



**GRADUATE  
ENTRY  
MEDICAL  
SCHOOL**  
UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK  
SCOIL LEIGHIS IONTRÁLA  
IARCHEIME OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

# GRADUATE ENTRY MEDICAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

July 2017 | [www.ul.ie/gems/](http://www.ul.ie/gems/)

## UL GEMS surgeon identifies emerging area of medical science



Professor Calvin Coffey

New research led by Professor of Surgery, J. Calvin Coffey, Graduate Entry Medical School, UL and Colorectal Surgeon, University Hospital Limerick (UHL) has identified an emerging area of science which has resulted in reclassifying part of the digestive system as an organ.

The mesentery, which connects the intestine to the abdomen, had for hundreds of years been considered a fragmented structure made up of multiple separate parts. However, research by Professor Coffey found the mesentery is one, continuous structure. In a review published in the November issue of one of the top medical journals, The Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology, Professor Coffey outlined the evidence for categorising the mesentery as an organ.

"In the paper, which has been peer reviewed and assessed, we are now saying we have an organ in the body which

hasn't been acknowledged as such to date," Professor Coffey stated.

Better understanding and further scientific study of the mesentery could lead to less invasive surgeries, fewer complications, faster patient recovery and lower overall costs.

"When we approach it like every other organ...we can categorise abdominal disease in terms of this organ," Professor Coffey said. According to Professor Coffey, the Foundation Chair of Surgery at UL's Graduate Entry Medical School and University Hospitals Limerick, mesenteric science is its

own specific field of medical study in the same way as gastroenterology, neurology and coloproctology.

Professor Coffey's research on the mesentery even prompted an update in the latest edition of one of the world's best-known medical textbooks, Gray's Anatomy. The mesentery: structure, function, and role in disease, by J Calvin Coffey and D Peter O'Leary, published in The Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology is available to download on: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langas/article/PIIS2468-1253\(16\)30026-7/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langas/article/PIIS2468-1253(16)30026-7/fulltext)

## SUMMER GRADUATIONS 2017



Paramedic Studies Practitioner Entry Class of 2017



Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery Class of 2017



UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK  
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Prof Michael Larvin and Prof Deirdre McGrath pictured with this year's recipients of the teaching excellence awards: Dr Alice Brennan (Non Consultant Hospital Doctor (NCHD) award), Dr Betty Hyde (Year 3 GP tutor award), Dr Áine Ni Riain (Year 1 & 2 award) and Dr Leon Walsh (Year 3 & 4 Hospital award)

## GEMS is hosting The Network: TUFH Conference Next year



Pictured: Dr Khalifa Elmusharaf

is in this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEDRcH0uHEU>

GEMS would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the leadership of Dr Khalifa Elmusharaf, Senior Lecturer in Public Health, in identifying this opportunity and leading the preparation of the application. Dr Elmusharaf led a team from GEMS including Community Placements Coordinator & Senior Administrator Michelle Murnane, 2nd year medical student Meghan Feeney and EHS Assistant Dean International Dr Anca Minescu, to represent the

University of Limerick at the Network: TUFH conference this year on Social Accountability in Tunisia, 8 - 12 April 2017. The team presented and promoted GEMS and the next TUFH conference in Limerick.

During the conference in Tunisia, Meghan Feeney was elected to the Executive Committee of the Student Network Organization (SNO), the student chapter of The Network: TUFH. Meghan will establish the UL - SNO and will chair the student local organising committee for the next year conference.

The GEMS is honoured to have been successful in its bid proposal to host the Network Towards Unity for Health (The Network: TUFH <http://thenetworktufh.org>) conference next year from 16th to 20th August 2018 in Limerick. This conference will attract 1000 participants from over 70 countries around the world to discuss "Community Empowerment for Health: A Multi Sector Approach." The 2018 conference will kick off the year of celebrating the Network: TUFH 40th anniversary that will begin in Limerick and will culminate in Flinders in Australia in 2019. The promotion video

The 2017-2018 Student Network Organization Executive Committee.



