



INNOVATION NEWS

ISSUE 4 AUTUMN 2016

RCSI DEVELOPING HEALTHCARE LEADERS WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE WORLDWIDE

Welcome to the Autumn issue of the RCSI Innovation Newsletter, which brings you information on commercialisation and industry engagement activity at RCSI Innovation, including news and events, recent researcher success, training and funding opportunities.

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Prof. Celine Marmion secures funding from ONXEO to develop new cancer therapeutic



Professor Celine Marmion (Department of Pharmaceutical & Medicinal Chemistry) recently commenced an industry collaboration with Onxeo

S.A., an innovative European company specializing in the development of orphan oncology therapeutics. This collaborative discovery-stage programme, with an initial cash and auditable in-kind value in excess of €140,000 is focused on developing derivatives of oncology drug belinostat (Beleodaq®), a histone deacetylase (HDAC) inhibitor, to increase the drug's lifetime, efficacy and stability.



The collaboration builds on Prof. Marmion's expertise in rational drug design and the synthesis and pharmacological evaluation of metal-based anti-cancer agents.

[Read more here](#)

Prof. Hilary Humphries and team enter into research collaboration with Astellas to detect C Difficile



Prof. Hilary Humphreys of RCSI's department of Clinical Microbiology received funding from Astellas Pharma Europe for an independent non-interventional study entitled: "Rapid Detection by PCR of Environmental Reservoirs of Clostridium difficile" Clostridium difficile infection is an increasingly recognised important healthcare-associated infection.



It is widely recognised that inadequate decontamination plays a significant role in infection breakouts. Although a variety of conventional culture methods are used to detect C. difficile, detection of this microorganism in the environment is not routine due to the time required to obtain a positive result. Prof. Humphreys' group has developed a RT-PCR assay for rapid, highly sensitive detection of C. Difficile in the environment and the funding from Astellas Pharma will enable the deployment of this test in a clinical setting to be further explored.

RCSI students complete LaunchBox student entrepreneurship training programme



Pictured (l-r) above: Seamus Browne, Industry Liaison Manager; Mohamad Alhasan and Mickhel Dookhantie, both 2nd year medical students at RCSI; Aoife Gallagher, Head of Innovation RCSI.

Mohamad Alhasan and Mickhel Dookhantie, both 2nd year medical students at RCSI, demonstrated exceptional entrepreneurial flair and became the 1st RCSI Student team to complete the internationally recognised entrepreneurial training programme, LaunchBox. Accessible through the RCSI TTSI Knowledge Transfer Consortium with Trinity College Dublin, LaunchBox is a ten-week accelerator programme open to teams of undergrad and postgrad students with an early-stage business idea.

The summer programme provides mentorship, funding, access to alumni and investors, and the ideal collaborative environment to launch new startup ventures. By participating on the [LaunchBox programme](#), the RCSI students developed "BringitwithU" - a peer-to-peer shopping platform that makes it that much easier for people to receive items that they have always wanted from abroad by connecting them with credible peers.

Reflecting on their experience over the programme, Mohamad said

"Being both a medical student and a budding entrepreneur, I have acquired excellent pattern recognition. Working in the medical field, you are always at the front of making decisions, communicating, while educating, and conducting procedures. Which correlates brilliantly with entrepreneurship, resulting in a beautiful blend of two worlds. Launchbox gave me a broader, brighter perspective on my overall life surroundings. I am more confident, adaptable and I persevere."

Mickhel added

"Launchbox encourages you to think outside the proverbial box. As a medical student it was a challenge to delve into the business world headfirst but it was well worth it. The program opened my mind to the different avenues there are for entrepreneurship even in the medical field."



START



ACCELERATE



GROW

RCSI Industry Seed Fund now open for expressions of interest

The RCSI Industry Partnership Seed Fund programme aims to nurture new research collaborations between RCSI researchers and industry partners. The fund's ultimate objectives are to stimulate industry collaborations that will grow into high value strategic research partnerships and provide an innovative and differentiated approach to engaging with industry to further develop and commercialise intellectual property developed by RCSI researchers in the medical device, diagnostic, therapeutic and healthcare delivery fields.



