



KTI

Knowledge Transfer Ireland
Where Research & Business Connect

#ktiawards

KTI
IMPACT
AWARDS
2017



The KTI Impact Awards recognise and showcase the success in knowledge transfer carried out in Irish Higher Education Institutes and in publicly funded research organisations for the wider benefit of the economy and society.

Across seven categories this year, the awards recognise top performance in industry engagement and commercialisation of research. They pay tribute to the businesses and research organisations involved in this process of knowledge transfer. The awards also acknowledge and celebrate the technology transfer offices, industry liaison offices and their staff who make this knowledge transfer happen.

Finalists are listed alphabetically by RPO.

KTI Impact Awards 2017 Judging Panel

Alison Campbell

Director KTI (Panel Chair)

Mark Gantly

Managing Director, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Galway, Ireland

Anders Haugland

Managing Director, Bergen Teknologioverforing, Norway

Bill Kearney

VP Ireland Lab and Dublin Campus, IBM Analytics Group, Ireland

Laura MacDonald

General Manager, ASTP Proton, Knowledge Transfer Europe

David Owen

Chair of the Life Sciences Bridging Fund, Wales

Koen Verhoef

Head of the Technology Transfer Office, Netherlands Cancer Institute, Netherlands

Categories 2017



04
Collaborative
Research Award



06
Consultancy
Award



08
Licence2Market
Award



10
Spin-out Company
Award



12
Mature Spin-out
Company Award



14
Knowledge Transfer
Initiative of the
Year Award



16
Knowledge Transfer
Achiever of the
Year Award



Collaborative Research Award

The Collaborative Research Award recognises successful research collaborations between Irish publicly-funded research performing organisations (RPOs) and the business community. Through working on research problems of mutual interest, there will have been a demonstrable impact both for the company and the RPO. Those shortlisted have all shown a significant event for the company that occurred in 2016, which is related to the collaboration. The collaboration itself may have occurred in prior years.

Dublin City University collaborating with Croke Park, Intel Ireland & Microsoft Ireland Principal Investigator: Prof Noel O'Connor

DCU began working with Intel Ireland and Croke Park in 2014 on its Smart Stadium Initiative aimed at establishing a national test bed for Internet of Things (IoT) technologies.

The collaborative project was directly funded by Intel whose researchers worked closely with DCU researchers to develop a number of demonstrator projects that could be showcased in Croke Park in 2015. This led to Microsoft joining the research collaboration, providing additional funding and access to their Azure cloud infrastructure. This was a major breakthrough as the combination of the Azure cloud with Intel's newly scaled sensor network, Croke Park's IT infrastructure and DCU's analytics provided a complete end-to-end IoT pipeline. The establishment of the test bed at Croke Park has enabled extensive company engagement leading to the noise monitoring company, Sonitus, becoming the first of more than 30 trial users. It has also enabled development of a commercial product by Intel that is now showcased in Croke Park. DCU's relationships with Intel, Microsoft and Croke Park are strengthened as a result of the project with ongoing engagements and research being carried out with each of the partners. In 2016 Microsoft invested in a dedicated Project Manager through DCU and Croke Park began funding a separate research collaboration with DCU. The profile of the project has enhanced DCU's reputation for collaboration and has resulted in increased company interest in the field for the university. And of course, DCU's researchers now have access to a state of the art test facility.

UNDERPINNING FUNDING SOURCES INCLUDE

Industry Funding, Enterprise Ireland, Science Foundation Ireland

TTO/ILO SUPPORT

Relationship Management, Contract Support & Negotiation, Licensing

**Dublin Institute of Technology
collaborating with C&F Group**
Principal Investigator: Dr Brendan Duffy

C&F Group is an Irish global manufacturer of automotive, information technology, air conditioning, refrigeration and wind generation products.