Left to right: Meghan Feeney (Ireland), Alejandro Avelino Bonilla (Columbia), Ruth Anyango (Kenya), Eduarda Felsky (Brazil), Wakibi Samson (Uganda), Mehad Abdulhameed Elmubarak (Sudan), Youcef Henane (Tunisia), Vishnu Priya (India), Aricia De Kempeneer (Belgium), Julian Hirschbaum (United States).

The 2017 GEMS Medal Winners



Left to Right: Prof Michael Larvin (Head of School), Prof Clodagh O'Gorman (module lead for Paediatrics), Prof James O'Hare (module lead for Professional Competencies), Conor Behan (first prize in Professional Competencies), Erica Walsh (first prize in discipline of Medicine), Aisling Fitzsimons (first prize for overall performance in BMBS, first prize in discipline of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and first prize in the discipline of Paediatrics), Czara Kennedy (first prize in discipline of Surgery), Brendan Kavanagh (first prize for overall performance in BSc Paramedic Studies PE), Mark Dixon (Paramedics Course Director), Prof Aoife Lowery (module lead for Surgery), Prof Amanda Cotter (module lead for Obstetrics and Gynaecology), Prof Deirdre McGrath (Director of Education).

## RESEARCH GRADUATIONS



Left to right: Prof Colum Dunne, Dr Ciara O'Connor MD, Prof Nuala O'Connell

Dr Ciara O'Connor, Prof Henry O'Connell and Dr James Fitzgerald graduated in the January conferring ceremony with a MD, MD and MSc respectively. Dr Ciara O'Connor was supervised by GEMS Director of Research, Prof Colum Dunne and GEMS Adjunct Prof Nuala O'Connell. Prof Henry O'Connell was supervised by GEMS Prof of Psychiatry David Meagher and Dr Chris Exton. Dr James Fitzgerald was supervised by Prof David Meagher and Prof Colum Dunne. A special mention to Dr Catriona Dowling who was conferred with a PhD in the January conferrings. Dr Dowling, supervised by Dr Patrick Kiely, GEMS Senior Lecturer in Molecular Biology, was based in GEMS for the final year of her study.

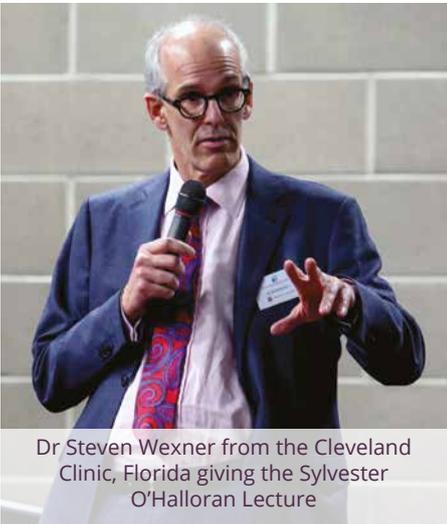


Left to right: Dr Pat Kiely, Dr Catriona Dowling PhD and Prof Colum Dunne



Prof Henry O'Connell receiving his parchment from President of UL Prof Don Barry

## Sylvester O'Halloran Meeting 2017



Dr Steven Wexner from the Cleveland Clinic, Florida giving the Sylvester O'Halloran Lecture

The annual event, now one of the major meetings in the annual perioperative calendar in Ireland, is jointly run by the Graduate Entry Medical School (University of Limerick) and the Perioperative Directorate (UL Hospitals Group). Up to 500 people attended the 25th anniversary symposium, which featured over 300 presentations and research papers from Ireland and overseas. The meeting is now widely regarded as the "the trainees' meeting". The multidisciplinary nature of the meeting was reflected in a three day-long schedule featuring a hotly contested and controversial debate, numerous named lectures with internationally renowned guests and hands on practical courses.

In recognition of the quality of Irish research, the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland will now invite the previous winners to present their work at the forthcoming Annual Meeting

International Surgical Congress to be held in the Scottish Event Campus (SEC), Glasgow, which represents a significant honour for Irish surgical trainees.



Prof Calvin Coffey with Dr Helen Mohan who won the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (ASGBI) Paper Prize

## AUDGPI 2017

On behalf of the Graduate Entry Medical School, the Primary Healthcare Research Group led the organisation of the 2017 Joint Scientific Meeting of the Association of University Departments of General Practice in Ireland (AUDGPI) and the Irish College of General Practitioners (ICGP). The theme of the conference was Partnerships for Health and there were 54 oral presentations and 22 posters, representing medical schools and GP training programmes across the island of Ireland. The conference took place at the Castletroy Park Hotel on the 9th and 10th March 2017.



