Professor Dominic Harmon, Consultant Anaesthetist, UL Hospitals Group.


Dr. Catherine Nix Dept of Anaesthesia: 2017:

Faculty at International Conference

Faculty on DAS SMACC (Social Medical & Critical Care – International Conference) Procedures Workshop (Ultrasound Guided procedures) - Dr Catherine Nix

Course Directors: Dr John Ballitz & Dr Cian McDermott

June 26th, 2017

National Oral Presentation

Endotracheal Tube vs Tracheostomy: Questioning the presumed need to site a tracheostomy over an endotracheal tube in a patient requiring long term ventilatory support prior to long distance aeromedical transfer

Dr Don Walsh & Dr Catherine Nix

ICSI Kate Flynn Prize Presentation Session at the 23rd International Symposium on Infections in the Critically Ill Patient

International Oral Presentation

Two Abstracts presented as oral presentations at the 5th World Congress of Ultrasound in Medical Education in Montreal, Canada

A Scoping Review of Ultrasound in Undergraduate Medical Education

J Birrane, H Mizran, M Creaney, G Shorten, C Nix

October 13th, 2017

Without Formal Curriculum Today’s Interns Are Still Ultrasound Novices

Dr. Natasha Khursigara-Slattery, Dr. Margaret O’Connor, Dr. Catherine Nix,
Dr. Julie O’Brien, Dr. Eoin Martin
Mid-West Intern Network, University Hospital Limerick, University of Limerick

Invited lectures at National Conferences:
Irish Society of Obstetric Anaesthesia 08/12/2017
A Perioperative Physician’s Approach to Managing the Critically-ill Parturient
C M Nix
Geriatrics SpR Day – 2 lectures (C M Nix) – Cerc, UHL 21/4/2018
An Approach to the Critically Ill Older Person in the Ward Setting
Ultrasound as an Adjunct when Assessing the Critically Ill Older Person

Peer Reviewed Publication

Dr. Gerry Burke, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Clinical Director for maternal and Child Health, UL Hospitals Group.

Departmental (O&G) publications in 2017.


Ismail KI, Hannigan A, O'Donoghue K, Cotter A.

Ismail KI, Hannigan A, Kelehan P, O'Donoghue K, Cotter A.

Garvey A, Powell J, Murphy B, O'Connell N, Imcha M, Philip RK.
Youngest survivor of perinatal infection by Eikenella corrodens: case analysis and literature review highlighting the merits of placental swab culture. New Microbes New Infect. 2017 Nov 7;21:81-85

McCarthy CM, Hickey KP.

These two papers received awards at the Society for Maternal and Fetal Medicine Annual Meeting in Las Vegas in 2017:

Best Oral Research Presentation in the field of Clinical Obstetrics

Top-cited Papers
Flood K, Unterscheider J, Daly S, et al. The role of brain sparing in the prediction of adverse outcomes in intrauterine growth restriction: results of the multicenter PORTO Study.

Pathology Department and academia
Publications 2017
15 publications from Pathology in peer-reviewed journals in 2017

- Microbiology - 10 publications
- Haematology - 5 Publications

There have been multiple poster presentations from across pathology at various national and international meetings.

Education

- 65% of Biomedical staff hold a Masters degree, at least 2 scientific students were conferred during 2017. Further education (MSc) is being pursued by other pathology staff into 2018.
- A pathology SpR Dr Ciara O’Connor was conferred with a Medical Doctorate in Jan. 2017 (co-supervised by Prof C Dunne GEMs and Prof N O’Connell ULHG) and she was also awarded the Greene Medal for Pathology by the RCPI in Feb 2017.
Student training – Scientific (incl. CIT/UCC and GMIT clinical placements) continue to take place year on year. There is an SLA in place now between ULHG and the respective third level institutions for clinical placement.

The “Transition Year Open Day” was held in November 2017.

Training is also provided to medical students by scientists and medical consultants.

Staff regularly attend and give UHL talks, lectures e.g. Grand Rounds and various departmental meetings.

Scientific staff attend national meetings/workshops/User Group meetings, where appropriate.

Selected staff represent Professional Body (ACSLM, ACBI) committees and Advisory Bodies.
The Cancer Clinical Trials Unit at UHL saw publication of two studies run at UHL in 2017.

1. BELIEF trial

2. EMPHASIS trial

We ran a further twelve studies during 2017. Two of these studies (KEYNOTE 189 and CHECKMATE 227) were published in the NEJM last week. We are acknowledged as a site on these studies, but no Irish investigators have authorship.

We continue to act as a referral site, receiving referrals from all areas in Ireland outside of Dublin for the lung cancer study BOOSTER, and for some areas in Ireland for the adjuvant study PEARLS run by the EORTC/ETOP.