Clients of the company include Volvo, Volkswagen, Daimler, IBM and EMC. C&F wanted to develop a durable surface coating that could be applied to external aluminium car trim parts and met with car manufacturer specifications. Facilitated by DIT Hothouse (the technology transfer office at DIT), the company entered into a research collaboration with DIT's Centre for Research in Engineering Surface Technology (CREST) which resulted in the development of an innovative sol-gel surface coating technology called Dualion. As part of the collaboration arrangement, DIT sought patent protection for the new technology which it licensed to C&F Group. DIT Hothouse also assisted the company to find a scale-up production partner, T.E. Laboratories. Based on the production of Dualion, T.E. Laboratories has been able to invest in a new production line to deliver scale up coatings. This has attracted €multi-millions in new business for T.E. Laboratories. According to C&F Group, through development of the Dualion technology, 50 jobs will be retained in Ireland and it is estimated that the company will generate €10m - €20m annually at full production. As a result of the development of the technology underpinning Dualion further projects have been secured for the CREST team at DIT in other industries such as aerospace, medical devices and electronics, worth around €0.5m in research funding. The partnership between the two companies and DIT Hothouse continues with new contracts secured for 2017 to assist in manufacturing scale-up.

UNDERPINNING FUNDING SOURCES INCLUDE

Enterprise Ireland

TTO/ILO SUPPORT

Relationship Management, Contract Support & Negotiation, Intellectual Property Strategy & Management, Licensing

**Trinity College Dublin collaborating
with Ceramicx Ireland Ltd**
Principal Investigator: Dr Tony Robinson

Ceramicx designs and manufactures infrared heating elements and complete turnkey infrared heating systems and ovens for industrial and commercial applications.

Ceramicx's products are increasingly used in industries such as aerospace, automotive and packaging across a range of applications and industrial processes. Ceramicx had identified challenges around the lack of available infrared science and engineering expertise in Ireland that could be brought in-house, particularly relating to measurement equipment to support customer's application demands. With the research expertise at Trinity College Dublin, Ceramicx was able to collaborate with the University to develop the world's first instrument capable of measuring and mapping the previously invisible infrared (IR) radiation field in 3D space. This test instrument, named the Herschel, is now serving all manner of industries for Ceramicx in predictive IR heat and oven design. It effectively enables composite and thermoformed plastic parts to be brought to market with low energy input, low product cost and improved lead time. As a result, Ceramicx has attracted new business and closed out 2016 with a 32% increase in sales compared with 2015. The number of employees at the company has increased from 42 to 63 since the project began in 2012. Ceramicx implemented a new strategic vision in 2016 that includes a €3+m investment in its facilities to be completed by October 2017. The development of the Herschel has led to significant profiling for the team at Trinity College Dublin. It has also led to several follow-on projects between the company and the University. Dr Cathal Wilson from the company has been appointed Adjunct Assistant Professor at Trinity where he lectures on technology deployment.

UNDERPINNING FUNDING SOURCES INCLUDE

Enterprise Ireland

TTO/ILO SUPPORT

Relationship Management, Contract Support & Negotiation, Intellectual Property Strategy & Management, Licensing, Funding Advice



Consultancy Award

The Consultancy Award recognises consultancy provided through an Irish publicly-funded research performing organisation (RPO), by its researchers, to a business or public sector organisation. The consultancy activity will have resulted in a demonstrable economic and/or public benefit. Recognising that it can take some time from providing the consultancy support to achieving an outcome, the consulting engagements put forward for this award may have taken place within the past five years.

Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and Bruin Biometrics

Prof Zena Moore

Bruin Biometrics (BBI) is a medical device company whose most advanced product, the SEM Scanner™, seeks to overcome the limitations associated with current standard of care in pressure ulcer prevention.

