

Dear Teacher,

The NCE-MSTL and the IBioI would like to invite you and your students to the *Biology for Today* symposium taking place at the University of Limerick on Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2015. While the talks are anchored in the Leaving Certificate biology and agricultural science syllabus, the aim is to enrich students' knowledge of the practical applications, as well as engaging and providing them with up to date research and information from experts in various biological fields. Provided with this letter is information on the talks and also a flyer for your staff or science room. The event is open to Transition Year and Leaving Certificate students for a fee of €5 per student.

**Location: Kemmy Business School. (No. 28 on Map)**

**Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2015,**

**Day: Friday**

**Time: 10.30am to 12.30pm**

We hope to have all students seated by 10.15 to facilitate the tight schedule of speakers. We also ask that a teacher would be present from each school. To book a place for you and your students or you require more information please contact Helen Fitzgerald or Alison Cullinane on the details below.

Kindest regards,

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[www.ncemstl.ie](http://www.ncemstl.ie)

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**BIOLOGY FOR TODAY:  
BIOTECHNOLOGY FOR LIFE**  
SYMPOSIUM FOR SECOND LEVEL BIOLOGY STUDENTS  
WITH THE  
**NCE-MSTL & IBiol**

The aim of the symposium is to enrich students' experience of Biology and Agricultural Science topics. It will also provide them with additional insights into Biotechnology for life. It offers an opportunity to students to appreciate the outcomes of the most up-to-date research in the various biological topics.

**Dr Simon Berrow**

Department of Life and Physical Sciences, Galway-Mayo Institute of  
Technology

Beyond the Horizon – A Look at Irish Seas

**Dr Evelyn Hannon**

Department of Life Sciences, University of Limerick  
Healthy Body, Healthy Mind

**Prof William T O' Connor**

Graduate Entry Medical School, University of Limerick  
Caring for Your Brain

Fee: €5 per student

**Reservations: Contact Helen Fitzgerald on 061-234786**  
email: [Helen.Fitzgerald@ul.ie](mailto:Helen.Fitzgerald@ul.ie)  
or Alison Cullinane on 061-234916  
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## Talk Information

### Dr Simon Berrow

#### **Beyond the Horizon- A look at Irish Seas**

The island we know of as Ireland is actually only 10% of the real Ireland – with the remainder lying underwater and extending up to 350km from the coast. In these extensive marine waters live a huge range of animals including whales, dolphins, sharks and exotic fish as well as a wealth of habitats including submarine canyons, seamounts and deep cold water corals. We need to much better understand the marine environment in Ireland. With the extra challenges of working at sea for weeks at a time, hundreds of miles offshore and in difficult conditions requires imaginative and innovative techniques and of course people. Open your eyes, and look over the horizon to challenge your own personal horizons.

### Dr Evelyn Hannon – UL

#### **Healthy Body, Healthy Mind!**

Global trends in nutrition are shaping public health both nationally and internationally. This presentation will overview the main nutritional public health concerns relating specifically to adolescent health, focusing on the obesity epidemic and its impact on chronic disease incidence including type 2 diabetes and longer term associated risks including cancer.

### Prof William T O' Connor - GEMS UL

#### **Caring for your Brain**

Prof O' Connor will deliver an exciting talk that aims to explain how the brain functions and give an insight into its complicated structure. The talk will also have a strong emphasis on mental health and wellbeing, as these are particular issues of importance at the moment. His website *Inside-the-brain.ie* where he posts regularly on the latest in neuroscience research can be accessed to subscribe for free for tips on getting the best from the brain.

