

APC Neuroscientist wins Prestigious International Award

12.07.2011

Dr Siobhain O'Mahony, a neuroscientist in the Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre (APC) and the Department of Anatomy, UCC was recently awarded the "Ray Clouse Award for the Paper Most Cited" in the field of functional gastrointestinal and motility disorders. This prestigious award is based on an evaluation of articles published from January 2008 to December 2009 in journals in this field. It is given by the Rome Foundation in memory of Professor Ray E. Clouse, MD a gastroenterologist and scholar at Washington University School of Medicine. Ray's academic career spanned 27 years of research, teachings and writings that has left an indelible mark in the field of functional GI and motility disorders and of gastroenterology in general. Dr O'Mahony's research group focuses on the long-term consequences of early-life stress in particular the impact on the neural and molecular communication pathways between the brain and the gastrointestinal tract and how dysfunction of this communication can lead to an exaggerated pain response. The article that won Siobhain the award titled "Early life stress alters behaviour, immunity, and microbiota in rats: implications for irritable bowel syndrome and psychiatric illnesses" was published in Biological Psychiatry in 2009. Co-authors included Professors John Cryan, Timothy Dinan, Eamonn Quigley, Drs Julian Marchesi, Paul Scully, Caroline Codling and Anne-Marie Coelho.

About the Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre

The Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre, (APC; <http://apc.ucc.ie>) is a research centre funded by Science Foundation Ireland and industry partners. The APC, a partnership between University College Cork, Teagasc, the Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority, and the Cork Institute of Technology, focuses on research in gastrointestinal health. Pharmabiotic is a neologism devised by the APC to represent any material (including molecules and microbes) originating from the gut ecosystem that can be exploited for a health benefit, and includes probiotics, prebiotics, metabolites, and potential new anti-microbials and anti-inflammatories. The independent international ratings agency Thomson Reuters Science Watch global analysis, recently ranked University College Cork at number 2 in the world for probiotics research, due primarily to publications from researchers in the Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre (<http://sciencewatch.com/ana/st/probiotics/institution/>