

# MOLECULAR MEDICINE IRELAND

## CLINICIAN SCIENTIST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME



The Higher Education Authority has awarded funding under the *Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (Cycle 4)* for a Clinician-Scientist Fellowship Programme in translational medical research to be coordinated by Molecular Medicine Ireland (MMI). Molecular Medicine Ireland is a not-for-profit company being established by the National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG), the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), Trinity College Dublin (TCD), University College Cork (UCC) and University College Dublin (UCD). Molecular Medicine Ireland is building and expanding on the success of the Dublin Molecular Medicine Centre. The three year structured PhD programme builds on significant recent developments in the translational and clinical research infrastructure in Ireland.

*Molecular Medicine Ireland invites suitably qualified medical graduates to apply to hold one of these prestigious fellowships.*

**The closing date for expressions of interest has been extended to  
5pm on Friday 7 December 2007.**

### Overview and Structure of the Programme

The objective of the MMI Clinician Scientist Fellowship Programme is to train the next generation of clinician scientists (academic medical leaders) with the unique and specialised knowledge essential to fulfil Ireland's research needs in translational medicine. This training programme transcends institutional boundaries to give Fellows unparalleled access to the top biomedical researchers in the country and to state-of-the-art basic and clinical research facilities. The aim is to educate biomedical investigators who, motivated by the intellectual challenge of understanding disease at the molecular level, will lead the quest for new therapeutic strategies. The programme provides a systematic way to train this essential group of clinician researchers. The programme provides the rigorous training in critical thinking and translational research skills necessary to bridge the divide between increasingly inter-dependent areas of expertise – basic and clinical biomedical research. Programme mentors will guide PhD training in their area(s) of expertise, linking into the disease domains of the academic hospitals and availing of the enabling infrastructure and expertise of the participating institutions.

The structured PhD programme will be three years in length, with the majority of Fellows beginning their fellowship in July 2008. Applicants will be medical school graduates at the registrar or specialist registrar (or equivalent) stage of their clinical training. Applicants will require the support of a participating institution. At the time of application, candidates will choose a PhD project from a range offered in a host laboratory in one of the participating institutions and will be assigned appropriate mentor(s) by the institution. Fellows will graduate with a PhD from their host institution. While the Fellows will carry out their research at an institutional level, the programme has activities to emphasise its national scope. For the first eight-weeks of the programme, all first year Fellows will participate in an intensive core module to assist them make the transition from the clinic to the laboratory bench. The course will be taught by programme faculty, with input from the other principal investigators in the participating institutions and invited international guest lecturers. Subsequent annual retreats attended by the fellows and their mentors will provide updates on projects and strengthen links among the fellows. Each Fellow's progress will be tracked by a thesis advisory committee comprising their mentors and other faculty and in accordance with host institution regulations. Each Fellow will be permitted a maximum of two clinical sessions per week to maintain clinical skills. The host institution will cover the Fellow for medical indemnity.