



# Newsletter

## APPLICATIONS FOR COHORT 3

There was an increase in the number of clinical specialties represented by applicants to ICAT this year.

This is an encouraging trend and indicates that there is a growing awareness of ICAT amongst trainees. The ICAT Programme is open to trainees from any clinical specialty. Continued on page 3.



## ICAT RETREAT 2018

The second ICAT Retreat took place in Malahide on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The packed two-day schedule included presentations from the new ICAT Fellows on their proposed PhD projects, and preliminary data presented by the first cohort of ICAT Fellows who transferred to PhDs in July 2018.

The event was well-attended by the ICAT Directors and Fellows, their PhD supervisors, members of the ICAT Steering Committee and Independent Advisory Board as well as trainees enrolled in the Academic Internship Programme.

Amongst the invited guests were international members of our Independent Advisory Board, Dr John Williams, CEO of Birmingham Health Partners, Prof. Sarah Fidler, Professor of HIV Medicine at Imperial College London and Prof. Sir Michael Owen, Director of MRC Centre for Neuropsychiatric Genetics and Genomics at Cardiff University, who critiqued new intake PhD research proposals and appraised preliminary data presented by established Fellows. Continued on page 2.



ICAT Retreat 2018



RCSI EDUCATION AND RESEARCH CENTRE, 07 SEPT 2018

## ICAT STUDY DAYS - RCSI AND NUIG

Recent Study Days in RCSI and NUIG provided skills training in data management, public and patient involvement in research, IP management in clinical research, and sample sizes. The second cohort of ICAT Fellows presented their initial PhD project ideas and visits to potential supervisors.

## ICAT Retreat - 15/16 November 2018



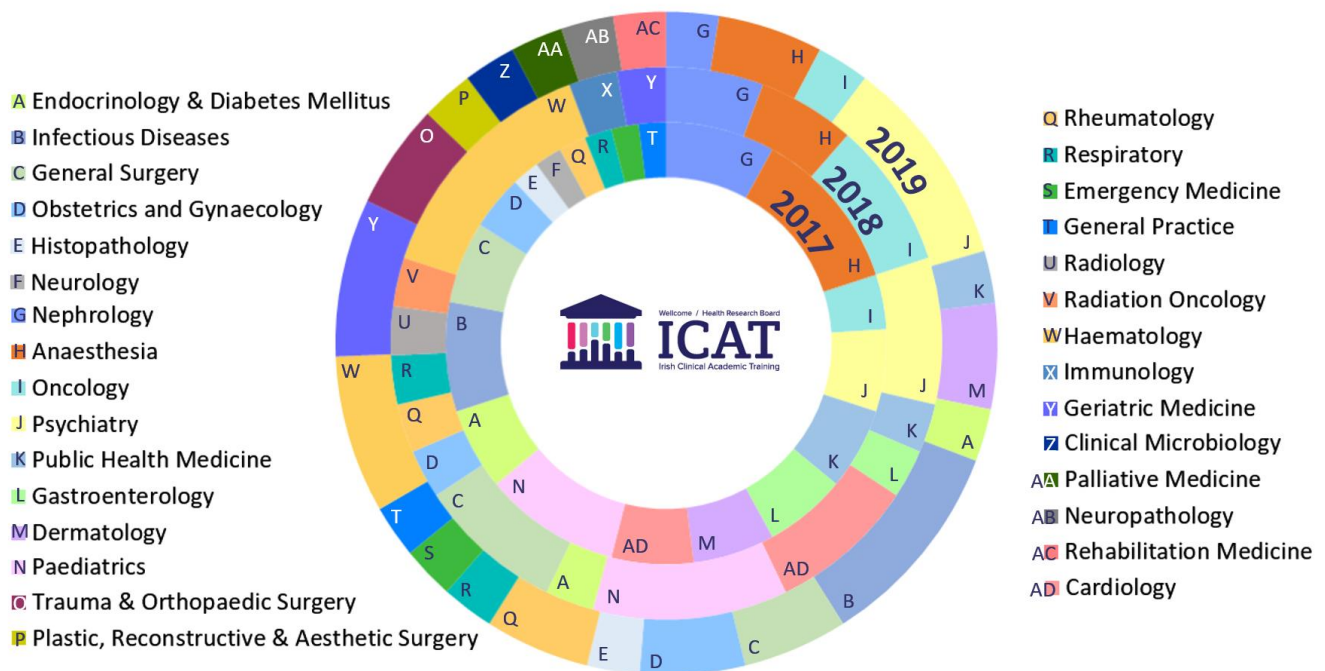
The Retreat closed with a very valuable discussion on the Future of Academic Medicine, with panel members Prof. Michael Keane (Head UCD Medical School), Prof. Frank Murray (Director HSE National Doctors Training and Planning), Prof. Sarah Fidler (Imperial College London), Prof. Michael Gill (Head TCD Medical School) and two ICAT Fellows, Dr Sarah Cormican (NUI Galway) and Dr Gerard Walls (QUB).

