

WELCOME

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter, it's hard to believe it's the end of the year. BUT what an incredible year it has been for the Water Institute.

We have been successful in numerous national and international funded research projects whilst continuing our own research in current projects.

This year has been significant for us with our membership growing to over 50 academic members, the recruitment of our new Water Innovation Officer, Ruth Clinton and the hosting of the International Passive Sampling workshop and symposium.

We have also developed our strategy for the next 3 years in alignment with the DCU Strategic Plan - 'Talent, Discovery & Transformation'. This newsletter is a brief synopsis of our year past, we hope you enjoy it!

SEASONS GREETINGS

On behalf of the Water Institute, I would like to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas & peaceful New Year.

Thank you for your engagement with us in 2018 and we look forward to working with you throughout 2019.

*Fiona Regan
Director, DCU Water Institute*

FUNDING & PROJECTS FOR 2019

GCSO - The Water Institute is one of four internationally recognised bodies to take part in the project Facilitating Evidence-based Decision-making for Global Health Outcomes. This project introduces a methodology and scientific tool that will measure sustainability and community health indicators in near real-time using urban wastewater as a diagnostic matrix. This project is funded by the Global Consortium for Sustainable Outcomes. <https://sustainabilityoutcomes.org/global-health-outcomes/>

Innovation Vouchers - We are very keen to collaborate with companies on different projects relating to water. We have some really nice projects set up start in 2019 with some really innovative companies. We find Innovation vouchers are great for initial desktop studies for scoping innovative ideas. Also just to let everyone know the next call is open on 9th January 2019 and closes on 23rd January 2019 at 3pm. If you have something in mind please contact Ruth at ruth.clinton@dcu.ie

Disruptive Technology Innovation Fund - *Super News for Water Institute!* - The Water Institute and TechWorks Marine collaboration has been chosen as a successful project of the Disruptive Technology Innovation Fund. For further information about the Launch please click here. <https://www.dcu.ie/news/news/2018/Dec/DCU-plays-key-role-4-successful-DTIF-projects.shtml>

SBIR - A Water Institute and Ambisense collaboration has been awarded the Enterprise Ireland Small Business Innovation Research Fund (SBIR). The fund has allowed this venture to conquer the Smart City challenge of identifying, communicating bathing water quality to the public. The Water Institute are working on developing further their Coli sense field test equipment and will report with updates in the New Year.

NEMMO Project Success - We also received news in November that the NEMMO project has been successful in recent announcements of the EU H2020 programme. The NEMMO project will generate the necessary models, knowledge, designs and testing procedures to develop larger, more efficient and more durable composite tidal turbine blades. This marks another success in marine research across disciplines of engineering and materials science. Well done to Dr. Yan Delaure and his team.

Global Networking

The Water Institute's members and students have numerous collaborations and partnerships with universities and companies on a global scale. It is extremely important for us that we keep up to date with water research and innovation and also to spread our message.

Water Institute member Dr. Jenny Lawler visited Qatar in November. Dr. Lawler was hosted by Dr. Richard O'Kennedy, Vice President for Research, Development and Innovation (RDI). Dr. Richard O'Kennedy leads all research, development, and innovation (RDI) efforts across Qatar Foundation (QF), which are a pivotal element of Qatar's national RDI agenda and its goal of building a sustainable and diversified economy.

Dr Blanaid White attended our first Norman Network meeting in Greece in the Autumn, which builds on our international collaboration in the area of chemicals of concern.

Dr Lorna Fitzsimons has taken a number of internships in Spain and Northern Ireland to work on wastewater management as part of her RISE project.

Ivan Maguire PhD student visited the South Australian Node of the Australian National Fabrication Facility (ANFF-SA). Initially, a visit to the South Australian Node of the Australian National Fabrication Facility (ANFF-SA) located in the University of South Australia (UniSA). The Australian National Fabrication Facility (ANFF) is a research infrastructure facility established under the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy.

In October Dr. Margaret McCaul visited Ohio and also the University of South Australia with her new sensor technology of heavy metals in water.



#DCUWaterCafe

We are really keen to welcome any interested DCU colleagues to talk to us about water, so we launched our Water Café in September 2018. This is a monthly informal event where each month we invite a speaker from an industry or society working with water, to talk to Water Institute members about their vision when it comes to water, the environment and sustainability. We have had some really interesting speakers such as Ben Johnson from Xylem Analytics and Geraldine Cusack, Business Analyst from Siemens. If you are interested in telling us what you do please let us know as we are always looking for speakers.



Shows, Festivals and Conferences

In 2018 we attended a range of shows, festivals and conferences to show case our skills and resources. In June, we displayed our marine technologies at Seafest in Galway where a team of our students showcased their studies and technologies relating to water.

The Ocean Wealth Summit was on at the same time so a vast amount of people got to see our projects and technologies. We also showcased at Inspirefest at the Bord Gais theatre, the speakers came from all over the world to talk about technology, design, science and the arts and there was over 3000 attendees and had some really interesting speakers. Dr Margaret McCaul and her team showcased an onsite mobile heavy metal analyser which got some really great publicity. The highlight of our year was World Water Week, held in Stockholm in August. This was a brilliant conference and if you have an interest in water we would highly recommend it for 2019. Organised by SIWI.org, it is an international conference with research, global issues and water topics all up for discussion. <http://www.worldwaterweek.org/world-water-week-2019-water-for-society-including-all/>

DCU Water Hosted Events

In May the 10th IPSW conference on passive sampling was hosted at DCU. The International Passive Sampling Workshop and Symposium was a great success. Over 100 delegates from across the world gathered to exchange their vast knowledge and expertise on passive sampling. More than 30 speakers have contributed to the workshop on a variety of topics ranging from field application of passive samplers to the impact they may have on environmental policy across Europe and the wider world.

Our artist in residence Pamela Heaney, visited again this year and we will host her in 2019 to communicate our science and engineering to new audiences, together with initiatives from Prof. Pat Brereton to reach different cohorts with water stories.

We also held a show case for our board members involving a 5 minute pitch from each of our members. The range and scope within the Institute is really vast and it enables us to have such amazing expertise in the Institute. Our partners Agilent, IBM and Arizona State University have featured strongly in 2018, demonstrating our aims to work internationally, with world leaders to enable change.

We are so delighted to see the direction we are taking in the Institute. We have many new committed members, a growing research base, > €2.5 million in funding this year, strengthening national and international reputation and great support within the university.



Prof. Fiona Regan Presents Plaque to Micheal Crean and Kathy Grassick from Agilent

#IamaDCUWaterSteward

It's hard to believe this that time 5 months ago we were having a severe drought across the country and there was numerous water usage bans effecting every single person and business in Ireland.

As this continued we started our own campaign conserving water on conserving water with the aim to inform students and staff and raise on campus awareness to think about using water before you use it.

This campaign picked up great interest from the students and we will continue with it into 2019 as drought summers are becoming a common occurrence throughout the world. Please follow our twitter on @dcuwater for updates on this campaign.

Media

We received some great coverage on Irish media over the last number of months relating to the water crisis especially during the summer. The summer drought meant we were called upon to talk on Matt Coopers Last Word and RTE's Drive Time. We also did a Brain Storm with RTE and had an excellent article from <https://www.rte.ie/eile/brainstorm/2018/0718/979578-why-has-a-wet-island-run-out-of-water/> and we also had an opinion piece for the Irish Times. <http://dcuwater.ie/2018/09/05/hosepipe-bans-are-too-little-too-late-read-prof-fiona-regan-director/>



Students Show Case at Seafest

