



Unit welcomes two delegations

The Quality Promotion Unit at UCC recently welcomed two delegations to the college.

The Vilnius delegation from Lithuania was led by Assoc. Professor Dr Roma Adomaitiene, Chief Specialist, Quality Management Centre, Vilnius University, and comprised five members of staff who represented various areas of Vilnius University.

Mr Con O'Brien, Vice-President for the Student Experience, delivered the welcome address.

Professor Grace Neville, Vice-President for Teaching and Learning, de-

livered the welcome address to the second visiting delegation from K.U. Leuven University, Belgium.

The delegation was led by Professor Piet Verhesschan, Head of the Office for Educational Policy, K.U. Leuven and comprised six people whose fields are primarily in Curriculum Development and Quality Assurance in K.U. Leuven.

A schedule of presentations, led by Dr Norma Ryan, Director, Quality Promotion Unit, was given by UCC staff during both visits.

Music fanatics to go pop at FUAIM event

AT THE Department of Music in UCC, popular music stands alongside jazz, Irish traditional music, European classical and folk music, Indian classical music, Javanese court music and New Music, to create the richest and most diverse university music curriculum in Ireland.

Students perform a wide range of popular music, old and new, and many go on to pursue

successful careers as performers after they graduate.

Pop! showcases the musicianship and creativity of a group of current music students and features recently composed and original music created and performed by the group for this special FUAIM concert on Friday next, December 2, at 1.10pm in the Glucksman Gallery in UCC. Admission free.

● For more information on articles on this page, please contact UCC Press Officer Marie McSweeney on (021) 4902371.

Dr McCarthy wins William Stokes Award

THE Royal College of Physicians of Ireland William Stokes Award for 2011 has been awarded to Dr Fergus McCarthy, Obstetric and Gynaecology Specialist Registrar at Cork University Maternity Hospital and PhD student at UCC. The William Stokes Award is

awarded by the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland to support and recognise the highest standard of research by Specialist Registrars. Fergus was awarded the William Stokes Award following a presentation of work from his PhD which

was funded by a clinical academic fellowship grant, awarded by Molecular Medicine Ireland and supervised by Professor Louise Kenny at the Anu Research Centre, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. This PhD was a collaboration

between University College Cork and the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute, Toronto. Some of the results from this PhD have recently been published in two separate publications in Hypertension, the leading hypertension journal in the world.

EUROPEAN **UNIVERSITIES** UNITE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH PROJECT



Researchers who will participate in a new €6 million EU-funded research project: Dr Patricia Kearney, **UCC**; Professor Nicolas Rodondi, University of Bern; Professor Jacobijn Gussekloo, Leiden **University** Medical Centre; Professor David Stott, University of Glasgow; and Professor Rudi Westendorp, Leyden Academy on Vitality and Ageing.

UCC takes part in new medical project

DOCTOR Patricia Kearney, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, **UCC, is one of a group of researchers from European **Universities** who will participate in a new research project.**

The project will investigate current treatment practices for people who suffer from a mildly underactive thyroid gland.

The researchers met recently with medical experts from around Europe at the **University** of Glasgow for the inaugural meeting for the new study titled: "Thyroid Hormone Replacement for Subclinical Hypo-Thyroidism Trial," (TRUST).

It is funded by a €6m grant from the EU's

FP7 programme. TRUST researchers will follow 3,000 older subjects over a five year period in an attempt to better understand how to treat people who suffer from subclinical hypothyroidism.

Half of the subjects will be treated with a hormone replacement drug, thyroxine, while the other half will be given a placebo; both groups will then be monitored to evaluate how they respond to the treatments.

The thyroid gland is located in the neck and controls how quickly the body uses energy and produces proteins; it also controls how sensitive the body is to various hormones.

A mildly underactive thyroid, a condition also known as subclinical hypo-

thyroidism (SCH) affects around one in six people over the age of 65 and has been linked to various health problems, such as heart attacks and strokes, in later life for some.

The ambitious project will mean that academics from **University College Cork** will collaborate with other European experts into research into ageing, thyroid problems and vascular disease.

These will include a number of researchers from the Leiden **University** Medical Centre and Leyden Academy on Vitality and Ageing, Netherlands, and from **University** of Berne, Switzerland.

Dr Patricia Kearney, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health will lead the study for Ireland.