

Trinity Translational Medicine Institute holds Science & Research Workshop for Primary School Children May 4th 2017



On May 4th, we were joined by fifty extremely excited 5th and 6th class primary school students from Scoil Cairíona CBS, Baggot St, D.4 and St Anne's Senior National School, Fettercairn, Tallaght, D. 24. They attended a 'Science and Research' workshop at Trinity Translational Medicine Institute (TTMI) hosted by the TTMI Outreach Committee.

The workshop ran as part of the Trinity Access Program College Awareness Week and hopes to be the first of many such activities TTMI will open their doors to in 2017 and beyond! Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) is a key area that TTMI will continue to expand upon.

This workshop introduced the students to some of the research that is carried out at TTMI and they all got the chance to get their hands dirty and do some hands-on investigation themselves!

We would like to thank everyone involved in preparing for the day and to the school staff and children who submerged themselves in the wonderful world of Science!



For more information on this story or outreach activities at TTMI, please contact Ms. Niamh Clarke; Public and Patient Involvement Officer at Dept. Surgery TCD/SJH clarcken1@tcd.ie or visit www.tcd.ie/ttmi



Dr Stephen Maher and Dr Daniela Tropea from TTMI focused on the ‘Genome’, with the students learning about DNA and why some people don’t like the taste of Kale! The students got the chance to build the DNA structure from sweets and even extracted DNA from strawberries!



The students were then introduced to the ‘Microscope’ by Dr Niamh Lynam-Lennon and Amy Buckley from TTMI, where they got to examine cells from different parts of the human body, including the brain and stomach fat kindly donated by consented participants on Research Programmes at TTMI.



The students also had to use their research skills to identify some everyday items such as horse hair and an onion using the microscope, which was much harder than it looked! The students really enjoyed “seeing” science up close!

“That’s what fat looks like?! This is cool, I always wanted to look down a microscope!”

Teaming up with the onsite Clinical Research Facility at St.James’s Hospital, we also ran a ‘Diagnostics’ area where the students also got to be doctors for the day! Students were introduced to ‘Diagnostics’ by Niamh Clarke and Emma Foley from TTMI and PPI Nurse Eilis O’Toole from the HRB/Wellcome Trust Clinical Research facility at St James’s Hospital.

Armed with gloves and test tubes by the dozen along with various dip-stick tests the students began to investigate each sample! The students were introduced to the pH scale using various household liquids and learned about what our urine can tell about our health, using safe 'fake urine-like' samples.



They also learned about broken bones, blood pressure and heart rate and had great fun checking their own with the help of Nurse Eilis. She was questioned about her job as a nurse and how nursing and science are connected. Patient's and public members are at the heart of research and Eilis took the opportunity to explain to the

student's the connection needed with the public to continuously improve how we treat and care for patients. Most children and in fact teachers too, didn't realise there is Clinical Research happening every day at St James's Hospital. All health professionals work together clinically and via research to help improve Practice and knowledge base. Hopefully by the end of the day we showed how one department depends on the other and team work is how we achieve success.



A big thank you to all those involved in organising the event! To our budding scientists from Scoil Cairtriona CBS and St Anne's Senior National School, we hope you enjoyed your day with us!

A special thanks to Mr. Anthony Edwards, Senior Clinical Photographer SJH for coming along to capture the fun!