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Introduction

“Nothing in science has any value to society if it is not communicated” (Roe, 1973).

Doctoral research is hugely important to UCC and research students are at the heart of the research eco-system. The place of Doctoral students in the national landscape is increasingly recognised, and Ireland 2030 acknowledges that post-graduate research underpins Ireland’s responses to societal, economic and environmental challenges.

It is wonderful to see volume seven of *The Boolean* published by UCC’s Research Student community. The aim of this publication is to ensure that the breadth and depth of student research being undertaken within the University is shared and made accessible to the wider UCC community and beyond academia, to communities, industry and enterprise stakeholders. As evidenced in Roe’s comment above, the communication of research is as important as its production and *The Boolean* offers research students the opportunity to communicate their research to multiple audiences and supports them in this effort.

Submitting a paper to *The Boolean* is often a research student’s first foray into publishing, a daunting task for any early career researcher. Putting one’s work on public display, the process of peer review and the inevitable critiques that are part of the process are a central part of the communication and advancement of research. The supportive environment offered by the student editors and staff reviewers encourages and reassures contributors as they learn vital communication skills that will be a key part of any academic, research, community or industry career.

I hope you enjoy the wonderful work published in this edition and from it, get a sense of the diverse, collaborate, interdisciplinary and ground-breaking research being conducted by research students at University College Cork.

Dr. Orla Lynch
Dean of Doctoral Studies

