



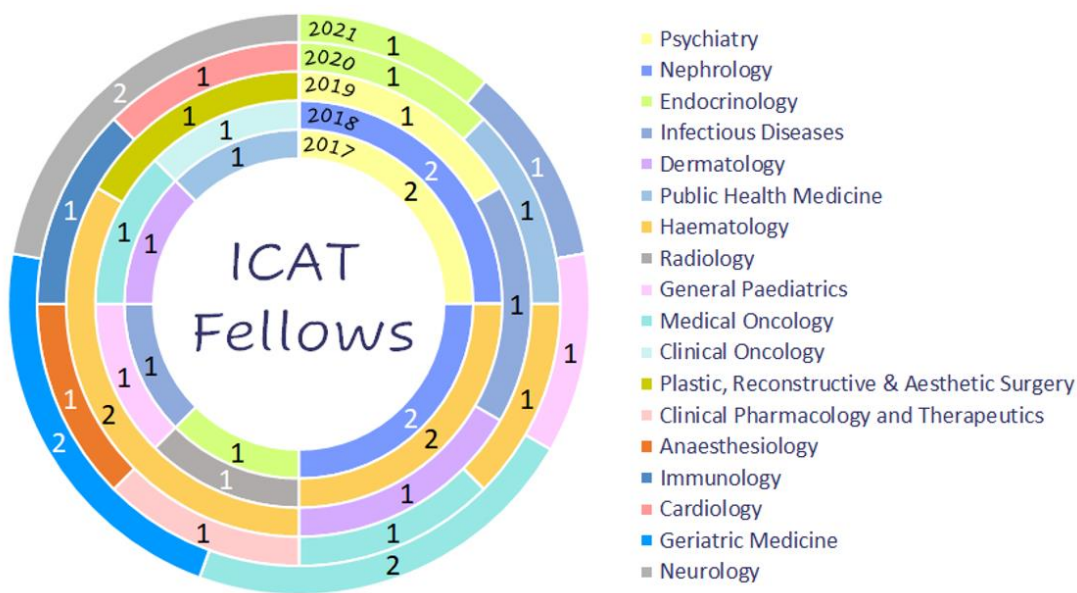
Newsletter edition 7

April 2021

APPOINTMENT OF COHORT 5

It is difficult to believe that ICAT has now been running for five years! Following the peer review and interview process in late 2020, we are delighted to announce that we have appointed nine Fellows to Cohort 5 and are eagerly anticipating their start in July. ICAT received 38 eligible and very competitive applications from trainees in 21 clinical specialties.

The new Fellows will enter ICAT Year 1 in July and will spend the first six months developing their PhD project proposals with feedback from their academic mentors and the ICAT Executive Team. We look forward to introducing them in the next newsletter.



Above: Clinical specialties represented by ICAT Fellows (illustrated by year of appointment)

ICAT RETREAT NOVEMBER 2020

The 4th annual ICAT Retreat took place on the 19th and 20th November 2020. Sadly, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health restrictions, we were not able to meet in person and we reconfigured our event to hold it virtually. However, there was a silver lining to this format, with easier access for our international friends. Thank-you to everyone who signed up for the event and watched the live stream.

Our four cohorts of ICAT Fellows presented their research over the two-day event, benefitting from a lively online Q&A!



ICAT RETREAT NOVEMBER 2020 (CONTD)

In addition to our Fellows, we were delighted to host four fantastic speakers on the second day of the event. Dr Bernadette McGuinness (right), Consultant Geriatrician at the Belfast Trust and Senior Lecturer in the School of Medicine from Queen's University Belfast, specialises in memory disorders including mild cognitive impairment and dementia. Dr McGuinness spoke about her research into mild cognitive impairment, progression to dementia and the impact of systemic infection, focusing on her research into the impact of periodontitis (severe gum infection).



Professor Gerard Curley (left) is Professor of Anaesthesia and Critical Care at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Consultant in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care in Beaumont Hospital, Associate Scientist at the Keenan Research Centre for Biomedical Science at St Michael's hospital, Toronto and Honorary Senior Lecturer at Queens University Belfast. Professor Curley's research interests include the use of cell therapy for Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome and sepsis, the mechanism of action of MSCs during inflammation and repair, including their interaction with monocytes and macrophages, and in particular on macrophage phenotype, phagocytosis and bacterial killing during sepsis.

Professor Caroline Sabin (right) is Professor of Medical Statistics and Epidemiology and Director of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Health Protection Research Unit in Blood-Borne and Sexually Transmitted Infections at University College London. Professor Sabin's interests lie in describing the natural history of HIV infection, identifying prognostic markers and describing responses and adverse events to combination antiretroviral therapy. Professor Sabin presented her research on multi-morbidity (two or more chronic conditions) in individuals with HIV, using data-driven approaches to identify clusters of disease. Prof. Sabin discussed the importance of appropriate and inclusive investigations, not limited to biomedical events that are easier to define than 'softer' events such as mental health, sleep problems and chronic pain.



