

Newsletter



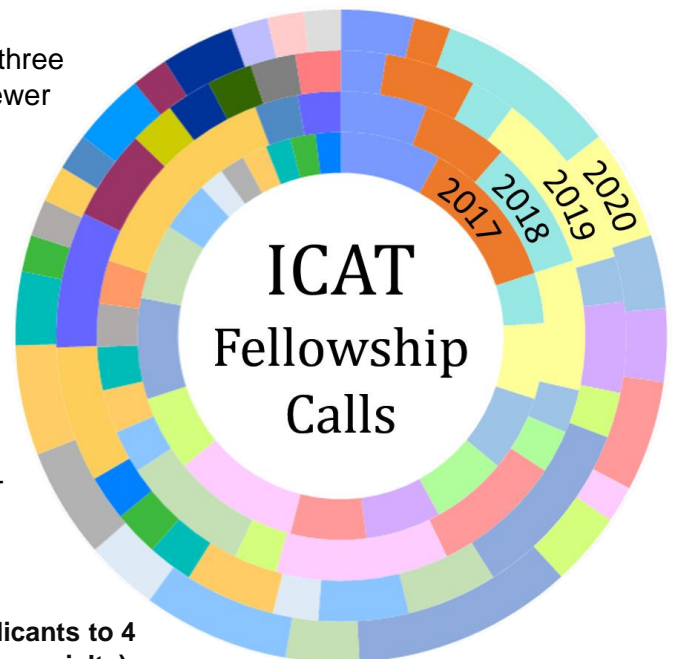
APPLICATION CALL FOR COHORT 4

The ICAT Programme opened for applications for fellowships (starting in 2020) in August 2019; applications were invited from eligible trainees from any clinical specialty. The Programme Directors were delighted to receive the highest number of applications to date, from 55 trainees in 26 specialties, 54 of whom were eligible to apply for a fellowship. Each clinical specialty is indicated by a colour in the donut chart below, and a more detailed chart can be viewed on page 2.

Applications are currently under peer review – a minimum of three independent reviews are sought for each application and reviewer scores are used to rank candidates. Shortlisting of candidates for interview will take place in mid-November and interviews will be held on the 4th and 5th December in Dublin.

Successful candidates will be given provisional offers of ICAT fellowships, dependent on approval by their postgraduate training body, and on their gaining a place on a higher specialist training scheme, if they have not already done so.

For anyone considering applying to ICAT in next year's application call (expected to open mid-August 2020), the ICAT website contains a FAQ page, including information about eligibility, the application process and programme structure.



Graph (right) – spread of clinical specialties amongst applicants to 4 fellowship calls (each colour block represents one specialty).

ICAT FELLOW - FINALIST IN ENTERPRISE IRELAND INNOVATOR AWARD

Dr Conor Judge (Cohort 1) was a finalist in the Enterprise Ireland Cleveland Clinic Clinical Innovator Award. Conor has been awarded a €15,000 Enterprise Ireland Commercialisation Feasibility Fund to investigate the commercial feasibility of his innovative idea - "A novel Peritoneal Dialysis Catheter anchoring system" – in Ireland and in international markets. Conor is pictured receiving his award from Deirdre Glenn, Director of Life Sciences at Enterprise Ireland, at the Med in Ireland conference, Dublin, October 2019.



