



**KTI**

Knowledge  
Transfer Ireland

**KTI  
IMPACT  
AWARDS  
2022**

**FINALISTS**

**#ktiawards**

Welcome to the

## **Knowledge Transfer Ireland Impact Awards 2022**

These awards showcase successes coming from Irish knowledge transfer carried out in Ireland's Higher Education Institutions and publicly funded research organisations for the wider benefit of the economy and society. Across three categories the awards recognise top performance in industry engagement and the commercialisation of research. In particular, the awards pay tribute to the network of Technology Transfer Offices supporting these successes. The awards acknowledge and celebrate the technology transfer offices and their staff who make this knowledge transfer happen.

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*Finalists are listed alphabetically by Higher Education Institution.*



## **Commercialisation Impact Award**

The commercialisation category acknowledges successes achieved either through the licensing of intellectual property or the creation of a spin-out company from publicly funded research performing organisations.

### **FINALISTS**

- Trinity College Dublin & SilverCloud Health Ltd
- University College Cork & Adiso Therapeutics
- University of Limerick & Class Medical Ltd

### **Trinity College Dublin & SilverCloud Health Ltd**

SilverCloud Health Ltd spun out from Trinity College Dublin in 2012 having developed a system that helps patients suffering with mental health conditions.

The company went on to build a unique team of researchers and entrepreneurs and raised \$26.2m in finance. In 2021, SilverCloud Health Ltd was acquired by US telehealth firm Amwell who made up the larger share of a combined deal valued at \$320 million. SilverCloud now employs more than 175 people worldwide, almost half of whom are based in Ireland and the company is positioned for significant further growth, with plans to launch 15 new apps this year.

The TTO at Trinity has supported SilverCloud since 2009, from inception through formation and onto acquisition. The TTO provided guidance on areas such as the protection and management of intellectual property and advice on contract drafting and shareholder agreements to help ensure the company had clear access to the relevant university IP.

## University College Cork & Adiso Therapeutics

Adiso Therapeutics was established in early 2022 when leading healthcare venture fund Morningside Ventures merged the UCC spinout company Artugen Therapeutics with another of its portfolio companies.

Adiso is developing therapies for patients with chronic and progressive inflammatory diseases including a potentially life-threatening bacterial infection called Clostridioides Difficile Infection (CDI). Adiso's treatment for CDI has been granted Fast Track FDA approval with other treatments developed by the company currently under clinical trial. Adiso is located in the National Food Innovation Hub, Teagasc Moorpark and retains a strong research collaboration with APC Microbiome Ireland. The company has raised a total of \$32m in capital to date.

The technology transfer office at University College Cork provided support to the company since the original spin out of Artugen from the university in 2016. The office also provided support throughout the negotiation process of an exclusive licence to the foundation IP as well as the Shareholders Agreement.

### University of Limerick & Class Medical Ltd

Class Medical spun out of the University of Limerick (UL) in 2014 and have developed a new Trans-Urethral Catheter Safety Valve (TUCSV) that can reduce the recurring problem of Catheter Balloon Injury which can occur during the common medical procedure of catheterisation.

The product launched on the Irish market in 2021 and this year the device has prevented around 30 patients in Ireland from severe injury. The company has raised over €2.5m in venture funding and has been awarded Enterprise Ireland HPSU Status. With the UK NHS performing 1.7 million catheterisations annually leading to a conservative estimate of 9,000 injuries per annum, there is significant market opportunity.

The TTO at University of Limerick provided extensive support to the company since its inception. This has included but is not limited to business plan development, negotiation of IP license agreements and IP management, assisting successful applications for funding and supporting applications for various awards.

## Industry Engagement Impact Award

This award category recognises successful research collaboration or consultancy projects between publicly-funded research performing organisations and their industry partners.

