

ICHAMS 2011

The inaugural International Conference for Healthcare and Medical Students (ICHAMS) was held on November 4th and 5th. The conference was organised by RCSI undergraduate medical and healthcare students for students worldwide: 'A conference for students by students' under the umbrella of the RCSI Research Summer School. The conference endeavoured to provide opportunities to further develop the biomedical research skills of the delegates and to cultivate the exchange of research knowledge.

More than 120 undergraduate healthcare students from countries such as the United States, Sri Lanka, the Ivory Coast, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom attended the conference. The keynote speakers were Professor Nikolaus Plesnila, of the University of Munich's Medical Centre and Dr Kate Coleman, eye surgeon and founder of the Right to Sight charity.

The conference was opened by Professor Hannah McGee, Dean of the Medical School. Over 50 oral presentations were made on topics which spanned surgery, oncology, cardiology, infectious diseases, public health and nephrology. The overall winner was Deirdre Walsh from the University of Hull who examined the cost analysis of patients undergoing cardiac surgery managed with or without cerebral oximetry in Castle Hill Hospital, Hull, United Kingdom; in second place was Samarpit Rai from RCSI who compared the analysis of open versus laparoscopic versus robotic assisted radical prostatectomy and in third place was Arjun Sahota from University College London who explored how TNF gene deletion prevents lipopolysaccharide-mediated sensitisation of the neonatal mouse brain to hypoxic ischaemic insult. 56 poster presentations were also made. The overall winner was Wee Ching Ngu from the University of Dundee whose presentation was a clinical audit of a long-term follow up of women with genital lichen sclerosus; in second place was Sam Granger from the University of Liverpool who examined a case series of 15 patients with oesophageal cancer in Blantyre, Malawi and in third place was Stephanie Forrest from the University of Dundee who explored the attitudes and beliefs of rural women towards skilled birth attendants in Nepal.

A series of workshops were held which included 'Clinical Research vs Laboratory Research' presented by Dr. Seamus McHugh, RCSI; 'How to present a good oral and poster, tips and techniques' presented by Dr. Frances Meagher, RCSI; 'Complementary and Alternative Medicine' presented by Dr. James Barlow, RCSI; 'Humanitarian Mission in Developing Countries' presented by Medecins San Frontieres and 'Anatomy Mastermind' presented by Dr. Emmet Thompson, RCSI.

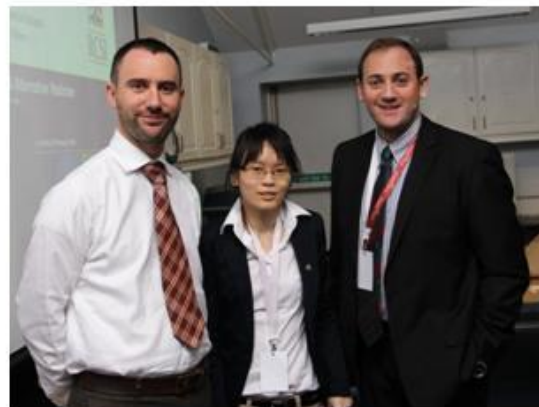
Also included in the programme was 'A Walking Tour of Dublin' by Mr. Brian Grainger who brought many of the delegates around the city in glorious sunshine on the Friday morning. The conference concluded with a Gala Dinner in the Burlington Hotel on the Saturday evening.



ICHAMS 2011 Organising Committee. Front row: Melissa Kah Poh Loh, Mariam Al Hussona, Zeyad Sako, Emily Callery, Noorin Walji, Joanna Peart. Back Row: Hatem Ghorab, Dr. Sarah O'Neill, MCT, Matthew Rose, Young Hwa Soon.



ICHAMS 2011 Walking Tour of Dublin with Mr. Brian Grainger



ICHAMS 2011: Dr. James Barlow, School of Pharmacy, Melissa Kah Poh Loh and Matthew Rose



ICHAMS 2011: Matthew Rose and Dr. Frances Meagher at the 'How to present a good oral and poster' workshop



ICHAMS 2011 Poster Presentations



ICHAMS 2011: Deirdre Walsh, University of Hull, Overall Oral Presentation Winner with Dr. Sarah O'Neill, MCT



ICHAMS 2011 Workshop