ICAT FELLOW AWARDED A FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

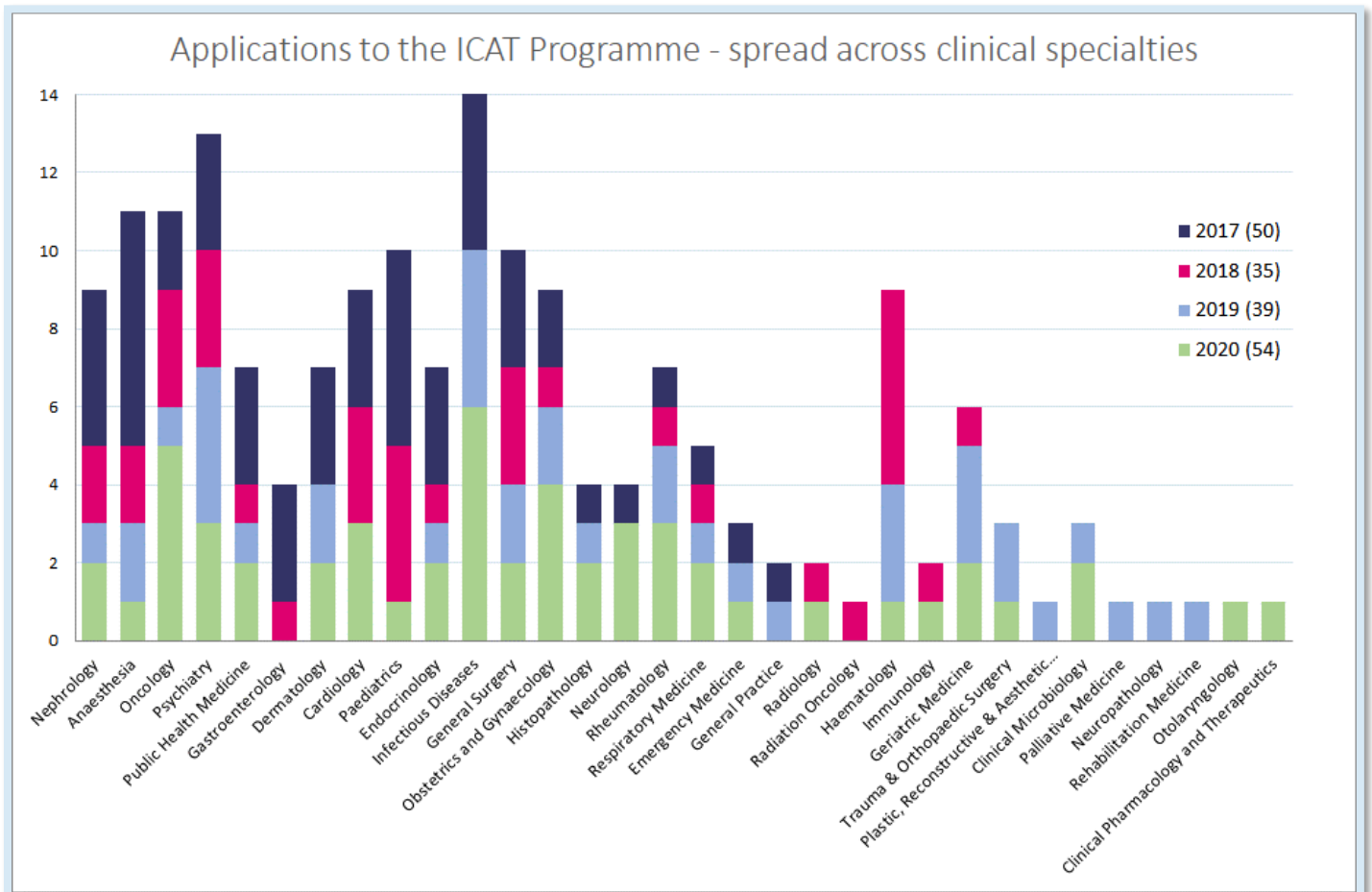
Dr Brendan Kelly is a Radiology Specialist Registrar at St Vincent’s University Hospital and an ICAT Fellow at University College Dublin. A UCD graduate of Radiography in 2011 and of Medicine in 2015, Brendan received his Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons in 2016, and MSc in Radiology from NUI Galway in 2017. His research interests are in the clinical application of Artificial Intelligence to radiology and Brendan started his ICAT PhD (Clinical Application of DEep Learning and Intelligent Vision in Radiology:CAN DELIVeR) in July 2019.

During his Fulbright Scholar award, Brendan will visit the Stanford Department of Radiology and the Stanford Centre for Artificial Intelligence in Medicine and Imaging to investigate potential novel applications of AI to radiology, with the goal of establishing collaborations to achieve cutting edge clinical developments both in Ireland and the US.

The Fulbright Program was set up by Senator J. William Fulbright in 1946 and is the largest U.S. international exchange program in the world. It offers opportunities for students, scholars, and professionals to undertake postgraduate study, research, and teaching in 155 countries worldwide. The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.



APPLICATION CALL FOR COHORT 4 - CONTD.



ICAT FELLOWS - introducing Cohort 3 (2019)



DR GRAEME GREENFIELD

Graeme graduated from the University of Oxford in 2013 following completion of his medical degree and BA in medical sciences. During his BA he undertook a project investigating mechanisms of genome stability in fission yeast. He entered Haematology Specialist Training in 2017 as an Academic Clinical Fellow at Queen's University Belfast, investigating how epigenetic changes in myeloproliferative neoplasms occur in response to therapy.