### FINALISTS

- Teagasc & Independent Milk Laboratories (IML),  
FBA Laboratories, Kerry Group (Agribusiness)
- Trinity College Dublin & Kerry Group PLC
- University of Limerick & Carbery Food  
Ingredients Ltd

## **Teagasc & Independent Milk Laboratories (IML), FBA Laboratories, Kerry Group (Agribusiness)**

Between 2020 and 2022 Independent Milk Laboratories, FBA Laboratories and Kerry Group (Agribusiness) together consulted with Teagasc in relation to specialist testing for chlorate residues.

These residues present potential health concerns for infants, that could have a negative bearing on Irish infant formula exports currently worth €1 billion annually. As the sole Irish provider of accredited chlorate testing, Teagasc worked with the companies to establish new analytical laboratories and provided bespoke training to staff in operation of equipment, test methods and data analysis. This has resulted in significant increased testing capacity for Kerry Group, FBA and IML with the two latter companies having collectively tested 800,000 samples and exceeded €1m revenue. Eight new jobs have been created as a result of the project and the consultancy has resulted in further collaboration with Teagasc. It has also set a precedent for Teagasc to develop specialised analytical tests for other Irish food processors that will provide revenues back to Teagasc that can be reinvested into R&D activities.

The TTO at Teagasc supported the capture and management of IP relating to the project. The office also ensured that licensing and consultancy negotiations were built on clear communication and trust amongst all partners which led to smooth running of the project.



### **Trinity College Dublin & Kerry Group PLC**

Kerry Group PLC develops, manufactures and delivers taste and nutrition solutions for the food, beverage and pharmaceutical industries globally.

In December 2021, based on the successful outcomes of a previous Innovation Partnership Programme with the university, Kerry Group entered into a three year 'Researchers-in-Residence' pilot programme with Trinity College Dublin. The programme immerses Kerry Group researchers in the lab at Trinity College Dublin and the work being undertaken is helping the company understand the synergies that exist between their current portfolio of products and new ingredients. The programme has also enabled the lab at Trinity to deepen its expertise and knowledge in the innate immune system as it applies to functional ingredients. Both parties are very keen to grow the programme and continue to build on the synergistic relationship between them.

The Technology Transfer Office at Trinity facilitated the initial engagement with Kerry Group Plc under the Innovation Partnership Programme and the ongoing relationship. The TTO has provided contract support, has managed negotiation support and is managing the licensing process to create a flexible and workable IP model for the 'Researchers-in-Residence' pilot programme that has been fundamental to its operation.

### **University of Limerick & Carbery Food Ingredients Ltd**

Carbery Food Ingredients Ltd, owned by farmers of West Cork, is an Irish based multinational food ingredients company.

In 2017, the company was interested in developing a new sports nutrition product and engaged the University of Limerick in a wholly funded industry collaboration. The combination of scientific expertise from within the university and company in-house product development, customer and marketplace knowledge, positioned Carbery to launch a new product to market in 2021. The product, Optipep 4Power, is a whey protein product for use in high-intensity interval training. Carbery sees this as a potential game changer for brands providing targeted nutritional solutions to consumers participating in sports such as CrossFit, sprinting, wrestling and MMA. The success of this project has resulted in Carbery's longstanding engagement with UL through the Dairy Process Technology Centre and Food for Health Ireland. It has also resulted in Carbery engaging UL on several other research projects.

The TTO in UL was involved from the outset of the engagement between the company and university through to product launch. The office advised on the most suitable funding arrangement and setting out the intellectual property derived from the engagement. The office also provided project management support throughout helping to manage expectations, project outputs and the relationship with the company.

## **Future Forward Impact Award**

The Future Forward award recognised instances where there is a promise of impact from industry engagement or commercialisation but it is likely to take some time to deliver.

### **FINALISTS**

- Trinity College Dublin & ProVerum
- University College Dublin & PlasmaBound
- University of Galway & Relevium

## Trinity College Dublin & ProVerum

Trinity spin-out ProVerum is developing ProVee, a first-in-class medical device to treat BPH, a debilitating urinary condition that is extremely common, occurring in 25% of all men aged over 50.