Left to right: Dr Rose Galvin (Clinical Therapies), Dr Tony Foley (Keynote Speaker, UCC), Professor Anne MacFarlane (GEMS).

## UL GEMS Student **Napohn Chongprasertpon**, Winner of the Joint UL-UHL MELG Research Award



The idea for my research was first developed when I carried out an elective week in the Cardiology Department of University Hospital Limerick over my Christmas break. I was interested in carrying out research during the Summer period to gain research experience and having discussed this with my supervisor, it was suggested to me that a research project to study "The Relationship Between Seasonal Variation and/or Geographical Variation in

the presentation of Patients with ST-segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) and its Associated Mortality" would be both novel and useful. This project was particularly appealing to me as I had seen and learned about myocardial infarctions from my experience during my elective week in Cardiology. Having set a plan to carry out this research over the summer period, I then decided to submit the research idea for the Medical Education Liaison Group (MELG) award.

## Cochrane Review - Drains for leg artery surgery

Ailish Hannigan, GEMS Associate Professor in Biomedical Statistics, provided statistical input and co-authored a recently published Cochrane review, which summarised the evidence on whether the insertion of wound drains following artery surgery on the leg resulted in fewer complications. The review made important recommendations on what is a core element of post-operative treatment. It can be accessed in the Cochrane Library at: [http://www.cochrane.org/CD011111/WOUNDS\\_drains-leg-artery-surgery](http://www.cochrane.org/CD011111/WOUNDS_drains-leg-artery-surgery).



Prof Ailish Hannigan

## Annual Scientific Meeting of the Irish Society of Nephrology, held at RCPI Dublin 31st March 2017

Professor Austin Stack's Nephrology Team had a significant presence at the annual scientific meeting of the Irish Society of Nephrology, held at RCPI Dublin 31st March 2017 and also presented at the European Dialysis and Transplant Association (EDTA) Congress in Madrid June 4-6th 2017. Dr Mohamed Elsayed, MD candidate GEMS and first year SpR in Nephrology programme, won an award for best Abstract. Professor Stack was the invited keynote speaker at the Irish Society of Rheumatology annual meeting held in the Strand Hotel Limerick on Friday 7th April 2017 speaking on "Hyperuricaemia and Chronic Kidney Disease: Insights, Targets and Strategies."



Professor Austin Stack

## ANTI-MICROBIAL COATING INNOVATIONS CONSORTIUM



Prof Colum Dunne

Professor Colum Dunne, UL Graduate Entry Medical School (GEMS) and a member of the Anti-Microbial Coating Innovations (AMiCI) Consortium is currently studying the development, regulation and use of antimicrobial coatings to prevent the spread of drug-resistant bacteria in

hospitals. These coatings can be used on textiles, including bed sheets and gowns and surfaces such as walls, floors, beds and tables. Healthcare-associated infections, including multidrug-resistant bacteria, affect four million people annually in the European Union, according to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. More than 60 universities, research institutes and companies from 26 European countries are participating in the AMiCI network, the first time this issue is being addressed on such a large scale. AMiCI is supported by the European Commission's Cooperation in Science and Technology programme (COST).

## SARS Prize

At the Society of Academic and Research Surgery conference held in the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, GEMS researchers were awarded prestigious prizes. Winner of the William's Prize for Clinical Research was The Mesentery-Antagonist in Crohn's Disease involving Calvin Coffey, Miranda Kiernan, Pat Kiely, Colum Dunne, Aoife Lowery, Shaheel Sahebally and John Hogan. Aoife Lowery was also involved in Evaluating Suitability of Adipose Derived Stem Cells For Cancer Patients For Use In Breast Regeneration that won the RSM Future Projects Prize.

