

The first running of the DMMC Course **Unravelling Chromatin & the Role of Epigenetics in Disease** took place in the UCD Conway Institute of Biomolecular & Biomedical Science on 25 and 26 April 2006. There was considerable interest in this course, with 79 attendees, and the local audience (including 27 postgraduate students and staff from University College Dublin and 23 from Trinity College Dublin) were joined by researchers based Ireland-wide and from further afield (including the USA, Germany, Italy, Poland, and the United Kingdom). The course organisers, Dr Amanda McCann (UCD Conway Institute) and Dr Steven Gray (Institute of Molecular Medicine, TCD and St James's Hospital) worked with the DMMC directorate and a course committee to put together a two-day programme that detailed the mechanisms of action, highlighted the research tools and techniques, and followed up with cutting edge presentations on the latest research and clinical implications. The whole provided a concise introduction to the field and demonstrated that epigenetic regulation is increasingly implicated in many different areas of human development and disease.

The international flavour of the course was strengthened by keynote lectures from Professor Thomas Jenuwein (Research Institute of Molecular Pathology, Vienna, Austria) and Professor David Skuse (Behavioural & Brain Sciences Unit, Institute of Child Health, University College London, UK). We thank the course sponsors: Biotage, Brennan & Company, Abcam, Diagenode, Cambridge BioScience, Medical Supply Company, and Active Motif.

Details of the course programme, with abstracts, further reading and selected presentations can be found on the DMMC website at <http://www.dmmc.ie/UnravellingChromatin2006.htm>



Course organisers and instructors outside the UCD Conway Institute. *From left:* Dr Kay Nolan (UCD), Dr Colum Walsh (University of Ulster), Dr Rachel Imoberdorf (Abcam), Dr Amanda McCann (UCD), Mr Simon Margerison (Biotage), Ms Antoinette Perry (TCD), Dr Steven Gray (TCD), Prof Thomas Jenuwein (IMP, Vienna), Dr Mark Watson (DMMC). Details of all the course instructors are on the course webpage.