

Wellcome-HRB ICAT Programme

NEWSLETTER MAY 2018



ICAT INDUCTION EVENT JULY 2017

The first cohort of ICAT Fellows were welcomed with an event in RCSI in July 2017 (photo below right). Speakers included Prof. Louise Kenny (INFANT Centre, Cork), Prof. Jose Bengoechea (Centre for Experimental Medicine, Belfast) and Prof. Orla Sheils (Trinity Translational Medicine Institute, Dublin).

Four clinician scientists spoke entertainingly about their education and careers to date and representatives of the ICAT partners participated in an elevator pitch session 'Why is ICAT needed?'

The ICAT team led workshops on developing research concepts, skills gap analysis and how to structure activities in ICAT Year 1.

SUCCESSFUL FIRST ANNUAL RETREAT

ICAT held its first annual retreat in Malahide in November 2017. Highlights included talks from Prof. Sir Stephen O'Rahilly and Prof. Caroline Sabin, and a fireside chat hosted by Prof. Luke O'Neill (continued page 2).

ICAT FELLOWSHIPS 2018

Following a competitive application process, eight ICAT Fellowships have been offered to trainees from six clinical specialties. These Fellows will be appointed to the second cohort in July 2018 (continued page 3).





THE FIRST ANNUAL ICAT RETREAT, MALAHIDE (9-11 NOV 2017)

The theme for the first Retreat was 'Careers in Academic Medicine' and several illustrious speakers shared their experiences with the ICAT Fellows. Guests included Independent Advisory Board members Prof. Sir Stephen O'Rahilly, Professor of Clinical Biochemistry and Medicine at the University of Cambridge and Fellow of the Royal Society and Prof. Caroline Sabin, Professor of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology at University College London. In a fireside chat with Prof. Luke O'Neill, Prof. David Williams and Prof. Aoife Lowery spoke about their pathways to careers in academic medicine.

The ICAT Fellows (pictured above) benefitted from feedback on their PhD project ideas in this interactive and sociable event.

More information: <http://icatprogramme.org/icat-programme-retreat-2017/>.

FIRST INTAKE OF ICAT FELLOWS EMBARKING UPON PHDS

ICAT Fellows are commencing a wide variety of cross-disciplinary PhD projects in July 2018:

SMART Trials – Investigation of technology-enabled adaptive clinical trial methodologies for more efficient and effective clinical research.

Dr Conor Judge. Supervisors: Prof. Martin O'Donnell and Prof. Martin O'Halloran, NUI Galway.

An inflammatory biomarker study of psychosis: a longitudinal study in an at-risk population.

Dr David Mongan. Supervisors: Prof. David Cotter, Prof. Mary Cannon, RCSI.

The effects of antipsychotics on human glial cells, neuroinflammation and demyelination.

Dr Kapil Sharma. Supervisors: Prof. Kumlesh K Dev, Prof. Aiden Corvin, TCD.

Autophagy and Mitophagy in Ageing and HIV Infection: Novel Markers and Possible Predictors of a Frailty Phenotype.

Dr Liam Townsend. Supervisors: Prof. Cliona O'Farrelly, Prof. Colm Bergin, Dr Cliona Ní Cheallaigh, Dr Nollaig Bourke, TCD.

Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes and the Risk of Kidney Disease in Women: A Nationwide Cohort Study.

Dr Peter Barrett. Supervisors: Dr Ali Khashan, Dr Fergus McCarthy, Prof. Ivan Perry, UCC.

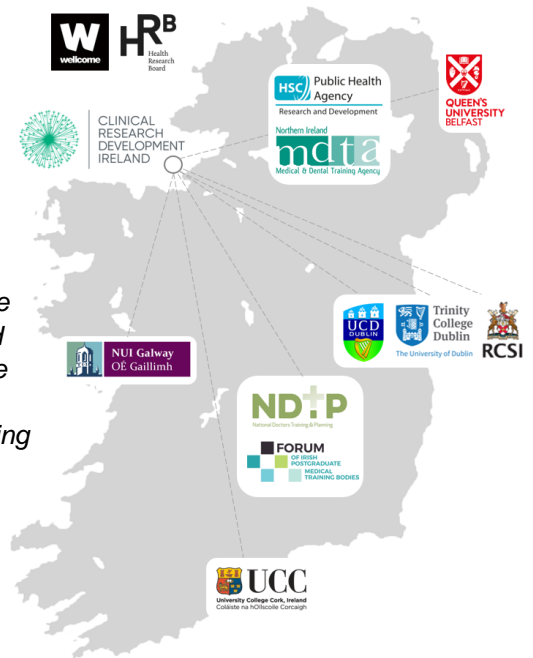
The pathophysiological role of intermediate monocyte sub-populations in progression of chronic kidney disease and its cardiovascular complications.