## Applications for Cohort 3 (2019)

Over 40 applications for Wellcome-HRB ICAT fellowships starting in 2019 were submitted by the deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018. All eligible applications were distributed to international peer reviewers for assessment and shortlisted candidates were invited to interview on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at the CRDI offices in Dublin. The interview panel, composed of representatives from the six partner universities, the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency, ICAT Directors and two international independent panel members, were impressed by the high standard of the candidates and their in-depth research knowledge and enthusiasm.

It is evident that there is an expansion in the clinical specialties represented by applicants over the past three years (illustrated in chart below); ICAT is open to trainees in any clinical specialty and can offer flexibility for Fellows with differing clinical training requirements. ICAT will re-open for applications for Cohort 4 (2020) in summer 2019.

### ICAT applications grouped by discipline



When appointed, ICAT Fellows can choose to undertake Year 1 and their PhD (Years 2-4) in any of the six ICAT institutions. Collaboration both nationally and internationally is strongly encouraged.



## ICAT FELLOW NEWS

Dr Peter Barrett (Cohort 1, 2017, Public Health Medicine trainee), represented Ireland as a Young Forum Gastein Scholar at the European Health Forum 2018.

Peter received a mentoring session from Dr

Natasha Azzopardi-Muscat, President of the European Public Health Association (pictured above).



Dr Gerard Walls (Cohort 2, 2018, Clinical Oncology trainee) was awarded an MSc in Clinical Education from Queen's University Belfast on 14 December 2018 (below right); his dissertation was titled 'Modern radiotherapy: a single-center study of trainer and trainee views' and was supervised by Dr Gerry Hanna & Dr Seamus McAleer. He also recently spent a week visiting the University of Campania in Naples, funded by the European Society of Medical Oncology.



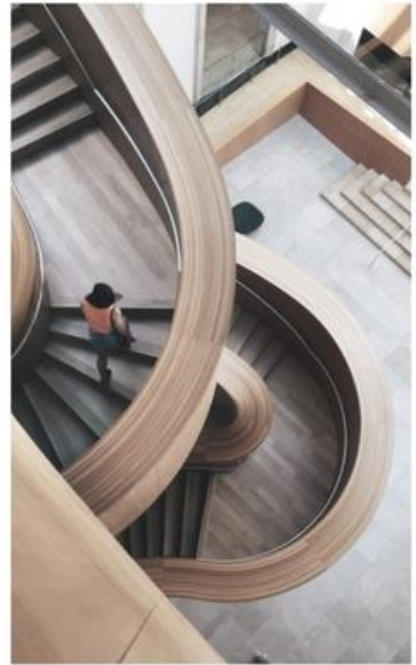
## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