Pressure ulcers, also known as bedsores, can range in severity from patches of discoloured skin to open wounds. Around 1 in 20 people admitted to an Irish hospital with an acute illness will develop a pressure ulcer. Bruin Biometrics (BBI) is a medical device company whose most advanced product, the SEM Scanner™, seeks to overcome the limitations associated with current standard of care in pressure ulcer prevention through early detection of tissue damage which is unable to be seen by the naked eye. Motivated by her international profile and publication record in the field, BBI engaged RCSI's Prof Zena Moore to undertake a systematic literature review of the clinical utility of technology-assisted early detection of pressure ulcer development. Subsequently, BBI engaged Prof Moore's group to provide advice, assist in the design and ultimately perform an exploratory patient study within the Irish Healthcare system to determine the performance of the BBI SEM Scanner™ in early detection of Pressure Ulcers compared to current standard of care. This has led to wider clinical adoption of the scanner and the company announcing in 2016 the initiation of a multi-centre, pivotal clinical trial. BBI expects the scanner to be launched in the US in 2017 subject to FDA approval. Strongly supported by the Office of Research and Innovation at RCSI, BBI's engagement with Prof Moore's group has grown significantly into a substantial and strategically important research relationship and enhanced the ability of the group to attract funding from other sources.

UNDERPINNING FUNDING SOURCES INCLUDE

N/A

TTO/ILO SUPPORT

Relationship Management, Contract Support & Negotiation

**University of Limerick and Rusal
Aughinish Alumina**
Dr Vincent Cregan

**Waterford Institute of Technology
and Keltech**
Dr Patrick Lynch

The Rusal Aughinish Alumina (AAL) plant in Limerick extracts alumina from bauxite using the Bayer Process and is one of the world's most energy efficient alumina refineries globally.

AAL has a long-standing relationship with the Mathematics Applications Consortium for Science and Industry (MACSI) at UL with whom they have successfully collaborated for over 10 years on a number of research projects. AAL sought to improve predictions of product quality five days in advance to address the fact that system events meant the plant could lose power directly impacting product quality. AAL engaged the MACSI team on a piece of consultancy tasking MACSI with improving the prediction process. To do this MACSI developed mathematical and statistical models for process understanding that combine first principles simulation and data driven stochastic dynamics. The project resulted in a 200% increase in the accuracy of prediction of product quality, enhancing the overall efficiency of the plant and supporting AAL decision making. The two algorithms developed under the consultancy engagement have been implemented by the company and are in daily use. This project has had a major impact on the MACSI team at UL whose skills have been enriched by applying mathematical techniques to real world industrial problems. It enabled two-way knowledge transfer between the parties through staff exchanges and joint workshops. AAL, MACSI and UL continue to work together with this project having contributed to the development of a new SFI-funded research agreement in 2016 and a new project between AAL, UL and Imperial College London.

Today Keltech is one of the largest indigenous contract manufacturing outsourcing (CMO) partners in Ireland. Keltech's clients are Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) that outsource the sub-assembly manufacturing process to Keltech for integration into their main production line.

Contracting of integrated assemblies accrues numerous benefits to the OEM including cost savings, improved material flow, enhanced quality and increased responsiveness to customer demand. Back in 2014, Keltech was operating as a sub-contractor in a hyper-competitive, cost-based pricing industry and faced falling sales due to several contributing factors. They required a business transformation to scale profitability and ensure sustainability. Keltech engaged RIKON at Waterford Institute of Technology in a consultancy project that developed an innovative strategic vision to move the company from sub-contractor to contract manufacturer and outsourcing partner. This gave rise to a huge business transformation for Keltech that has resulted in double the number of contracts secured and an increased turnover of 21% for the company in 2016, with a projected 33% increase in turnover in 2017. In scaling up, Keltech has undergone a full re-brand and has increased its workforce from 100 to 130 staff, with 20 more new jobs being created in the next two months. As a result of the project, RIKON has diversified the industries with which it engages – whereas 70% were previously from the services industry, it is expected that in 2017 half will be in the manufacturing sector. Keltech and RIKON at the Waterford Institute of Technology continue to work together.

