



## SFI PhD studentship in the area of enabling/polymer chemistry at NUI Galway and CÚRAM

### Project: Ion-responsive self-immolative linkers for drug delivery

**Project Description:** Ion channels are implicated in a variety of diseases, such as cancer, cystic fibrosis and neurological diseases. Current smart polymeric drug delivery systems rely mainly on temperature and pH triggers. However, novel ion-responsive drug delivery systems would be of interest to selectively target certain ion channels. This project will investigate selective drug delivery to ion channels by designing ion-responsive self-immolative linkers for hyaluronic acid drug conjugates. Research will be carried out under the supervision of Dr. Miriam O'Duill (<https://oduillgroup.com>) at NUI Galway in collaboration with CÚRAM (<http://www.curamdevices.ie/>). Primary SFI supervisor is Prof. Paul Murphy. The studentship is for 4 years, starting on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2018, and includes EU tuition fees, an annual stipend of €18,500 and a contribution to training and travel. The research programme will encourage networking and strong clinical and industry collaborations. The successful candidate will be provided with training and development opportunities designed to support his/her personal career development plans.

**Organisation:** The Centre for Research in Medical Devices (CÚRAM) is a national, SFI-funded, €49.6m research centre. The prime objective for CÚRAM is to radically improve health outcomes for patients by developing innovative implantable 'smart' medical devices to treat major unmet medical needs. The centre includes almost 40 industry partners and supports product development and the creation of new spin-out companies.

### Eligibility:

- Applicants should hold a Master's degree in chemistry and experience in synthetic organic chemistry is highly desirable.
- Candidates should have excellent communication and organisational skills, be highly motivated, and have strong written, oral and interpersonal skills.
- Candidates should be able to work independently and as a part of team.
- Interested candidates should submit an application including a cover letter, CV, and two letters of recommendation to [miriam.oduill@nuigalway.ie](mailto:miriam.oduill@nuigalway.ie) by August 10<sup>th</sup> 2018.
- Start date for the programme is September 1<sup>st</sup> 2018.