

Anatomy at University College Dublin



History of Anatomy in University College Dublin

The original Medical School of the Catholic University was situated on Cecilia Street in the very heart of Dublin city. The purchase of the building in 1855 was fortuitous because it had served as the Apothecaries' Hall where the eminent Anatomist Benjamin Alcock had taught before his departure for University College Cork (1849). The new "Cecilians" proved their worth as anatomists and chief amongst these great teachers stands Ambrose Birmingham (professor of Anatomy 1887-1905). His commemorative medal has been zealously coveted by generations of medical students since 1916. The Medical School moved to another city centre location at Earlsfort Terrace. In 2007 it was finally housed in a modern Health Science Centre on the main University campus in Belfield.

Research in Anatomy School of Medicine and Medical Science, UCD:

The research activities undertaken by anatomists at UCD are unusually broad. This breadth of expertise ensures that our students receive a high caliber of instruction across many programmes of study. The research interests of our staff include:

Autonomic Neuroscience

Reproductive Medicine

Tissue Bioengineering

Biological Anthropology

Developmental Biology

Medical education

Professor James FX Jones



Professor Jones is a medical graduate of UCD (1987) and completed his doctoral studies at the Royal Free Hospital in London in 1993. He was appointed to the Chair and Headship of Anatomy in 2012. Professor Jones is an autonomic neuroscientist with an interest in gastrointestinal function. He is currently funded by Science Foundation Ireland, Bowel Disease Research Foundation (UK) and Medtronic Inc. (Europe and USA). He has been awarded prizes and honours including an Honorarium from Medtronic Inc. (2012), Research Prize of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons (2007), Prize lecture of The Physiological Society (2005) and Young Investigator of the Year - DeCastro-Heymans-Neil Medal (International Society of Arterial Chemoreception; (1993). He holds the following editorial positions: Editor in chief of The Irish Journal of Medical Science (2012-2015), Reviewing editor of Experimental Physiology (2012-2015), Reviewing editor Autonomic Neuroscience: basic and clinical (2012-2015) and Ethical editor of The Journal of Physiology (2005-2015).

Professor Sabine Koelle



Prof. Koelle graduated in Veterinary Medicine at the University of Munich, Germany, where she also studied medicine and dentistry. She completed fellowships in the Max-Planck Institutes of Biochemistry and Psychiatry in Germany and received her habilitation in the Institute of Veterinary Anatomy, Histology and Embryology of the Veterinary School of the University of Munich. In 2004 she was appointed as associate professor in the Institute of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology in the Veterinary School of the University of Giessen, Germany. In 2009 she was appointed as Head of the Department of Anatomy, Histology and Embryology at the University of Vienna, Austria. Prof. Koelle received scholarships enabling her to work at Cornell University and Texas A&M University, USA. She has worked as visiting professor in France, Argentina, Spain, Hungary and Italy. She is winner of numerous research awards and has a reputation for excellent scientific photography and video imaging. Professor Koelle's research is focused on reproductive medicine, especially on improving the results of assisted reproduction. Recent research projects include the mechanisms of gameto-maternal interaction, embryo-maternal communication and early embryogenesis in humans and animals. In addition she is establishing new criteria for functional sperm and oocyte assessment and is developing new methods for *in vivo* imaging in the male and female genital tract.

Dr. Patrick Felle



Dr. Felle is part-time Senior Lecturer in Anatomy in the School of Medicine and Medical Science in UCD, mainly working as Head of Medical Informatics in UCD.

Dr. Felle was a computer operator with Bank of Ireland in the 1970's, then returned to University to read Medicine in UCD. He graduated with MB BCh BAO in 1983 and following internship studied for a BSc in Anatomy and Physical Anthropology, graduating in 1985. He worked as Anatomist in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and later in University College Dublin, with a part time appointment as Physician in Emergency Medicine. In 1997 he studied for an MSc in Health Informatics in Trinity College Dublin, then established the Centre for Healthcare Informatics in UCD. Dr. Felle is programme coordinator for Medical Informatics teaching in UCD, where Medical Informatics is taught as part of the undergraduate curriculum, and runs a postgraduate programme in Medical Informatics for medical and allied graduates.

Dr. Felle continues an involvement in anatomy teaching, particularly in clinical neuroanatomy, and has published in the areas of gross dissection studies and in digital microscopy. Dr. Felle held membership of both BACA and the Anatomical Society of Great Britain and Ireland, and served as a Committee member of the Anatomical Society. Dr. Felle has been an active committee member of the Informatics Section of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland for many years.

Dr. Felle has recently been appointed Vice Dean of Medicine (International) for the School of Medicine at UCD.