## HSE OPEN ACCESS AWARDS

GEMS Director of Research Professor Colum Dunne and Dr Shane Knox (GEMS PhD graduate supervised by Prof Dunne) won two of the seven prestigious HSE Open Access Awards in December 2016. These awards reflect the best healthcare-oriented open access publications by Irish researchers. The first of the awards was in the Quality Improvement category for a paper detailing the economic benefit and effectiveness of anti-viral care in children with cystic fibrosis, while the second was in the Acute Hospitals category for a paper detailing introduction of the first Continuous Professional Competence (CPC) guidelines for emergency medical technicians in Ireland.

## iNMED Conference - 27th-29th February 2017



Louise Halpenny, UL GEMS year 4 student, presenting at the iNMED Conference in February

The GEMS was well represented at the 10th Annual Scientific meeting of the all-Ireland Irish Network of Medical Educators, held at RCSI Dublin 27-29th February 2017. GEMS faculty members, Drs Andrew O'Regan, Sarah Hyde and Louise Crowley and GEMS Year 4 medical student, Louise Halpenny, presented research at the meeting.

This is Louise's account of her experience. "When I started studying medicine I didn't know doctors undertook research but whenever the topic arose, comments from clinicians and academics were invariably the same: 'do it', 'get it published!', 'it will stand to you'. The desire to tip away at something over the summer holidays developed gradually but I had no idea how or where to start. It was a chance encounter at the coffee kiosk in GEMS with a lecturer that got some ideas out in the open.

Mostly through email and phone contact, the research evolved from an initial online search which progressed gradually throughout the summer to a literature review. I had the opportunity to present my work at the Irish Network Medical Educators conference in RCSI, Dublin. Before speaking, I got the impression that any students on the podium were lauded mentally by the audience for having the guts to present which gave me great moral support. I highly recommend it!

Considerable thought, effort in nit picking, patience, time and collaboration were required during the many, many revisions the paper required to bring it to publication standard. Looking back now, it is probably for the best that I did not know what lay ahead during the serendipitous chat over coffee two years ago! However, I would not change a thing. I am immensely proud of what we have achieved. It is a drop in the ocean of research but to me a precious pearl. As I near the end of student life and embark on a career as a doctor it heartens me to know that every paper I work on will be a little bit easier thanks to the experience of this project which wouldn't have been possible without the support of those involved at each turn".

## Award for GEMS MD Graduate

GEMS MD Dr Ciara O'Connor was awarded the Royal College of Physicians Ireland George Green medal in February 2017. This is an amazing achievement and displays what a great ambassador for UL GEMS and UHL research Ciara is. Ciara was supervised by Prof Colum Dunne, GEMS Director of Research and Prof Nuala O'Connell, GEMS Adjunct Professor.

Dr Ciara O'Connor accepting the Royal College of Physicians George Green Medal



## UL GEMS Graduate Dr Conor Judge - starting out on a career in Nephrology



Dr Conor Judge

Wow, five years since graduating from Graduate Entry Medicine in the University of Limerick!

I started medicine in Limerick in 2008. We were the second year of the newly opened medical school. Prior to medicine, I completed an Electronic and Computer Engineering degree in NUIG and worked for a year as a software engineer. I have a passion for both medicine and technology and got my first opportunity to combine the two fields after joining Prof Calvin Coffey's bioinformatics research group for a special study module. I used programming knowledge to combine microarray data for the investigation of lymph node status in colorectal cancer.

After UL, I returned to my native county Galway to begin my post-graduation medical training. Completing my intern year in Galway University Hospital and beginning my Basic Specialist Training (BST) in medicine. While working in the hospital I noticed many areas where simple technology solutions could be applied for better patient care. I have developed several software systems for the hospital including an electronic patient tracker in the Acute Medicine Unit, an Electronic Health Record for the Rapid Access Lung Cancer Service and a bed cleaning app. Completing an engineering degree before medicine gave me a different perspective on how our patient care could be improved with better use of technology.

I started my higher specialist training in nephrology in 2015. Nephrology is the ideal specialty for an engineer who loves numbers and technology. Dialysis/Acid-base disorders/ Acute Kidney Injury are all number based disorders and very amenable to an engineer's eye.

I have recently been awarded a Wellcome-HRB Irish Clinical Academic Training Fellowship to further develop the boundary between these academic disciplines. The ICAT fellowship is a new program that combines higher specialist training (HST), structured clinical academic training with an integrated PhD.