We have opened up activity towards the end of 2017 into other disease area sites, increasing trial activity in breast cancer and adding lung cancer and bladder cancer trials to our portfolio. Ms Susie Nagle and Ms Marie Hanrahan joined us as CNM2s in the CCTU and Ms Ela Korona Ansari joined our team as a data officer. Dr Greg Korpanty joined us as a locum consultant in 2017 and has become a sub-investigator on all studies, and enabled expansion into a broader scope of disease sites, as outlined. I have attached a copy of a photo of the CCTU in case it’s helpful. It unfortunately doesn’t contain everyone, but was taken to mark International Women’s Day and #womeninresearch.

I commenced my role as vice-clinical lead for Cancer Trials Ireland in January 2017, responsible for clinical oversight of the Irish clinical trial portfolio across all disease sites run by CTI. I chair the Scientific Management Group and sit on the board of CTI.

Regarding trainee achievements I am aware of our SpR Dr Hazel O’Sullivan conducted a superb project investigating pan-European disparities in access to lung cancer therapeutics during 2017.
This was borne from an invited review on the same topic comparing Europe with Australasia and the US and was initiated in 2017, we continue to work on this. She won a prize for this work from the Irish Society of Medical Oncology (ISMO) in January 2018.

Our SpR from 2016/2017 Dr Geoff Watson has presented his audit regarding our Small cell lung cancer practice here at UHL a number of times during 2017. This has been submitted to the Journal of Thoracic Oncology (JTO).

On a personal note, I had the great honour of delivering an invited lecture at the ESMO meeting last September in Madrid, which is the second largest oncology meeting in the world. I attach a tweet, sent at the time by Dr Rob O’Connor, head of research at the Irish Cancer Society, who along with a number of our colleagues was there. pic.twitter.com/wLBc364YbH. I attached a screenshot in case this link doesn't open. He took a nice photo with the UHGL logo visible on the title slide!

**Academic Achievements 2017 – Haematology Department, University Hospital Limerick**

**Publications:**

Risk adjusted therapy in chronic lymphocytic leukemia: a phase II cancer trials Ireland (CTRIAL-IE [ICORG 07-01]) study of fludarabine, cyclophosphamide, and rituximab therapy evaluating response adapted, abbreviated frontline therapy with FCR in non-del(17p) CLL


Leuk Lymphoma. 2017 Sep 19:1-10 [Epub ahead of print]

Reversal of warfarin anticoagulation using prothrombin complex concentrate at 25 IU kg⁻¹: results of the RAPID study.

Appleby N, Groarke E, Crowley M, Wahab FA, McCann AM, Egan L, Gough D, McMahon G, O’Donghaile D, O’Keeffe D, O’Connell N.

Transfus Med. 2017 Feb; 27

Whole-genome sequencing of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia reveals distinct differences in the mutational landscape between IgHVmut and IgHVunmut subgroups.


Using Genomic Information to Guide Ibrutinib Treatment Decisions in Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia: A Cost-Effectiveness Analysis


Whole-genome sequencing of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia reveals distinct differences in the mutational landscape between IgHVmut and IgHVunmut subgroups.


EGR2 mutations define a new clinically aggressive subgroup of chronic lymphocytic leukemia.
Targeted deep sequencing reveals clinically relevant subclonal IgHV rearrangements in chronic lymphocytic leukemia.


Presentations:
American Society of Hematology (ASH) Oral Presentation 2017:
The Contribution of Gene Mutations to Long-Term Clinical Outcomes: Data from the Randomised UK LRF CLL4 Trial
Stuart Blakemore, Ruth Clifford, Pavlos Antoniou, Helen Parker, Pauline Robbe, Marta Larrayoz, Zadie Davis, Latha Kadalyayil, Andrew Collins, Jade Forster, Monica Else, Andrew J Steele, Jacqueline Chan, Graham Speight, Mark Cragg, Matthew John Jerome Rose-Zerilli, Daniel Catovsky, David Oscier, Anna Schuh and Jonathan C Strefford
Blood 2017 130:259;

American Society of Hematology (ASH) Oral Presentation 2017:
Clinical Importance of DNA Methylation Signatures in Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia Patients Treated with Chemo-Immunotherapy
Harindra Amarasinghe, Tomasz K Wojdacz, Matthew John Jerome Rose-Zerilli, Alice Beattie, Jade Forster, Latha Kadalyayil, Stuart Blakemore, Helen Parker, Marta Larrayoz, Ruth Clifford, Zadie Davis, Monica Else, Dena Cohen, Andrew J Steele, Richard Rosenquist, Andrew Collins, Andrew Pettitt, Peter Hillmen, Pauline Robbe, Christopher Plass, Anna Schuh, Daniel Catovsky, David Oscier, Christopher C. Oakes and Jonathan C Strefford
Blood 2017 130:56;

Haematology Association of Ireland Annual Meeting 2017 Poster Presentation:
CLINICAL AND HAEMATOLOGICAL OUTCOMES OF “ALL COMERS” TREATED WITH AZACITIDINE: A REAL WORLD, RETROSPECTIVE, TWO CENTRE EXPERIENCE.

