



Post Specification

Post Title:	PhD Studentship in Determinants of vasculo-trophic changes in human subjects.
Post Status:	3-Years
Research Group/Department/School:	Chronic Cardiovascular Disease, Department of Cardiology, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin
Location:	Department of Cardiology, at Tallaght Hospital, Dublin,
Reports to:	Dr Vincent Maher
Salary:	€16,750 stipend p.a. plus fee payment to TCD
Closing Date and Time:	12 noon on Friday 6 th Feb 2015

Post Summary

We are recruiting for a PhD candidate who is keen to work with patients in the clinical setting. The candidate will be expected to become proficient in vascular ultrasound (carotid intima media thickness), vascular tonometry (pulse wave analysis & pulse wave velocity) and venopuncture.

Informal enquiries and submissions of interest can be made to: Dr. Vincent Maher, Consultant Cardiologist email: vmaher@gmail.com

Background on the Project

Project Title: **Determinants of vasculo-trophic changes in human subjects.**

Situated in the Cardiology Dept. at Tallaght Hospital, Dublin Ireland, the Cardiovascular Research Unit supports both academic and clinical research. The multi-disciplinary research unit provides excellent training and is equipped with most facilities for the assessment of arterial structure and function. The research unit has also established collaborative links with the Department of Clinical Chemistry and Endocrinology at Tallaght Hospital.

Human ventricles, aortas and medium sized arteries stiffen as part of the normal biological ageing process. Stiffer arteries and ventricles augment



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blood pressure and haemodynamic responses which increase the risk of stroke, myocardial infarction, heart failure, electrical disturbances, cerebral white matter lesions and renal deterioration. The association between increased arterial and ventricular stiffness and overt cardiovascular disease is well documented; however, the determinants of early cardiovascular stiffening and subclinical dysfunction are less well understood. We and others have observed that early carotid artery intima-media thickening and aortic stiffening is associated with central obesity. However, it is unclear what factors related to obesity contribute to arterial structural and functional changes. Based on these findings, we are undertaking a longitudinal study to investigate the factors that may accelerate cardiovascular thickening and stiffening in “healthy” subjects. The results of the study will allow better identification and risk stratification of patients and potentially identify novel therapeutic targets.

Person Specification

Qualifications

- **Candidates should have a 2:1 degree or higher in a Biological Science or Medicine (e.g. BSc or MSc in Cardiovascular Science discipline)**

Knowledge & Experience (Essential & Desirable)

- Strong interest in cardiovascular disease physiology.

Skills & Competencies

- Keen to work with patients in the clinical setting.
- The candidate will be expected to become proficient in vascular ultrasound (carotid intima media thickness), vascular tonometry (pulse wave analysis & pulse wave velocity) and venopuncture.



Further Information for Candidates

URL Link to School	www.tcd.ie
URL Link to Human Resources	https://www.tcd.ie/hr/

GARDA CLEARANCE:

Police vetting will be sought in respect of individuals who come under consideration for a post.

PLEASE NOTE: Candidates will be required to complete and return a Garda Vetting form should they come under consideration for appointment. In some cases they may be requested to complete the form on the day of interview. This form will be forwarded to An Garda Síochána (Irish Police) for security checks on all Irish addresses at which they have resided. An Garda Síochána will make enquiries with the Police Service of Northern Ireland with respect to addresses in Northern Ireland. If a candidate is not successful in obtaining the post for whatever reason, this information will be destroyed by the PAS. If a candidate, therefore, subsequently comes under consideration for another position, they will be required to supply this information again.

While candidates must complete information in relation to all addresses at which they have resided, the vetting is only done on addresses on the island of Ireland. If a candidate has resided / studied in countries outside of Ireland for a period of 6 months or more, it is mandatory for them to furnish a Police Criminal Records Check/ Police Certificate from those countries stating that they have no convictions recorded against them while residing there. Candidates will need to provide a separate Police Criminal Records Check/ Police Certificate for each country in which they have resided. The Police Criminal Records Check/ Police Certificate must be dated after the date the candidate left the relevant country. Candidates should provide documentation in the English and/or Irish language. Translations must be provided by a registered translation company/institute in the Republic of Ireland; all costs will be borne by the candidate. Only original version



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documents will be accepted. Candidates should be aware that any information obtained in the Garda Vetting process can be made available to the employing area. It is the responsibility of the candidate to seek security clearances in a timely fashion as they can take some time. No candidate will be appointed without this information being provided and being in order.

The following websites may be of assistance in this regard:

www.disclosurescotland.co.uk

www.psni.police.uk

www.afp.gov.au

This website provides information on obtaining a national police clearance certificate for Australia

www.courts.govt.nz

This website provides information on obtaining police clearance in New Zealand.

For other countries not listed above candidates may find it helpful to contact the relevant embassies who could provide information on seeking Police Clearance. Original Police Clearance documentation should be forwarded to the PAS where it will be copied and the original returned to the candidate by post. Any cost incurred in this process will be borne by the Candidate

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Founded in 1592, Trinity is at the nexus of tradition and innovation, offering undergraduate and postgraduate programmes across 24 schools and three faculties: arts, humanities, and social sciences; engineering, maths and science; and health sciences. Spread across 47 acres in Dublin's city centre, Trinity's 17,000-strong student body comes from all 32 counties of Ireland, and 16% of students come from outside the country. Of those, 40% are from outside the European Union, making Trinity's campus cosmopolitan and bustling, with a focus on diversity.

As Ireland's leading university, the pursuit of academic excellence through research and scholarship is at the heart of the Trinity education. Trinity is



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known for intellectual rigour, excellence, interdisciplinarity, and research-led teaching. Home to Nobel prize-winners such as scientist Ernest Walton and writer Samuel Beckett, Trinity draws visitors from across the world to its historic campus each year, including to the Book of Kells and Science Gallery which capture the university's connection to both old and new. Trinity accounts for one-fifth of all spin-out companies from Irish higher education institutions, helping to turn Ireland into an innovation-intensive, high-productivity economy. That culture of innovation and entrepreneurship is a defining characteristic of our campus as we help shape the next generation of job creators. Trinity has developed significant strength in a broad range of research areas, including the 19 broadly based multi-disciplinary thematic research areas.



Ireland's first purpose-built nanoscience research institute, CRANN, houses 150 scientists, technicians and graduate students in specialised laboratory facilities. Meanwhile, the state-of-the-art Biomedical Sciences Institute is carrying out breakthrough research in areas such as immunology, cancer and medical devices.



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The Old Library, which houses the Long Room, in Trinity is the largest research library in Ireland, with a collection of six million printed items, 500,000 maps, 80,000 electronic journals, and 350,000 electronic books. Some of the world's most famous scholars are graduates of Trinity, including writer Jonathan Swift, dramatist Oscar Wilde, philosopher George Berkeley, and political philosopher, and political theorist Edmund Burke. Three Trinity graduates have become Presidents of Ireland - Douglas Hyde, Mary Robinson and Mary McAleese. Trinity is the highest ranked university in Ireland, and among the world's leading higher education institutions.

Pension Entitlements

This is a pensionable position and the provisions of the Public Service Superannuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2004 will apply in relation to retirement age for pension purposes. Details of the relevant Pension Scheme will be provided to the successful applicant.

Applicants should note that they will be required to complete a Pre-Employment Declaration to confirm whether or not they have previously availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment. Applicants will also be required to declare any entitlements to a Public Service pension benefit (in payment or preserved) from any other Irish Public Service employment.

Applicants formerly employed by the Irish Public Service that may previously have availed of an Irish Public Service Scheme of Incentivised early retirement or enhanced redundancy payment should ensure that they are not precluded from re-engagement in the Irish Public Service under the terms of such Schemes. Such queries should be directed to an applicant's former Irish Public Service Employer in the first instance.



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Equal Opportunities Policy

Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin is an equal opportunities employer and is committed to the employment policies, procedures and practices which do not discriminate on grounds such as gender, civil status, family status, age, disability, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or membership of the travelling community.

Application Procedure

Candidates should submit a cover letter together with a full curriculum vitae to include the names and contact details of 3 referees (email addresses if possible) to:

Name: Dr Vincent Maher

Title: Senior Lecturer

Email Address: vmaher@gmail.com

Contact Telephone Number: +-353-1- 414 2112

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