Dr Sarah Cormican. Supervisors: Prof. Matthew Griffin, Prof. Laurence Egan, NUI Galway.

ABOUT THE ICAT PROGRAMME

Following a successful application to the Wellcome Trust, funding was awarded in September 2016 to support an integrated national training programme for clinician scientists. With additional funding from its partners, ICAT will appoint up to 40 Fellows over five consecutive annual intakes, with the first cohort of eight ICAT Fellows commencing in July 2017.

ICAT PARTNERSHIP (right). CRDI is the coordinating partner, linking the six institutions, the health services North and South (HSC R&D Division and HSE National Doctors Training and Planning respectively), the postgraduate medical training bodies across Ireland (the Forum of Irish Postgraduate Medical Training Bodies and the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency), Wellcome and the Health Research Board.



ICAT TRAINING STRUCTURE

Year 1 is a predominantly clinical year (70%), with time protected for academic activities (30%) including developing a PhD proposal. If approved, ICAT Fellows register for a full-time PhD in year 2 (they do not exit clinical training so maintain a minimal training component). ICAT Fellows can choose from any of six academic institutions across Ireland. In year 5 the Fellows return to clinical training positions, complete their PhD

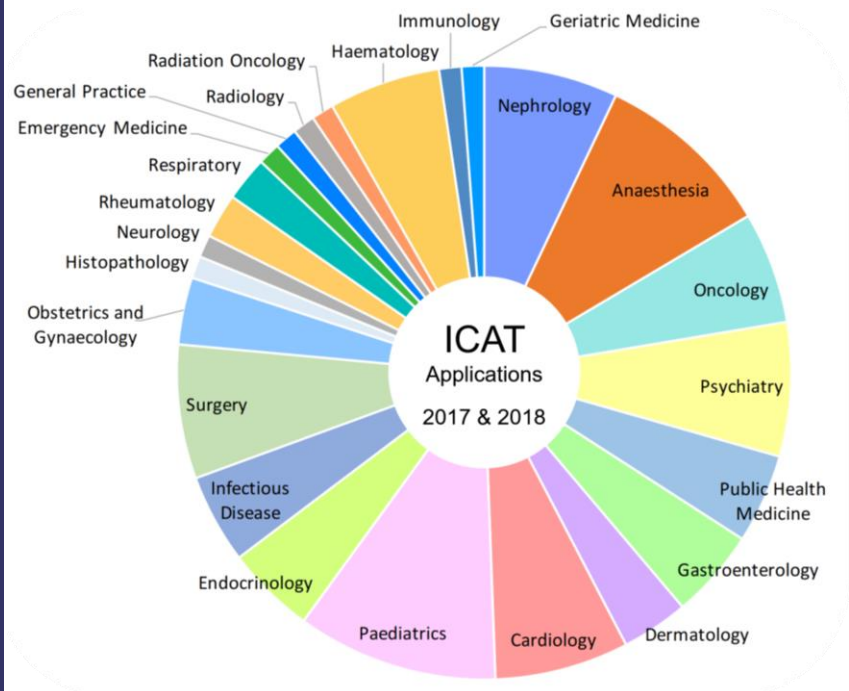
thesis and *viva voce* and apply for postdoctoral fellowships. A key component of the ICAT Programme is continuous career support by an academic mentor and a clinical mentor.



ICAT FELLOWSHIPS

ICAT is open to trainees in all clinical specialties. To date, ICAT has received applications from trainees in 24 specialties (right).

16 fellowships have been offered in the first two intakes (2017 and 2018) to trainees in 11 clinical specialties.



Above: The diversity of clinical specialties represented by applicants to ICAT in 2017 and 2018.

ICAT EVENTS

Collegiality, collaboration and peer support is at the core of ICAT and events for the Fellows include an annual Induction Event (p1), the annual ICAT scientific Retreat (p2), and regular meetings.