UNDERPINNING FUNDING SOURCES INCLUDE

Science Foundation Ireland

TTO/ILO SUPPORT

Relationship Management, Contract Support & Negotiation

UNDERPINNING FUNDING SOURCES INCLUDE

N/A

TTO/ILO SUPPORT

Relationship Management, Contract Support & Negotiation



Licence2Market Award

The Licence2Market Award is given in respect of a product or service that is active on the market or delivering customer benefit and value to the licensee. The product or service must be based on a licence to intellectual property rights (IPR) from an Irish publicly-funded research performing organisation (RPO). The product or service must have reached the market in 2016. Recognising that in some sectors it takes time for products or services to come to the market, the execution of the underpinning licence may go back several years.

Dublin City University

Translation Memory Software Licence to Xcelerator Machine Translations Ltd

KantanMT is a statistical machine translation platform owned and provided by Xcelerator Machine Translations.

The platform enables users to develop and manage domain customised machine translation engines in the cloud. It uses the computing power, scalability and economics of cloud computing to deliver higher quality, machine generated translations of online product catalogues, user generated content, help documentation and more. As a fledgling start-up company, KantanMT was based in the Invent centre at DCU and collaborating with researchers in the SFI Centre for Next Generation Localisation (now ADAPT) CSET at DCU School of Computing. The software arose from this collaboration and the technology transfer team at Invent DCU negotiated a licence to the IP with the company. The company has publicly referred to the professional and responsive service from the TT team at Invent DCU during these negotiations. Xcelerator has grown quickly since its inception in 2011 and works with some of the world's leading brands. In 2016, KantanMT continued to innovate by adding and enhancing unique client customisation features and the company increased its customer base by over 130% compared to 2015. This project has been instrumental in positioning ADAPT and DCU as a centre of excellence for providing tools and solutions for the machine translation sector. Since licensing the software from the ADAPT Centre, KantanMT.com has continued to collaborate with the university on several research projects underpinned by a continued and strong relationship with the TTO.

UNDERPINNING FUNDING SOURCES INCLUDE

Enterprise Ireland, Science Foundation Ireland

TTO/ILO SUPPORT

Relationship Management, Contract Support & Negotiation, Intellectual Property Strategy & Management, Licensing

Teagasc

Cheese-Making Technology Licence to Ornu Cooperative Ltd

Teagasc has developed a platform technology that marks a new approach to cheese manufacturing by allowing cheese to be produced from reassembled milk without whey expulsion.

This opens the door to manufacturing cheeses in territories with shortage of fresh milk supply. The technology has been filed for patent and was licensed by Teagasc to Ornu Cooperative Ltd in 2012. Ornu Cooperative is an agri-food commercial cooperative that markets and sells dairy products on behalf of Irish dairy processors and dairy farmers. It is Ireland's largest exporter of dairy products. In engaging with the technology transfer office and researchers at Teagasc, the company foresaw potential to increase exports and routes to market for Irish dairy ingredients by exploiting the technology to make cheeses in the Middle East. The licence from Teagasc gave patent and know-how rights to Ornu for the manufacture of a range of white cheeses for the Middle Eastern markets. In March 2016, following a series of trials, prototype development and product validations and as a result of the technology licensed from Teagasc, Ornu opened a cheese manufacturing plant in Saudi Arabia launching its first product range shortly thereafter. Following positive customer feedback and with plans to extend its product range in 2017, Ornu have strong growth plans to fill the capacity of the €multi-million plant over the coming 5 years. The licence of this technology has provided valuable learnings to the relatively young TTO at Teagasc who is due to receive its first royalties on sales in 2017. The office continues its relationship with Ornu by managing the reporting and financial obligations of the licence and new collaborative projects resulting from this successful project.

UNDERPINNING FUNDING SOURCES INCLUDE

Dairy Levy Fund, Enterprise Ireland

TTO/ILO SUPPORT

Relationship Management, Contract Support & Negotiation, Intellectual Property Strategy & Management, Licensing

Trinity College Dublin

Digital Student ID Software Licence to iDly

iDly is a Software as a Service company offering digital identification services.

