

TEAGASC PHD WALSH SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

"VistaMilkDigest – Assessing the impact of milk associated proteins on tissue-metabolome"

Walsh Scholarship Ref Number 2019212

Background

The Obesity Research group in Teagasc (The Agriculture and Food Development Authority in Ireland) and the Nutrition, Biomarkers and Health Research group in University College Dublin (UCD) are seeking a PhD candidate to undertake a project to investigate the effect of dairy ingredients on the metabolic activity in organs and how this may affect organ-to-organ cross-talk within the body.

This is a research-focused role, where the PhD student will conduct a specified programme of research supported by research training and development under the supervision and direction of a Principal Investigator.

Further information: Organs do not function in isolation, but rather communicate with one another to sustain life. We have shown that this communication can be influenced by dairy ingredients. This new project, which is part of a €40 Million SFI-DAFM funded Research Centre (VistaMilk; <https://vistamilk.ie/>), aims to determine the mechanism for the dairy effects using various metabolomic platforms and gene expression analyses. It is anticipated that this work will help to develop novel dairy ingredients that can improve organ functions, their communication and thereby reduce diet-related diseases such as obesity.

Requirements

- A minimum of 2.1 Honours degree in Nutrition, Physiology, Biotechnology, Molecular Biology or a related field.
- Experience of working in a research environment.
- The successful candidate should be enthusiastic, self-motivated and who will interact well within a larger research team.
- A minimum level of competency in English is required. Please see the following link with regard to English Language requirements:
<https://www.ucd.ie/registry/prospectivestudents/admissions/policiesandgeneralregulations/generalrequirements/minimumenglishlanguagerequirements/>

Award

The scholarship funding will commence on 1st September 2020 and is €24,000 per annum. This includes University EU fees of up to a maximum of €5,500 and student stipend at a flat rate of €18,500 per annum and is tenable for 4 years.

Application Procedure

A curriculum vitae and contact details of two referees should be sent by 30th of April 2020 to Dr. Kanishka Nilaweera (Kanishka.nilaweera@teagasc.ie) and Professor Lorraine Brennan (lorraine.brennan@ucd.ie)

Closing date

30th of April 2020

¹VistaMilk Centre is hosted by Teagasc in partnership with the Tyndall National Institute, Ireland's national microelectronics institute, the Telecommunications Software & Systems Group at Waterford Institute of Technology and the Insight Centre for Data Analytics (at UCD, NUI Galway and DCU). VistaMilk is funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine (DAFM) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).