Professor Paul Stewart (left) is the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Medicine & Health at the University of Leeds and Honorary Consultant Endocrinologist at the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. Professor Stewart is a primary investigator within the NIHR Musculoskeletal Biomedical Research Centre in Leeds and an Emeritus NIHR Senior Clinical Investigator. He is Vice President (Clinical) and member of Council of the Academy of Medical Sciences, executive member of the Medical Schools Council and Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism (JCEM). Professor Stewart's clinical expertise includes the management of pituitary and adrenal disorders, endocrine hypertension and reproductive medicine. Professor Stewart supervises an active endocrinology research group which focuses on corticosteroids and his work has led to new discoveries in hypertension, obesity, ageing and polycystic ovary syndrome. Professor Stewart spoke passionately about his career highs and lows and gave some valuable advice to our Fellows who are embarking on their careers in clinical academia.

thank you

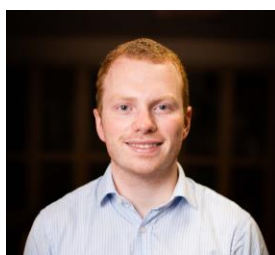
If you would like to view a recording of the Retreat, please contact us.

The ICAT Retreat is an important milestone in the academic calendar and feedback provided to Fellows is used to further develop their projects and to develop collaborations. We are indebted to the members of our extensive network who supported this meeting, attending the talks, chairing sessions, and contributing to the discussion of our ICAT Fellow research projects – thank-you again to all of our participants.

ICAT FELLOW NEWS

PRIZES

- Gerard Walls (Cohort 2, QUB), received the Royal College of Radiologists Ross Award from the National Cancer Research Institute at their Annual Congress in November 2021 for research conducted as part of his ICAT mini-project: "Early circulating tumour DNA kinetics measured by ultra-deep next-generation sequencing during radical radiotherapy for non-small cell lung cancer: a feasibility study". More information can be found [here](#).



- David Mongan (Cohort 1, RCSI) has recently been awarded the Early Career Award by the Schizophrenia International Research Society. David also received the RCSI CEO Innovation Prize in

December 2020, funding from the RCSI Student Engagement Programme to design and pilot digitally-enhanced assessment of students in psychiatry, and the Sheppard Prize for Translational Research from Beaumont Hospital Dublin.

- Conor Judge (Cohort 1, NUIG), has been awarded the Dr Richard Steevens' Scholarship for 2021/22. The Dr Richard Steevens' Scholarship is awarded annually to Specialist/Senior Registrars with strong track records in achievement. Conor, a Specialist Registrar in Nephrology, will undertake a clinical fellowship in Nephrology and Home Dialysis Therapies in McMaster University and St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Conor is currently in the final year of his ICAT PhD fellowship. More information about the award can be found [here](#).



MEDIA AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- David Mongan (Cohort 1, RCSI), participated in "Teach me in 10" (Technology Networks), a new video series that challenges scientists to present and summarize their research area, a scientific concept, method, or technology in ten minutes or less. David presented his research on proteomic prediction models for psychotic disorder and psychotic experiences (screenshot of the video below). You can view the video [here](#).



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Proteomic prediction models for psychotic disorder and psychotic experiences

Dr David Mongan
ICAT Fellow, Psychiatry registrar



- David has also designed an animated video to describe his research findings (published in JAMA Psychiatry in 2020, details below) for a general audience, which can be viewed [online](#).

Publication: Development of Proteomic Prediction Models for Transition to Psychotic Disorder in the Clinical High-Risk State and Psychotic Experiences in Adolescence, JAMA Psychiatry. 2021;78(1):77-90. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2020.2459.

- Andrea Bowe (Cohort 4, UCD), led a study into the prevalence of, and the factors associated with, nicotine product use in adolescence. This study was published in a Special Issue "Adolescent Substance Use and Related Harms" of the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health and garnered interest from national media and the public. You can read a news report [here](#). Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health 2021, 18(1), 332; <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18010332>.