Haematology Association of Ireland Annual Meeting 2017 Poster Presentation:
Routine Antenatal Anti-D Prophylaxis (RAADP) in the University of Limerick Hospitals Group (ULHG)
S. Keane 1, S. Wallace 2, R. van Oostveen 2, M. Abduljali 1, S. Joyce 1, H. O’Leary 1, A. Cotter 2, M. Nolan 2 & B. Lane 2
1. University Hospital Limerick, 2. University Maternity Hospital Limerick
Emergency Department University Hospital Limerick Academic Achievements 2017 to present:

- IMPLEMENTATION OF A STEMI BYPASS PROTOCOL IN THE NORTHERN UNITED ARAB EMIRATES esem2017 Dubai UAE December 2017

Peer Reviewed Publications

Publications in abstract format


Professional Publications (not peer-reviewed)

Presentations

Oral
Poster


Publications in abstract format


Presentations to Professional Associations


Health Research Board Projects:

Two Projects funded by the HRB, joint collaboration, led by Principal Investigator Dr Rose Galvin. Emergency Department Collaborator Dr Damien Ryan.

Title 1: **OPTI-MEND: Optimising early assessment and intervention by Health and Social Care Professionals in the Emergency Department (ED).** Budget awarded: 280,000 EURO

Title 2: **Adverse outcomes in older adults attending emergency department (ED): an impact analysis study of the Identification of Seniors At Risk (ISAR) clinical prediction rule.** Budget awarded: 370,000 EURO

Division of Neonatology, Department of Paediatrics, University Maternity Hospital Limerick (UMHL).

Peer reviewed international publications for 2017: Prof. Roy K Philip


Garvey A, Powell J, Murphy B, O’Connell N, Imcha M, Philip RK.


**PMID: 29263790**


Farhadi R, Philip RK.

**PMID: 28631931**

[ ]3. The first occurrence of a CTX-M ESBL-producing Escherichia coli outbreak mediated by mother to neonate transmission in an Irish neonatal intensive care unit.

O'Connor C, Philip RK, Kelleher J, Powell J, O'Gorman A, Slevin B, Woodford N, Turton JF, McGrath E, Finnegan C, Power L, O'Connell NH, Dunne CP.


**PMID: 28056822**

**Invited guest speaker to international conferences in 2017: Prof. Roy K Philip**

1. *Excellence in Pediatrics (EiP), Neonatal and Pediatric sessions, Vienna 2017*

2. *European Society of Pediatric Infectious Diseases (ESPID), Vaccination Industry session, Madrid 2017*

3. *PediaDubai, Neonatal & Paediatric sessions, Dubai, 2017*

4. *Pearl International Paediatric Congress, Neonatal & Paediatric sessions, Bahrain, 2017*

**Respiratory Department, University Hospital Limerick**

**Posters**

1. The Factors that Affect Patients' Compliance with Ambulatory Oxygen Therapy in the UHLG. McInerney, C., Ryan, P., Casserly, B., O’Brien, A. Presented at the Irish Thoracic Society, November 2017


3. Adherence to Inhaled Medication for Chronic obstructive Pulmonary Disease patients according to GOLD guidelines. Department of Respiratory Medicine, University Hospital Limerick. Cullinan, M., Ryan, P., McInerney, C., Quinn, O., Gleeson, E., Ryan. N., Casserly, B., O’Brien, A. Presented at the Irish Thoracic Society, November 2017

4. Supine and Non Supine Obstructive Sleep Apnea Syndrome (OSAS): Comparison between gender, body mass index (BMI) and OSAS severity. Balicaco, M., Falcao, C., Nyaude, T., Purcell, M., Stephenson, J., Casserly, B., O Brien, A. Respiratory Department, Presented at the Irish Thoracic Society, November 2017


**Research Papers**


**Savings Projects**

- Ongoing significant savings in bed days by the **COPD Outreach & Pulmonary Rehab Programme**

**Improved Patient Services**

- Opening of the purpose built **Adult CF Physiotherapy Gym** in the Leben Building
- Extended specialist services to Adult Cystic Fibrosis patients with the appointment of a Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist in Adult CF
- Increase in CPET testing for Adults with Cystic Fibrosis
- Echoing patient feedback on limited practical resource to support CF daily treatment practices, a collaborative MDT effort developed, scripted and produced a series of educational videos now hosted on the UHL CF Centre YouTube channel; https://tinyurl.com/y8kkp9sv. Appraisal and feedback is ongoing.

