



## Festschrift for Professor Ronan O’Connell

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A Festschrift was held on December 8, 2017, to mark the retirement of Ronan O’Connell from his position as Professor of Surgery at University College Dublin, a post he served with great dedication for a decade (Fig. 1). His contributions to surgery, academic research, university and family life were celebrated on that day by a number of local and international speakers. A series of articles which span two overarching research themes (inflammatory bowel disease and disorders of the pelvic floor) has been collated and reproduced here.

Patrick Ronan O’Connell had an enviable start to his academic career when he was awarded first place in medicine upon graduation in 1979 from Trinity College Dublin. From that auspicious beginning, it is fair to say that he followed William Osler’s dictum that the magic word for success in medicine is work. During his career, he has been the recipient of numerous national and international awards and honors. He has served as editor for the *British Journal of Surgery* (1999–2006), *Diseases of the Rectum & Colon* (2001–2014) and *Bailey & Love’s Short Practice of Surgery* (25th–27th editions).

It is poignant to recall that at a recent clinical commencement ceremony, he wished good sailing to the young students who were just beginning their voyages in clinical medicine. Now as Ronan steps down from his position as Professor of Surgery, he leaves a legacy of 178 original papers, 25 chapters and 6 books.

In this collection of writings, there are two broad themes which have been a lifelong interest to Ronan O’Connell. The

first area of study involves the fascinating challenge of inflammatory bowel disease and the microbiome. And the second area involves the application of sacral neuromodulation to debilitating pelvic floor disorders.



**Fig. 1** Ronan O’Connell MD, FRCSI, FRCPS (Glas), FRCS (Edin) (ad hominem), FASA (Hon), FASCERS (Hon)

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## **Compliance with ethical standards**

**Ethical approval** This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by the author.

**Conflict of interest** The author has been a collaborator in studies with Professor Ronan O'Connell for the last 10 years.