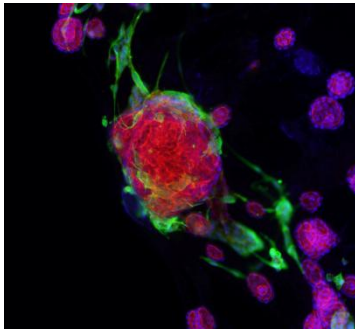
Dr Seamus Giles



Dr Giles completed his doctoral studies at the Medical Faculty, University College Dublin in 1996. He was appointed lecturer in the department of anatomy UCD in 1999 and was promoted to senior lecturer in 2007. Dr Giles, primarily, teaches on the musculoskeletal system and is the recipient of several teaching awards from the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science. He has also coordinated and taught on a cell biology/histology module in the European First Level Degree Biotechnology (Perugia, Italy) 2002-2009. Dr Giles received the UCD, Graduate Certificate in University Teaching and Learning in 2012 and has a keen interest in education research and development. More recently, he has formed a group dedicated to the development of interactive anatomy teaching applications.

Dr Giles' main research area is teratology, particularly, ocular involvement in fetal alcohol syndrome, and has published extensively in this area. More recently he has joined a collaboration investigating neonatal subglottic stenosis funded by the National Childrens Research Center. Dr Giles is a council member and treasurer of the European Teratology Society since 2005.

Dr Nobue Itasaki



Dr Itasaki obtained her degree in Medicine in Hiroshima University and a qualification as a registrar in Japan. She obtained a PhD and then a post-doctoral training in Kyoto, during which time she also worked as a clinical consultant. She moved to London as a post-doctoral scientist and later as a project leader at MRC National Institute for Medical Research in UK. In 2011 she became a senior lecturer in UCD.

Dr Itasaki's research interest is in the molecular mechanism of embryogenesis and cancer growth, especially the common and distinct mechanisms in these contexts. In contrast to the normal adult body system where homeostasis is the major cellular regulation, embryogenesis and cancer growth both exhibit significant dynamics in cell proliferation, cell movement and the differentiation state, sharing common signaling pathways. However, the process of embryonic development is well programmed and tightly regulated for its consistent and reliable outcome, whereas the cancer growth is often a result of dysregulation of cell growth. Notably, the embryonic microenvironment stops cancer cells growth and attenuates tumorigenic potential. Using *in vitro* and chick *in vivo* analyses the group aims to identify (1) the common and distinct regulatory mechanisms in the epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition (EMT) of neural crest cells in embryos and cancer metastasis; (2) the mechanism whereby embryonic context attenuates the cancerous cellular behaviour.

(Figure shows breast cancer cells (green) interacting with normal epithelial cells (red, stained for f-actin).

Dr Jason Last



Dr Last is a Senior Lecturer in Anatomy, the Director of Preclinical Studies and is also the Associate Dean for Programmes and Educational Innovation within UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science. Dr Last graduated from UCD in 1996, initially pursuing his interest in surgery; becoming a member of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland in 1999. He returned to UCD to pursue a research interest, achieving a first class honour in his MSc (Anatomy, Embryology and Physical Anthropology) and then accepted a position on the faculty in 2000. Since then, Dr Last has occupied a series of educational management roles within the School, including leading the capital development project to relocate the medical school, a variety of curriculum development and new programme leadership roles, he is a director on the board of Penang Medical College and most notably led the development and successful implementation of the UCD Graduate Entry to Medicine programme. Research interests centre around physical and forensic anthropology in addition to medical education. Dr Last has maintained a part-time clinical footprint but his passion remains academic management, internationalisation, the democratisation of learning and the education of doctors, radiographers and paramedics, especially in the field of head and neck clinical anatomy.

Dr Jennifer Thompson



MB, BCh, BAO from University College Cork, Ireland. Member of the Royal College of General Practitioners (London) and Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (Ireland). Worked in clinical practice

for several years before taking Medical Doctorate in University College Dublin, with subsequent appointment as lecturer. Main areas of interest: trauma and emergency medicine; mechanisms underlying injury and repair in the embryo.

Dr Jean O'Connor



Dr Jean O'Connor earned her BSc. from University College Cork in 2001 and graduated with an MSc Forensic and Biological Anthropology from Bournemouth University, UK, in 2003. Dr. O'Connor was awarded her Ph.D. from University College Dublin in 2009. Dr O'Connor joined UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science in 2004 as a Medical Trainee in Human Anatomy and was appointed as Lecturer in Anatomy in 2008. Dr O'Connor's research lies in the field of biological anthropology and in particular the radiographic analysis of skeletal maturation and its relationship to chronological age. Dr O'Connor is currently undertaking research to investigate the influence of childhood obesity on skeletal development.