DR STEPHANIE BOLLARD

Stephanie is a Specialist Registrar in Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery. She received her medical degree (2015) and Master's in Surgery (2017) from NUI Galway, before her appointment to the Higher Surgical Training Scheme. Through the ICAT Programme, Stephanie hopes to develop her interest in translational oncology, specifically in the field of melanoma.

DR CATHAL O'CONNOR

Cathal graduated from University College Cork in 2013. Having completed Basic Specialist Training in Paediatrics and Adult Medicine, he entered Higher Specialist Training in Dermatology. His research interests include atopic dermatitis, inflammatory dermatoses, and genocutaneous disease. Cathal looks forward to expanding his research interests in preventative dermatology and novel therapeutic strategies for atopic dermatitis.

DR CLAIRE POTTER

Claire graduated from Queen's University Belfast in 2013 and entered Psychiatry training in 2015 obtaining her MRCPsych in 2017. She is currently a Specialty Trainee in dual General Adult and Old Age Psychiatry in Northern Ireland. As an ICAT Fellow with an interest in neuroscience and neurodegenerative disorders, Claire will explore longitudinal cohorts of ageing in Ireland examining the biological and psychological basis of cognitive disorders.

DR CONOR GRANT

Conor graduated from Trinity College Dublin in 2013 and obtained a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in 2016 before working with Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) In 2018 Conor commenced Higher Specialist Training in Infectious Diseases. His goals are to address the global health challenges caused by infectious diseases, focusing on identification of novel diagnostics and host-directed therapies for Tuberculosis by studying TB immunometabolism.

DR DEARBHLA DOHERTY

Dearbhla graduated from University College Dublin in 2014 and commenced Higher Specialist Training in Haematology in 2019. Her area of research interest is in haemostasis and vascular biology. As an ICAT Fellow, Dearbhla hopes to further investigate the molecular and genetic basis of Low Von Willebrand Factor levels.

ICAT FELLOW NEWS

- Peter Barrett (Cohort 1, picture c) was awarded the RCPI Williams Stokes Award for his PhD research into the long-term risk of maternal renal disease following preterm delivery and was awarded the RCPI Dorothy Stopford Price Medal for his submission "A national measles outbreak in Ireland linked to a single imported case" – the first time a trainee has won two awards! The William Stokes Award recognises research of the highest standards carried out by Trainees in Higher Specialist Training and the winner receives an educational grant worth €4,000. The Dorothy Stopford Price Medal was introduced in 2018 to recognise excellence in research or audit on vaccination, immunisation or control of infectious diseases and its potential impact on public health and carries an educational grant worth €1,000.
- Peter Barrett (Cohort 1) won the Society for Social Medicine / International Epidemiology Association Early Career Research Award in September 2019
- Sarah Cormican (Cohort 1, picture b) presented a poster at the Irish Society of Immunology in September entitled "Intermediate and HLA-DR α Intermediate Monocytes are Increased in Individuals with Chronic Kidney Disease Compared to Age-Matched Controls undergoing Coronary Angiography".



- Liam Townsend (Cohort 1, picture g) participated in a panel discussion at the Medical Careers Day in Dublin, October 2019, representing ICAT and RCPI.
- Helen Fogarty (Cohort 2, picture a) presented her PhD research at the VTE Dublin 2019 (Diagnostic and therapeutic advances in venous thromboembolism (VTE) conference).
- Delia Bogdanet (Cohort 1, picture h), presented her research in a scientific poster ('Follow up at one year and beyond of women with gestational diabetes treated with insulin and/or oral hypoglycaemic agents: a core outcome set (COS) using a Delphi survey') at the Annual DPSG Meeting 2019 and was awarded the Young Investigator Travel Fellowship Award.
- Brendan Kelly (Cohort 2) was awarded a European Radiology Review Fellowship 2019 by the European Society of Radiology. The fellowship awards include training as a reviewer, working with the Editor-in-Chief and recipients may remain as permanent reviewers for the journal. Brendan was invited to attend the European Congress of Radiology 2019 in Vienna as one of the ten international recipients of the award.
- Helen Fogarty (Cohort 2, picture e, holding certificate), took part in the RCSI Student Innovation Challenge 2019 as a Challenge Leader. Helen guided her team as they worked on addressing a global health challenge ('Sickle Cell Disease Medication Compliance') over six weeks before pitching their ideas to a judging panel.
- Peter Barrett (Cohort 1), gave two invited talks on the topic of adverse pregnancy outcomes and the long-term risk of maternal renal disease, at the Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Annual Study Day (picture f) and the Gynaecology Visiting Society of UK & Ireland in October.