**Teaching/Lecturing/ Staff Development**

- Facilitation of ongoing Clinical Education for BSc & MSc UL Physiotherapy students
- Organized Inaugural National Meeting of Cystic Fibrosis Physiotherapy experts held in UHL
- Election of UHL CF Clinical Specialist as Ireland representative of Physiotherapists in CF at a European level
- Participation in the setting up of Support Groups for COPD patients
- Organised the annual National Irish Thoracic Society Annual Meeting November 2017 which was held in Limerick

**eHealth National Pilot**

- Physiotherapy Development of cloud based ehealth national HSE Pilot Project in Cystic Fibrosis in collaboration with external provider

**Dr. Alexander Fraser, Rheumatology Department, University Hospitals Group Limerick.**


The real-world use of different anti-tumor necrosis factor agents in a Northern European population of patients with Behçet's disease.

Adeeb F1,2,3, Ng WL1, Khan MU1,2, Devlin J1, Stack AG4,2, Fraser AD1,2.

PMID:29308279
PMCID:PMC5741337
DOI:10.5152/eurjrheum.2017.17046


Knitting the Threads of Silk through Time: Behçet's Disease-Past, Present, and Future.

Adeeb F1,2,3, Stack AG2,3,5, Fraser AD1,2,3.

PMID:29081805
PMCID:PMC5610876
DOI:10.1155/2017/2160610


Community-based intervention to promote physical activity in rheumatoid arthritis (CIPPA-RA): a study protocol for a pilot randomised control trial.

**Cortical Blindness in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus: The Blind Wolf.**

**Khan MU**, **Adeeb F**, **Devlin JAJ**, **Fraser A**.

PMID: 28937478  
DOI: 10.1097/RHU.0000000000000576


**Comparing cardiovascular risk factors, disease and treatment in participants with rheumatoidarthritis and without arthritis in a population based study.**

**O'Driscoll N**, **Kennedy N**, **Amjum S**, **Fraser A**, **Hannigan A**.

PMID: 28737303


**High Vitamin D Levels May Downregulate Inflammation in Patients with Behçet's Disease.**

**Adeeb F**, **Khan MU**, **Li X**, **Stack AG**, **Devlin J**, **Fraser AD**.

PMID: 28660088  
PMCID: PMC5474237  
DOI: 10.1155/2017/8608716


**Associations of HLA-B alleles with Behçet's disease in Ireland.**

**Adeeb F**, **Ugwoke A**, **Stack AG**, **Fraser AD**.

PMID: 28598323


**Sleep and physical activity: a survey of people with inflammatory arthritis and their engagement by health professionals in rheumatology in Ireland.**

**McKenna S**, **Donnelly A**, **Fraser A**, **Kennedy N**.

PMID: 28573870  
DOI: 10.1080/09638288.2017.1334095


**Does exercise impact on sleep for people who have rheumatoid arthritis? A systematic review.**

**McKenna S**, **Donnelly A**, **Fraser A**, **Comber L**, **Kennedy N**.
Early- and late-stage morphea subtypes with deep tissue involvement is treatable with Abatacept (Orencia).


Professor Mike Watts, Department of Medicine, University Hospital, Limerick.

1. A Direct Oral Anticoagulant as a Cost Effective Alternative to Warfarin for Treatment of Provoked Venous Thrombosis

William Courtney, Emma Groarke, Jane Conway, Elaine Conway, Deborah Bourke, Jean Saunders, Michael Watts, Denis O'Keeffe.

1Department of Haematology, University Hospital Limerick, Dooradoyle, Limerick,
2Department of Maths and Statistics, University of Limerick, Limerick,
3Department of Medicine, University Hospital Limerick, Dooradoyle, Limerick, Ireland

2. Audit of Time in the Therapeutic Range, a measure of anticoagulation control, for the Warfarin clinic at UHL

Thomas O’Halloran, Denis O’Keeffe, Jane Conway, Oliver Power, Carolyn Holt, Michael Watts

3. ISTH 2015 Abstract Submission Topic: Venous thromboembolism-therapy

ISTH15ABS-1684

RIVAROXABAN VERSUS VITAMIN K ANTAGONIST IN PROVOKED DEEP VENOUS THROMBOSIS – WHICH TREATMENT IS BETTER FOR THE PATIENT?