ICAT FELLOW PRESENTATIONS

- Cathal O'Connor (Cohort 3, UCC) won the prize for best subspecialty research at the Irish Paediatric Association in December 2020 for his presentation "Emollient bathing at two months of age does not prevent atopic dermatitis".
- Maria Tomkins (Cohort 4, RCSI), presented her research on the prevalence of adrenal insufficiency in Irish kidney transplant recipient population at the Irish Endocrine Society Meeting in November 2020.
- David Mongan (Cohort 1, QUB) was awarded the prize for best Early Career Researcher presentation at the Rank Prize Funds Nutrition Symposium on n3 fatty acids & mental health in March 2021. David spoke on 'Polyunsaturated fatty acids and mental disorders in adolescence and early adulthood'.
- Claire Potter (Cohort 3, 2020) delivered an oral presentation titled "The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on psychiatric inpatient care in Northern Ireland" at the Joint Public Health conference by the Public Health Agency, Institute of Public Health in Ireland, Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University in November 2020.
- William Martin (Cohort 3, UCD), won first prize at the UCD Translational Medicine PhD research seminar in December 2020 for his oral presentation entitled: "Enhancement of tubular fatty acid oxidation is a dominant transcriptomic response to intensive weight and metabolic control in experimental diabetic kidney disease".
- Cathal O'Connor (Cohort 3, UCC) won the prize for best presentation at the British Society for Medical Dermatology annual meeting in January 2021 for his presentation 'Anakinra for recalcitrant pyoderma gangrenosum: a case series'.
- Jennifer Scott (Cohort 2, TCD) gave a presentation titled "Data-driven identification of ANCA Vasculitis relapse" at the European Vasculitis Society (EUVAS) meeting in November 2020.
- David Mongan (Cohort 1, RCSI) is scheduled to present his research on "Polyunsaturated fatty acids and mental disorders: cross-sectional and longitudinal associations in a large general population cohort" and "Development of proteomic prediction models for transition to psychotic disorder from the clinical high-risk state" at the Schizophrenia International Research Society conference in April 2021.
- Graeme Greenfield (Cohort 3, QUB), delivered a presentation on the "ICAT Programme" at the Royal College of Pathologists Northern Ireland Symposium 2020: Challenges and Developments in Pathology.
- Jennifer Scott (Cohort 2, TCD) gave a presentation titled "A retrospective cohort study to investigate sex-specific differences in ANCA-associated glomerulonephritis outcomes", based on her collaboration with UCL, at the UK and Ireland Vasculitis Society (UKIVAS) meeting in November 2020.
- David Mongan (Cohort 1, RCSI), presented "Polyunsaturated fatty acids and mental disorders: cross-sectional and longitudinal associations in a large general population cohort" at the RCSI Psychiatry departmental research meeting, at the Longitudinal Studies conference hosted by the Wellcome Genome campus and in the Beaumont Hospital Medical Grand Rounds.
- David Mongan (Cohort 1, RCSI), presented "Development of proteomic prediction models for transition to psychotic disorder from the clinical high-risk state" at the Beaumont Hospital Translational Research Awards, the Western Health and Social Care Trust Psychiatry departmental meeting (invited talk) and the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Psychiatry departmental meeting (invited talk).
- Jennifer Scott (Cohort 2, TCD) presented "Validation of the Renal Risk Score for ANCA-Associated Glomerulonephritis in a national Irish cohort." as a scientific poster presentation at the American Society of Nephrology meeting in November 2020.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

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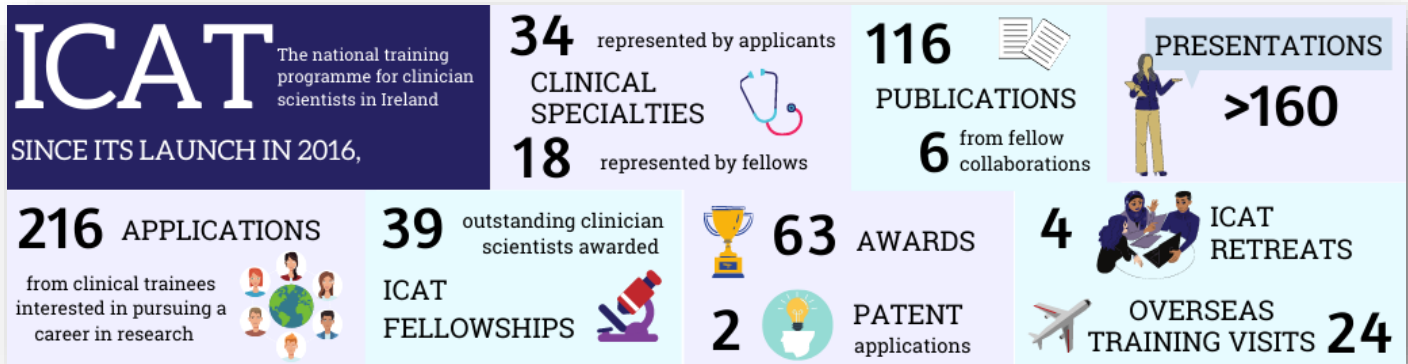
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ICAT METRICS



UPCOMING EVENTS & CONTACT DETAILS



ICAT
Irish Clinical Academic Training

EMAIL
info@icatprogramme.org

WEBSITE
www.icatprogramme.org

TWITTER
@ICATProgramme

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