



Dublin Neuroscience Conference



Visiting Speaker – Friday, June 17th 2016

Dr. Niamh O’Sullivan

Lecture Title: *Investigating the role of ER proteins in motor neuron degeneration*



Dr. Niamh O’Sullivan is a lecturer in neuroscience and genetics in University College Dublin’s School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Sciences. She is also a principal investigator studying the mechanisms underpinning inherited axonopathies, particularly the role of endoplasmic reticulum (ER)-mitochondrial contacts in motor neuron degeneration. Her laboratory makes use of the experimental model organism the fruit fly (*Drosophila melanogaster*) to better understand the functions of genes linked to the human neurodegenerative diseases.

Niamh began her career with a degree in Genetics from Trinity College Dublin before moving to UCD where she undertook a PhD investigating the genetic events that occur during memory formation. She continued to work on this successful project before receiving a Marie Curie Fellowship to study neurodegeneration using the fruit fly at the University of Cambridge. Her work at Cambridge suggested a new explanation as to why neurons are dying in some forms of human disease. Niamh received a Junior Research Fellowship from Imperial College London to continue her research before being appointed her academic position in UCD 2 years ago.