Emma Groarke, William Courtney, Jane Conway, Elaine Conway, Deborah Bourke, Jean Saunders, Michael Watts, Denis O’Keeffe

1Department of Haematology, University Hospital Limerick, Dooradoyle, Limerick,
2Department of Maths and Statistics, University of Limerick, Limerick,
3Department of Medicine, University Hospital Limerick, Dooradoyle, Limerick, Ireland

4. Has the Introduction of the DOACs Moved Patients with Labile INRs from Warfarin Therapy?
T.O Halloran¹, D. O Keeffe², J. Conway², O. Power², C. Holt², M. Watts²

5. **Comparison of Applying TTR Proportion of Tests and TTR Rosendaal to a Sample Population Attending a Warfarin Clinic**

T. O Halloran¹, D. O Keeffe², O. Power², J. Conway², M. Watts²

6. **“Healing our Ailing Health Service”**

A 20-year-old solution to help Ireland’s ailing hospital system — with its acute bed and consultant shortages

Irish Medical Times Featured article 26/04/2018

¹University of Limerick, Limerick, Ireland, ²University Hospital Limerick, Limerick, Ireland.

**Prof Michael Watts** is a Consultant Physician at University Hospital Limerick. He is a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, the National Specialty Director of General Internal Medicine, and the Adjunct Professor of Clinical Medicine at the University of Limerick Graduate Entry Medical School (GEMS).

**Poster Presentation**

Risk Factor stratification for deep vein thrombosis in patients with below knee injuries treated with immobilisation and the future role of thromboprophylaxis.

Authors: Dr. Daniel Mulligan¹, Dr. Tony Ferguson², Mr. Brian Lenihan², Prof Mike Watts¹, Dr. Denis O’Keeffe³

¹Department of Medicine, University Hospital Limerick, Dooradoyle, Limerick,

²Department of Trauma and Orthopaedics, University of Limerick, Limerick,

³Department of Haematology, University Hospital Limerick, Dooradoyle, Limerick, Ireland
Department of Medicine Report 2017

Section of Nephrology

Overview
The Section of Nephrology continues to advance its clinical, educational and research programmes and at University Hospital Limerick. Its vision and mission to become a national leader in kidney-related therapies was brought a step closer with the opening of a new state-of-the-art Renal Unit in January 2017, providing comprehensive range of therapies to patients in the Mid-west Region. The Home Haemodialysis (H-HD) programme was launched with appointment of new Home therapies Nurse Manager. The nephrology programme now runs the hospitals plasmapheresis programme, which was re-assigned from haematology. The expanded HD capacity has ended the mid-night shift at UHL which is hugely important for patients and renal staff. The peritoneal dialysis programme continues to thrive and remains one of the top 4 PD programmes in the country. The department was saddened to see Dr Wael Hussein leave and return to the United States to take up a position at Stanford University.

Training and Medical Education
1. Graduate Entry Medical Education (GEMS)
Professor Stack coordinates the delivery and assessment of the Year 3 and Year 4 medical education programme at UHL and its 4 affiliated academies. In 2017, 133 students graduated from the programme to received their BMBS degree and enter medical practice, a testament to the huge commitment from all medical staff at UL Hospitals.

2. Post graduate Medical Education
Nephrology staff coordinates several education programmes at UHL that benefit undergraduate medical students and post-graduate trainees.

1. Kidney Clinical Forum (Prof Stack): provides an excellent forum for journal review, and State-of-the Art Lectures on kidney related topics. Several invited speakers visited in 2018 to share their expertise

2. Weekly GIM Journal Club (Prof Stack)
Prof Stack hosts this important weekly that specifically targets doctors in the RCPI BST Programme and the registrars at UL hospitals. The Internal Medicine Journal Club, is a weekly forum dedicated at critical appraisal of scientific papers with a wide target audience: medical students and post graduate trainees in medicine. The launch of the Awards in Medicine Programme in 2017 has provided a new exciting opportunity for trainees to compete for the Gold and Silver Medals in Medicine. The inaugural final competition was held on June 7th 2017 and the adjudicating Committee awarded the Gold Medal to Dr Paul O Hara, SpR and Dr. Abdullah Dikair, BST SHO (see photos).

3. UL Hospitals Grand Rounds
Professor Stack chairs the weekly hospital grand rounds and 2017 witnessed a wonderful exposition of clinic. The venue of the new CERC auditorium provided a more fitting accommodation for hosting this of this event. The continued expansion to include national and international speakers has tremendously enriched the programmes and the value to its predominantly clinical target audience.