The ProVee device is a stent like expander designed to gently open the obstructed urethra without heating, piercing, cutting or removing part of the prostate. In 2021 and 2022, ProVerum made exceptional progress to address huge societal need and market, completing a first-in-man trial, receiving FDA approval to initiate a 225 subject pivotal study and enrolling the first patient in July 2022. ProVerum announced €30m in Series A funding in January 2022 to support these trials, adding to the €10.5m in seed funding from the University Bridge Fund, Enterprise Ireland, Halo Business Angel Network and Irrus Investment. Separate to equity funding ProVerum won a €2.5m non-dilutive research award from the European Innovation Council in 2021 and with TDC was awarded €2.94m under the Disruptive Technologies Innovation Fund in 2021. The company employs 25 people and is positioned to scale.

From the early foundations of the company, the TTO at Trinity College Dublin has provided support and expertise around IP protection, licensing negotiations and the spin-out process. The TTO continues to work with ProVerum.

## University College Dublin & PlasmaBound

PlasmaBound has developed a ground-breaking, environmentally friendly, lightweight composite bonding technology that poses real potential as a key solution in advanced manufacturing.

The material is set to bring about a step-change in manufacturing as it not only protects the environment, reduces waste and reduces energy consumption but also eliminates the need for manual interventions and is virtually waste free. It is also compatible with future recyclable thermoplastics. Since spinning out from University College Dublin in 2017, the company has raised nearly €3.5m in two investment rounds, most recently €2.35m in investment led by Act Venture Capital supported by the Atlantic Bridge University Fund, Enterprise Ireland and a number of private investors in early 2022. PlasmaBound has grown from 3 to 15 employees, become an approved supplier for the European Space Agency and is currently undertaking validation trials with 30 Tier 1 global companies across different industry sectors.

The Technology Transfer Office at UCD worked closely with researchers to secure the Commercialisation Fund and help manage the project that led to the development of the technology that underpins this company. The TTO has supported in the identification and protection of IP by developing a patent strategy, engaging with industry partners to ensure the IP wasn't encumbered, and providing negotiation and licensing support throughout the spin-out process.

## University of Galway & Relevium

Relevium's company's proprietary technology, Peptiflex, is the first of its kind and offers pain relief to those suffering from knee osteoarthritis whilst also lubricating and protecting the knee joint.

Knee osteoarthritis is a leading cause of disability with more than 560 million people suffering from the condition worldwide and no adequate treatment available at present. Having received SFI and ERC funding, Relevium's technology underwent extensive proof-of-concept testing which demonstrated long lasting pain relief superior to the current treatment. In 2021, Relevium was one of 42 companies to be awarded funding under the first European EIC transition call. It received over €2m to develop its triple action injectable treatment. In early 2022, Relevium was accepted onto the American Y Combinator accelerator summer programme that helps companies refine products and prepare for fundraising. Positioned for growth the company Relevium has the potential to create a number of highly skills jobs across engineering, pharmaceuticals and industrial biopharma.

The TTO at the University of Galway has been central to Relevium's journey. The office supported the company's process of spinning out and has provided advice and support around intellectual property strategy development, IP protection and management. The TTO has also provided support in building out the company structure and their work in encouraging female founders.

# Judging Panel 2022

## **Declan O'Mahoney**

Entrepreneur-in-Residence at the Tyndall National Institute, Chairman of Equal1 and Board Member for a number of other spin-out companies.

## **Elaine Berkery**

Director at Eastway Tech with responsibility for industry and academic research as well as global expansion.

## **Almesha Campbell**

Assistant Vice President for Research and Economic Development at Jackson State University (JSU) & Chair-Elect of US technology transfer association AUTM.

## **Tim Conlon**

Head of Policy & Strategic Planning, International Programmes & Gender Equality at Ireland's Higher Education Authority (HEA)

## **Christophe Haunold**

Head of the Central Office for Partnerships, Knowledge and Technology Transfer at the University of Luxembourg.

## **Sue Sundstrom**

Executive Director at Sundstrom Innovation & Director of the Praxis Auril Fundamentals of Technology Transfer programme in the UK.

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### **Panel Chair:**

Imelda Lambkin, Manager Knowledge Transfer Ireland