## A second shipment of recycled medical books from GEMS and UL Post Grad Library to Njala University Sierra Leone - by Dr Carrie Garavan

Sierra Leone's doctor shortage is no mystery. The first medical school opened in 1988, 20 years after the country gained independence from Great Britain. But a few years after the opening, a bloody civil war erupted which was to last 10 years, devastating the country. During the decade-long, diamond-fueled conflict, the medical school struggled to graduate 5 doctors per year and the health system fell into disarray. The Ebola epidemic was to have devastating effects on the already scarce numbers.

Last year GEMS donated and covered the cost of a shipment of medical books to Njala University in Sierra Leone.

Njala University, a rural comprehensive public research university in Sierra Leone, is committed to providing the highest standards of excellence in higher education in Sierra Leone and beyond, fostering intellectual and personal development, and stimulating meaningful research and service to humankind.

The first shipment of books which arrived December 2015 are currently in use by medical students. A second donation arrived in Njala University on March 14th. Sincere thanks is due to GEMS Staff Mike Larvin, Karen Lyons and Josephine Lynch and the GEMS Med Soc, in particular Norah MacMillan.



Students of Njala University exploring the titles of the journals donated from University Hospital Limerick Post Graduate Library

## Year 1 BSc Paramedic Studies Programme

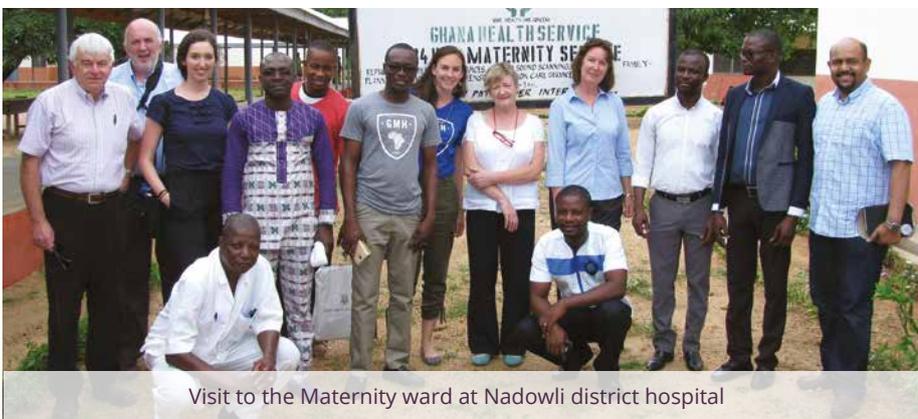


Year 1 students on the GEMS newest undergraduate programme, the 4 year CAO Entry BSc Paramedic Studies programme led by Mark Dixon have just completed their observational placements, covering a variety of prehospital sites including Fire and Rescue, Elderly Care, Ambulance Placement, Theatre, Maternity and Emergency Department. Students

were well received during placement with these sites and the feedback from both student and placement provider has been positive. These placements expose the students to key prehospital skills which they will demonstrate and develop during their Year 2 employment placement with the North West Ambulance Service, UK.



## Ghana visit - By Khalifa Elmusharaf and Kelly Hadfield



Visit to the Maternity ward at Nadowli district hospital

In July last year, Dr. Khalifa Elmusharaf Senior Lecturer in Public Health and Kelly Hadfield a second year medical student joined a group from UL and University of Limerick Hospital Group (ULHG) including Prof Paul Finucane (ULHG/UL),

Prof Des Leddin (UL), Prof Fiona Murphy (ULHG/UL) and Ms Katie Sheehan (ULHG) to visit the upper west region of Ghana. The aim of this visit was to explore the possibility of establishing a partnership with Ghana Health Services (GHS).

Enhanced community health care as delivered through the community clinics is considered crucial and ULHG-UL are now developing a range of educational programmes that prioritises evolving local needs, together with the exchange of expertise and the procurement of relevant educational training materials. This will be delivered both locally and remotely and will involve primary care, paramedics, nursing and health system administration aimed at front line health care workers.

This initiative stems from a growing appreciation within UL and ULHG of their social accountability; this is reflected in the current strategic plans at both institutions. Developing and delivering on a partnership with a developing country is a powerful example of how UL and ULHG can address aspects of their social accountability.