Research Programme
1. Health Research Institute (HRI)
Professor Stack is the Director of the HRI, and has led development from 2015 to present time. The HRI continued to grow its metrics in 2017 with 46 successful grants totalling over €3.7 million, 69 peer-reviewed publications and 29 graduates with Master’s/PhD research degree awards. Its mission of training and research mentorship has continued to flourish with high-impact research seminars, Foundation Series in Clinical Research and a PPI Summer School. The 2017 Annual Report has been submitted to the Executive at UL.

2. Health Research Symposium 2017
Professor Stack coordinated the Health Research Symposium 2017 that brought over 250 delegates to a wonderful exposition of research findings in health sciences at the new CERC building in UHL. Opened by Prof. Colette Cowan, CEO UL Hospitals Group and Prof. Des Leddin, Head of Graduate Entry Medical School, the Symposium explored the theme of “Building partnerships to Advance Healthcare Research and Practice” with keynote lectures from Prof. Harry Hemingway, University College London; Dr Leonard O’Sullivan, University of Limerick; Prof. Richard McManus, University of Oxford; and Prof. Martin O’Donnell, NUI Galway. The event featured four keynote international speakers, 18 oral presentations and over 170 scientific abstracts. The programme demonstrated the remarkable growth in research capability and scientific outputs across our Group and the Scientific Committee took great care this year to prepare a high-quality and diverse programme that featured unique developments and innovation in health research. [https://www.ul.ie/research/blog/latest-cutting-edge-health-research-ul-hospitals-and-university-limerick](https://www.ul.ie/research/blog/latest-cutting-edge-health-research-ul-hospitals-and-university-limerick)

3. National Kidney Disease Surveillance Programme
Supported by two peer-reviewed grants from the Health Research Board (HRB), Prof Stack leads an innovative programme to establish the first Kidney Disease Surveillance System. With multiple stakeholders and partners from UCD, UCC, and University of Michigan, USA the foundational structure and framework has been created to capture health data on kidney disease and associated outcomes. The programme, with its core centre at the GEMS, has produced several international presentations and publications shedding light on acute kidney injury (AKI) and chronic kidney disease (CKD). In November 2017, Professor Stack presented an update at the Inaugural World Congress in India. De Hussein resigned to return to the United States in November 2017.

A. Invited Lectures and International Symposia

a) Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland, 23rd February 2017, RCP London Conference on Anaemia and transfusion in anaesthesia and surgery
“Anaemia in patients with chronic renal failure” Prof Austin Stack, Limerick

b) Grand Rounds: NUI Galway and University Hospitals, Galway; 24th February 2017
“From Kidney Disease to Kidney Failure Halting the Tide?” Prof Austin Stack, Limerick

c) Pakistan Nephrology Society Annual Scientific Meeting, 23rd-26th March, 2017
Hyperuricaemia and Risk of Chronic Kidney Disease; An emerging modifiable Risk Factor
Iron Deficiency in Haemodialysis: Progress and Controversies Prof Austin Stack, Limerick

d) Irish Society of Rheumatology Friday 7th April 2017
Prof Stack was invited to give a key note talk at the Annual Meeting of the ISR hosted in Limerick at the Strand Hotel.
“Hyperuricaemia and Chronic Kidney Disease: Insights, Targets and Strategies”

e) First World NCD Congress 4th-6th November 2017 Chandigarh, India
Professor Stack was invited as faculty at the Inaugural World Congress in Non-communicable Chronic Disease. He presented data on the evolution of the Irish Kidney Disease Surveillance Programme along with international experts from the USA, China, India and Brazil. “Surveillance and Prevention of Kidney Disease in Ireland”

B. Scientific Abstracts at National and International Conferences

Irish Society of Nephrology, RCPI Dublin 31st March 2017

1. ¹Paul O’ Hara, ²Betina T. Blak, ³Michelle E. Johnson, ²Victoria L. Parsons, ³Lewis Carpenter, ²Andrew Maguire, Alyssa Klein, Robert Morlock, Austin G. Stack
Irish Society of Nephrology, RCPI Dublin 31st March 2017
Title: Association of Gout with Risk of Advanced Chronic Kidney Disease in the UK Health System:

2. ¹Arunkumar A. Udayakumar, ¹²David Ryan, ²Xia Li, ³Fahd Adeeb, ³Alexander Fraser, ¹²³⁴Austin G. Stack. Irish Society of Nephrology, RCPI Dublin 31st March 2017
Title: Prevalence of Hyperuricaemia within the Irish Health System and relationships with Chronic Kidney Disease.

