

Press Release

14 April 2014

Mark Makes Science Understandable to All

Congratulations to physics student, Mark Kennedy, the winner of this year's UCC Science for All postgraduate presentation competition.

Mark, a native, of Tramore, Co. Waterford, described his research which tackles how to measure the mass of a neutron star. His enthusiasm for neutron stars and black holes was very evident in his ten minute presentation that could be easily understood by the general public audience.

All five finalists gave fascinating talks which covered fascinating research, from Maria Donovan, who is developing improved treatments for neonatal seizures to Cian Hill who analyses the bacteria found in babies' nappies; from Matteo Pusceddu who looks at how omega-3 fats can impact on stress to Ruairi Robertson, who researches how seaweed can protect probiotics.

John Dolan, Chairman of the judges and Features Editor at the Evening Echo, commented "the standard was extremely high; it was very difficult to pick a winner."

Dr Angela Sheehan of UCC's Food Industry Training Unit and Former President of Speakeasy Toastmasters, Mallow added "all the speakers were very knowledgeable but Mark's enthusiasm shone through."

Mr Tom McCarthy, of UCC's Media and Public Relations, was the third judge.

The Science for All competition encourages and trains postgraduate students to communicate their scientific research to a general audience without using jargon. The competition, now in its tenth year, is organised by the College of Science Engineering and Food Science and the Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre, a Science Foundation Ireland national research centre in food and medicine.

"The students really develop their communication skills during this competition resulting in a very exciting and informative final" said Dr Catherine Buckley, Communications and Outreach Manager, at the Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre and co-organiser of the competition.

Further details of the competition can be found at <http://apc.ucc.ie/>