



**JSPS**



## **UCD-Chiba Joint Seminars, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

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Population ageing is a global phenomenon, and a patient-centred integrated care model in the community should be sought and achieved if we are to realise ageing-in-place. Japan is far along the path of the ageing society, and at the forefront in terms of technology to support it. Ireland, while still a relatively ‘young’ country, is proactively tackling similar issues by advancing its research in ageing, particularly falls prevention and dementia. Against this background, the UCD Japan Group (UJ) and the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice (SPWJ) hosted two-day public seminars ‘Technology-supported Community Care in Japan and Ireland’ in UCD and at Tramore’s Coastguard Cultural Centre (CGCC), in partnership with Chiba University (CU) and Tramore Development Trust (TDT), Co. Waterford. The seminars were organised with a view to bringing together academics, practitioners and early-career researchers to present cutting edge research into the use of technologies for social care and rehabilitation in Japan and Ireland.

Researchers in the fields of life sciences (nursing, medicine and physiotherapy), mechanical engineering, architecture, and social sciences (social anthropology, social work and social policy) discussed how to bridge the gaps between policy/practice and research in this area. The series of talks highlighted the current situation, both similarities and differences, surrounding older people’s care in Japan and Ireland. In addition, three early-career researchers (Dr Atsuko Shimamura from Toho University, Dr Akiyo Yumoto from CU, and Mr Kohei Ikeda from the University of Tokyo, currently working as an intern at UJ and SPWJ) made great contributions to the seminars.

At the seminar in UCD, recent developments in robotics, particularly in the areas of monitoring, auto-minding and rehabilitation devices, were presented by roboticists in CU and UCD, while in Tramore, community design and the use of modular homes were highlighted as possible future-proof housing schemes not only for older people, but for all generations. Furthermore, in primary care, efforts to detect early onset dementia made by a GP-led multidisciplinary group in Co. Waterford were introduced to the audience in Tramore, whereas in secondary care, progress has been made in establishing integrated care for older people with the creation of specialist geriatric services and the provision of a Frailty Education Programme for inter-professional practitioners.

During their stay, the delegates led by Prof. Sayuri Suwa (Graduate School of Nursing, CU) and Prof. Wenwei Yu (Vice Director, Center for Frontier Medical Engineering, CU) visited the Royal Hospital in Donnybrook (RHD), the Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) research centre, and St Vincent’s University Hospital (SVUH). The interactions with local practitioners and researchers, combined with these visits, enhanced our understanding, and prepared us for the next stage of bilateral research collaborations,

including future funding applications (e.g. *KAKENHI*, JSPS Core to Core Program). To date, we have obtained funding from the Pfizer Health Research Foundation and the Toyota Foundation. The results of our research collaborations will be presented at conferences in both countries and beyond.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Toshio Ueno, Dr Masataka Ando & Ms Fuki Yokoyama (JSPS London), the Embassy of Japan in Ireland and my co-organisers Dr Diarmuid O' Shea (SVUH), Ms Anne Harpur (TDT), Prof. Sayuri Suwa (CU), Dr Maureen Lyons, Mr Hugo O' Donnell, Dr Sarah Donnelly, Mr Liam Fogarty and Mr Vincent Hoban (UCD). I would also like to thank all the speakers, the Japanese delegates, Ms Mary O' Shea (TILDA), Dr Lisa Cogan (RHD), teams at the CGCC, and the Lafcadio Hearn Japanese Gardens and Assoc. Prof. Emma Sokell (UJ).



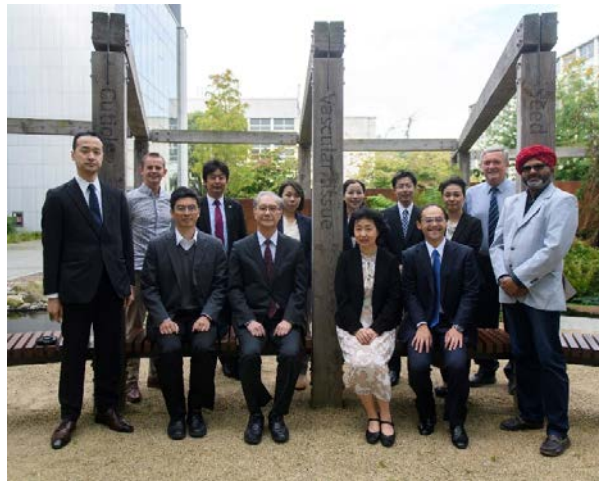
Dr Shimamura at the Tramore seminar



Prof. Yu at the UCD seminar



Mr Bauer & Ms Harpur  
with Qoobo (robotic  
cat)



**Group photo in the Evolution Garden, UCD O' Brien Centre for Science, Belfield Campus**

(l-r: Dr Masataka Ando (JSPS London), Prof. Brian Caulfield (UCD), Prof. Wenwei Yu (CU), Mr Sou Watanabe (Embassy of Japan in Ireland), Prof. Toshio Ueno (JSPS London), Ms Fuki Yokoyama (JSPS London), Dr Akiyo Yumoto (CU), Prof. Sayuri Suwa (CU), Mr Kohei Ikeda (University of Tokyo & UCD Japan), Assoc. Prof. Naonori Kodate (UCD), Dr Atsuko Shimamura (Toho University), Dr Diarmuid O' Shea (SVUH), Assoc. Prof. Hasheem Mannan (UCD)).