3. Husham Mohamed, Alaa Ali, Austin G. Stack, ¹,Michelle Gaffney, ¹,Liam F. Casserly, Cornelius J. Cronin, 2, 3Nuala H. O’Connell, 2Lorraine Power, 1,3Wael F. Hussein.
Irish Society of Nephrology, RCPI Dublin 31st March 2017
Title: Access-Related Bloodstream Infection among Haemodialysis Patients at University Hospital Limerick

4. Arunkumar A. Udayakumar, 1, 2Wael F. Hussein, ¹, ²Michelle Gaffney, ¹,²Liam F. Casserly, Cornelius J. Cronin, 2, 3Access Related Bloodstream Infection among Haemodialysis Patients at University Hospital Limerick
Irish Society of Nephrology, RCPI Dublin 31st March 2017
Title: Guideline Adherence in Anaemia Management in Haemodialysis: Comparison of University Hospital Limerick with findings from the UK Renal Registry

5. Mohamed E. Elsayed and Austin G Stack
Irish Society of Nephrology, RCPI Dublin 31st March 2017
Title: Comparative Mortality Between Peritoneal Dialysis And In-Center Haemodialysis. A Systematic Review Of Propensity-Score Matched Mortality Studies

6. Wael F. Hussein, 1,²Husham Mohamed, ²Cathal Collier, 3,4Liam Plant, ¹²³5Austin G. Stack. Irish Society of Nephrology, RCPI Dublin 31st March 2017
Title: Patterns of Vascular Access Use in the first year of Haemodialysis: Results from the National Vascular Access Project

7. Wael F. Hussein Ali Sheikhi2, Husham Mohamed1,3, Liam Plant4,5, Cathal Walsh2,6, Austin Stack.
Title: Prevalence and correlates of Vascular Access Use among Haemodialysis patients in the Irish Health System

54th European Dialysis and Transplant Association (EDTA) Congress, Madrid June 4-6th 2017 (5 presentations)

Mohamed Elsayed, Austin G Stack
¹University Hospital Limerick, Nephrology, Limerick, IRELAND, ²University of Limerick, Health Research Institute, and Graduate Entry Medical School, Limerick, Ireland
(Oral Presentation and one of the winners of best Abstract Award for EDTA Young Investigator- see photo)
2. Association of gout control with reduced incidence of Kidney Failure in the UK Health System
Austin G. Stack, Betina T. Blak3, Michelle E. Johnson, Victoria L. Parsons, Lewis Carpenter, Andrew Maguire4, Alyssa B. Klein5, Robert Morlock6, 1University Hospital Limerick, Nephrology, Limerick, IRELAND, University of Limerick, Health Research Institute, and Graduate Entry Medical School, Limerick, IRELAND, AstraZeneca, Payer Evidence, London, UNITED KINGDOM, Oxon Epidemiology (Ltd), Centre for Real World Database studies, London, UNITED KINGDOM, 5AstraZeneca, Medical Evidence and Observational Research, Gaithersburg, MD, 6YourCareChoice, Health Services Research, Ann Arbor, MI.

3. Association of new Onset Gout with new onset kidney failure in the UK Health System
Austin Stack1,2, Betina T. Blak3, Michelle E. Johnson4, Victoria L. Parsons4, Lewis Carpenter4, Andrew Maguire4, Alyssa Klein5, Robert Morlock6, 1University Hospital Limerick, Nephrology, Limerick, IRELAND, 2University of Limerick, Health Research Institute, and Graduate Entry Medical School, Limerick, IRELAND, 3AstraZeneca, Payer Evidence, Luton, UNITED KINGDOM, 4OXON Epidemiology Ltd, Centre for Real World Database Studies, London, UNITED KINGDOM, 5AstraZeneca, Medical Evidence and Observational Research, Gaithersburg, MD, 6YourCareChoice, Health Services Research, Ann Arbor, MI.

4. Prevalence and correlates of Vascular Access Use among Haemodialysis Patients in the Irish Health System
Wael F. Hussein1, Ali Sheikhi2, Husham Mohamed3, Liam D. Plant4, Cathal Walsh2,5,5, Austin Stack6,7, 1University of Limerick, Department of Nephrology, Limerick, IRELAND, 2University of Limerick, Mathematics and Statistics, Limerick, IRELAND, 3University Hospital Limerick, Department of Nephrology, Limerick, IRELAND, 4University College Cork, Department of Nephrology, Cork, IRELAND, 5University of Limerick, Health Research Institute, Limerick, IRELAND, 6University Hospital Limerick, Nephrology, Limerick, IRELAND, 7Graduate Entry Medical School and Health Research Institute, Limerick, IRELAND.

5. Prevalence of Hyperuricaemia within the Irish Health System and Relationships with Chronic Kidney Disease
Arunkumar A. Udayakumar1,2, David Ryan1, Xia Li2, Fahd Adeeb2,3,2, Alexander Fraser3,2,4, Austin G. Stack1,2,4, 1University Hospital Limerick, Nephrology, Limerick, IRELAND, 2University of Limerick, Graduate Entry Medical School and Health Research Institute, Limerick, IRELAND.

