



SRF MARSHALL MEDAL 2016

Professor Michael Kane, Emeritus Professor of Physiology at the National University of Ireland (NUI) Galway

Michael Kane is Emeritus Professor of Physiology at the National University of Ireland (NUI) Galway.

He graduated with a BAgSc from University College, Dublin in 1964 and a PhD in Physiology from Cornell in the USA in 1969. Most of his professional academic life has been spent at NUI Galway.

His research has involved the two related areas of preimplantation embryo development and ovarian follicular growth. Starting with his PhD with Bob Foote in Cornell he developed a culture medium (with albumin as the only undefined component) which allowed growth of 1-cell rabbit embryos to early blastocysts thus provided an alternative model to the mouse for studies on preimplantation development. Insights from this work were extended to cattle, mouse and hamster embryos.

Following the discovery of a novel LMW follicular fluid factor (GCIF) by a close collaborator, Joe Sreenan at Teagasc Galway, he worked on the role of this and other factors on follicular development in vivo and in vitro.

Michael has collaborated widely and has also been a visiting researcher in the laboratories of George Seidel in Colorado, Barry Bavister in Wisconsin-Madison and Robin Harrison in Babraham.

Michael was awarded the Conway Medal from the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland in 1990, a DSc from the National University of Ireland in 2005 and elected a member of the Royal Irish Academy in 2007. He served as Professor and Head of the Department of Physiology, NUI Galway 1995-2006, acting Head of Anatomy 2001-2005 and preclinical Vice Dean 1998-2006. After retirement in 2006, he continued to lecture for five years and is still involved in research on follicular development.