1. [Barrett P](#), Cotter S, Ryan F, Connell J, Cronin A, Ward M, Fitzgerald R, Lynch C, Margiotta T, on behalf of the Outbreak Control Team. A national measles outbreak in Ireland linked to a single imported case, April to September, 2016. *Euro Surveill.* 2018 Aug;23(31). doi: 10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2018.23.31.1700655.
2. Naicker SD, [Cormican S](#), Griffin TP, Maretto S, Martin WP, Ferguson JP, Cotter D, Connaughton EP, Denny MC, Griffin MD. Chronic Kidney Disease Severity Is Associated With Selective Expansion of a Distinctive Intermediate Monocyte Subpopulation. *Front. Immunol.*, 06 December 2018. doi.org/10.3389/fimmu.2018.02845.
3. Menez S, Hruskova Z, Scott J, [Cormican S](#), Chen M, Salama A.D, Alasfar S, Little M.A, Safrankova H, Honsova E, Tesar V, Geetha D. Predictors of Renal Outcomes in Sclerotic Class Anti-Neutrophil Cytoplasmic Antibody Glomerulonephritis. *Am J Nephrol* 2018; 48:465–471. doi.org/10.1159/000494840.
4. Campbell NK, Fitzgerald HK, Malara A, [Hambly R](#), Sweeney C, Kiby B, Fletcher J, Dunne A. Naturally derived Heme-Oxygenase 1 inducers attenuate inflammatory responses in human dendritic cells and T cells: relevance for psoriasis treatment. *Sci Rep.* 2018; 8: 10287. doi: 10.1038/s41598-018-28488-6.
5. Iqtidar M, [Sharma K](#), Mullaney R, Kelly E, Keevans M, Cullinane M, Kennedy H, Mohan D. Deaths in custody in the Irish prison service: 5-year retrospective study of drug toxicology and unnatural deaths. *BJPsych Open.* 2018 Sep; 4(5): 401–403. doi: 10.1192/bjo.2018.53.
6. McAleese J, Mooney L, [Walls GM](#), Eakin RL, Harney JA, Hanna GG. Risk of death from *Pneumocystis jirovecii* after curative-intent radiotherapy for lung cancer. *Clin Oncol (R Coll Radiol)* 2018;30(12):e81-2.
7. [Walls GM](#), Hanna GG, Qi F, Zhao S, Xia J, Ansari MT, Landau D. Predicting outcomes from radical radiotherapy for non-small cell lung cancer: a systematic review of the existing literature. *Front Oncol* 2018;8:433.
8. Richter MS, O'Reilly K, O'Sullivan D, O'Flynn P, Corvin A, Donohoe G, Coyle C, Davoren M, Higgins C, Byrne O, Nutley T, Nulty A, [Sharma K](#), O'Connell P, Kennedy HG. Prospective observational cohort study of 'treatment as usual' over four years for patients with schizophrenia in a national forensic hospital. *BMC Psychiatry* 2018 18:289. doi.org/10.1186/s12888-018-1862-0.
9. [Barrett P](#), O'Donnell K, Fitzgerald M, Schmidt AJ, Hickson F, Quinlan M, Keogh P, O'Connor L, McCartney D, Igoe D. Drug use among men who have sex with men in Ireland: Prevalence and associated factors from a national online survey. *Int J Drug Policy.* 2018 Dec 1; 64:5-12. doi: 10.1016/j.drugpo.2018.11.011. [Epub ahead of print]
10. O'Connor L, O'Donnell K, [Barrett P](#), Hickson FCI, McCartney D, Quinlan M, Barrasa A, Fitzgerald M, Igoe D. Use of geosocial networking applications is independently associated with diagnosis of STI among men who have sex with men testing for STIs: findings from the cross-sectional MSM Internet Survey Ireland (MISI) 2015. *Sex Transm Infect.* 2018 Dec 5. pii: sextrans-2018-053637. doi: 10.1136/sextans-2018-053637. [Epub ahead of print]
11. O'Donnell K, Fitzgerald M, Quinlan M, Hickson F, Keogh P, Schmidt AJ, McCartney D, [Barrett P](#), O'Dea S, Igoe D. Inequalities in HIV testing uptake and needs among men who have sex with men living in Ireland: findings from an internet survey. *HIV Med.* 2018 Nov 20. doi: 10.1111/hiv.12694. [Epub ahead of print]



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Irish Clinical Academic Training



## ICAT CONTACT INFORMATION

[INFO@ICATPROGRAMME.ORG](mailto:INFO@ICATPROGRAMME.ORG)    [WWW.ICATPROGRAMME.ORG](http://WWW.ICATPROGRAMME.ORG)    @ICATPROGRAMME

*28 Mount Street Upper, Dublin 2, D02 CX28*