- Jennifer Scott (Cohort 2) gave an oral presentation on a complex case presentation, 'Double trouble', at the EUVAS meeting in Cambridge in September 2019.
- Graeme Greenfield (Cohort 3) received a European School of Haematology (ESH) Scholarship Fund to attend the ESH 5th International Conference on Acute Myeloid Leukaemia, Estoril Portugal, October 2019.
- Mark Gurney (Cohort 2), presented a poster titled 'Asymptomatic Bacteriuria Preceding Autologous Stem Cell Transplantation - Prevalence and Implications' at the Haematology Association of Ireland Meeting in Galway, October 2019.
- Liam Townsend presented his PhD research in a scientific poster titled 'Distinct Immune Populations and the Frailty Phenotype in People Living with HIV' at the Irish Society of Immunology Annual Meeting 2019.
- Brendan Kelly (Cohort 2), was awarded a travel grant to attend the Introduction to Research for International Young Academics Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) four-day workshop. The international event focuses on careers in academic radiology and is held as part of the RSNA Annual meeting.
- Jennifer Scott (Cohort 2) gave an oral presentation focusing on her PhD research at the annual vasculitis Ireland Awareness (VIA) patient conference in Newcastle in October 2019.
- Delia Bogdanet (Cohort 1, picture d) was awarded a prize for Best Research at the Galway University Hospital Research Day, for her poster presentation.
- Sarah Cormican (Cohort 1) gave a talk at the NUI Galway Postgraduate Research Day entitled "CX3CR1 and CD162 Expression by Monocyte Subpopulations is Increased in Chronic Kidney Disease".
- Mark Gurney (Cohort 2), presented a poster titled 'Arresting Resistance: Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms in Autologous Stem Cell Transplant Recipients at an Irish Tertiary Referral Centre' at the Society of Haematologic Oncology Meeting, Houston, Texas, September 2019.
- Graeme Greenfield (Cohort 3) presented a poster (Platelet use in Autologous Stem Cell Transplantation – A retrospective audit of practice allowing real world comparison to the TOPPS Trial) at the Haematology Association of Ireland Conference 2019.
- Mark Gurney (Cohort 2) co-authored an article with Dr Amjad Hayat on Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia in the 2019 Blood Health Campaign, circulated with the Irish Independent, September 2019.
- Delia Bogdanet (Cohort 1) presented her PhD research 'GCD59 as an early biomarker for GDM' at the Irish Endocrine Society 43rd Annual Meeting in Galway, October 2019.

ICAT INDUCTION EVENT 2019

Incoming ICAT Fellows were welcomed to the Programme at an Induction Event in TCD, July 2019. The annual induction Event is an opportunity to introduce our new Fellows, support them to analyse their clinical and research skills, and encourage them to share their research interests and career aspirations. The first day of workshops included a history of PhDs, the structure of ICAT Year 1, advice on identifying potential PhD supervisors, designing and writing a PhD proposal and conducting a skills gap analysis. The new Fellows introduced themselves to the group and outlined their research interests and potential PhD project ideas.

On the second day of the event the new ICAT Fellows were introduced to two of the SFI Research Centres, CÚRAM and Insight and received introductions to altmetrics and the new HRB funding stream for clinician scientists. The afternoon sessions were run by current ICAT Fellows who spoke about their experiences in ICAT and developing their PhD proposals.



PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

Four members of the ICAT Programme travelled to Edinburgh to participate in the Edinburgh Clinical Academic Training (ECAT) programme Annual Away Day. Dr Sarah Cormican (Cohort 1, picture b) presented her PhD research and Dr Conall Dennedy (ICAT Deputy Director, NUIG, picture a), gave an outline of the ICAT Programme to the audience. ECAT was established in 2018 and it was fantastic to meet the team of Directors and to hear about the range of research activities pursued by their Fellows, trainee medical and veterinary clinicians.

To promote the ICAT Programme amongst early stage trainees, we recently manned stands at the RCPI National Education Day for Doctors in Training (picture c), Medical Careers Day (picture d and picture e, Prof. Deirdre Murray, ICAT Co-Director, UCC), and the Galway University Hospitals NCHD Careers Evening (picture g). Prof. Peter Maxwell (ICAT Co-Director, QUB) and Dr Graeme Greenfield (ICAT Cohort 3, picture f) spoke about ICAT at the recent NIMDTA Research for Clinicians conference in Belfast.



We are always delighted to receive invitations to promote ICAT and academic careers in medicine – please get in touch if you have an event coming up and would like to raise awareness of ICAT amongst your trainees.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Mongan D, Lynch J, Hanna D, Shannon C, Hamilton S, **Potter C**, Gorman C, McCambridge O, Morrow R, Mulholland C. *Prevalence of self-reported mental disorders in pregnancy and associations with adverse neonatal outcomes: a population-based cross-sectional study*. BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth. Accepted for publication, October 2019.

Judge C, Ruttledge S, Murphy R, Loughlin E, Gorey S, Costello M, Nolan A, Ferguson J, Halloran MO, O'Canavan M, O'Donnell MJ. *Aspirin for primary prevention of stroke in individuals without cardiovascular disease-A meta-analysis*. International Journal of Stroke. 2019 Jun 25;1747493019858780.

Mongan D, Ramesar M, Föcking M, Cannon M, Cotter D. *Role of inflammation in the pathogenesis of schizophrenia: A review of the evidence, proposed mechanisms and implications for treatment*. Early Intervention in Psychiatry. 2019 Jul 31. <https://doi.org/10.1111/eip.12859>.

Bogdanet D, Reddin C, Macken E, Griffin TP, Fhelelboom N, Biesty L, Thangaratinam S, Dempsey E, Crowther C, Galjaard S, Maresh M, Loeken MR, Napoli A, Anastasiou E, Noctor E, de Valk HW, van Poppel MNM, Agostini A, Clarson C, Egan AM, O'Shea PM, Devane D, Dunne FP. *Follow-up at 1 year and beyond of women with gestational diabetes treated with insulin and/or oral glucose-lowering agents: a core outcome set using a Delphi survey*. Diabetologia. 2019 Nov;62(11):2007-2016. doi: 10.1007/s00125-019-4935-9. Epub 2019 Jul 4.

Cormican S, Griffin M.D. *The Complex Role of Interleukin 6 in Regulating T-cell Responses During Acute Glomerulonephritis*. Journal of the American Society of Nephrology, 30 (8) 1341-1344. PMID: 31366693. <https://doi.org/10.1681/ASN.2019050453>

Cormican S, Connaughton DM, Kennedy C, Murray S, Živnâ M, Koch S, Fennelly N, O'Kelly P, Benson ET, Cavalleri G, Foley C, Doyle B, Dorman A, Little MA, Lavin P, Kidd K, Bleyer AJ, Conlon PJ. *Autosomal Dominant Tubulointerstitial Kidney Disease (ADTKD) in Ireland*. Renal Failure, 41 (91): 832-841 PMID: 31509055. DOI: 10.1080/0886022X.2019.1655452

McAleese J, Taylor A, **Walls GM**, Hanna GG. *Differential relapse patterns for non-small cell lung cancer subtypes adenocarcinoma and squamous carcinoma; implications for radiation oncology*. Clin Oncol (R Coll Radiol) 2019;31:711-19. PMID: 3135174.

McPherson S, **Greenfield G**, Andersen C, Grinfeld J, Hasselbalch HC, Nangaliac J, Mills KI, McMullin MF. *Methylation age as a correlate for allele burden, disease status, and clinical response in myeloproliferative neoplasm patients treated with vorinostat*. Experimental Hematology, 2019. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.exphem.2019.09.025>

Swan D, Lynch K, **Gurney M**, O'Dwyer M. *Current and emerging immunotherapeutic approaches to the treatment of multiple myeloma*. Ther Adv Hematol. 2019;10:2040620719854171. 2019 Jun 18. doi:10.1177/2040620719854171.

ICAT – important dates

The call for applications for ICAT fellowships starting in 2020 closed on 24 September 2019. Following peer review and shortlisting, candidates will be invited to interview on 04-05 December 2019 in Dublin.

The application call for fellowships starting in 2021 will open mid-August 2020. Informal queries from potential applicants are welcome.



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