Dr Tom Flanagan



Dr. Flanagan is a graduate of Anatomy from NUI, Galway (2000) and was awarded a Ph.D. (Anatomy) in 2005. He subsequently took up a post-doctoral position at the Cardiovascular Tissue Engineering Laboratory of Prof. Stefan Jockenhoevel, Helmholtz Institute for Biomedical Engineering at Aachen University in Germany, where he co-ordinated a project to develop autologous heart valve prostheses for surgical implantation. Dr. Flanagan joined the School of Medicine & Medical Science in 2008 as

Lecturer in Human Anatomy, and heads the Tissue Engineering Research Group (TERG) at the School. The group is focused on the development of next-generation implants by combining nanotechnology and tissue engineering methods, with a particular focus on living, cardiovascular devices for the treatment of both paediatric and adult populations. The group is currently funded primarily by the National Children's Research Centre/Children's Medical & Research Foundation, Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin.

Dr Robin Feeney



Dr Feeney received her Ph.D. in Physical Anthropology in 2009 from The Ohio State University in conjunction with the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, where she also held a position as a Postdoctoral Researcher. Her expertise is in Dental and Forensic Anthropology with research interests in comparative human biology. She joined the UCD School of Medicine and Medical Science in 2011 as a Lecturer of Human Anatomy and a Scientific Researcher in the Physical Anthropology Research Group.

As a Physical Anthropologist, Dr Feeney focus is on biological variation and evolution in humans and other primates from their skeletal and dental material. Her research in comparative human biology focuses on size and shape variation in dental tissues using micro-CT imaging and visualisation technology to non-destructively view and measure internal structures. Her research aims to: understand the sources of variation in human dental morphology, understand evolutionary morphological changes in dental tissues in the human lineage, and explore the clinical aspects of dental variation.

Dr Feeney has a genuine enthusiasm for teaching and devotes a great deal of energy to convey this enthusiasm. She strives for students to be excited to come to class, eager to learn about a topic and to be involved in the discovery process. She tries to teach students to pursue knowledge and scholarly activities for its own sake and to use their education as a means to open the world for themselves. She believes that this is one of the most rewarding aspects of teaching. She is currently teaching anatomy of the oral cavity, limbs and renal system as well as physical and forensic anthropology.

Over the years Dr Feeney has provided forensic assistance and served as a forensic consultant in a number of cases in Canada, USA and England, as well as participated in various archaeological and paleontological field projects in North America and Europe.

Dr René Gapert



Dr René Gapert was awarded his PhD in Forensic Anthropology and Human Anatomy at University College Dublin (UCD), National University of Ireland in June 2010 and works as a Technical Officer attached to the Human Anatomy Laboratory in UCD and manages the Plastination laboratory. René has 17 years of experience in the dissection of human bodies and 12 years of experience in the analysis of human skeletal remains. He conducts ongoing research in the field of forensic anthropology and gives guest lectures on forensic and physical anthropology. He has published in international peer-reviewed journals such as *Forensic Science, Medicine, and Pathology*, *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* and the *International Journal of Legal Medicine*. He was awarded DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Postdoctoral Research Scholarships in 2012 and again in 2013. Dr René Gapert is a Visiting Researcher at the Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences, Charité - University Medicine Berlin in Germany since April 2012. He consults on forensic anthropological cases and is involved in collaborative research projects such as the use of post-mortem computed tomography (PMCT) in human identification, virtual anthropology, craniometric analyses of a modern population and the assessment of skeletal remains from World War II. He aims to promote forensic anthropology as part of a multi-disciplinary team approach to forensic investigations and his wider research interests include trauma analysis, geometric morphometry, discriminant analyses, sexual dimorphism of the cranial base and the use of the CRANID programme in the repatriation of Australian ancestral remains. In 2013 René acted as a provenancing expert for the Australian Government during the first repatriation of Australian ancestral remains held in German museum collections.

Mr Gary Perry



GARY F. PERRY, M.Sc., L.I.A.S., has worked at the UCD School of Medicine & Medical Science (SMMS) since 1985 where alongside the usual duties of a Technical Officer manages the Body Donor Programme for SMMS. Gary was the first man in Ireland to be conferred with a Masters Degree (M.Sc) in Bereavement Studies by the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and the National University of Ireland for his research into and reporting of the informal bereavement support that funeral directors in Ireland offer to their clients. Other research interests include the history and process of whole body donation for medical education, and bereavement studies. With his internal and external research collaborators Gary's research has been published in the peer-reviewed scientific journals of the American Association of Anatomists (AAA) and the Institute of Anatomical Sciences (IAS). For the past number of years Gary has been an active council member of the IAS.