TEAGASC PhD WALSH SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

“Dairy-Beef integration - Accelerating genetic gain and improving beef output from dairy herds”
Walsh Scholarship Ref Number 2020045

Background
The VistaMilk SFI Research Centre represents a unique collaboration between Agri-Food and ICT research institutes and leading Irish/multinational food and ICT companies. VistaMilk is funded by Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine (DAFM) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Requirements
The Walsh Scholar will take part in wider VistaMilk Centre activities such as annual conference, relevant Masterclasses and workshops and Education and Public Engagement activities. A minimum level of competency in English is required. Applicants must have a first or upper second-class honours primary degree (or equivalent) in Agricultural Science or a related field. A Master’s degree is desirable.

Award
The Teagasc Walsh Scholarship funding is €22,000 per annum and includes University fees of up to a maximum of €6,000 and is tenable for 4 years.

Project Details
The objectives of this project are to:
- Develop and optimise the Assisted reproductive technologies (ART) methodologies to accelerate genetic gain in both dairy cattle and beef breed bulls suitable for use on dairy cattle.
- Increase the proportion of beef genetics in non-replacement dairy calves.

Assisted reproductive technologies can contribute to accelerated genetic gain, by allowing an increased number of offspring to be produced from genetically elite dams. There are three general classes of donor females of interest to an integrated dairy beef system: (i) elite dairy dams; (ii) elite beef dams; and (iii) commercial beef dams (≥ 50% beef breed genetics). The proposed research will (i) develop and optimise the required procedures to maximise successful embryo formation; (ii) assess the impact on potential genetic gain (dairy and beef); and (iii) examine the phenotype of offspring with ≥75% beef breed genetics born to dairy breed surrogate dams.

Application Procedure
Interested candidates should submit an electronic copy of Curriculum Vitae and a letter of interest simultaneously to Prof. Pat Lonergan (pat.lonergan@ucd.ie) and Dr. Stephen Butler (stephen.butler@teagasc.ie).

Closing date for application
The closing date for applications is 15th May 2020.