## 2016/17 Kate Fleming Mediation Competition in Medical Law



The School of Law and Graduate Entry Medical School hosted the 2016/17 Kate Fleming Mediation Competition in Medical Law on 20th February 2017. Fifteen students from law and medicine came together in inter-disciplinary teams to settle a claim of medical negligence. Many congratulations to the members of the winning team: Anna Howard (Medicine), Siobhan MacLoingsigh (Law), Blaithe O'Shea (Law) and Michelle Stephenson (Medicine). This competition provided a fantastic opportunity for inter-disciplinary learning with students working together to research the law, write an expert report and decide on a strategy for mediation. Mr Jack Nicholas (Barrister, Mediator and Adjunct Lecturer in the School of Law) acted as the mediator on the night. Assisting Mr. Nicholas was Dr. Patrick O'Donnell (GP & Clinical Fellow in Social Inclusion, Graduate Entry Medical School), Ms. Mary Tumelty (a PhD candidate in the area of mediation in medical negligence), Dr. Eimear Spain (Senior Lecturer in Health Law) and Dr. Lydia Bracken (Director of Clinical Legal Education, School of Law).

New iPads were just what the doctor ordered for young patients at the Children's Ark, University Hospital Limerick (UHL), as the paediatric department gratefully accepted a donation from the UL Medical Society. There was great excitement on the Caterpillar Day Ward as the medical students dispensed the type of tablet kids were least likely to refuse. Staff at the day ward expressed their gratitude that the donation would help break up the day for young patients attending for services. The Medical Society comprises medical students at the UL GEMS and organises a range of fundraising activities every year.

Prof Clodagh O'Gorman, Consultant Paediatrician said: "The Department of Paediatrics is delighted and honoured to be the recipient of the proceeds of UL Medical Society fundraising this year. The surprise and delight expressed by the children who received the gifts was wonderful. It is always humbling to see these children attend hospitals so frequently, commonly for painful or long procedures, and that they usually do so with a smile on their faces. It is also humbling to see our UL GEMS medical students give so freely of their time, energy and finances - all of which are limited - to the benefit of these child patients. They are unsalaried but they are true professionals."

## UL Medical Society donate iPads to Children's Ark



Front Row Left to Right: Dr Elizabeth O'Mahony (Senior Lecturer Paediatrics, GEMS), Kyle McInerney (The Children's Ark and iPad recipient), Claudine Herbert (Staff Nurse, Caterpillar Ward, The Children's Ark, UHL), Jayden Conway (The Children's Ark and iPad recipient), Prof Clodagh O'Gorman (Professor of Paediatrics, UL GEMS).

Back Row Left to Right: Jordan Hartkorn (GEMS Year 3), Laura Finnegan (GEMS Year 3), Ahmed Lutfi (GEMS Year 3), Claudine McInerney (Parent), Dr Michael Mahony (Associate Clinical Director Women and Children's Health, UHL), Nuala Conway (Parent), Madina Weiler (GEMS Year 3), Patrick Moynagh (GEMS Year 3).

## Teddy Bear Hospital 2017



GEMS Year 1 & 2 medical students held the 5th Teddy Bear Hospital in the UL Sport Arena on March 8th, with the aim of reducing anxiety about healthcare interactions for local primary school children. More than 500 attended along with the teddy bears or other significant soft toys. A video of the event is available at:

<https://youtu.be/RnTg4vgYwos>



## Tenth Annual UL Medical Ball in April 2017

The UL Medical Society hosted a very special Tenth Annual UL Medical Ball in April 2017 to raise funds for the UHL Paediatric Ward. With Hollywood Glamour as the theme, it was a night to remember complete with a red carpet, an "Oscars" awards ceremony and live music

from the band Smash Hits. Fourth year awards ceremony Emcees Paula Cuddihy and Barry Noonan had the crowd laughing as students were presented with fun awards for categories such as best OCASE story. Thank you to The Medical Society Events Director Killian

Armstrong, President Meghan Feeney and the Events Committee for their hard work and dedication in making this event another huge success! A huge thank you to everyone who came out and enjoyed an evening and glamour in support of a great cause.



Medical Society Events Committee

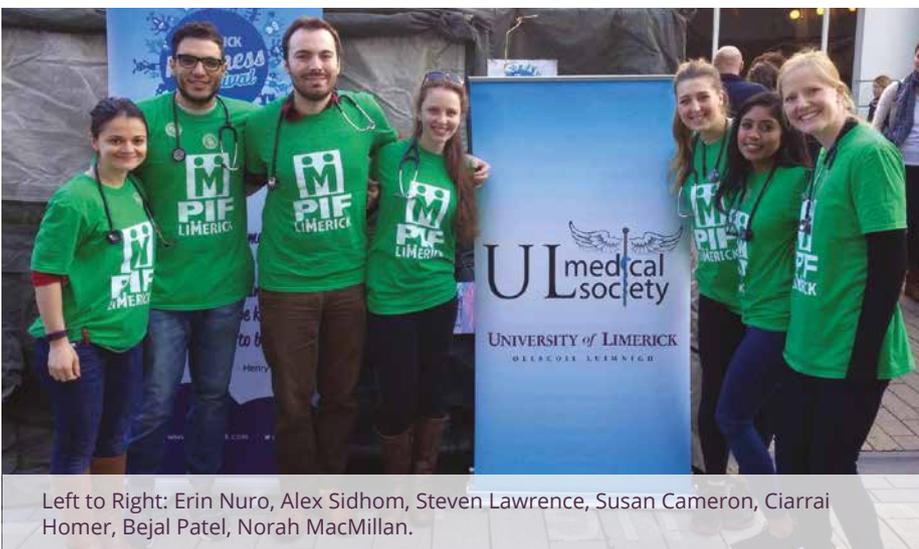
Back Row Left to right: Juliana Duffy, Jordan Hartkorn, Jessica Goldberg, Kathleen Vannelli, Megan Crosby, Norah MacMillan, Sarah Walsh, Rebecca Halls, Meghan Feeney, Lata Bhandary, Helena Hobbs, Alfie Jones.

Front Row L to R: Ahmed Negmi, Killian Armstrong, Owen Sweeney.

## MEDSOC in GEMS helping PIFL in their Festival of Kindness 2017

On March 18, an enthusiastic group of first and second year GEMS students took part in the Pay it Forward Limerick (PIFL) 2017 Festival of Kindness. This is the second year in a row that GEMS students have participated in the community-oriented festival that celebrates simple acts of kindness and the good that is in each of us. With the support and encouragement of Dr. Yoga Nathan, the students set up a blood pressure clinic in the middle of Bedford Row in Limerick City centre. Throughout the day, there was a huge turnover of

community members that visited the small clinic to obtain a quick "health check". It was a resounding success, with extremely positive feedback from both the visitors to the blood pressure tent and all the volunteers who helped. The slogan of the festival was "Be Kind, Live Kindly, Share Kindness" and it was truly a phase that epitomized the day. The GEMS students felt connected to the kindness that abounds in the Limerick community beyond GEMS and hope to continue the connection in future years to come!



Left to Right: Erin Nuro, Alex Sidhom, Steven Lawrence, Susan Cameron, Ciarra Homer, Bejal Patel, Norah MacMillan.

## INAUGURAL GEMS POSTGRADUATE DAY



Prof Mike Larvin and Bea Malacrida



Miranda Kiernan and Prof Mike Larvin

The GEMS Inaugural 'Postgraduate Research Day' was held on the 20th January at the GEMS. The School now has more than 30 postgraduate research students, all of whom were provided with the opportunity to present their research. Prizes, judged by the audience were awarded to:

Year 1, Dr Patrick O'Donnell; Year 2, Ms Miranda Kiernan; Year 3, Ms Bea Malacrida.

Miranda Kiernan, GEMS Year 2 sPhD student also won the prestigious 'Norman Williams Prize' for best clinical paper presented at the 2017 meeting of the Society of Academic & Research Surgery of the UK and Ireland, held at the RCSI, Dublin. This is the first time an Irish researcher has won the prize. GEMS Director of Research and 4i Director, Professor Colum Dunne and Professor of Surgery Calvin Coffey supervise Miranda.