

## FutureNeuro Summer Studentship Award 2018- Pilot

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### Overview

**FutureNeuro** is an SFI Research Centre, led by RCSI, to develop new technologies and solutions for the treatment, diagnosis, and monitoring of chronic and rare neurological diseases. Bringing together multi-disciplinary scientific teams in the field of neuroscience, across RCSI, TCD, UCD, DCU and NUIG, the centre is dedicated to accelerating discoveries on genetic diagnosis and advanced molecular treatments supported by enabling e-health technology for chronic and rare neurological diseases. <http://www.futureneurocentre.ie/>.

A key purpose of the Centre is to develop a strong cohort of PhD and Post-doctoral candidates who have the opportunity to develop their careers by participating in academic, clinical and industry-related research. FutureNeuro will run a pilot Summer Studentship Award in 2018 for up to 5 high-achieving science undergraduates with an interest in pursuing a PhD in the FutureNeuro neuroscience research areas. The candidates will be supervised by a PI from the FutureNeuro network.

### FutureNeuro Background

The mission of FutureNeuro is to accelerate discoveries on genetic diagnosis and advanced molecular treatments supported by enabling e-health technology for chronic and rare neurological diseases. Building initially on internationally recognized strengths in epilepsy and motor neuron disease research, the Centre aims to develop additional research programmes in other chronic and rare neurological diseases.

The FutureNeuro PI network are internationally-recognised leaders in key neuroscience fields : Epigenetics and noncoding RNAs (Prof. David Henshall, RCSI and FutureNeuro Centre Director), Cell imaging and mathematical modeling of neural behavior (Prof Jochen Prehn, RCSI), human genetics and genomic sequencing (Prof Gianpiero Cavalleri, RCSI), Neuronal stem cell technology (Prof Sanbing Shen, NUIG), molecular technology in blood-brain barrier (Prof Matthew Campbell, TCD) and advanced detection of brain molecules in blood (Prof Robert Forster, DCU). FutureNeuro PI network also includes clinical expertise with participation of Prof. Orla Hardiman (ALS clinical research and Director of TBSI, TCD) and Prof. Colin Doherty (National clinical lead for epilepsy and biobanking for neurological disease). The Centre is built on a network of research active clinical collaborators based in Ireland's key paediatric and adult specialist centres for treatment of complex neurological diseases.

With a view to commercialisation and development a mandate to build successful industry partnerships with a view to commercialisation, the centre has developed multinational and indigenous partners across the thematic areas of diagnosis, therapeutics and eHealth. FutureNeuro also combines clinical and industry expertise.

### **Eligibility**

- Applicants will be selected based on academic performance.
- Candidates must be in the 4<sup>th</sup> (final) or 3<sup>rd</sup> year of a full-time undergraduate life science, biomedical science (e.g. physiology, biochemistry, genetics etc.) or computer science degree.
- Candidates must be willing to apply for funding (national or international) to undertake a PhD with FutureNeuro.

### **Practicalities of FutureNeuro Summer School**

- The Summer Studentship Award will be 8-weeks in duration (June – July 2018).
- The project will take place in the identified PIs lab, with some elements running in conjunction with the RCSI Summer School.
- Participants will be invited to present poster at RCSI International Conference for Healthcare and Medical Students (Feb 2019)
- A stipend of €250 per week will be available.
- Candidates may be Garda Vetted.

### **Application Process**

- All applicants must complete a FutureNeuro Summer Studentship Award 2018 Application Form, accompanied by a 1-page C.V.
- Only one application allowed per student.
- Applications to be submitted by email to Karina Carey, Funding and Reporting Office, FutureNeuro  
Email: [Karinacarey@rcsi.ie](mailto:Karinacarey@rcsi.ie)
- Closing date for applications: 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018.
- Places will be allocated based on application – there will be no interview process.
- All positions will be allocated by 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018.