The project that gave rise to the 'Trinity Digital Student ID' software was funded using internal Trinity resources and delivered by Trinity IT Services in conjunction with the iDly team, a Trinity College Dublin student team. The exclusive licence to the software from Trinity was instrumental in allowing the company to form and to secure funding for further technology development in the field of identification. The software was developed as a promising solution to the problem of identity confirmation when a student mislaid their physical ID but it became apparent that the solution was useful in a wide range of identity-requiring situations. The company made its first sale in 2016 to University College Cork where the product will be deployed in 2017 and has a strong pipeline of other universities in Ireland and the UK as well as clients in other sectors such as healthcare, politics and entertainment. The company plans to grow its team from 3 to 7 in 2017 and is in the process of further fund-raising to deploy its products to new customers in new sectors. Media coverage on iDly has assisted in profiling Trinity's ability to source, develop and commercialise new ideas from entrepreneurs and to raise the profile of the TTO and of commercialisation within the student population.

UNDERPINNING FUNDING SOURCES INCLUDE

Enterprise Ireland, Trinity Provost's Fund

TTO/ILO SUPPORT

Company Formation Support, Contract Support & Negotiation, Intellectual Property Strategy & Management, Licensing



Spin-out Company Award

This award recognises a spin-out company from an Irish publicly-funded research performing organisation (RPO) that has achieved a successful and significant event in 2016. The award celebrates both the company success and its heritage in the RPO, including the support provided by the TTO. A spin-out company is one that is based on RPO research and at the time of formation was dependent on the exploitation of specific intellectual property rights (IPR) of the RPO. The RPO may have, or have had, equity in the spin-out and will have licensed IPR to the company.

Dublin Institute of Technology and Kastus

Academic Founder: Dr Brendan Duffy

The creation of Kastus was the culmination of twelve years' research at DIT CREST, an Enterprise Ireland Gateway.

DIT Hothouse, the TTO at DIT, took a rigorous evaluation of commercialisation options prior to spinning out Kastus in 2013 as the best vehicle to exploit innovative surface coating technologies produced by CREST. Kastus has now been granted three licences from DIT, to the core technology and to additional specific additives and coatings. The core licence is to a coating which is an effective and practical antimicrobial that can be used to combat the spread of superbugs. Superbugs are predicted to kill 10 million people worldwide every year by 2050. The Kastus coating can be sprayed onto any glass, ceramic or metallic surface during the production process, rendering the surface 99.99 per cent resistance to superbugs like MRSA, Ecoli and other fungi. In 2016, the company was successful in securing €1.5m in investment from a round led by the Atlantic Bridge University Fund. As a result of the investment the company plans to expand its headcount to 50-75 people in three years and has €multi-million revenue projections . Kastus has now established offices at the new DIT Hothouse Incubator in Grangegorman, accessing wet lab and incubator space. Kastus continues its links with DIT through ongoing development projects with the CREST team supported by DIT Hothouse and through employment opportunities for DIT researchers. The success of the spin-out has led to increased interest and further engagements between CREST and potential entrepreneurs at DIT eager to follow in its path.

UNDERPINNING FUNDING SOURCES INCLUDE

Enterprise Ireland, Atlantic Bridge University Fund

TTO/ILO SUPPORT

Relationship Management, Contract Support & Negotiation, Intellectual Property Strategy & Management, Access to Facilities and Equipment, Licensing

Dundalk Institute of Technology and Nova Leah Ltd

Academic Founder: Dr Anita Finnegan

Founded in March 2016, Nova Leah spun out from the Regulated Software Research Centre (RSRC) at Dundalk Institute of Technology.

The RSRC is part of the School of Informatics and Creative Arts and has a long-standing international reputation for excellence in medical device software and healthcare technology solutions development. Two major trends in medical devices over the past few years have been the proliferation of software in devices and the interoperability of devices through remote access or connected IT frameworks. Both of these trends have led to the increased threat of cyber-hacking of these devices. With a licence to the underpinning technology from DkIT, Nova offers an expert cybersecurity risk analysis system called SelectEvidence®. This is the first of its kind, providing medical device manufactures with an automated solution for implementing and maintaining cybersecurity requirements across medical device product portfolios from the design stage throughout the product lifecycle. Although early days for the company, employees have already increased from one to three and the company has received investment of over €500k from a combination of US venture capital and HPSU funding from Enterprise Ireland. Nova Leah received its first commercial order in December 2016 from a Fortune 500 company with a commitment to further orders in 2017. The performance of Nova Leah has had a significant and positive impact on the reputation of the Regulated Software Research Centre at DkIT that has increased interest from other companies in the centre. There is also ongoing and regular interaction between Nova Leah and the teams at DkIT.

