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APPLICATION CALL

A banner image for the ICAT application call. It features a photograph of two people in a laboratory setting, wearing safety glasses and looking at a computer screen. The ICAT logo is in the top right corner. A dark blue banner across the middle contains the text 'Irish Clinical Academic Training (ICAT) Programme' and 'Application call for PhD fellowships'. Below this, a pink circle contains the text 'Call dates 24 Aug - 28 Sept'. At the bottom left, there is a line of text: 'ICAT is open to trainees in all medical, surgical, dental and veterinary specialties*'. At the bottom center, there is a line of text: '*See website for details & eligibility criteria www.icatprogramme.org'.

We hope this message finds you well. We are delighted to announce the opening of the Application Call for ICAT fellowships starting in 2024. We would greatly appreciate it if you would share this opportunity widely with your networks.

ICAT is open to applications from trainees who have a passion for research and who are entering, or in higher specialist training across all disciplines of human

The deadline for receipt of applications is 28 September 2023, interviews will take place in December and successful candidates will take up their fellowships in July 2024.

Applicants can find full eligibility criteria in the [application form](#).

Thank you for your ongoing support,
ICAT team

WELCOME

fellows who recently attended the 2023 ICAT Induction Day and Summer School in Galway. The fellows introduced their research ideas at the Induction Day and met other ICAT fellows at the Summer School.

The new fellows are currently conducting scoping reviews to define a research question for their PhD projects and to select a cross-disciplinary, multi-institutional supervisory team, with mentorship from ICAT.



More information on this year's cohort will be on the [ICAT website](#) shortly.

ICAT SUMMER SCHOOL 2023



Pictured, moments from the ICAT Summer School in Galway, 19 - 20 July.

The inaugural ICAT Summer School was held in Galway in July. The Summer School was open to ICAT Fellows and PhD students from aligned PhD programmes across Ireland.

A fun early morning team boxing session got us fired up for the Summer School and tested our fitness!

IdeasLab guided fellows through an immersive innovation bootcamp and attendees were treated to entertaining pitches for novel solutions to address loneliness. The solutions were thought-provoking and addressed the issue in a variety of innovative ways. Thank you to IdeasLab for a fantastic day! You can find out more information about IdeasLab [here](#).

Interactive workshops on public and patient involvement in research, causal inference and using R to analyse clinical data were excellent introductions to the subjects and very popular with the attendees. We would like to sincerely thank the workshop coordinators Dr Martha Killilea (PPI Ignite), Dr Edel Murphy (PPI Ignite), Professor Darren Dahly (UCC) and Dr Conor Judge (University of Galway) for their time in delivering these sessions.

This event provided a valuable platform for fellows from PhD programmes across Ireland to come together, fostering meaningful exchanges of ideas and experiences.

FULBRIGHT AWARDS

Many congratulations to **Dr Daniel O'Reilly** (ICAT 2021) and **Dr Gerard Walls** (ICAT 2018) on their recent Fulbright awards!

Gerard is an ICAT alumnus and is currently an Academic Clinical Lecturer in Clinical Oncology at the Northern Ireland Cancer Centre and Queen's University Belfast. Gerard will join the world-leading Cardio-Oncology research team at Washington University St. Louis, to conduct further analysis on the interaction between radiotherapy and cardiovascular health in patients with lung cancer. Read more [here](#).

Daniel is a current ICAT fellow. His PhD is focused on assessing whether markers of platelet activation can prospectively identify preterm infants who will go on to develop late onset neonatal sepsis. Daniel is travelling to the University of Rochester to explore the impact of platelet biology on neonatal lung disease as well as gain experience with new experimental models. Read more [here](#).

Dr Claire Potter (ICAT 2019) is currently completing her 2022 Fulbright scholarship at the University of Michigan. Claire's research focuses on the impact of stress and negative psychological experiences on biological and cognitive ageing across ageing cohorts in Ireland, The Northern Ireland Cohort for the Longitudinal Study of Ageing (NICOLA) study (QUB) and The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) study (TCD). Her Fulbright award enables her to explore this further in the longitudinal Health and Retirement Study (HRS) and strengthen collaborations.



Top: 37 Fulbright Irish Awardees pictured at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence with Minister Thomas Byrne TD, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires to Ireland Mike Clausen, Fulbright Executive Director Dr Dara Fitzgerald and Fulbright Chair Prof. Diane Negra. Conor McCabe Photography.

Bottom left: Fulbright awardees including Dr Gerard Walls (back) accompanied by Dr Anne Cody, Health Research Board. Conor McCabe Photography.

Bottom right: Dr Claire Potter pictured with Dr Jessica Faul, University of Michigan Institute for Social Research.

CONGRATULATIONS



Dr Cathal O'Connor and Dr Lisa Kiely pictured with the Burrows Cup.

Dr Cathal O'Connor (ICAT 2018) won the prestigious Burrows Cup for research from his PhD study –‘assessing sleep in infants with atopic dermatitis’ (SPINDLE) study. Dr O'Connor performed detailed research on sleep and neurophysiology in young babies with severe eczema. He says, "our novel research looks at the impact of eczema on the sleep patterns of babies with eczema and their parents', potentially identifying treatments that could benefit these families". You can read more about the SPINDLE Study [here](#).

Dr Lisa Kiely (ICAT 2023) was awarded the runner-up prize for her research into using a novel multispectral camera to improve the accuracy of remote patch testing (testing for contact allergies). Dr Kiely sought to find a solution to patients needing to come to the hospital three times a week for assessment of cutaneous (skin) allergy. She says, "using this novel camera could reduce the need for patients to travel long distances to a hospital for skin allergy testing, making it more affordable, environmentally friendly and equitable".

Read more

ICAT RETREAT 2023



Pictured, moments from the ICAT Retreat 2022

Our annual ICAT Retreat is the highlight of our academic calendar. In addition to being an important opportunity for our fellows to speak publicly about their research, it is a very sociable occasion. More information about the 2022 Retreat and previous Retreats can be found on our [website](#).

We have greatly enjoyed meeting people in person at the ICAT Retreat over the past few years, and we invite you to save the date for this year's meeting.

**ICAT Retreat 2023: 30th November and 1st December in Malahide, Co.
Dublin.**

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