



**Welcome to the latest edition of the information sharing newsletter from the Maynooth University Commercialisation Office. Our goal is to share relevant market news and activities on the commercialisation of Maynooth University research. We hope you enjoy this newsletter.**

Photo courtesy  
of Maura Boyle.

**For more information visit:  
[www.maynoothuniversity.ie/commercialisation](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/commercialisation)**



**MAYNOOTHWORKS MANAGER  
JOE MOORE**

Joe has responsibility for the management of the centre, the development of innovation programmes to support client company development and engagement with industry partners.

MaynoothWorks supports the University Commercialisation Office in spinning out research outputs; actively enabling startup companies, as well as attracting Spin-In companies that can leverage university intellectual property and know-how. It also connects with other enterprise and academic centres to promote innovation, entrepreneurship and employment.

Joe has over 30 years' experience in the Mobile Communications Industry and has held senior management and director-level positions in multinational, SME and startup companies. In these positions he has had extensive exposure to licensing, developing and selling intellectual property as well as taking companies through different stages of development.

Joe has an Executive MBA from University College Dublin and a HNC in electrical/ electronic engineering from Anglia Ruskin University.

## MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY ANNUAL COMMERCIALISATION AWARDS

Each year the Commercialisation Office recognises excellence in the commercialisation of research at Maynooth University. We consider activity such as invention disclosures recorded, licence deals completed, new patents filed, spinout company creation and developing new links with industry as key factors in bringing research to the market place.

The Annual Commercialisation Award was awarded in two categories (1) Commercialisation of Intellectual Property and (2) Industry Engagement activity.

Dr Richard Roche of Psychology was awarded the Commercialisation of IP Award. Richard formed Empathy Test Limited with promoters Dr Kenneth McKenzie & Conor McCarthy. Empathy Test uses psychological, science-driven, validation for products, services and experiences, with the view to increasing product adoption and reach at launch. The company plans to work with multiple clients on an ongoing basis, carrying out validation and facilitating the refinement of their product. Online learning tools will also be developed, with a view to developing training workshops.



Dr Richard Roche  
receiving award from  
Prof. Ray O'Neill



Dr Karen English  
receiving award from  
Prof. Ray O'Neill

Dr Karen English of the Biology Department was awarded the Engagement with Industry Award. Karen had a very busy year in terms of engagement with national and international companies including Sigmoid Pharma and ReGenesys. Karen's major focus of research is the translation of cellular therapies for the treatment of inflammatory disorders.



### DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY JOANNE MASTERSON

Dr. Joanne Masterson (BSc (2002) and PhD (2007), Maynooth University) was recruited in January 2018 after 10 years at the University of Colorado in the USA and is a Lecturer in the Department of Biology, Principle Investigator of the Allergy, Inflammation and Remodeling Research (AIRR) lab and a member of the Institute of Immunology and the MU Human Health Research Institute.

In the USA Joanne was an Assistant Professor and Principal Investigator of a translational biomedical research group with long-standing interests in the regulation of inflammation and allergy at barrier surfaces. Her research defines novel mechanisms of how epithelial cells regulate inflammation and remodeling with a particular focus on eosinophilic gastrointestinal diseases (EGIDs) such as Eosinophilic Esophagitis (EoE) and Inflammatory Bowel Disease.

Joanne was the recipient of an American Crohn's & Colitis Foundation Fellowship and career development awards from the USA National Institutes of Health and the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology Hepatology & Nutrition Foundations. Joanne's research has achieved international recognition including honors and publication in high impact journals in her field. She has ongoing collaborations with colleagues at University of Colorado Denver, Children's Hospital Colorado, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Baylor University Medical Center, Children's Hospital Philadelphia and University of Pennsylvania. Joanne's research has benefited from continuing engagement with multiple industrial partners and the laboratory maintains active funding through industrial collaborations and investigator led pharmaceutical partnerships. The overall goal of her studies within the AIRR laboratory at MU is to identify novel strategies to prevent, treat, and cure allergic mucosal diseases.