American Society of Nephrology Conference Abstracts, New Orleans, LA 2017
1. J Bragg-Gresham, R Saran, AG Stack et al Pre-ESRD Nephrology Care Associated with Larger Survival Benefit for Black Compared to White Patients on Hemodialysis (HD) (ID# 2788758)
2. T Banerjee, CY Hsu, N Rios Burrows, AG Stack, R Saran, N Powe Relation of dietary acid load to bone mineral density (BMD) and osteoporosis in early CKD

American Heart Association Conference Abstracts, Anaheim, CA, USA Nov 2017
Peer-reviewed Publications:


International Scientific Meetings

Expert Panel Discussion
1. *Is there a role for Iron beyond Erythropoiesis in patients with Chronic Kidney Disease?*

Session Chair
2. Symposium “Immunology and hypertension during pregnancy” 54th ERA-EDTA Congress
   2017Professor Stack chaired the session on Immunology and Pregnancy

Scientific Awards

European Dialysis and Transplant Association (EDTA) Congress, Madrid June 4-6th 2017
Dr Mohamed Elsayed, Clinical Research fellow in Nephrology and tutor, and first year SpR in Nephrology programme won an award for best Abstract and 2017 ERA-EDTA Travel Grant of EUR 500.  

*Comparative Mortality Between Peritoneal Dialysis And In-Center Haemodialysis. A Systematic Review Of Propensity-Score Matched Mortality Studies*  
*Authors: Mohamed E. Elsayed and Austin G Stack*

New Grants
1. Professor Stack and Dr Leonard O Sullivan (Department of Design UL) were awarded an Enterprise Ireland (EI) Award of €500,000 to investigate the efficacy of a new suture less device to prevent infections in dialysis catheters. The collaboration represents a new paradigm in scientific collaboration between scientists at UL and academic clinicians at UL Hospitals in order to improve patient outcomes through innovative science. **Stath-Guard: A novel securement technology to prevent catheter related infections**

**Existing Grants**
2. Professor Stack leads the project HRB funded Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) in the Irish Health System; Incidence, Severity and Clinical Consequences: Health Research Board (HRB): HRA-2013-PHR-685

**External Reviewer MD Thesis**
1. Claudine Jennings: University of Edinburgh
   *Renal and Blood Pressure Effects of Xanthine Oxidase Inhibitors in the FAST trial*
   Dr Claudine Jennings

**Photographs**
Dr Mohamed Elsayed (along with Professor Austin Stack). Winner of the best Abstract Award for EDTA Young Investigator. 54th European Dialysis and Transplant Association (EDTA) Congress, Madrid June 4-6th 2017.
A recent Enterprise Ireland Award with collaboration with University of Limerick

Professor Stack and Dr Leonard O Sullivan (Department of Design UL) were awarded an Enterprise Ireland (EI) Award of ~ €500,000 to investigate the efficacy of a new suture less device to prevent infections in dialysis catheters. The collaboration represents a new paradigm in scientific collaboration between scientists at UL and academic clinicians at UL Hospitals in order to improve patient outcomes through innovative science.

Stath-Guard: A novel securement technology to prevent catheter related infections

Health Research Symposium 2017

A highlight of the year!

Professor Stack coordinated the Health Research Symposium 2017 that brought over 250 delegates to a wonderful exposition of research findings in health sciences at the CERC building in UHL. Opened by Prof. Colette Cowan, CEO UL Hospitals Group and Prof. Des Leddin, Head of Graduate Entry Medical School, the Symposium explored the theme of “Building partnerships to Advance Healthcare Research and Practice” with keynote lectures from Prof. Harry Hemingway, University College London; Dr Leonard O’Sullivan, University of Limerick; Prof. Richard McManus, University of Oxford; and Prof. Martin O’Donnell, NUI Galway. The event featured four keynote international speakers, 18 oral presentations and over 170 scientific abstracts. The programme demonstrated the remarkable growth in research capability and scientific outputs across our Group and the Scientific Committee took great care this year to prepare a high-quality and diverse programme that featured unique developments and innovation in health research. [https://www.ul.ie/research/blog/latest-cutting-edge-health-research-ul-hospitals-and-university-limerick](https://www.ul.ie/research/blog/latest-cutting-edge-health-research-ul-hospitals-and-university-limerick)
(l to r) Dr Hussain Mahdi, Professor Austin Stack, Professor Cathal Walsh, Mr Brian McKeon, Prof. Richard McManus.
Winner of the Gold Medal

Dr Paul O Hara (Professor Austin Stack and Dr Brid Seoige Janssen)