This evening of short presentations by four leading medical researchers will allow you to hear first-hand about their ground-breaking work and its impact on patient outcomes locally and globally.

Researchers at Queen’s University Belfast make an enormous impact on the world in which we live. In particular, the research they do in the field of medicine has yielded tremendous results, from finding cures for diseases to helping form companies which provide vital healthcare goods and services. Professor Patrick Johnston, Dean of the School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences (pictured above) will chair this event, including a Q&A panel discussion with the four speakers which will give you a chance to ask questions.

Recently the University has secured £32 million to establish a world-leading Centre for Experimental Medicine, a Centre which will help transform health care in Northern Ireland and beyond. The new Centre will specialise in scientific research into finding cures for eye disease, diabetes and developing a global programme into understanding the genetics of complex chronic diseases.

DID YOU KNOW THAT…

- Queen’s won the 2012 Diamond Jubilee Queen’s Anniversary Prize in recognition of its leadership of the Northern Ireland Comprehensive Cancer Services (CCS) Programme, which has helped drive forward improvements in cancer survival in Northern Ireland?
- The Sunday Times University Guide 2013 ranks Queen’s first for medical science and pharmacy among UK universities?
- The first topical anaesthetic cream was developed at Queen’s, making painful injections a thing of the past for many young cancer patients?
- Many health-based spin-out companies have been established with the help of QUBIS Ltd at Queen’s – including Almac, Lewis Fertility and iPath Diagnostics?
- Queen’s Professor Frank Pantridge developed the portable defibrillator, in addition to helping introduce the modern system of CPR?
- Professor Mollie McGeown of Queen’s University, a ground-breaking physician in the area of nephrology, developed highly successful methods for renal transplantation which are lauded world-over?
- Queen’s has established a new Institute of Health Sciences, made up of four high quality Research Centres, to drive change, create new therapies and new diagnostic approaches and help transform healthcare in Northern Ireland and beyond?
- Professor Stuart Elborn CBE and his team at the Centre for Infection and Immunity have helped develop a cutting-edge treatment for patients with cystic fibrosis who have a ‘Celtic gene’ mutation?

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Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology: The Centre’s mission is to drive discovery, innovation and the development of targeted therapies in order to accelerate the defeat of cancer. Its unique fusion of clinical and basic science research has been a role model for research into other diseases.

Centre for Infection and Immunity: The Centre is leading international programmes investigating the role of innate and adaptive immune responses to infection and tissue injury and how these might be targeted to develop effective new treatments.

Centre for Public Health: Scientists and clinicians in this Centre are working to identify the epidemiological and genetic risk factors that are important for the health of the individual and of the population, and to develop screening and interventions to reduce the burden of chronic disease in the future.

Centre for Vision and Vascular Sciences: The Centre focuses on conducting high-quality research into the pathogenesis and treatment of major retinal and microvascular disorders, such as diabetic complications, age related macular degeneration (AMD) and tissue ischaemia.

Joe is clinical lead for radiotherapy at the Northern Ireland Cancer Centre and has been the Chairman of the Regional Uro-Oncology Multidisciplinary Team for over eight years. He leads the radiation oncology and prostate cancer clinical research groups at the Northern Ireland Cancer Centre, and is currently principal investigator on more than 10 clinical trials. His research interests include prostate cancer, bone-seeking radionuclide therapy, and translational research in radiation and prostate cancer. He has published widely in these areas.

Ian is Professor of Medicine and Director of the Centre for Public Health at Queen’s University Belfast. In addition, he is also Associate Medical Director (Research and Development) at Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, and is Director of the Northern Ireland Clinical Research Network. Professor Young’s main clinical and research interests are in lipid metabolism, nutrition and antioxidants, particularly in relation to the prevention of cardiovascular disease. He is an author of over 300 published research papers and is on the editorial boards of a number of leading international journals. In addition, he is Chair of the Scientific Division of the International Federation for Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine.

Danny is a Consultant and Professor in Intensive Care Medicine at the Royal Victoria Hospital and Queen’s University. He is Director of the Wellcome Trust Wolfson NI Clinical Research Facility and the NI Clinical Trials Unit. He is Co-Director of the Research for the UK Intensive Care Society and Chair of the Irish Critical Care Trials Group. His major research area is acute lung injury (ALI).

Usha is Professor of Ophthalmology and Vision Sciences in the Centre for Vision and Vascular Sciences. Her current research involves studies on the understanding of retinal and choroidal vascular diseases, as well as degenerative aging changes which contribute to sight loss in older adults. She is recognised internationally for her work on age-related macular degeneration, its pathogenesis, key risk factors including gene and environment interactions and clinical management of the disorder.