UNDERPINNING FUNDING SOURCES INCLUDE

Enterprise Ireland

TTO/ILO SUPPORT

Relationship Management, Contract Support & Negotiation, Intellectual Property Strategy & Management, Licensing

NUI Galway - NVP Energy

Academic Founder:
Prof Vincent O'Flaherty

Spinning-out from NUI Galway in 2013, NVP Energy (NVPE) was formed to commercialise a first-to-market wastewater treatment technology that addresses the treatment of wastewater at a fraction of the cost of other technologies available.

Key target markets are the global Food & Drink Industries and global Municipal Wastewater industry. Originally developed by Professor Vincent O'Flaherty and his team at NUIG's School of Natural Sciences, the technology was exclusively licensed to NVPE by the TTO. Through NVPE's further development and deployment, the technology is an off-site manufactured modular system that can dramatically reduce operating costs and generate energy as a by-product in the form of exceptionally high quality biogas to generate heat/electricity on site. This offers a compelling payback averaging 3 years. Since April 2016, NVPE has been successfully operating its first full-scale solution in the meat processing site of ABP Food Group, has a second project going operational with Arrabawn Dairies Group, and expects third and fourth contracts to be secured during 2017. On the back of progress to date NVPE has expanded its workforce to 12 people. It has secured a series of grants in Ireland, UK and from EU Horizon 2020 in 2016. Recent awards include the SEAI Sustainable Energy Award and Shell Springboard Award. These grants and awards have had a positive impact on NUIG's reputation as a leader in the field of wastewater treatment research. NVPE's success has contributed to the original inventor spinning out another company from the university and the relationship between the company and NUIG continues to go from strength to strength.

UNDERPINNING FUNDING SOURCES INCLUDE

IRC, Enterprise Ireland, EPA, Horizon 2020

TTO/ILO SUPPORT

Contract Support & Negotiation, Intellectual Property Strategy & Management, Licensing



Mature Spin-out Company Award

This year there is again a separate award category recognising spin-out companies that are at a later stage of corporate development. As with the Spin-out Company Award, this category celebrates both the company successes in 2016 and its heritage in the RPO, including the support provided by the TTO.

University College Cork - InfiniLED Ltd
Academic Founders: Mr Brian Corbett,
Mr Pleun Maaskant

Inorganic LED Displays (iLED Displays) are the next generation of energy-efficient display technology for applications ranging from wearables to TVs.

InfiniLED Ltd was spun out of UCC's Tyndall National Institute in 2011 with a focus on creating low power microLED display technology. Based on patented technology licensed from UCC, the company has developed arrays of microLEDs that offer 20 - 40 times reduction in power consumption. The success of the technology product development by InfiniLED was validated by the multi-million Euro acquisition of the company by the Facebook-owned virtual reality company Oculus in August 2016. This represents significant inward investment into Cork and is supporting high quality job creation for the region. Oculus, headquartered in the US, is developing its research arm in Ireland which will grow from the InfiniLED base and the company is currently recruiting nine senior engineers. As a result of the acquisition, the university has been able to reinvest in the research team and broader commercialisation of the technology. In turn, this enables the microLED research team at UCC to stay in continuous engagement with relevant industry sectors. The technology transfer office at UCC has been involved with InfiniLED from inception through to licensing and in providing support during the acquisition process.

UNDERPINNING FUNDING SOURCES INCLUDE

Enterprise Ireland

TTO/ILO SUPPORT

Relationship Management, Company Formation Support, Contract Support & Negotiation, Intellectual Property Strategy & Management, Licensing

**University College Dublin -
Equinome / Plusvital**
Academic Founder: Prof Emmeline Hill

Equinome Ltd spun out from UCD in 2010, with a licence to a range of IP in the field of genetics.