ICAT MEETINGS

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST (6 SEPT 2017)

Speakers included Prof. Peter Maxwell, Dr Cecilia O'Kane, Dr Gerry Hanna and Dr Tony O'Neill (speaking about clinician scientist careers) and Dr Amy Jane McKnight ('Bioinformatics'). The ICAT Fellows presented their mini-project designs and toured the Centre for Experimental Medicine and Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology.



NUI GALWAY (11 OCT 2017)

Speakers included the ICAT Fellows (Dr Conor Judge pictured far left), Prof. Anthony O'Regan ('Integrating clinical and academic training'), Prof. Martin O'Donnell ('Role of mentors', pictured far right), Prof. Andrew Smyth ('Grant writing'), Prof. Martin O'Halloran ('Research collaboration') and Prof. Abhay Pandit ('Industry co-funding').



RCSI (10 JAN 2018)

Speakers included Prof. David Williams, Prof. Anne Hickey ('SPHeRE Programme'), Prof. Gerard Curley (his experiences in the MMI Clinician Scientist Fellowship Programme) and Prof. Ronan Conroy ('Biostatistics'). The ICAT Fellows toured the new Medical Education Building at No.26 York St.



UCD (15 MAR 2018)

Speakers included Dr Paddy Mallon ('Presentation skills and manuscript writing workshop', pictured far left), Prof. Peter Doran ('Clinical Research Centres', middle photo) and Prof. Peter Kelly ('International clinical trials', far right).

TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN (20 APR 2018)

Speakers included Prof. Martina Hennessy and Prof. Michael Gill, members of the St James's Clinical Research Facility, Dr Emer Guinan ('Community exercise intervention studies'), Dr David Robinson ('LAMP project') and Prof. Padraic Fallon ('Translational Immunology'). Several newly appointed ICAT Fellows attended and met the ICAT team.

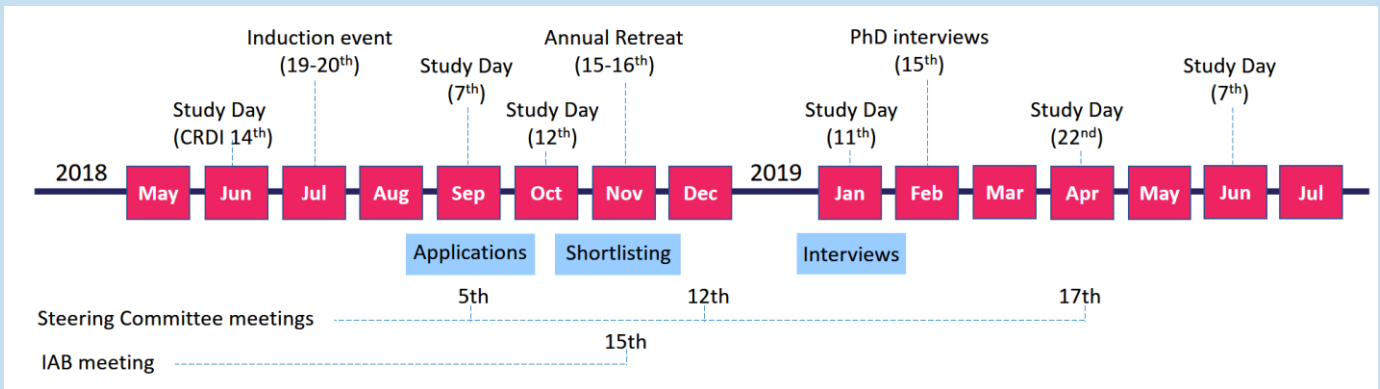


OTHER NEWS:

ICAT were delighted to host members of the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University, USA; they are seeking funding for a clinician scientist programme and identified ICAT as a positive model. Dr Danielle Matsushima (Director of Research and Strategic Initiatives) and Dr Yinghui Mao (Assistant Dean of Graduate Affairs) visited NUI Galway, TCD, CRDI, and UCC and met members of the ICAT Executive Team, Steering Committee and the universities. We look forward to future collaborations.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ICAT will appoint Fellows in five consecutive intakes (2017 – 2021). The calendar of events below illustrates some of the activities scheduled up to the end of the ICAT academic term in July 2019.



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