

PROJECT HAS STARTED: KICK-OFF MEETING WAS HELD AT UMINHO IN GUIMARÃES

In the **1st of February**, the activities of the **project Gene2Skin officially started**. The kick off meeting, which was held at AvePark, the headquarters of the 3B's Research Group, University of Minho, was attended by representatives of each of the partners namely Professor Rui L. Reis, Dr Alexandra P. Marques, Dr Rogério Pirraco and Dr Mariana Cerqueira (UMINHO), Professor Fergal O'Brien (RCSI) and Dr Simon Broad (KCL). An overview of Gene2Skin project's objectives and approach was presented in this meeting. Each partner presented his or her scientific expertise and background. Prospects and future interactions for stepping up UMINHO in the skin regeneration field were actively discussed and new activities were planned together.



Headquarters of the 3B's Research Group, in AvePark, Guimarães

RECENT AWARDS OF THE CONSORTIUM



Conference of Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland, January 2016

Ms. Claire Brougham, a PhD Student won the highly prestigious Engineers Ireland Biomedical Research Medal, awarded annually by Royal Academy. Ms. Fionnuala O'Gorman, a student with Dr. Cathal Kearney's TERG team, was awarded the prize for best oral presentation in the Gene/Drug Delivery category. Mr. Alan Ryan, from Prof. O'Brien's team, was awarded the prize for best oral presentation in the Tissue Engineering of Vascular Networks and Nerves Category. Mr William Whyte, a PhD student within Dr. Gary Duffy's team, was awarded the prize for best poster/oral presentation in the Early Stage Research category.



Binl 2016 Winners L-R: Mr. William Whyte, Mr. Alan Ryan, Ms. Fionnuala O'Gorman and Ms. Claire Brougham with head of TERG, Prof. Fergal O'Brien.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS BY THE CONSORTIUM



M Costa, RP Pirraco, MT Cerqueira, RL Reis AP Marques, Growth factor-free pre-vascularization of cell sheets for tissue engineering, Stem Cell Dynamics and Heterogeneity: Methods and Protocols, Methods in Mol Biol., Volume 1516 of the series Methods in Molecular Biology pp 219-226

TC Santos, RL Reis, AP Marques, Can host reaction animal models be used to predict and modulate skin regeneration?, J TERM, DOI: 10.1002/term.2128



Kretzschmar K, Weber C, Driskell RR, Calonje E, Watt FM. 'Compartmentalized Epidermal Activation of β -Catenin Differentially Affects Lineage Reprogramming and Underlies Tumor Heterogeneity.' Cell Rep. 2016 Jan 12;14(2):269-81. doi: 10.1016/j.celrep.2015.12.041. Epub 2016 Jan 7. PMID: 26771241

Natsuga K, Cipolat S, Watt FM. 'Increased Bacterial Load and Expression of Antimicrobial Peptides in Skin of Barrier-Deficient Mice with Reduced Cancer Susceptibility.' J Invest Dermatol. 2016 Jan;136(1):99-106. doi: 10.1038/JID.2015.383. PMID: 26763429

Viswanathan P, Guvendiren M, Chua W, Telerman SB, Liakath-Ali K, Burdick JA, Watt FM. 'Mimicking the topography of the epidermal-dermal interface with elastomer substrates.' Integr Biol (Camb). 2015 Dec 11.



RCSI

Delivering nucleic-acid based nanomedicines on biomaterial scaffolds for orthopaedic tissue repair: challenges, progress and future perspectives. Raftery R, Walsh D, Mencía Castano I, Heise A, Duffy GP, Cryan SA, O'Brien FJ. Advanced Materials 2016 Feb 3 doi:10.1002/adma.201505088.

DNA Origami: Folded DNA-nanodevices that can direct and interpret cell behaviour. Kearney CJ, O'Brien FJ, Castro C. Advanced Materials 2016 Feb 3 doi: 10.1002/adma.201504733.

Application of Nanotechnology and Biomaterials to Enhance Cellular Transplants. O'Neill HS, Gallagher L, Curley C, Dolan E, O'Sullivan J, White W, Hameed A, O'Dwyer J, Payne C, O'Reilly D, Roche ET, O'Brien FJ, Cryan SA, Kelly H, Murphy B, Duffy GP. Advanced Materials doi: 10.1002/adma.201505349.