The company's flagship product, the Speed Gene Test, revolutionised the global bloodstock industry by allowing breeders to maximise the commercial value of their horses. The company also launched the world's first online marketing platform for the trading of genomic information enabling buyers to purchase genetic profile information for horses in advance of auctions. In 2015, Equinome merged with Plusvital in a €multi-million cash and equity deal which leveraged the strengths of both entities. The new company now offers a range of nutritional products and genetic tests and plans to deliver innovative services in equine performance and health management including the emerging field of nutrigenomics. As a result of the merger, that included an investment by Plusvital into equine science research, the company has seen great success in 2016. Equinome-Plusvital created eight new positions, six in R&D and has plans to further increase the workforce from 21 to over 35 by the end of 2017. Four new products launched in 2016 based on original technologies and those developed by Plusvital's research scientists. The company has also expanded into the US where it has opened a permanent sales office. Impacts on UCD resulting from the success of this spin-out company include reputational enhancement for the university, job creation for graduates, public outreach via media profiling and economic benefit to the university from the merger. The TTO continues to engage with and support Plusvital in its ongoing activity.

UNDERPINNING FUNDING SOURCES INCLUDE

Science Foundation Ireland, Private investment

TTO/ILO SUPPORT

Relationship Management, Company Formation Support, Contract Support & Negotiation, Intellectual Property Strategy & Management, Access to Facilities and Equipment, Licensing

**Trinity College Dublin - Solvotrin
Therapeutics Ltd**
Academic Founder: Prof John Gilmer

Solvotrin Therapeutics is a healthcare and medicines development spin-out company from Trinity College Dublin focused on optimising established therapies, vitamins and minerals for significant unmet clinical needs.

The company was formed to commercialise a Trinity platform technology of salicylate and niacin pro-drugs that are backed by a family of granted and pending patents. The platform has applications in inflammatory diseases, cholesterol control and cancer. In 2016, Solvotrin launched its lead product, Active Iron, in partnership with the Boots Pharmacy chain in Ireland and the UK. Active Iron is a ferrous sulphate supplement with a unique, protected formulation that boosts iron absorption while improving gastrointestinal tolerability and the taste characteristics of oral iron. The product has been clinically proven to outperform market-leading oral iron supplements in an iron deficiency market worth more than \$10bn. On back of the global market potential for the product, the company secured its first phase of an investment round of €8m in late 2016 and expanded its workforce from 8 to 15. The Technology Transfer Office at Trinity has provided a range of supports to the company since its formation and there is continued engagement in the form of several licensing arrangements to underpin commercialisation in the fields of heart failure, psoriasis, platelet research and cancer. In addition, the company has made a major investment in the research infrastructure of the School of Pharmacy and Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute to assist with product development.

UNDERPINNING FUNDING SOURCES INCLUDE

Enterprise Ireland, InterTrade Ireland, Science Foundation Ireland

TTO/ILO SUPPORT

Relationship Management, Contract Support & Negotiation, Intellectual Property Strategy & Management, Licensing



Knowledge Transfer Initiative of the Year Award

The Knowledge Transfer Initiative of the Year Award recognises a commitment to the continuous development within the Technology Transfer Office (TTO) or Industry Liaison Office (ILO). The scope of the initiative is broad and for the TTO to define and it should reflect how the TTO is pushing forward with knowledge transfer.

NUI Galway BioInnovate Ireland

BioInnovate Ireland is a national medical technologies innovation programme led by NUI Galway.