The fund will award €25,000-€50,000 in funding to a limited number of industry collaborative research programmes that receive a matching cash contribution from industry and can demonstrate that the project has the potential to grow into an industry fully funded project or industry-state co-funded project with a value in excess of €250,000 within 12-18 months.

This pilot programme is being run by the RCSI Office of Research and Innovation will take place between September 2016 and July 2017 with a funding call being issued every eight weeks.

All applications to the RCSI Industry Seed Programme shall follow the process outlined on the [Innovation Staff Portal](#). Researchers wishing to apply to the RCSI Industry Seed Fund Programme should contact [RCSI's Industry Liaison Manager](#) at the earliest possible opportunity to discuss their application.



INNOVATION Awards 2016 Launch

With the aim of fostering awareness of intellectual property, commercialisation of research and industry engagement, RCSI Office of Research and Innovation announces the launch of the 2016 Innovation Awards which will be

presented at Research Day 2017.

Categories include:

1. Invention disclosure award for researchers who identify a potential commercial application for their research and submit an invention disclosure to the ORI
2. Commercialisation award for researchers whose research is licensed or optioned by a company
3. Industry engagement award for researchers active in industry funded research projects

New Category:

4. Clinician award for commercialisation and industry engagement.

Awarded to the clinician scientist most heavily involved in industry collaboration (based on funding) or commercialisation (based on commercial agreements entered into)

For further information contact a member of the [Innovation Team](#)



Science Foundation Ireland Industry Fellowship Programme 2016

Science Foundation Ireland has launched the Industry Fellowship Programme 2016 to develop and support academic partnerships with industry. Researchers in third level institutions and non-profit research agencies and organisations in the Republic of Ireland are eligible to apply. Deadline: 1pm on the 2nd December 2016.

Dr Garry Duffy recently completed a research fellowship with Boston Scientific funded under the SFI Industry Fellowship programme. Garry shared some valuable insights he obtained during his fellowship experience at our last Innovation Quarterly Workshop.

For further information please contact

seamusbrowne@rcsi.ie or [SFI Website](#)

Commercialisation Fund Programme: Commercial Case Feasibility Grant



The aim of the Commercialisation Fund Programme is to improve the competitiveness of the Irish economy through the creation of technology based start-up companies and the transfer of innovations, developed in Higher Education Institutions and Research Performing Organisations, to industry in Ireland. The feasibility provides funding for a consultant to evaluate the commercial case and is a rolling call.

[Further information available here.](#)



Translating Impact and Value from Research - Intellectual Property and Industry Engagement Strategies.

Wednesday 5th October 2016 2-5pm

The Innovation Office will be holding it's second half day training workshop on Wednesday 5th October in conjunction with RCSI Staff Learning and Development. The programme is aimed at post grads and post docs interested in research commercialisation and industry engagement. [REGISTER HERE](#)

Next Innovation Quarterly Workshop -

Date and time to be confirmed - Second week in December

Building a next generation sequencing company from a start-up to a \$150M exit in 4 years -

Dr Kieran Curran, chief executive and founder of GenCell

For information on past innovation workshops please see our [news and events page](#).

Community of Practice for Post Docs - Ongoing

RCSI Innovation recently organised a Community of Practice group for Post Docs. The aim of the group is to provide a space to meet, share experiences and provide additional advice and support to enhance project success from a commercialisation perspective. The first meeting took place over the Summer. If any postdoctoral researchers are interested in joining this group please let us know.

For further information please contact Aoife Gallagher, Head of Innovation

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RCSI Innovation Team :

Aoife Gallagher - Head of Innovation

Seamus Browne - Industry Liaison Manager

Gordon Elliott - Case Manager as part of the RCSI/TCD knowledge transfer consortium.

John White - Assistant Research Officer

Michelle Kelly - Research Contracts Officer

[Contact the Innovation Team](#)

Researcher Information and Resources

Stay informed with the [Innovation Website](#) designed to help researchers commercialise their research and engage with industry. In addition new resources are available on the Staff Portal and the [Researcher Handbook](#) which provides further clarity on the supports available from the ORI as well as guidelines for industry engagement and commercialisation.

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[RCSI Innovation Website](#)

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