Rebecca Wolfe who did her research with Dr. David Bergin and Dr. Emer Reeves in Beaumont Hospital.

The mammoth task of coordinating and administering the funding for the summer research projects was done by Ms. Stephanie O'Connor in the Research Office. In addition the following staff coordinate events of the Research Summer School: Dr. Frances Horgan (Physiotherapy), Ms. Louise Keating (Physiotherapy), Dr. Patrick Buckley (Beaumont Hospital), Dr. Orna Tighe (MCT), Ms. Kay McKeon (MCT), Ms. Anne Grady (MCT) and Ms. Camilla Wemyss (Faculty Office).

We look forward in great anticipation to next year's Research Summer School.