The programme, formed in 2011, is supported by Enterprise Ireland, the Irish MedTech Association, EIT Health and companies including Boston Scientific, Medtronic, Creganna-Tactx Medical, Steripack, Lake Region Medical and Ernst & Young. The focus of BioInnovate is to employ needs-led innovation to foster the formation of new start-up companies and support and encourage research in the MedTech sector. The model used in BioInnovate combines design thinking and entrepreneurship. The TTO at NUI Galway provided high level support to BioInnovate Fellows throughout the programme. Successes from the programme include: 10 patent applications, 14 technologies in funded development phases, €8.5m in associated research income, over €1m in corporate sponsorship and 5 spin-out companies. In 2016, one of the programme's spin-out companies, Embo Medical, was acquired for €44m. Embo Medical is based on licensed technology from NUI Galway. The programme was the winner of the Academic Contribution to MedTech category 2016 by the Irish MedTech Association.

UNDERPINNING FUNDING SOURCES INCLUDE

Enterprise Ireland, EIT Health and companies including Boston Scientific, Medtronic, Creganna Medical, Ernst & Young

Trinity College Dublin & University College Dublin University Bridge Fund

The University Bridge Fund was launched in 2016 following a three-year development phase.

The €60m fund focuses on investment in research and intellectual property coming out of the Irish Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), aiming to create quality high potential start-ups and to support scaling and internationalisation. Already six investments have been made. This fund was initiated by UCD and Trinity College Dublin to enable earlier investment in science based companies, to build executive teams and to have the capacity to follow the investment – all identified as major gaps in the national ecosystem. The fund is available to all HEIs and there is now a dedicated interface between one of Europe's leading venture capital companies, Atlantic Bridge, and the Irish higher education system. Half of the fund has been committed by the European Investment Fund, independently validating both the quality of research in Ireland and its commercial potential. Recognising that such a fund could not work with one university alone, the partnership between Trinity and UCD was pivotal. It demonstrates what is possible when there is collaboration and shared leadership across HEIs and TTOs. Since the fund launched, both universities have seen increased engagement from other VCs. The fund has also significantly moved both universities in the role they play in commercialisation and research impact and shows how universities are positioning themselves as socio-economic engines for Ireland.

UNDERPINNING FUNDING SOURCES INCLUDE
Enterprise Ireland

University of Limerick International Business Centre

The UL TTO has created a dedicated Industry Collaboration Space called the International Business Centre (IBC) in the heart of the UL campus.

The IBC was developed as a focal point for on-campus industry collaboration. It has become an engine for university–industry collaboration and high value job creation through hosting R&D intensive organisations, TTO facilitated linkages into UL and Ireland's R&D infrastructure, providing space for start-up company scaling. The centre houses over 150 on-campus personnel employed by companies operating under the IBC umbrella. Initiatives driven by the centre have resulted in €1.8m of collaborative research funding between UL and companies. There have been 21 funded PhD and Masters scholarships awarded as well as several other sponsored initiatives. In 2016, the IBC had a milestone year during which all the initial objectives of the centre were met. These included the housing of three blue-chip, R&D engaged companies who became operational under the initiative and two Nexus Innovation Centre clients graduating to the dedicated IBC buildings. The TTO at UL has led the IBC initiative from the outset and been instrumental in its successes to date by targeting and facilitating companies locating at the centre and facilitating collaborative research projects between UL and the companies at the centre including ACE, Stryker and Johnson & Johnson.

UNDERPINNING FUNDING SOURCES INCLUDE
Enterprise Ireland, UL Foundation, Industry Funding



Knowledge Transfer Achiever of the Year Award

The Knowledge Transfer Achiever of the Year Award recognises the personal achievement of a staff member in a TTO or ILO who has made a significant contribution to the business of that office. This category is open to any individual based at the TTO or ILO who is below Director or Head of Technology Transfer level. The Achievers may be nominated by their peers or managers and the nominated person must hold a current post within the office in 2017. There is no shortlist for this category. The winner is announced at the awards ceremony.

KTI Knowledge Transfer Ireland
Enterprise Ireland, The Plaza,
East Point Business Park, Dublin 3.

T +353 (0)1 727 2000

E kti@knowledgetransferireland.com

W knowledgetransferireland.com

 **ENTERPRISE
IRELAND**
where innovation means business

 **IRISH
UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION**